**For Immediate Release**

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**Seattle City Council Steps Up with $20 Million Levy Funding for Long Overdue Improvements to NW Market and Leary – and a Real Plan to Finish the Missing Link**

BALLARD – The Ballard Coalition, applauds the Seattle City Council today for adding $20 million to the Seattle Transportation Levy for Northwest Market St and Leary Way improvements. The action underscores their commitment to protecting working-class and family-wage jobs while keeping people and products moving safely through the community.

[The Ballard Coalition](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ballardcycletrack.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cd874a8c01f68491559eb08dca06cf2e9%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638561636998762663%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PpVxskCkm3MBVhL8lQZE3toeasGvbyrslydkL8%2FaHag%3D&reserved=0) is a group of businesses and labor organizations that have pressed for two decades to finish the Missing Link of the Burke-Gilman Trail on Leary instead of Shilshole.

Councilmember Dan Strauss proposed the [levy amendment](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fseattle.legistar.com%2FView.ashx%3FM%3DF%26ID%3D13094947%26GUID%3DEA8EE918-5B6F-451A-83C1-1766D0387306&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cd874a8c01f68491559eb08dca06cf2e9%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638561636998786108%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=X1RoakcYCxXc2rnnPLmbIv%2F%2BIJ5SaAVxENBpdVhGsMg%3D&reserved=0). Along with Strauss, Councilmembers Joy Hollingsworth, Tammy Morales, Cathy Moore, Rob Saka and Tanya Woo also voted in support of the amendment. The $20 million amendment to the transportation levy is necessary for completing the Missing Link of the Burke-Gilman Trail on Leary.

Multi-modal transit is key to keeping Seattle affordable and accessible to all. Finishing the bike trail on Leary – will best serve ***all*** of Seattle. On Monday, the Seattle Department of Transportation [released its 30 percent design](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fseattle.gov%2Ftransportation%2Fprojects-and-programs%2Fprograms%2Fbike-program%2Fballard-bike-route-study%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%23%3A~%3Atext%3DWe%2527ve%2520launched%2520a%2520design%2520and%2520public%2520engagement%2520process%2Cpoint%252C%2520and%2520will%2520be%2520refined%2520with%2520community%2520input.&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cd874a8c01f68491559eb08dca06cf2e9%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638561636998808143%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3BZ8W3VpN4V%2FCCE5wvp5Vmi6EEm2bDpqmfxxtmgP6Yc%3D&reserved=0) for finishing the bike route on NW Market and Leary.

"After 20 years of successfully protecting working-class Ballard, we are on the way to  a real solution to the Missing Link, together with a strong group of common-sense supporters who are truly dedicated to real transit equity and safety, said Josh Brower, attorney for the Coalition.

Finishing the Missing Link on a redesigned Leary works for everyone because it provides:

• Dedicated lanes reducing bike accidents

• Calmer traffic

• A direct connection to places people want to go

• Fewer lost parking spaces compared to Shilshole;

• Reduced impacts to maritime and industrial businesses

• Support for working-class and union-wage jobs.