



City of
Bellevue

City Manager's
Office

DATE: August 6, 2024

SUBJECT: King County Regional Committees Update, July 2024

Regional Transit Committee (RTC)

At its July 17 meeting, the RTC:

- **Recommended the King County Council adopt the *RapidRide Prioritization Plan*.** Metro currently operates seven RapidRide lines (A-F and H) and is working to develop five more lines (G, I, J, K, R) for planned openings between 2024 and 2031. The *RapidRide Prioritization Plan* uses a programmatic approach to prioritize eight additional RapidRide Lines. Two of these lines will be in Bellevue. One will connect Crossroads, Downtown Bellevue and the U District; this line is envisioned to be delivered around 2040. Another RapidRide line will connect Redmond, Overlake and Eastgate and is envisioned for delivery around 2050. Neither of these projects have been funded.

The *RapidRide Prioritization Plan* is on track to be adopted by the County Council this year. If adoption occurs by the end of 2024, the King County budget will allocate \$250,000 for RapidRide K Line and RapidRide R Line planning. An additional \$7 million is already allocated for RapidRide K Line planning and is not dependent on adoption of the *RapidRide Prioritization Plan*.

The RTC will not meet in August. The next RTC meeting is scheduled for September 18. Councilmember Janice Zahn serves on the RTC.

Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

At its July 15 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Received a status update on the long-term financial forecasting methodology from Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Director Kamuron Gurol.** WTD anticipates that the tool will be complete in July 2025, to be used for the 2027 rates and budget process.
- **Received a briefing on the combined sewer overflow (CSO) consent decree modification between King County and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).** The modification extends the compliance date from 2030 and 2037. WTD expects rate impacts of approximately seven percent by the end of the 10-year rate forecast period in 2034. Seattle also reached agreement on their own CSO consent

decree modification. Each modification will go through each agency's respective legislative bodies for approval before being finalized by the federal court.

- **Requested that WTD provide a high-level scope of work on the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) update for discussion at the September RWQC meeting.** RWQC members shared their thoughts on the feedback process to-date and provided suggestions on how to move forward.

The RWQC will not meet in August. The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for September 4. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC.

Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)

At its July 24 meeting, the GMPC:

- **Heard a briefing on a proposed UGA amendment in the King County Comprehensive Plan.** The proposed amendment will rezone two parcels adjacent to the City of Maple Valley from industrial to rural. The parcels are inaccessible to trucks and do not have urban services. The GMPC will be asked to adopt the motion at its September meeting.
- **Heard an update on the Annexation Area Action Plan Update.** Staff provided an update on annexations that have occurred since 2020 and discussed a state sales tax incentive for annexation. Bellevue has not annexed land into the city since 2012 and the two Potential Annexation Areas near Cougar Mountain are too small to be eligible for the sales tax incentive.
- **Received an update on the Affordable Housing Committee (AHC).** The GMPC concurred with the appointment of Thatcher Imboden as Sound Transit's representative on the AHC. The GMPC also heard an update on comprehensive plan comment letters for Auburn, Bellevue, Bothell, Covington, Federal Way, and Issaquah that were adopted at the AHC's July meeting,
- **Gave direction to proceed with outreach for the growth target reconciliation process.** GMPC gave direction to county staff to continue outreach to three cities – Carnation, Black Diamond, and Snoqualmie – that have expressed interest in a revised housing growth target. At the September meeting, the GMPC will be asked to decide whether to move forward with action, defer to 2025, or take no action.
- **Received an update on the Countywide Centers Designation process.** County staff walked through proposed amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies to clarify the planning expectations for Countywide Centers. These proposed amendments support five Bellevue candidate Countywide Growth Centers being fully certified in 2025. Amendments will be up for action at September meeting.
- **Reviewed the UGA policies and Four-to-One Program amendments.** The County Council have proposed changes to the program to streamline the land use code and

make it more accessible. GMPC had no concerns with County Council revisions and thus does not require GMPC action.

The GMPC will not meet in August. The next GMPC meeting is scheduled for September 18. Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis represents Bellevue on the GMPC.

