



DATE: November 12, 2024

SUBJECT: King County Regional Committees Update, October 2024

Regional Transit Committee (RTC)

At its October 16 meeting, the RTC:

- **Discussed Metro's Service and Workforce Initiative.** Like other transit agencies throughout the United States, Metro experienced workforce shortages following the COVID-19 pandemic. Metro launched its Service and Workforce Initiative to rebuild operational capacity. Metro made changes to its recruitment and hiring practices, such as offering bonuses, improved wages, and improved benefits. Rather than hiring new part-time drivers, Metro transitioned to hiring new full-time ones. Metro's bus operator and mechanic vacancies have been reduced to 5 and 6 percent. Metro is currently operating 87 percent of pre-pandemic service for approximately 64 percent of pre-pandemic ridership.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for November 20. Councilmember Janice Zahn serves on the RTC on behalf of the Sound Cities Association.

Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

At its October 2 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Received a status report on the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) update.** The King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) shared that it was working with staff and agency representatives on a RWSP project charter. RWQC will consider a draft charter and scope of work in early-2025.
- **Heard a briefing on Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) and the response to King County Motion 16434.** The briefing included information on how King County is working with the Washington State Department of Ecology and other regional partners on emerging technology to reduce the impacts of PFAS, 6PPD-q, and other CECs.
- **Conducted a study session on stormwater.** King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) provided an overview of stormwater regulations and funding systems, and identified areas of possible future coordination between King County and local jurisdictions on stormwater management.

The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for November 6. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC on behalf of the Sound Cities Association.

Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)

The GMPC did not meet in October. 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 October 3 meeting, the AHC:

- **Adopted six additional draft comprehensive plan review comment letters.** The AHC adopted draft comprehensive plan review comment letters for the cities of Enumclaw, North Bend, SeaTac, and Tukwila without any amendments. The AHC adopted draft comprehensive plan review comment letters for the towns of Beau Arts Village and Hunts Point with a friendly amendment to add language applauding the towns for their contributions to ARCH.
- **Discussed the growth target reconciliation process for the Cities of Snoqualmie and Carnation.** Both jurisdictions requested slightly reduced housing growth targets to reflect unique planning circumstances. The AHC did not take a formal position or recommendation, but committee feedback will be shared with the GMPC at their next meeting in December.

The next AHC meeting is scheduled for November 7. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the AHC on behalf of the Sound Cities Association.

Eastrail Regional Advisory Council (RAC)

At its October 17 meeting, the Eastrail RAC:

- **Selected King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci and Redmond Council Vice President Jessica Forsythe to serve as co-chairs from 2024-2026.**
- **Discussed a future Eastrail Leadership Assembly event.** The Assembly is tentatively planned as a half-day event in 2025 located at either the Global Information Exchange (GIX) in the Spring District or at the Meydenbauer Center. RAC members identified goals for the events, which include celebrating recent progress, generating ideas for trail activation, and identifying funding opportunities to realize the full Eastrail vision. A date for the event has not been selected.
- **Directed RAC member staff to develop a set of shared expectations for trail users.** The goal of the code of conduct is to welcome a diverse community of users to enjoy the corridor, set expectations of how trail users should interact with the space and other users, build a sense of ownership and participation among users for helping create an

enjoyable and welcoming space, and set realistic expectations about the use of regulations and enforcement to manage trail use behavior.

- **Discussed an upcoming interlocal agreement with Eastrail Partners**, a non-profit organization that provides event planning, advocacy public art, communications, and other support for the Eastrail. An agreement is being drafted for RAC member organizations to review.

The next Eastrail RAC meeting will take place in January; the date has not been determined. Councilmember John Stokes represents Bellevue on the Eastrail RAC.