

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEFING:
KING COUNTY REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER ISSUES**
January 2018

This briefing summarizes recent actions taken by the three regional committees formed as a result of the merger of King County and Metro. The three regional committees are the Regional Policy Committee, the Regional Water Quality Committee, and the Regional Transit Committee. We will also include updates on other regional issues (e.g., King County Flood Control District, King Conservation District) as appropriate. In addition, the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC), was formed in the early 1990s to comply with the Growth Management Act requirements for collaboration of counties and their cities on countywide planning policies. The GMPC meets three to four times per year to consider amendments to the countywide planning policies and to monitor progress on implementation. This is intended as a summary briefing; staff can provide more details on any of the items below.

REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE (RPC)

December 5 meeting summary:

- **Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Transition Plan and Governance Plan.** The RPC considered the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) Transition Plan and Governance Plan. On November 7, voters approved the replacement six-year (2018-2023) VSHSL property tax levy at a rate of \$0.10 per \$1,000 of assessed value. A Bellevue homeowner with a median assessed valuation of \$791,000 would pay \$79.10 in the first year of the new levy. The levy will generate about \$50.6 million in revenue in 2018 and \$343 million over the life of the levy. Bellevue's total contribution for 2018 is estimated at \$5.6 million.

Transition Plan

The VSHSL Transition Plan outlines how programs funded under the expiring levy would continue to be funded into the first year of the new levy and governs the expenditure of funds until the adoption of a more comprehensive Implementation Plan. The RPC considered and amended the Transition Plan for the first time at its November meeting and took it up again in December after the King County Council's Health, Housing and Human Services Committee (HHHSC) took action on the Transition Plan.

The RPC voted unanimously to reinstate an amendment requiring a Housing Oversight Coordination Report that had been removed by the HHHSC, with the following changes proposed by King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci:

- A status update is due in six months and would be referred to both the RPC and the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force; and
- A full report is due in one year to the RPC and Regional Affordable Housing Task Force.

The RPC then voted to approve the VSHSL Transition Plan, and the King County Council approved the VSHSL Transition Plan on December 11, 2017.

Governance Plan

The Governance Plan for the VSHSL as transmitted by the King County Executive outlines the

creation and composition of three boards: the Human Services Levy Advisory Board, the Seniors Levy and Healthy Aging Advisory Board, and the Veterans Levy Advisory Board. Each board would oversee the spending of the 1/3 of the levy funds dedicated to its population. The Governance Plan also creates an Executive Advisory Committee that would advise on matters affecting the entire levy and oversee the 1% set aside, approximately \$500,000, for technical assistance and capacity building.

The RPC approved an amendment to the Governance Plan, offered by the Sound Cities Association (SCA) caucus, that would add a fourth board, the Housing Stability Advisory Board (HSAB), with membership drawn from the other three levy advisory boards. It would remove housing stability investment oversight from the other three boards' duties. Duties of the HSAB include:

- Advising the County on capital facilities and regional health and human services that promote housing stability for the levy's three target populations; and
- Overseeing the portion of VSHSL proceeds dedicated to funding housing stability investments.

The RPC passed the VSHSL Governance Plan, and the Plan is currently scheduled to be considered by the HHHSC at a special meeting on January 24.

- **Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Implementation Plan and Evaluation Plan.** The RPC considered the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD 2) Implementation Plan and Evaluation Plan. King County first adopted a one-tenth of one percent sales tax in 2007; this tax was named the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD 1) initiative. It was reauthorized in November 2016 and extended through 2025; it is now known as MIDD 2. MIDD 2's adopted budget for 2017-2018 is \$135 million. In Bellevue, in 2017, one-tenth of one percent in sales tax is estimated at \$7 million.

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan provides a schedule, outcomes and performance measures, spending plans and how each initiative advances the county's mental health and chemical dependency policy goals. There are 53 MIDD 2 Initiatives: 22 new, 22 returning without modification, and 9 that will be modified. The Plan uses performance-based contracting to align with federal and state requirements. The Plan also references some areas of coordination with the Best Starts for Kids Levy and the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy. The RPC approved the Implementation Plan with a "do pass" recommendation.

