



DATE: February 27, 2023
TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers
FROM: Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs, 452-7849
SUBJECT: King County Regional Committees Update

Regional Policy Committee (RPC)

At its February 8 meeting, the RPC:

- **Adopted the 2023 work plan for the RPC**, which includes Sound Cities Association (SCA) items on briefings on King County Solid Waste; Regional Transportation to include traffic safety; Natural Disasters briefing from Emergency Management (EM) on community outreach and the fentanyl response within Public Health's response to the opioid crisis.
- **Received a briefing on the 2021 MIDD Annual Report.** MIDD supported over 141 partners to provide services to nearly 19,000 people. In 2021, MIDD provided \$64M in behavioral health related services throughout King County. The results included 78 percent fewer new crisis events; 73 percent fewer jail bookings among adults; and 38 percent fewer emergency department admissions.

A significant theme of the 2021 MIDD Annual Report continues to be the impact of COVID-19 on local communities and the agencies serving communities in need of behavioral health. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and exacerbated inequities in access to health services and supports, particularly for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). The pandemic's economic downturn, lack of securing staffing due to the pandemic and current rising inflation is reducing dollars and availability for communities to receive critical services.

The next RPC meeting is scheduled for March 8. Councilmember John Stokes serves on the RPC.

Regional Transit Committee (RTC)

At its February 15 meeting, the RTC:

- **Adopted the 2023 work plan for the RTC**, which will including briefings on the RapidRide K Line Progress Report, the annual System Evaluation Report, the *Metro Connects* long range plan and service recovery plans.
- **Received a briefing on the *Metro Connects* funding gap.** *Metro Connects* is Metro's adopted long range plan and vision for the future. It outlines an expanded service network developed



through an Interim Network (by the mid-2030s, to synchronize with Sound Transit expansion) and a 2050 Network. The adopted plan estimates the following funding gap:

- Interim Network Gap: \$7.1B for capital, \$423 million/year for service
- 2050 Network Gap: \$18B for capital, \$724 million/year for service

King County continues to assess potential funding sources to fill the gap, while identifying a strategy to work with community and regional leaders to fund *Metro Connects*.

- **Received a briefing on King County Metro's research program.** Metro is developing a robust data environment for evidence-based decision-making including data to track services and operations; track meaningful outcomes for communities; understand regional impact; and, improve decision-making. Metro plans to share data and provide access to impact studies with external audiences.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for March 15. Councilmember Janice Zahn serves on the RTC.

Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

At its February 1 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Elected Sammamish Plateau Water Commissioner Lloyd Warren as RWQC Vice Chair.**
- **SCA Caucus elected Kirkland Mayor Penny Sweet as Chair and Councilmember Conrad Lee as Vice Chair.**
- **Received a briefing on expected EPA regulation of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfuoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)** on WTD's operations, capital programs, rates and policies. PFAS are a widely used, long lasting, broad class of manufactured chemicals that break down very slowly over time. There are thousands of PFAS chemicals which have been used since the 1940s for many purposes due to their heat-, moisture- and stain-resistance and non-stick qualities. PFAS are present in drinking water, soil, food and wastewater. Because of their widespread use and persistence in the environment, PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals around the world.
- **Received a briefing on impact of toxics in WTD's wastewater effluent on Puget Sound Southern Resident Orcas and Chinook salmon.** King County Council directed WTD to identify the chemicals in wastewater effluent and assess their impacts on the health of Orcas and Chinook salmon. Over 100 metals and other chemicals are found in wastewater effluent and are regulated by the EPA. However, many other unregulated chemical pollutants are also found in wastewater effluent that are becoming of increasing concern.



The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for March 1. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC.

Affordable Housing Committee (AHC)

The website says the next AHC meeting will be on March 16. There is a joint SCA caucus meeting today with both GMPC and AHC. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the AHC.

Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)

At its January 25 meeting, the GMPC:

- **Took action to adopt the 2023 workplan and proposed schedule.** The two topics that the GMPC will focus their efforts on in 2023 are Countywide Planning policy amendments relating to GMPC Motion 21-1 and Urban Growth Area Expansion Policies/ Four to One Program.
- **Received a briefing on UGA Expansion Policies / Four-to-One Program Review.** The King County Council ordinance that adopted the CPPs removed the UGA expansion policy changes recommended by the Growth Management Planning Council. In its place, direction was included to review the policies and the Four-to-One Program. The Four-to-One Program allows the County to make UGA boundary changes in exchange for a permanent dedication of open space. The state legislature adopted Senate Bill 5593 which allows for “no net gain UGA swaps”; this tool has substantive policy overlaps with the Four-to-One program. The purpose of the briefing is to share preliminary recommendations from the IJT review in advance of the proposed GMPC action in May.
- **Received a briefing on Affordable Housing Motion 21-1: Status and Next Steps.** King County staff briefed the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) on the Affordable Housing Committee's (AHC or Committee) response to GMPC Motion 21-1. The GMPC was asked if they were ready to approve the AHC recommendations at their next meeting in March, including recommended CPP amendments. The GMPC indicated their preference to discuss potential amendments at the upcoming joint SCA Caucus meeting for GMPC and AHC members on February 23.

The next GMPC meeting is scheduled for March 22. Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis serves on the GMPC.