



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6711
June 17, 2025
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6711: Continuance of the April 15 Public Hearing and Adoption of 2026-2031 Transportation Improvement Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Continue public hearing and adopt the 2026-2031 Transportation Improvement Program as shown in Exhibit 3 and authorize an increase of \$2,904,231 in Street Fund expenditures in 2026.	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations/Public Works Director Matt Mornick, Finance Director Patrick Yamashita, City Engineer Clint Morris, Capital Division Manager Rebecca Corigliano, Transportation Engineer Ian Powell, Street Engineer
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Summary of Public Comments Received by June 4, 2025 2. Street Fund Forecast, as of May 2025 3. Detail of Proposed Expenditures 2026-2031 4. Project Descriptions 5. Map of Proposed Roadway and Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities Improvements 6. Map of Mercer Way Shoulder Improvements
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	3. Make once-in-a-generation investments to update and modernize aging infrastructure, capital facilities, and parks.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to continue the public hearing opened on April 15, 2025 regarding the 2026-2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and for the City Council to adopt the TIP.

- The public comment period for the 2026-2031 TIP is March 11 to June 17, 2025. A public hearing was opened during the April 15, 2025 City Council meeting ([AB 6665](#)) and continued to the June 17, 2025 City Council meeting.
- A total of 65 comments were received during the public comment period (see Exhibit 1).

- At the April 15, 2025 meeting, the City Council asked questions about traffic signal timings. Responses to these questions are outlined in this agenda bill.
- Exhibit 2 includes financial projections for the Street Fund from 2026 through 2031. The Fund remains balanced through early 2030. It is not until mid-2030 that the Street Fund balance is projected to go negative.
- The City's Water Supply Pipeline project (90.40.0032) is planned for construction in 2026. Staff updated related project budgets and timelines to align with the 2026 timing and to keep the Street Fund balance positive through 2029, as outlined in Exhibit 3.
- Exhibits 4, 5, and 6 provide additional project information and maps of proposed improvements.
- By moving scheduled projects up from 2027 into 2026 to coincide with the City's Water Supply Pipeline project, an increase of \$2.9 million in Street Fund expenditures is required in the 2025-2026 biennium to complete the accelerated project work outlined in the 2026-2031 TIP.

BACKGROUND

The six-year TIP is a planning tool used to identify specific projects that serve to maintain, preserve, and maximize use of the existing roadway and pedestrian/bicycle facilities. It forecasts revenues and expenditures within the Street Fund over the six-year period.

RCW 35.77.010 requires cities to formally adopt a TIP annually and submit it to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) by July 1, 2025. Once the TIP is adopted, projects are budgeted and funded through the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) during the biennial budget process.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Public feedback was solicited through the City's outreach platforms, including *Let's Talk* from March 11 to June 17, 2025 and was incorporated in the final development of the 2026-2031 TIP. All 65 public comments received by June 4, 2025 are included in Exhibit 1. Nine of the comments will be addressed by City staff through the Neighborhood Traffic Program and 14 of the comments will be addressed following the update to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities (PBF) Plan scheduled for 2026-2027.

QUESTIONS FROM THE TIP PREVIEW

At the April 15, 2025 meeting, the City Council asked questions about signal timings, specifically if automatic pedestrian recall and leading pedestrian intervals have been considered for Mercer Island signals. Responses to these questions are outlined below.

Automatic Pedestrian Recall

Staff considered automatic pedestrian recall for Mercer Island signals. Implementation of this type of pedestrian phasing is not recommended. Pedestrian volumes at Mercer Island signals are not high enough to have a pedestrian phase every cycle, which would result in vehicle delays and decline in overall intersection operations. Instead, Mercer Island signals use Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) pushbuttons to activate the pedestrian phase in a signal cycle. This way, pedestrian phases do not occur if no pedestrians are present at the intersection.

Leading Pedestrian Intervals

Leading pedestrian intervals (LPIs) are a traffic signal timing strategy that give pedestrians a head start at crosswalks so drivers have improved visibility of pedestrians in a crosswalk before turning. LPIs typically range

between three and seven seconds, depending on the number of right turn lanes at an intersection. Since February 2023, Mercer Island signal timings include three seconds of LPIs on all pedestrian phases because the intersections have a single right turn lane.

CHANGES TO CONSIDER FROM THE TIP PREVIEW

Since the TIP preview on April 15, 2025, staff updated several transportation project budgets and timelines to align with the City's Water Supply Pipeline (90.40.0032) project timeline and to keep the Street Fund balance positive through 2029. Updates are summarized below and shown in blue text in Exhibit 3.

Construction of the City's Water Supply Pipeline project is anticipated to be completed in 2026. Staff updated the timing and budget of the Gallagher Hill Road Overlay and Sidewalk Improvements (90.20.0008 and 90.20.0009), SE 40th Street Overlay and Sidewalk Improvements (90.20.0010 and 90.20.0006), and SE 36th Street Overlay (90.20.0023) to complete the remainder of the design and all construction in 2026. This allows for surface improvements to directly follow all underground work. Much of this construction was previously planned for 2027 when the schedule for the Water Supply Pipeline was less refined.

These changes will require a revision to the 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget in the amount of \$2,904,231. See table 1 below for details.

Table 1

Projects funded by the Street Fund		Adopted Budget 2026	Proposed TIP Updates 2026	Additional Budget Authority
90.20.0006	SE 40th Street Sidewalk Improvements	\$ 85,025	\$ 1,114,146	\$ 1,029,121
90.20.0008	Gallagher Hill Rd Overlay	79,841	587,549	507,708
90.20.0009	SE 40th Street Sidewalk Improvements	105,763	601,938	496,175
90.20.0010	SE 40th Street Overlay (88th to 93rd)	52,881	418,370	365,489
90.20.0023	SE 36th Street Overlay	-	678,620	678,620
90.20.0034	NMW Sidewalk Imp	172,883	-	(172,883)
Proposed 2026 Budget Adjustments				\$ 2,904,231

Table 1 also includes budget revisions for the North Mercer Way Sidewalk Improvements (90.20.0034) project. Staff shifted this project from 2026 to 2027 to align with the North Mercer Way Overlay (90.20.0015), decreasing the proposed 2026 budget adjustments by \$172,883.

To help maintain a positive Street Fund balance through 2029, West Mercer Way Resurfacing (90.20.0021), 78th Avenue SE Overlay and Sidewalk Improvements (90.20.0026 and 90.20.0029), SE 24th Street Overlay and Sidewalk Improvements (90.20.0027 and 90.20.0028), and West Mercer Way Overlay (90.20.0033) were all shifted out one year. These arterial streets currently have a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) value in the Fair to Satisfactory range and will remain sufficient for another year. PCIs are anticipated to decline in the years leading up to the overlay projects. New PCI data will be collected in the Fall of 2025. This new data will help staff prioritize the paving of these arterial streets.

NEXT STEPS

With the adoption of the 2026-2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on June 17, staff will:

- Submit the TIP to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) by July 1, 2025.

- Proceed with the project work accelerated to coincide with the City's Water Supply Pipeline (90.40.0032) as outlined in this agenda bill.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Continue public hearing and adopt the 2026-2031 Transportation Improvement Program as shown in Exhibit 3 and authorize an increase of \$2,904,231 in Street Fund expenditures in 2026.