

A message to our ratepayers

January 2023

Downtown Seattle continues to recover post-pandemic, thanks to investments in cleaning, security, public events, community safety ambassadors, marketing and beautification made by Metropolitan Improvement District ratepayers like you! We are seeing increases in the number of visitors to the center city, hotels are filling up and locals are returning to arts, cultural and sporting events.

As chair of your MID Ratepayer Advisory Board, I help oversee the investment that downtown property owners make in services to support a safe, vibrant and welcoming downtown for visitors, workers and the 100,000-plus people now living in the center city. The MID was founded in 1999 by the Downtown Seattle Association through a city of Seattle ordinance, and DSA continues to serve as the program manager of the MID.

As we move into 2023, we are actively working to renew authorization of the MID, which was last reauthorized in 2013. We have spent the better part of 2022 gathering input from downtown property owners, other downtown stakeholders, residents and MID staff, all of which has informed our renewal efforts. We conducted an online survey, held meetings with residential, hotel and commercial property owners and held public meetings last summer and fall. Thanks to all of you who participated in one or more of those opportunities.

In October, the Downtown Seattle Association Board of Directors and the MID Ratepayer Advisory Board voted unanimously to approve the new 10-year business plan. The plan lays out the services that will be provided over the next decade and an updated formula that will be used to assess properties. You can review the full plan, along with other key renewal materials at: downtownseattle.org/midrenewal.

The next step is to collect signatures of property owners on renewal petitions. Those were distributed in November to owners of all properties within the district. If you did not receive yours or have questions, please email: midrenewal@downtownseattle.org.

Once we have reached the necessary threshold of signatures, the process moves to the city of Seattle. Next spring, the Seattle City Council will review the renewal plan, and an ordinance to renew the MID. Following adoption by the Council, the ordinance will go before Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell for his signature.

MID ratepayers are essential to ensuring downtown Seattle continues its recovery. Thank you for your ongoing support of and investment in a thriving city ready to compete with other top urban centers across the country.



Lisa Nitze
MID Ratepayer Advisory Board Chair
Principal, Nitze-Stagen

Your Assessment at Work

December 2021-November 2022



1,199,649
Gallons of trash removed



38,928
Graffiti tags removed



29,353
Incidents of human/animal waste removed



9,231
Syringes collected



32,206
People given directions



1,113
Events/activations in public spaces



Visitors enjoying the large light sculpture installations at Westlake Park.

Celebrating the Holidays Downtown

With support from MID ratepayers, downtown Seattle sparkled for the holidays with lifesized light sculptures in Westlake Park and festive lighting in Occidental Square. Thousands of people came out for the annual tree-lighting celebration in the heart of the retail core. Additionally, downtown was home to dozens of free family-friendly activities, including live concerts, craft events, sweets and treats and even a pop-up ice skating rink in Occidental Square that drew hundreds on one weekend.



MID funding supported the purchase of 30 new electric trikes in 2022. These new e-vehicles allow cleaning ambassadors to cover more territory more quickly.

MID Renewal

Founded by the Downtown Seattle Association in 1999 through a city of Seattle ordinance, the Metropolitan Improvement District is a business-improvement area comprising 285 square blocks across six downtown Seattle neighborhoods. MID-funded downtown ambassadors work seven days a week, 362 days a year. MID services include:

- Cleaning
- Safety and hospitality
- Public realm services
- Marketing and promotion of downtown
- Public realm art installations
- Family-friendly events and activities
- Economic research
- Transportation and commuting services

The MID is a second-chance employer, offering stability and employment to justice-involved individuals and those experiencing homelessness. An advisory board of 35 property owners recommends an annual budget and work plan and provides oversight and input on services.

The MID must be approved every 10 years and is up for renewal in 2023. Petitions of support have been delivered to all property owners within downtown. Once the threshold of petitions has been met, the process moves to the Seattle City Council for review and approval, with ultimate approval from Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell expected next June. The new MID would commence on July 1, 2023.

MAKE A SERVICE REQUEST

206-441-3303
downtownseattle.org/service

Service Hours

Clean Team
 Daily: 7 a.m.-9 p.m.

Public Realm Operations Team
 Daily: 7 a.m.-9 p.m.

Community Safety and Hospitality Team
 Daily: 7 a.m.-9 p.m.