



City of Bellevue

City Manager's Office

DATE: May 14, 2024

SUBJECT: King County Regional Committees Update, April 2024

Regional Transit Committee (RTC)

At its April 17 meeting, the RTC:

- **Discussed transit safety and security**, including Metro's Safety, Security, and Fare Enforcement (SaFE) Reform Initiative. Safety and security incidents have decreased 12 percent since 2019 and 22 percent since 2020. Metro is transitioning from a traditional public safety model to a "care and presence model" that uses both law enforcement and behavioral health support. The SaFE Reform Initiative is intended to help Metro provide safe, equitable, and accessible transit, centered on Black, Indigenous, and people of color and marginalized communities.
- **Discussed Metro's Vanpool, Metro Flex, and Community Van Programs.** These tools are generally used to support less dense areas where transit demand is not sufficient to deploy traditional fixed-route bus services. The vanpool and community van programs deploy County-owned vans for regular commute trips or prescheduled trips. Metro Flex is an on-demand mobility service through which riders can request a ride using a phone app or through Metro's call center or website. The rider provides a start/end to their trip anywhere within the service area and receives a pick-up location and estimated arrival time.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for May 15. Councilmember Janice Zahn serves on the RTC.

Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

At its April 3 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Adopted a resolution expressing RWQC's interest in the sewer rate and capacity charge.** This resolution clarified the RWQC's ongoing interest in the annual sewer rate and capacity charge and how they comport with the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP), King County code, and other county plans, policies, and agreements. It also outlines how the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) should continue its technical review of the sewer rate and share findings and recommendations with the RWQC, King County Council, and Executive.

- **Received an update on the proposed timeline for engagement on the Regional Wastewater Services Plan.** Starting in June, the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) and RWQC will review two sections of the RWSP each month through the rest of the year. WTD anticipates that policies identified for an early update will be adopted in 2025, and complex and comprehensive policy updates will continue through 2026 and beyond.
- **Heard about the policies that determine wholesale sewer cost allocation.** This includes the wholesale cost recovery structure, based on Residential Customer Equivalents (RCEs), and the capacity charge. WTD will restart work on developing an updated capacity charge methodology after the work was paused in 2021.

The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for June 5. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC.

Eastrail Regional Advisory Council (RAC)

At its April 17 meeting, the RAC:

- **Discussed a potential 2026-2031 King County Parks Levy Program.** The existing 2020-2025 levy is estimated to have generated \$845 million and allocated more than \$55 million to the Eastrail. King County staff is in the early planning stages of drafting a proposal for the next levy. It is on a trajectory to go before voters in 2025, most likely as part of the August primary election.
- **Discussed micromobility devices**, which include scooters and bikes, as well as mobility assistance devices like wheelchairs. Eastrail RAC members commented on the value of having consistent micromobility laws throughout the Eastrail. Active Transportation Director for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Barb Chamberlain, noted that new human-powered and electric-assist devices come on the market all the time and it would be essentially impossible to keep regulations current with what is happening on the ground. Therefore, the focus of any rules or regulations should be on rider behavior on a device such as excess speed, not on the particular device itself.
- **Discussed upcoming RAC activities.** The RAC workplan includes a leadership assembly event and site tours in the fall. Bellevue is contributing by contracting for videography, which will capture footage and produce several short videos for use at the leadership assembly event in the fall. The videos will also be used for the web and social media.
- **Received a briefing on federal and state funding for the Eastrail.** In February, King County applied for \$25 million in federal United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)

grant funding for the Eastrail I-90 Gap. Bellevue staff participated in the multijurisdictional grant writing effort, and Mayor Lynne Robinson provided a letter of support for the application. Selections will be announced by June 27.

The next RAC meeting is scheduled for July 18. Councilmember John Stokes serves on the RAC.