



**DATE:** December 10, 2024

**SUBJECT:** King County Regional Committees Update, November 2024

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

At its November 20 meeting, the RTC:

- **Recommended that the King County Council accept the 2024 System Evaluation Report.** Each year, King County Metro Transit prepares a System Evaluation report to assess the status of fixed-route, Dial-A-Ride Transit (DART), RapidRide, flexible, and Marine services, and to identify investment needs. The 2024 System Evaluation report is based on data from September 2023 through March 2024. During this time, Metro operated approximately 85 percent of pre-pandemic service for approximately 63 percent of pre-pandemic ridership.
- **Received a briefing on Metro's [Strategic Plan Dashboard](#).** The *Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, 2021-2031*, outlines Metro's goals, the strategies to achieve those goals, and the measures Metro uses to determine if it is succeeding. Metro reviewed key performance measures with the RTC. Average weekday ridership has increased 16 percent since September 2023. Metro is making progress towards the agency's goal of improving service to higher concentrations of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities. The gap between BIPOC routes and other routes was reduced by 20 percent since September 2023.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2025. Councilmember Janice Zahn serves on the RTC representing the Sound Cities Association (SCA).

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

At its November 6 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Received an update on the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP), discussed the RWSP Working Group, and proposed early code updates.** The RWSP Working Group is a staff-level ad hoc group representing SCA, the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC), and RWQC member staff to provide in-depth feedback to the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) throughout the RWSP update process. Councilmember Lee and other committee members expressed concern about the approach for early code updates. WTD amended their approach and incorporated the code updates into the review and analysis process for the entire RWSP.

- **Heard a briefing on the Executive's proposed 2025 WTD budget.** WTD requested an additional 78 FTEs, the majority of whom would support the expanding capital program. The capital budget incorporates new completion dates required as part of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) consent decree between King County, the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Justice.

The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for December 4. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC representing SCA.

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

The GMPC did not meet in November. The meeting originally scheduled for October 23 has been rescheduled to December 11. Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis represents Bellevue on the GMPC.

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

At its November 7 meeting, the AHC:

- **Adopted four additional draft comprehensive plan review comment letters** for the cities of Des Moines, Milton, Shoreline, and Woodinville. Bellevue's draft comprehensive plan review comment letter was adopted at the July 2024 meeting.
- **Discussed the committee's draft 2025 state legislative priorities.** Committee members discussed several potential amendments to the draft, including adding language on preserving local authority for successful affordable housing programs, funding for community-serving commercial space near affordable housing, and allocating Housing Trust Fund to first-time homebuyers. The committee will weigh in on potential amendments and take action on the state legislative priorities at the December 5 meeting.

The next AHC meeting is scheduled for December 5. Mayor Lynne Robinson was appointed by SCA to serve on the AHC.