Evaluation Plan

In 2015, the King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Evaluation did an evaluation of the MIDD 1 Evaluation Plan. The review revealed strengths and areas for improvement which were incorporated in the MIDD 2 Evaluation Plan. One important change that is reflected in the new Evaluation Plan is the use of Results Based Accountability (RBA) for performance accountability. RBA is a commonsense framework that identifies the result being sought and works backwards towards the strategies for achieving that result. RBA makes a distinction between population-based indicators, which assess the well-being of individuals and families throughout King County, and performance accountability measures that assess the well-being of those being served by MIDD 2 funded programs. The belief is that using this framework will improve staff's ability to support quality

improvements and revisions to MIDD 2 initiatives. The RPC approved the Evaluation Plan with a “do pass” recommendation.

January 10 meeting summary:

- **Election of RPC Vice-Chair.** The Sound Cities Association (SCA) Caucus elected Bellevue Councilmember John Stokes as the Chair of the SCA Caucus. The Caucus also elected Mayor Dave Hill from Algona as Vice-Chair. The RPC then elected Councilmember Stokes as the Vice-Chair and Mayor Bernie Talmas from Woodinville as the alternate Vice-Chair in case Councilmember Stokes is not available.
- **Briefing on the 2018 Work Program.** The RPC received a briefing on the RPC work program. Potential topics for the work program include:
 - King County Land Conservation Initiative
 - Public Safety Emergency Radio Network
 - E911 Strategic Planning and Governance
 - Regional Affordable Housing and Homelessness
 - Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) reports
 - Best Starts for Kids reports
 - Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) reports and implementation
 - Regional transportation
 - Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan

The RPC will be asked to approve the work plan at its next meeting, and SCA and city staff will work with SCA Caucus members before that meeting to refine the work program topics list and ensure that the appropriate topics are included for briefings and for mandatory referrals.

- **Briefing on the City of Seattle Municipal Income Tax.** This was an informational briefing provided at the request of the RPC Chair, and no action on this item was requested. In July, the City of Seattle passed a tax on high-income residents of Seattle. However, a King County Superior Court judge ruled that the measure is illegal in November, and an appeal is expected. Two speakers on opposing sides of the issue provided additional background on the ordinance and the litigation.
- **Best Starts for Kids First Annual Report.** The RPC received a briefing and voted to accept the Best Starts for Kids (BSK) First Annual Report. In 2015, King County voters approved a six-year roughly \$400 million property tax levy to fund a prevention-oriented regional plan aimed at supporting the healthy development of children and youth, families and communities across the county. The BSK levy rate is \$0.14 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation, and Bellevue’s annual contribution is approximately \$6.2 million.

The BSK First Annual Report describes the programs funded, key milestones and preliminary data on outcomes and performance measures. To date, nine agencies in Bellevue and the Bellevue School District have been awarded nearly \$2 million in BSK funds. The First Annual Report, however, provides limited information regarding the specific populations served by the BSK programs. Councilmember Stokes requested that the BSK staff provide more detailed information, such as a map, to show where grant awards are being made and who is being served. This would help city staff identify where there might be gaps in services or where Bellevue residents are

traveling long distances to receive services.

- **Veterans and Human Services Levy 2016 Annual Report.** The RPC received a briefing and voted to accept the Veterans and Human Services Levy (VHSL) 2016 Annual Report. The original VHSL was first approved by King County voters in 2005 and was renewed in 2011. Although voters recently approved a new replacement levy, this briefing was on the 2016 Annual Report for the prior levy.

The 2016 Annual Report summarizes the use of levy funds and performance in achieving its goals to: prevent and reduce homelessness; remove unnecessary criminal justice and emergency medical system involvement; and increase self-sufficiency of veterans and vulnerable populations. The Report also provided data showing that about 11% of individuals served under the levy were from East King County, 40% were from South King County, 3% were from North King County and 46% were from Seattle.

