



City of
Bellevue

City Manager's
Office

DATE: May 13, 2025

SUBJECT: King County Regional Committees Update, April 2025

Regional Transit Committee (RTC)

At its April 16 meeting, the RTC:

- **Received a briefing on transit safety and security.** Metro's public safety model includes the following:
 - traditional public safety functions, including the Metro Transit Police, contracted transit security officers, and fare enforcement officers;
 - behavioral health support for people in need, including behavioral health specialists stationed at transit centers and on key bus routes; and,
 - community engagement, including Metro transit ambassadors, who are bus operators on light duty who provide additional customer and community support.

Metro reviewed transit safety and security data in 2024 compared to 2023, which showed small increases in assaults on bus operators and passengers and a significant decrease in drug use on Metro buses. In partnership with the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) and the King County Council, Metro is convening a Regional Transit Safety Task Force. Councilmember Dave Hamilton represents Bellevue on the Task Force. Its final recommendations are due to the King County Council in September.

- **Received a briefing on Metro's Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Transition Plan.** The ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities. Transit agencies that are funded through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are required to develop and implement ADA Transition Plans to guide their efforts in removing barriers and improving access to their services. Metro has spent the last several years developing an update to its ADA Transition Plan. As part of that process, Metro evaluated its policies, programs, and services as they relate to people with disabilities, conducted a public engagement process centered around the experiences of people with disabilities on transit, developed recommendations to improve access, and studied best practices implemented by peer transit agencies.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for May 15. Bellevue currently does not have a councilmember serving on the RTC.

Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

At its April 2 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Learned that the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) had decided**

not to appeal the Pollution Control Hearings Board invalidation of the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit. Ecology is in the process of reissuing the permit requirements as a voluntary option. The Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) indicated that they will review and provide comments on the proposal once published.

- **Discussed WTD's proposed 2026 sewer rate and capacity charge.** Committee members requested additional information on the Mouth of the Duwamish Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project, which has been identified as a major rate driver in the first decade of the 20-year forecast. Councilmember Lee and others expressed concern about the assumptions built into the long-term financial forecast and requested information on the uncertainty expressed in the second decade of the forecast.

The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for May 7. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC on behalf of the Sound Cities Association.

King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)

The GMPC did not meet in April.

The next GMPC meeting is scheduled for June 25. Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis serves on the GMPC.

King County Affordable Housing Committee (AHC)

At its April 3 meeting, the AHC:

- **Approved a comment letter for the cities of Normandy Park and Black Diamond's comprehensive plan.** The letters acknowledge that Normandy Park and Black Diamond completed its housing-related comprehensive plan review, as required by the countywide planning policies (CPPs).
- **Discussed draft updates to the committee's charter.** The draft charter amendments reflect the committee's current focus on implementing the Housing CPPs and include administrative changes to streamline approval of new committee members. The committee will be asked to take action on the charter amendments at the June meeting before GMPC-approval in the fall.

The AHC met on May 1, which will be included in the May Intergovernmental Affairs packet. The next AHC meeting is scheduled for June 5. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the AHC on behalf of the Sound Cities Association.

Eastrail Regional Advisory Council (RAC)

At its April 24 meeting, the RAC:

- **Discussed the “Future of Eastrail” workshop**, scheduled for June 13 at the Global Information Exchange (GIX) in Bellevue’s Spring District. The workshop will take place from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., followed by a celebration reception from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. The workshop includes charrettes where participants will generate ideas that support and accelerate the Eastrail’s development. The event is invitation-only.
- **Removed the Eastside Greenway Alliance (EGA) from the RAC’s membership.** The roles of the EGA have been absorbed by other entities and the EGA is no longer operating as a separate entity. The EGA was formerly made up of the Cascade Bicycle Club, The Trust for Public Land, Transportation Choices Coalition (TCC), Forterra, Futurewise, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Move Redmond and Washington Trails Association. The RAC asked staff to generate a list of advocacy groups that could replace EGA as a member.
- **Discussed development and implementation of “Welcome to Eastrail” community guidelines.** This messaging is focused on trail etiquette, such as reminding users that the trail’s speed limit is 15 miles per hour. The RAC also discussed the Eastrail Partners’ trail ambassador program, which will host six trail activation events this year, including one in Bellevue in early summer (date to be determined). Eastrail Partners volunteers will staff tables, share information and welcome people to the trail.
- **Discussed the upcoming ribbon-cutting celebration for the Downtown Redmond Link Extension on May 10.** The ribbon-cutting ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. and light rail service will begin around noon. The 3.4-mile Downtown Redmond Link Extension adds two new light rail stations serving Marymoor Village near Marymoor Park, and Downtown Redmond in the residential and retail core.
- **Discussed funding allocated for the Eastrail in the proposed 2026-2031 King County Parks and Open Space Levy.** The proposed levy rate is 23.29 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This would generate approximately \$1.45 billion over six years. The levy proposal includes \$65 million for the Eastrail and would fund construction of two additional segments of trail, a connection to Gene Coulon Park, paving for the Central Wilburton segment (currently gravel), and complete design on the Eastrail to Lake to Sound Trail connection.

The next Eastrail RAC meeting is scheduled for July 25. Former Councilmember John Stokes represented Bellevue at the April 24 meeting. Councilmember Claire Sumadiwirya will represent Bellevue at future meetings.