

Levy to Move Seattle Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Thursday, November 30, 2017 / 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Co-chairs: Betty Spieth-Croll and Shefali Ranganathan

Recorder: Elliot Helmbrecht

Location: City Hall, L280

Members Present: Joe Laubach, Blake Trask, Brian Estes, Alex Krieg, Betty Spieth-Croll, Shefali Ranganathan, Councilmember Mike O'Brien, Saroja Reddy (for Ben Noble), David Seater, Emily Paine, Ron Posthuma, Rachel Ben-Shmuel

Members Absent: Nick Paranjpye, Laurie Torres, Katie Garrow, Pat Cohn

Guests: Christian Diaz, Darby Watson, Jeff Lundstrom, Lorelei Williams (all SDOT)

MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 5:35pm

Public comment (2 min. per person)

Doug MacDonald –

Doug suggested that oversight committee members put more pressure on SDOT to get materials for the oversight committee meetings sooner so they have more time to review beforehand. He suggested one week. He passed around a handout detailing current spending through Q3 compared to the 2017 revised budget, in order of large to small. He noted the main five programs with underspending that need to be addressed at the top of the handout, including: Arterial Asphalt / Concrete, PMP implementation, Fairview Bridge, Lander Crossing, Bicycle Safety (BMP implementation).

October 2017 meeting minutes

Alex Krieg suggested a change to the October 2017 meeting minutes in the New Business section.

It stated:

Alex Krieg: His employer, the Puget Sound Regional Council, distributes funds for projects and Alex disclosed that he opted out of scoring projects could benefit projects with Levy to Move Seattle funding. He did not score any projects with a connection to the levy and wanted to make sure he stated so publicly and the committee was aware.

It will be amended to read:

Alex Krieg: His employer, the Puget Sound Regional Council, distributes funds for projects and Alex disclosed that he opted out of scoring City of Seattle projects that were matched with Levy to Move Seattle funding. He did not score any projects with a connection to the levy and wanted to make sure he stated so publicly and the committee was aware.

Response to comment from Jeff Few who spoke at our October (10/26/17) meeting:

Public comment: Asked the committee to investigate the placement of bike racks in his neighborhood near Western Ave under the Battery Street Tunnel. He specifically asked if levy dollars were spent on the bike racks.

Response:

One of the main strategies of mitigating the hazards of unsheltered living is to create space for a different active public use. The bike racks at Western Ave and Bell St are one example of this strategy.

The Western Ave and Bell St location provided a difficult challenge in that the unauthorized encampment was hazardous for both the occupants of the camp and for the general public, especially those requiring ADA access. Occupants of the camp experienced hazards entering and exiting the tents because the lack of space required them to enter into the right of way. Additionally, in this area, due to the AWW bridge columns, the unauthorized homeless encampment required the pedestrian traffic to traverse the area along the curve lane that did not provide enough space for ADA access. By installing the bike racks, the pedestrian way is now in the area that was traditionally the site of an unauthorized encampment and all pedestrians have a safe and ADA accessible pathway. SPD now removes the campers to maintain this access for all users.

The bike racks at Western Ave and Bell St were paid for using the budget reserved for managing the hazards at persistent unauthorized camping sites, not voter-approved levy funds.

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES WERE APPROVED

Co-chair report

Shefali is stepping down as co-chair to take her position as Deputy Mayor with Mayor Durkan. Hopes to be a close partner in her new role. Encourages committee to nominate Betty as co-chair for another year. Thanks the committee.

Betty: Committee co-chair discussion is ongoing. She is happy to serve another term if that is what the committee would like. If anyone is interested in serving as a committee co-chair, please contact Betty or Elliot. We will vote on the 2018 committee co-chair at the January 2018 meeting.

She also told the committee that she submitted our budget letter that we all agreed upon. Sent to the full budget committee.

Modal Board Representative Updates

Ped: Folks at SDOT about the curb ramp consent decree, Judkins Park Station Access project,

Bike: Presentation from Metro and ST about what they're doing to integrate bikes and transit, expecting a lot of demand for last-mile service, Judkins Park Station access and the bike board was concerned about how it would integrate with other trails, etc. in the neighborhood.

Transit: Reviewed the annual report that SDOT put together and agreed on the comment letter that will be submitted, letter will focus on way to make transit move better, fairly pleased with how the levy is being implemented.

Freight: No update.

Subcommittee Updates

Performance measure subcommittee: No update.

Finance subcommittee:

Alex: Committee discussed carry-forward, if we're not spending what we're budgeting to spend – what happens in the next year with that and the finance subcommittee is getting up to speed on the issue.