King County is currently conducting community meetings to receive feedback on the Implementation Plan that will govern the new Veterans, Seniors and Human Services (VSHSL) levy that was just approved by voters in November. The draft Implementation Plan is expected to be sent to the RPC in March. Following the approval of the Plan by the King County Council, County staff will begin the procurement process for VSHSL programs.

The next meeting of the RPC is scheduled for February 14.

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE (RTC)

The RTC did not meet in December. The next meeting of the RTC is January 17 and a summary will be included in the February Regional Issues Packet.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE (RWQC)

December 6 meeting summary:

- **Joint Ship Canal Combined Sewer Overflow Project Follow-up Discussion.** The RWQC continued a discussion from its November meeting regarding a joint Seattle and King County project called the Joint Ship Canal Water Quality Project (Project). The Project is required by consent decrees signed by each of the parties with state and federal agencies requiring control of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) that discharge untreated wastewater and stormwater into regional waters. The joint Project will design, construct and operate a 2.7-mile-long storage tunnel that will control CSO discharges into the Lake Washington Ship Canal from six outfalls: four CSO outfalls owned by Seattle and two CSO outfalls owned by King County. The RPC discussed several current issues with the Project, including increased estimated project costs, the drivers for the cost increase and how the costs will be split between King County and Seattle.

The most significant Project change is the proposed increase in tunnel diameter from 14-feet to 18-feet by Seattle. As of December, Seattle reports it is moving forward with final design of an 18-foot, 10-inch diameter tunnel due to its revised modeling of future flows in the tunnel. King County's

modeling, however, does not show a need for the same increase in tunnel size. Seattle and King County are continuing to discuss the County's proportionate share of the additional tunnel volume.

Seattle currently estimates the total cost of the Project at \$540 million compared with the projected cost of \$423 million. Specific drivers for the cost increase include tunnel size expansion, increased regional construction costs, design changes, construction methodology changes, and sales tax. There has been no final determination as to how this cost escalation will impact the County's cost share. Seattle and King County have additional modeling and analysis remaining to finalize design and cost projections.

- **Long Term Combined Sewer Overflow Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring Study Report.** The Committee received its final briefing on this multi-year project at its December meeting. The Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring Study (Study) will be used to inform the update to King County's Long Term Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Plan.

The Study evaluated water quality conditions in water bodies where Seattle and King County CSOs discharge. Final study documents and reports are now available on-line. Key takeaways from the study include:

- Some water quality trends – bacteria, nutrients, dissolved oxygen – are showing improvement, even in the context of increasing regional population;
- Challenges for water quality remain, including increasing water temperatures, shortfalls in meeting state standards for bacteria, dissolved oxygen, and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB's);
- Contaminated sediments continue to raise concern;
- There are multiple pathways by which pollutants migrate to area waters; and
- CSO control, while effective in addressing bacteria, is less useful in responding to some of the other contaminants, such as nutrients, metals, organic chemicals, copper, and Polycyclic Aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's).

The study suggests that while CSO control will benefit water quality, the region would need to take additional corrective actions, such as additional stormwater control, to reduce pollutant loadings to these receiving waters.

The RWQC did not meet in January, and the next meeting is scheduled for February 7.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL (GMPC)

November 29, 2017 meeting summary:

- **Briefing regarding Countywide Planning Policy on School Siting.** The GMPC received presentations from representatives of the Issaquah, Lake Washington and Tahoma school districts regarding implementation of Countywide Planning Policy (CPP) PF-19A on school siting. Each speaker described specific challenges they faced in finding adequate, affordable land within the urban growth area to accommodate the substantial enrollment growth they are experiencing. The speakers also highlighted some success in new schools being built in the urban area when there are strong partnerships with King County and local jurisdictions. The successful collaborative effort identified additional potential sites within the urban growth area, modified codes to allow for two-

and three-story schools, and in at least one example, closed a land deal that involved land swaps among the county, city and school district.

