



**DATE:** April 16, 2024

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

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

At its March 20 meeting, the RTC:

- **Discussed the *RapidRide Prioritization Plan*.** King County Metro currently operates six RapidRide lines (A-F) and is working to develop four more lines (G-J) for planned openings between 2022 and 2026. Metro had begun planning for RapidRide K Line (Bellevue, Kirkland) and RapidRide R Line (Seattle). The *RapidRide Prioritization Plan* will assess potential future RapidRide lines based on equity, environmental sustainability, transit service needs, capital needs, and implementation. The K Line will not be impacted by the prioritization process since planning has already begun.
- **Discussed Metro's approach to community engagement.** Metro defines community engagement as:
  - A two-way exchange of information, ideas, and resources
  - A range of approaches from informing to sharing decision-making with community members
  - Opportunities for communities to express their views and have a meaningful role in decision-making
  - Consideration of the diversity of local communities to create an inclusive and accessible process
  - Removing barriers and building trust for communities that may have been excluded from government engagement in the past

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for April 17. Councilmember Janice Zahn serves on the RTC.

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

At its March 6 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Discussed a resolution expressing the RWQC's interest in the sewer rate and capacity charge and requesting the Metropolitan Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) to continue performing a technical review of the annual sewer rate and capacity charge.** The resolution is part of ongoing work to clarify the roles between RWQC and MWPAAC for long-term planning work and annual reviews of the sewer rate and capacity charge. This resolution is scheduled for future discussion and possible action.
- **Received a briefing on the proposed 2025 annual sewer rate and capacity charge** by King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Director Kamuron Gurol. The WTD is proposing a 5.75 percent rate increase for 2025. The King County Council will approve the 2025 sewer rate and capacity charge in June. WTD Director Gurol will

present to the Bellevue City Council on May 7.

- **Received a briefing on the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) update.** RWQC members requested information on the scope, timeline, and engagement process for the RWSP update. The RWQC anticipates this to be a regular agenda item at this year's meetings.

The next RWQC meeting was scheduled for April 3. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC.

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

At its March 27 meeting, the GMPC:

- **Adopted the 2024 GMPC work plan.** The 2024 work plan includes standard briefings on recurring topics such as biennial annexation updates, updates including the King County Comprehensive Plan Update and the Affordable Housing Committee's work, and two new topics including growth target reconciliation process and countywide centers designation.
- **Heard a recap of the 2024 state legislative session.** Washington State Department of Commerce staff provided an overview of land use and housing bills adopted during the 2024 State Legislative Session, and the associated planning-related state budget activities that impact the GMPC's work on countywide and local planning issues.
- **Received an update from the Affordable Housing Committee (AHC).** AHC staff shared an overview of the committee's 2024 work plan and upcoming opportunities for the GMPC to engage. The AHC is working to update its charter. AHC staff will continue to brief the GMPC and is expected to transmit the AHC's recommendations to the GMPC in early 2025. Any updates to the AHC charter will require GMPC action to approve.
- **Heard a briefing on designation of Countywide Centers.** The GMPC established a draft list of candidate Countywide Centers in 2020 to allow King County jurisdictions to participate in federal transportation funding process coordinated through the Puget Sound Regional Council. At the time, GMPC directed that a final list of Countywide Centers be designated in 2025 after comprehensive plans are updated. The designation process would be established in 2024 and implemented in 2025. The GMPC may amend the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) with the updated countywide centers designation process this fall.
- **Heard a briefing on a growth target reconciliation process.** The CPPs direct how growth targets are to be considered in Comprehensive Plans and provide for the creation of a coordinated countywide 'growth target reconciliation process.' A reconciliation process allows for the amendment of growth targets after the periodic plan update, reconciling them with plan growth assumptions to ensure consistency between plans and the CPPs. Such a process could be developed in 2024 and implemented in 2025 after statutory updates to comprehensive plans are completed. Establishing a reconciliation process will require action by the GMPC to amend the CPPs, tentatively scheduled for July.

The next GMPC meeting is scheduled for June 26. Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis serves on the GMPC.

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

At its March 7 meeting, the AHC:

- **Provided input on a proposed method to compare jurisdictions' work to plan for and accommodate affordable housing.** The AHC was briefed on a proposed method to compare jurisdictions based on each jurisdiction's reported progress to implement their housing-related implementation strategies. This proposal is part of the accountability framework established in the 2023 update to the Housing Countywide Planning Policies. A refined draft concept will be shared with the AHC later this year and the AHC may be asked to take action on the comparative standard in the fall.
- **Heard an update on the AHC's 2024 state legislative priorities,** including additional funding for subsidized housing.
- **Heard a briefing on the housing-related comprehensive plan review program,** including review resources for local jurisdictions and timelines for upcoming review.

The next AHC meeting is scheduled for May 2. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the AHC.