



City of  
Bellevue

City Manager's  
Office

**DATE:** November 12, 2025

**SUBJECT:** King County Regional Committees Update, October 2025

**Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)**

At its October 1 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Heard about a fine from the Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).** King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) was fined \$50,000 for combined sewer overflow (CSO) permit violations in 2024.
- **Approved a motion requesting a WTD work plan to improve engagement, transparency, and accountability in the sewer rate-setting process.** This motion was proposed and developed by RWQC that incorporates recommendations from Bellevue's 2026 sewer rate letter into the final proposed work plan.
- **Requested a "pause and pivot" related to the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) update.** RWQC members expressed concern that the RWSP process to date did not address policy questions outlined in the RWSP Scoping Document, adopted by RWQC in January 2025. WTD committed to working with RWQC members on adapting the approach to ensure sufficient information for policy discussions.
- **Received a briefing on the proposed 2026-2027 WTD capital program.** WTD shared information on changes in the proposed capital program compared to when the 2026 sewer rate was adopted in June 2025, including cost implications and schedule impacts.

The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for December 3. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC.

**Eastrail Regional Advisory Council (RAC)**

At its October 31 meeting, the RAC:

- **Discussed the June 13 "Future of Eastrail" workshop,** which included charrettes where participants generated ideas that support and accelerate Eastrail's development. The RAC will identify next steps in January 2026.
- **Removed the Eastside Greenway Alliance (EGA) from RAC membership.** The EGA was formerly made up of the Cascade Bicycle Club, The Trust for Public Land, Transportation Choices Coalition, Forterra, Futurewise, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Move Redmond and Washington Trails Association. These groups formed the EGA to support Eastrail development and engage stakeholders. The roles of the EGA have been absorbed by other entities and it is no longer operating as a separate entity.
- **Received a briefing on Bellevue's Grand Connection Project and Wilburton Area Land Use Policy.** Over the next 75 years, much of Bellevue's growth will be in the Wilburton and BelRed areas. The Bellevue Grand Connection is 1.5-mile urban

development initiative to transform Downtown Bellevue into a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly corridor that seamlessly links the Meydenbauer Bay waterfront to city growth centers. The signature program element, the Grand Connection Crossing, will provide the critical car-free connection over I-405 to Eastrail in the Wilburton commercial area.

- **Discussed implementation of the “Welcome to Eastrail” guidelines and the Trail Ambassadors program.** The Trail Ambassadors program was established to build community awareness of welcoming and safe Eastrail use through positive messaging and encouragement. This year, Eastrail Partners hosted five Trail Ambassadors events and had over 100 conversations with trail users.
- **Received a briefing on the King County Parks Levy.** On August 5, 2025, the King County Parks Levy was approved for another six years starting January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2031. The approved levy rate is 23.29 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This will generate approximately \$1.45 billion over six years. The levy includes \$65 million for Eastrail overall, including funding construction of two additional segments of trail, a connection to Gene Coulon Park, paving for the Central Wilburton segment, and design of the Eastrail to Lake to Sound Trail connection.

The next Eastrail RAC meeting has not been scheduled. Councilmember Claire Sumadiwirya represents Bellevue on the RAC.

#### **King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C)**

At its October 24 Elected Official Work Session, K4C members:

- **Received an update on the Washington State Legislature climate policy outlook from House Majority Leader Rep. Fitzgibbon (34th District).** Fitzgibbon noted recent federal actions that impact the State, like rollback of the California vehicle emissions standards, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) endangerment finding, and removal of the EPA GHG reporting tool. He identified possible state legislature priorities, including amending the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), scaling clean energy, capitalizing the State’s green bank, and preparing for data center electric grid risks. K4C members communicated the need for reliable climate funding.
- **Heard a briefing from Puget Sound Energy (PSE) about opportunities to partner on climate and clean energy.** Matt Steuerwalt, External Affairs Vice President, discussed PSE’s commitments to Clean Energy Transformation Act requirements (2030-2045); adding new renewable energy generation; changing federal renewable energy production tax credits; and using load management strategies. He shared opportunities to improve distribution/transmission project permitting, and to allow State CCA funds for less cost-effective renewables. A workgroup is studying data center tariffs.
- **Discussed network opportunities to improve collaboration.** A panel of city members discussed local jurisdictions’ need for climate action funding; an opportunity to pool resources to implement priority projects; and the potential for network growth.

Councilmember Sumadiwirya attended. The next K4C meeting has not been scheduled. Deputy Mayor Malakoutian serves as the voting member for Bellevue for K4C.