Affordable Housing Committee (AHC)

At its July 23 meeting, the AHC:

- **Received an update on the Plan Review Program.** County staff provided an update on draft plans received to date and discussed options for cities that do not submit a plan by the deadline of September 2024. As Bellevue has already submitted its plan for review, this does not apply to the city.
- **Approved the housing-related comprehensive plan review comment letters for the cities of Auburn, Bellevue, Bothell, Covington, Federal Way, and Issaquah.** With an approved comment letter, Bellevue has now met the Countywide Planning Policy to go through the plan review process.

The AHC will not meet in August. The next AHC meeting is scheduled for September 5. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the AHC.

King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C)

At its July 16 meeting, the K4C:

- **Heard a briefing on the Climate Commitment Act (CCA).** Passed in 2021, the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) is the state's cap-and-invest program designed to help Washington meet its goal of reducing carbon emissions by 95 percent by 2050. The program sets a limit on overall carbon emissions in the state and reduces the limit over time. The program also requires Washington's largest emitting sources and industries to purchase allowances equal to the emissions they produce. Proceeds from the CCA auctions must be invested in climate projects in Washington focused on improving clean transportation options and addressing environmental justice and health inequity

If passed this November, Initiative 2117 (I-2117) would repeal the CCA, shutting the program down and eliminating the accounts to which auction revenues are deposited. Staff from the Governor's Office provided an overview of the CCA cap-and-invest program and highlighted investments in King County. Staff from Municipal Research Service Center (MRSC) provided an overview of the legal requirements of weighing in on ballot measures.

- **Engaged in a brainstorming activity on the 2025 Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP).** County staff provided an overview of the 2025 update process. Attendees

participated in a brainstorming activity in small groups and then reported out to the full group.

The next K4C meeting has not been scheduled but is anticipated to be held in Fall 2024. Deputy Mayor Mo Malakoutian and Councilmember Janice Zahn represent Bellevue on the K4C.

Eastrail Regional Advisory Council (RAC)

At its July 18 meeting, the Eastrail RAC:

- **Discussed co-chair positions for 2024-2026.** The Eastrail RAC is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was last updated in 2022. The MOU stipulates that the RAC has two co-chairs: one is a King County elected official and the other is an elected official from another Eastrail owner jurisdiction. Bellevue's RAC representative is ineligible to serve in a co-chair role because the city is not an Eastrail owner jurisdiction. The owner jurisdictions will elect 2024-2026 co-chairs at the October 17 RAC meeting.
- **Received a briefing on implementation of 2024 RAC activities.** Work is progressing on planning for a leadership assembly event in November or December. The event is tentatively planned as a half-day event at the Global Information Exchange (GIX) in Bellevue's Spring District.
- **Discussed key cross-cutting trail corridor management issues.** An overview of cross-cutting issues was provided along with draft guidance principles for coordinated management of Eastrail. The RAC was introduced to the idea of a staff work group to identify next steps for cross-cutting trail management issues, such as operating hours and micromobility, based on the guidance principles. Further direction on a potential work group will be sought at the October 17 RAC meeting.
- **Received a briefing on Eastrail Partners' proposal for a 2025-2026 service agreement.** Eastrail Partners is a non-profit organization that advocates for investment in the trail and that undertakes activities aimed at making the trail a welcoming space for all. Since Eastrail Partners began operations in 2020, nearly \$10 million has been raised in private sector investment from Amazon, REI, and Meta. The Eastrail was also awarded nearly \$30 million in the Move Ahead Washington transportation package and \$25 million in federal RAISE grant funding. While King County, Bellevue, and other RAC member entities all contributed to raising these funds, Eastrail Partners has provided important engagement, advocacy, and coalition-building activities. Eastrail Partners is requesting that RAC members contribute \$200,000 (in total) for the 2025-2026 biennium.
- **Received a briefing on the Climate Commitment Act (CCA).** The CCA is described above in the K4C meeting summary. One key Eastrail project in Bellevue, the I-90 steel bridge rehabilitation, is at risk of losing its \$12 million in state funding if I-2117 passes

and the CCA is repealed.

The next Eastrail RAC meeting is scheduled for October 17. Councilmember John Stokes represents Bellevue on the RAC.