Blake: Talked about different trends in carry-forward, what is a safe zone for carry-forward that we want to see – and do we have enough data now to make that assessment. Lots of good work left to do. Are there lessons learned from BTG that we can carry into this levy.

Blake: also covered the leveraging portion of the levy.

Office of Move Seattle Update (see attached presentation)

Presenter: Jeff Lundstrom, SDOT

Alex: Question about Madison?

JL: Madison still needs another \$60M

Alex: when did spend plan updating start?

JL: This process started in August

Brian: Report references the holistic management tool, is that the data collection part of this process?

JL: Yes.

Brian: question about evaluation report – timing of analysis.

JL: We've created a database that tracks everything, this has been a good database but it is now becoming unable to keep up with the volume we needed to deliver, so SDOT is replacing this with a new system, that will be implemented by Summer 2018, in the meantime we can use our existing system to understand everything that's going on.

Joe: Could the committee hear from the consultant at a future meeting for independent feedback?

JL: 6-month check-in in Feb. Might not be from the consultant but we'll look into it.

Betty: Wants to see a summary of the report. (Elliot will send to the full group).

Brian: Is there a broader overlap with the report and the City as a whole, or SDOT?

JL: Not quite sure about the city as a whole. The benefits this office is providing is benefiting the entire department, not just Move Seattle projects.

2017 Q3 Accomplishments & Finance Update (see attached presentation)

Presenters: Christian Diaz, Elliot Helmbrecht, Darby Watson, Lorelei Williams (all SDOT)

Brian: Requested more information about the Green Sheet 62-1-A-1 when the report is completed.

Rachel: Requested more information about the sidewalk assessment report when it was completed and how it will be used to determine priority of levy spending. The full group all agreed.

Alex: Asked about the likelihood of completing the Safe Routes to School and NSF design accomplishment targets from where they are by the end of Q3.

Elliot: Both are on-track by year-end. The NSF program projects are being designed in packages and when the package is fully complete, the entire total of that package will be counted. The Beacon Hill 15th/Columbian project is on hold to do additional community outreach and the Wallingford crossing project has been combined with the 2019 paving project. The one project already completed is the 92nd signal.

Blake: Asked about the 7th Ave PBL, noting that it was a 2017 deliverable in the BMP.

Elliot: The project team let me know early in 2017 that it would not be completed this year and this project was not counted in the 4.75 mile goal. It's mileage will be added to the goal in 2018. In the future, I will be sure the levy goals are in sync with the BMP plans, as well as, provide the committee with a longer-range plan that shows our current plan to achieve the levy's 50-mile PBL goal.

Alex: Asked which portion of the RVG project had to be adjusted with WSDOT.

Darby: A small portion near I-90.

Alex: Asked how paving project mileage will be accounted for next year if they're not completed in 2017.

Elliot: Mileage accomplishments will be added to 2018, in addition to the 2018 planned mileage.

Ron: Asked about paving status lagging on projects considering these are SDOT's bread and butter projects.

Lorelei: Mentioned this to the committee in July, but 2017 paving projects went out to AD later in 2017 than wanted. 2018 projects are set to go to AD in January and should hit construction earlier, allowing us to catch up somewhat.

The Fairview Ave bridge portion of the discussion focused on the green status noted for both schedule and budget when the description notes it is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Lorelei: We re-baseline a project if a risk materializes that is outside our control, which keeps it listed as green if it has changed. We do not re-baseline if the risk materializes and it is a result of our work.

The committee noted that they would prefer more information about the risks and some way to note that this has happened, rather than keeping the green checkmark.

The committee noted that they would like more information about carry-over funds and details about unspent funds as the year progresses. They understand that projects are going to shift and change from the original plan, but more information about the changes – both project-related and finance-related – are needed to adequately monitor levy progress.

Blake: Requested better tracking information for progress towards 9-year levy goals for bigger projects.

Committee discussion focused on better tracking for 2018 that includes more forward-looking information.

New business

Brian Estes comments:

1. Working with the Finance Subcommittee, develop a reporting format for annual and cumulative levy spending along the lines of the spreadsheet I previously submitted; and
2. While the Committee as a whole, and the finance subcommittee specifically, is spending a lot of effort on financial results and reporting, I believe we should also focus on reporting outcome based results of levy spending and review SDOT and City of Seattle project design and project delivery procedures and practices. I would propose we continue to have occasional performance subcommittee meeting and delve a little more deeply into project delivery issues.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 7:34

Reminder: Next Meeting

Thursday, January 25, 2017

5:30 – 7:30 pm