

## Levy to Move Seattle Oversight Committee Meeting

[Levy Oversight Committee bylaws – adopted April 2017](#)  
[Move Seattle Levy legislation, approved June 29, 2015](#)

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, October 1, 2024 / 5:00 – 7:00 PM

**Co-chairs:** Geri Poor, Kevin Werner

**Location:** RapidRide G Line – Madison St Project

**Members Present:** Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Samuel Ferrara, Clara Cantor, Tyler Blackwell, Jessica Nguyen, Delaney Lind (Pedestrian Advisory Board), Geri Poor (Freight Advisory Board), Ashwin Bhumbra (Transit Advisory Board), Donna McBain Evans (Bike Advisory Board), Ian Griswold (Councilmember Rob Saka Delegate)

**Members Absent:** Lisa Bogardus, Inga Manskopf, Alex Bejaran Estevez, Kevin Werner, Saroja Reddy (City Budget Office Delegate)

**Guests:** Francisca Stefan, Eric Tweit, Trevor Rose, Trilce Villalobos, Katie Olsen (all SDOT); Marcello, Jack (members of the public)

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 5:10PM**

### Welcome and roll call

Katie O.: Introduced City staff. Took roll call of committee members present.

### Public Comment

Katie O.: Asked if anyone wanted to give public comment.

**Site visit of RapidRide G Line – Madison St Project:**

*Group began at Spring St and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave in front of the Seattle Public Library.*

**Francisca S.:** Provided a welcome and introduction of the project, which maintains and modernizes Madison St into a safer street designed for people walking, rolling, and taking the bus. The new design ensures everyone – from schoolchildren to seniors – sees their main street as welcoming and comfortable. It is one of our largest and most complex capital projects to date.

**Eric T.:** Explained the planned route for the site visit. Spoke to the many Levy-funded programs that contributed to this project including our new sidewalks, paving, transit, signals, and urban forestry programs.

***Group boarded the G Line and take the bus to 12<sup>th</sup> and Madison.***

**Francisca S.:** Facilitated a conversation where each attendee shared what they were most interested in learning more about on the visit. Themes included how bike facilities have been built in the area and how they connect to the existing network, how the project team managed work with underground utilities, what is being learned in the first few weeks of operation, and what lessons learned SDOT is taking to future projects.

**Eric T.:** Led a discussion about the above topics. Some of the major points of the conversation included a focus on dedicated bus lanes and faster boarding cut commute times and promote transit ridership; improved accessibility: new curb ramps, crosswalks, and sidewalks make it easier for people to access the new transit options; and utilities upgrades: The project replaced a 120-year-old water main, improved the drainage and wastewater system on Madison St, upgraded street lights, and improved Seattle City Lights's power distribution system. For reference, this project resulted in:

- 3.8 miles of new or replaced sidewalks
- 9.1 lane-miles of concrete streets
- 2.3 lane-miles of new asphalt
- 1.4 miles of new dedicated bus lanes
- 21 new RapidRide stops
- upgraded bus stops on Union with connections to protected bike lanes on Union
- 4 new center-running bus stations
- 5 new signals and 36 upgraded signals
- 108 newly planted trees (note: some final tree planting will happen this fall)

**Eric T. and Trilce V.:** Discussed collaboration with local businesses during construction.

**Eric T.:** Spoke to project funding. This project was made possible by the voter-approved Levy to Move Seattle and close partnerships with the Federal Transit Administration, King County Metro, Sound Transit, WSDOT, other City of Seattle departments, local businesses, and the community. FTA and Sound Transit grants were substantial and invested millions of dollars into fixing Seattle's aging infrastructure, while allowing the City to employ hundreds of residents with family-wage jobs. The \$144.3 million RapidRide G Line project was funded through a combination of sources:

- Federal grants: \$80.5 million (This included \$59.9 million from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Small Starts program and \$10.9 million from President Biden's American Rescue Plan)
- Sound Transit: \$35.8 million
- The Levy to Move Seattle: \$19.7 million
- King County Metro: \$3.5 million
- WSDOT grants: \$2.5 million
- Other City of Seattle transportation sources: \$2.3 million

- The project was supported by the Biden-Harris Administration, Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, Representative Pramila Jayapal, Representative Adam Smith, and many public agency partners.

**Eric T.:** Spoke to lessons learned, including working with businesses, ensuring pedestrian access, and other key learnings to apply to future work; spoke about our federal funding partners as a resource to enable this great work.

**Trevor R.:** Spoke to how the assets created during this project are being maintained by other parts of SDOT following construction; spoke to how the team will be closing out the project and completing punchlist items over the coming weeks and months, and spoke to the collaboration and partnerships that needed to exist in order to install and activate the signals in the project area.

***Group walked to 14<sup>th</sup> Ave and E Madison St.***

**Trevor R.:** Spoke about artwork coming to this area. As part of the finishing touches, a public art installation is underway at the intersection of Madison St, 14th Ave, and Pike St. A sculpture by American artist Ben Zamora is in progress. This vibrant piece consists of multiple-colored frames that intend to echo the surrounding architecture and reflect the diversity of the nearby communities. Located where Capitol Hill, the Central District, and First Hill converge, the sculpture features two color gradients: a warm palette visible when facing east towards the sunrise and a cool palette when facing west towards sunset. The ever-changing composition mirrors the constant transformation of these neighborhoods. As viewers move around the piece, it expands, contracts, and reinvents itself—much like the communities. The artwork is expected to be installed by the end of this year.

**Francisca: Wrap up.**

Thank you all for joining us!

***Adjourn: 6:30pm***

**Action items**

Action items below capture tasks from previous meetings. Completed items will remain on action item tracker for one additional set of meeting minutes to capture “complete” status and will then be removed.