



DATE: December 12, 2022
TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers
FROM: Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs
SUBJECT: King County Regional Committees Update

Regional Policy Committee (RPC)

At its November 9 meeting, the RPC:

- Received a briefing on King County Executive Constantine's behavioral health property tax levy. The levy would be assessed at 14.5 cents per \$1,000 in assessed value, estimated to cost approximately \$121 per year in 2024 for a median-priced home of \$694,000. Total revenue is estimated at \$1.25 billion over nine years (2024-32) with 1 percent allowable growth.

The primary purpose of the levy is to create five new regional crisis care centers, which would be distributed geographically across the county. The centers would provide walk-in access and the potential for short-term stays to help people experiencing some degree of behavioral health crisis to stabilize, depending on needs, with one center specifically serving persons younger than nineteen years old. At least one center would be located in East King County, which includes Beaux Arts, Bellevue, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Issaquah, Medina, Mercer Island, Newcastle, North Bend, Redmond, Sammamish, Snoqualmie, and Yarrow Point.

The levy has two supporting purposes:

- Restore the number of mental health residential treatment beds in King County to at least 355 beds and expand the availability and sustainability of residential treatment in King County. The County currently has 244 residential mental health beds. As of July 2022, people wait an average of 44 days before being placed in a mental health treatment bed.
- Increase the sustainability and representativeness of the behavioral health workforce in King County. The levy proposes to improve financial sustainability for the behavioral health workforce through increased wages, apprenticeship programming, and reduction of costs such as costs of insurance, childcare, caregiving, and fees or tuition associated with behavioral health training and certification.

The RPC also met on December 7. A summary will be included in the January Intergovernmental Issues packet. The next RPC meeting is scheduled for January 11. Councilmember John Stokes serves on the RPC.



Regional Transit Committee (RTC)

On November 15, the King County Council adopted a 2023-2024 budget that responds to the evolving needs and priorities of King County residents and advances several Eastside priorities, including transit service in Bellevue. The budget included an amendment for \$7 million to advance planning and design for the RapidRide K Line, which was delayed at the onset of the pandemic. The K Line will run fast, frequent, and reliable transit service between the Totem Lake Transit Center in Kirkland, downtown Bellevue, and Eastgate Park & Ride in Bellevue.

At its November 16 meeting, the RTC:

- **Honored outgoing RTC members**, including Councilmember Jennifer Robertson.
- **Approved the King County Metro Transit 2022 System Evaluation Report.** The annual report assesses the status of Metro's fixed-route, Dial-A-Ride Transit, RapidRide, flexible, and marine services to identify investment needs based on Metro's adopted Service Guidelines. The report highlighted the ongoing impacts of the COVID pandemic across the transit system, including significant ridership declines on the Eastside.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2023.

Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

The RWQC did not meet in November or December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2023. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC.

Affordable Housing Committee (AHC)

At its November 3 meeting, the AHC:

- Received a briefing on the Community Partners Table's (CPT) reflections on development of affordable housing targets and engagement around this topic. The CPT is an advisory group of stakeholders with lived experience of underrepresented communities, including people with low incomes and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). The CPT analyzes Affordable Housing Committee (AHC or Committee) recommendations to address the housing crisis. The CPT submitted a letter to the AHC which indicates support for Option 3, citing similar reasons as King County staff for their support and emphasizing the importance of placing affordable housing near low-wage jobs.
- Recommended action on a methodology for establishing jurisdictional affordable housing targets as required by GMPC Motion 21-1 for Option 3. The three options for establishing jurisdictional affordable housing needs include:



- Option 1. Focus on new growth: Same shares of new housing growth are affordable in every jurisdiction
- Option 2. Focus on 2044: Same shares of total housing stock in 2044 are affordable in every jurisdiction
- Option 3: Focus on new growth (Option 1) adjusted for local factors: Same shares of new housing growth are affordable in every jurisdiction and adjusts outputs within each income band by the following factors:
 - Percent share of housing that's currently affordable at 0-80 percent AMI
 - Percent share of housing that's currently income restricted at 0-80 percent AMI
 - Subregional ratio of low-wage jobs to low-wage workers
- Received a briefing on countywide and jurisdictional permanent supportive housing and emergency housing/shelter needs. As amended by HB 1220, the Growth Management Act requires three types of special housing needs to be allocated alongside the income level allocations by jurisdictions. These include:
 - Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
 - Emergency Shelters
 - Emergency Housing

Due to the overlapping nature of the latter two, both emergency housing types have been combined into one category in Commerce's distribution to the counties. The county has distributed these emergency housing beds/rooms/units fairly based on the total housing target for each jurisdiction, equaling about 18.5% of the total target. These emergency housing beds/rooms/units are in addition to that total housing target, as they are not permanent housing units.

- Discussed Comprehensive Plan Review standards and process. An updated recommendation will be provided at the December 9 meeting for action. The AHC will play a role with review of the Housing Elements and compliance with the Countywide Planning Policies which include check for completeness, implementation strategies and meaningful plans.
- Discussed and provided direction on the Plan Certification Pilot. In May 2022, the AHC recommended a housing-focused comprehensive plan certification pilot program to increase the likelihood that jurisdictions will address plan review comments. Under this pilot, the GMPC would issue housing-focused comprehensive plan certification decisions for a small subset of volunteer jurisdictions that choose to participate after their comprehensive plans are adopted. The GMPC and the AHC would conduct the pilot between 2023 and 2025 and use the process to understand how a certification process might work in practice and to gauge whether plan certification produced more impactful



results than plan review alone. The AHC provided direction to defer the pilot due to lack of volunteers from South King County jurisdictions.

- Discussed CPP amendments. AHC members discussed the proposed CPP amendments in anticipation of final approval at AHC's next meeting on December 9. Draft CPP amendments reflect:
 - Updates to the Growth Management Act (GMA) that require jurisdictions to plan for and accommodate projected housing needs at different income levels and for special housing types;
 - New state projections of countywide housing need by income level and special housing type and allocation of that need to King County jurisdictions; and
 - The AHC-approved accountability framework, including a comprehensive plan review process, procedure for monitoring and reporting of jurisdictional housing data, and a midcycle review and adjustment process.

The proposed amendments include changes to the Development Patterns and Housing Chapters of the CPPs as well as to the Housing Technical Appendix. AHC members could provide input on the CPP amendments by November 14.

The next AHC meeting is scheduled for December 9. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the AHC.

Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)

At its November 30 meeting, the GMPC:

- Received a briefing on the GMPC workplan and schedule for 2023.
- Received a briefing on the Affordable Housing Motion 21:1 Status and Next Steps. The GMPC was briefed on the Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) progress to respond to GMPC Motion 21-1 including:
 - Selection of a preferred method to establish jurisdictional permanent housing needs.
 - Input on a method to establish jurisdictional emergency housing needs.
 - Input on draft housing-focused comprehensive plan review standards.
 - Input on a housing-focused comprehensive plan certification pilot.

Several GMPC members including Bellevue's representative voiced questions and concerns relating to AHC's selection of Option 3.

- Received a briefing on draft CPP amendments. Proposed amendments to the CPP's



include:

- Updates to the Growth Management Act (GMA) that require jurisdictions to plan for and accommodate projected housing needs at different income levels and for special housing types;
- New state projections of countywide housing need by income level and special housing type and allocation of that need to King County jurisdictions; and
- The AHC-approved accountability framework, including a comprehensive plan review process and standards, procedure for monitoring and reporting of jurisdictional housing data, and a midcycle review and adjustment process.

The next GMPC meeting is scheduled for January 25. Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis serves on the GMPC.

King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) Elected Official Work Session

The next K4C meeting is scheduled for the spring of 2023. Councilmember Janice Zahn serves on the K4C.