The GMPC directed staff to prepare a resolution of next steps, including continued coordination and creating a compendium of best practices and a model ordinance to recreate the success stories in other jurisdictions. The GMPC also requested staff provide an update on the 18 rural school sites addressed by the School Siting Task Force about five years ago.

The next meeting of the GMPC is tentatively scheduled for first quarter of 2018.

KING COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION INITIATIVE

December 7, 2017 meeting summary:

At its final meeting, the King County Land Conservation and Preservation Advisory Committee approved a final report and recommendations to the King County Executive and the King County Council regarding a plan to protect 65,000 acres of remaining high conservation value lands. The final report was transmitted to the King County Executive and the King County Council on December 29, 2017 by the co-chairs of the Advisory Committee.

The final report is consistent with the draft recommendations previously discussed with Council on October 23, 2017 and in the November 2017 regional packet summary. The Advisory Committee recommended a financial model with a total cost of \$4.14 billion that includes land acquisition priorities and costs from the County as well as cities and inflation for all the properties over the 30-year period. Current revenue sources are expected to pay for \$2.25 billion out of the total \$4.14 billion estimate. Out of that current revenue total, private philanthropic sources are expected to fund \$294 million. After taking into account current funding sources, the funding gap is \$1.89 billion.

Public Funding Options

The final recommendations from the Advisory Committee to achieve the acquisition priorities in a 30-year timeframe include:

- **Utilize Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) funding.** CFT was originally authorized by the state at 6.25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV) to acquire conservation rights in real property. The increase in King County AV over time has reduced the tax rate to 4.45 cents per \$1,000 of AV. King County voters could reset the CFT to 6.25 cents with a 51% affirmative vote.
- **Reset CFT to 6.25 cents two-to-three times over the 30 years.** This strategy would reset the rate as the King County AV increases, allowing the County to reach its funding goal for property acquisition in 30 years.
- **Fund operations and maintenance from future parks levies** by adding between 7 tenths and 2 cents per \$1,000 of AV when it is up for renewal in 2019. This is recommended because King County Code does not authorize the use of CFT funds for operations and maintenance. State law does allow up to 15% of the CFT total to be spent on operations and maintenance activities.
- **Allow bonding up to 100% of CFT revenues** by amending the County debt policy. Current County debt policy allows bonding up to 50% of CFT revenues.

Next Steps

The Advisory Committee completed its work and included the following recommendations regarding

implementation:

- Continue the conversations between the County and the cities regarding identification of opportunities.
- Develop a fair and transparent system for allocation of new funds.
- Engage communities to understand disparities in access and proximity to green space.
- Explore how to ensure newly acquired green space is well-used.
- Reach common understanding with city partners regarding the distribution of Parks Levy funding for operations and maintenance.

King County has begun outreach to cities and plans to set up several geographically based meetings with groups of cities in the next few months to discuss next steps for the effort. Bellevue staff will continue to update Council as the effort progresses.

KING COUNTY REGIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK FORCE

November 30, 2017 meeting summary:

The King County Regional Affordable Housing Task Force (Task Force) continued the process of building a foundation of information and understanding about the issues and challenges around development of affordable housing and current efforts by jurisdictions and agencies in the region.

King County staff presented an overview of the adopted Countywide Planning Policies that pertain to housing. The policy briefing was followed by a succession of presenters from A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), the cities of Auburn, Shoreline, North Bend, and the Seattle Office of Housing. Each presenter highlighted one or more aspects of providing affordable housing, including accessory dwelling units, preservation of existing housing stock, station area planning and inclusionary zoning, the challenges faced by rural cities, and state legislation.

The Task Force and its Standing Advisory Panel engaged in a discussion about the issues raised in the presentation, highlighting the fact there are many good programs and efforts underway and still a great need in the region. The Task Force indicated a desire in future meetings to focus on ways to achieve better cooperation and coordination among jurisdictions and agencies working on the problem with the goal of being more effective and increasing the supply of affordable housing.

The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for January 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at New Holly Gathering Space in Seattle. The primary purpose of the meeting is to hear from the public, including residents, providers and advocates.