



City of Bellevue

City Manager's Office

**DATE:** March 10, 2026

**SUBJECT:** King County Regional Committees Update, February 2026

### **Regional Policy Committee (RPC)**

At its February 11 meeting, the RPC:

- **Acknowledged receipt of the Veterans, Seniors, Human Services Levy (VSHSL) Annual Report.** In August 2023, King County voters approved a six-year renewal of the VSHSL. The 2024-2029 levy is projected to generate approximately \$554.5 million over its six-year collection period based on July 2025 revenue projections.
- **Approved the RPC 2026 Work Plan.** Based on feedback from SCA members and other RPC members, the 2026 RPC work plan incorporates additional items including MIDD 3 Implementation Plan, Regional Affordable Housing Strategies, Regional Utilities Affordability, Best Starts for Kids Levy Renewal Planning, Public Safety (including response to federal immigration enforcement activities).

The next RPC meeting is scheduled for March 11. Councilmember Lynne Robinson serves on the RPC representing the Sound Cities Association (SCA).

### **Regional Transit Committee (RTC)**

At its February 18 meeting, the RTC:

- **Elected Renton Council President Pro Tem Ryan McIrvine to serve as RTC Vice Chair** for 2026.
- **Received a briefing on the structure and role of the RTC.** The RTC is made up of King County councilmembers, Seattle councilmembers, and Sound Cities Association appointees. The RTC and King County Council share responsibility for the development, adoption, and monitoring of “countywide policies and plans” related to transit. These plans include the *Strategic Plan for Public Transportation*, *King County Metro Service Guidelines*, and *Metro Connects Long-Range Plan*.
- **Discussed the RTC’s 2026 work plan.** In 2026, the RTC will receive briefings on Metro’s three countywide policies and plans, listed above, in preparation for updating these documents in 2027 and 2028. The draft 2026 work plan also includes briefings, such as preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup events. The RTC will consider adopting the work plan at the March 18 meeting.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for March 18. Councilmember Vishal Bhargava serves on the RTC representing the Sound Cities Association.

### **Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)**

At its February 4 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Learned that the Washington State Department of Ecology is no longer pursuing a general permit for nutrient control** (previously called the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit). The Department of Ecology will be implementing nutrient reduction targets for nitrogen loading for individual facilities. The King County Wastewater

Treatment Division (WTD) anticipates that the West Point Treatment Plant will be in the first round of updated permits.

- **Received a briefing on Puget Sound water quality and the impact of stormwater runoff on Puget Sound and Lake Washington.** RWQC members asked for additional information about the cost effectiveness of stormwater investments compared to wastewater investments in further increasing water quality in the region.
- **Heard a presentation with four rate scenarios for the 2027 sewer rate.** These scenarios were:
  - Current State: using the previously adopted capital portfolio with updated costs and schedules.
  - Previous 2027 Rate Forecasting as Ceiling: based on the "Current State" scenario but reforecast to use the rate path from the 2026 process as maximum increases.
  - Two Percent Lower than Previously Adopted Forecast: proposing a rate that is two percentage points lower for 2027 than was forecast in 2026.
  - Regulatory Deadline Extension: spreads out timelines for multiple projects associated with the combined sewer overflow (CSO) consent decree and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This would require modifications to the consent decree and NPDES permit through negotiations with state and federal regulators.

The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for March 4. Deputy Mayor Dave Hamilton serves on the RWQC representing the Sound Cities Association.

### **Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)**

The GMPC did not meet in February. The next GMPC meeting has not been scheduled. Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis represents Bellevue on the GMPC.

### **Affordable Housing Committee (AHC)**

The AHC did not meet in February. The next AHC meeting will be held in March with the date yet to be scheduled. Councilmember Claire Sumadiwirya serves on the AHC representing the Sound Cities Association.