



**DATE:** November 20, 2023

**SUBJECT:** October King County Regional Committees Update

**Regional Policy Committee (RPC)**

At its October 11 meeting, the RPC:

- **Received a presentation by the University of Washington Medicine, which includes three medical systems: University of Washington Medical Center, Harborview Medical Center, and the University of Washington School of Medicine.** The University of Washington also partners with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. The University of Washington's annual budget is \$6.7 billion of which \$1 million per year is dedicated to research -- second only to Harvard University's allocation. In addition to Washington, UW Medicine serves Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Alaska. All of these states are seeing an increase in obstetric services.
- **Received a follow up briefing by King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) on new policy opportunities in Re+ zero waste initiatives.** SWD staff reviewed solid waste options; each option has different projections on tonnage of solid waste, environmental impacts and costs. The Solid Waste Management Plan will be implemented in 2026. SWD operates a regional solid waste system for unincorporated areas and 37 partner cities, including Bellevue. One remaining local landfill, the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, is a 920-acre site located in unincorporated Maple Valley owned and operated by King County. The next King County proposed solid waste disposal option, following the future closure of Cedar Hills landfill in 2038, will have economic, environmental, and social impacts to the region.
- **Received a briefing on the ordinance to impose a one-tenth of one percent sales and use tax to finance cultural access through the King County Doors Open program to support cultural organizations.** The tax is projected to generate approximately \$100 million annually in each of the first five years, which would be managed and administered by King County's designated Cultural Development Authority, the 4Culture program.

The RPC met on November 8. A summary will be included in the next Intergovernmental Affairs packet. The next RPC meeting is scheduled for December 6. Councilmember John Stokes serves on the RPC.

**Regional Transit Committee (RTC)**

At its October 18 meeting, the RTC:



- **Received an update on the progress on RapidRide K and J lines.** RapidRide expansion is a critical element of Metro's Strategic Plan and *Metro Connects*. Metro had begun planning for RapidRide K (Bellevue, Kirkland) and RapidRide R (Seattle) but the work was paused in 2020 due to budget impacts of COVID-19. Both RapidRide K and R were included in King County's 2023-2024 biennial budget. The new funding will be used to advance the K Line to 10 percent design, re-engage the community, work with Bellevue and Kirkland to identify funding sources or partnerships, and establish a delivery schedule.
- **Heard about the implementation of zero youth fare and engagement on reduced fare programs.** The zero youth fare was approved by the RTC and County Council in 2022, spurred by the Legislature's adoption the Move Ahead Washington package that included \$1.45 billion in transit support grants. Metro Transit also shared information on the outreach and engagement around Metro's reduced fare programs, following approval by the RTC and Council last year to temporarily lower the ORCA LIFT low-income fare from \$1.50 to \$1.00.

The RTC met on November 15. A meeting summary will be included in the next Intergovernmental Affairs packet. The next RTC meeting is scheduled for December 20. Councilmember Janice Zahn serves on the RTC.

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

At its October 4 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Heard about highlights of the 2023 Stormwater Summit**, including goals for regional collaboration on stormwater management, as identified at the summit 2021 Summit:
  1. Provide 30 strategically sited regional stormwater parks.
  2. Treat runoff from 100 miles of roadways through best management practices (BMPs) that remove 6PPD-q and more.
  3. Provide flow control to 5,000 acres through a mix of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) and new or retrofitted detention ponds.
  4. Reduce sources of pollutants.
- **Discussed improvements to facilitate RWQC's review of the date development policies**, including a desire to effectively weigh in. Members discussed an array of options that consider RWQC's roles and responsibilities as defined in charter and code. Desired outcomes include:
  - Opportunities to review and provide input on major policy issues impacting the development of the sewer rate.
  - Well defined roles and work plans for the Metropolitan Water Pollution



Abatement Advisory Committee and RWQC to avoid duplicative work.

- A consistent method of providing input to the Council on the rate proposal.
- Increased information on the long-term policy impacts of rate proposals.

The RWQC met on November 1. A meeting summary will be included in the next Intergovernmental Affairs packet. The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for December 6. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC.

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

At its September 21 meeting, the AHC:

- **Received a briefing on the first two meetings of the Community Partners Table (Table) in 2023.** This included details on the 2023/2024 Table membership and work plan.
- **Took action on the Comprehensive Plan review standards comment letters for the City of Redmond and King County.** AHC was briefed on the review of the housing components of King County's and the City of Redmond's public review draft comprehensive plans. The comment letters identify strong areas of alignment with the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs), recommend actions necessary to align with the CPPs, and make suggestions to strengthen existing alignment. The AHC will measure King County's and Redmond's progress in planning for and accommodating their housing need annually following adoption of their comprehensive plan. The GMPC will review the information collected through annual monitoring and reporting to conduct a mid-point check-in and adjustment five years after plan adoption, in 2029.
- **Received a briefing on the AHC 2024 draft workplan.** AHC provided input on a draft 2024 AHC work plan. AHC staff will incorporate member feedback into a revised draft for consideration and potential adoption by the AHC at the November 16 meeting. AHC staff developed the work plan in consultation with the AHC Chair and Housing Interjurisdictional Team (HIJT).
- **Received a briefing on draft 2024 federal and state legislative priorities and timeline for adoption.** The proposed AHC legislative priorities are generally consistent with the City's adopted legislative agenda and priorities for 2023.
- **Received a briefing on changes to the Regional Affordable Housing Dashboard.** The Regional Affordable Housing Dashboard provides accessible metrics and performance measures that assist with understanding King County's housing affordability crisis and demonstrate the impact of solutions to address it. The dashboard monitors progress towards the 2018 Regional Affordable Housing Task Force's (RAHTF) goal of striving to eliminate cost burden in King County for households earning 80



percent area median income (AMI) and below, with a priority serving households at or below 50 percent AMI, as well as regional progress to implement the RAHTF Five Year Action Plan. AHC staff updated the "Key Housing Affordability Indicators" dashboard sections on August 14, 2023 to reflect current data from the US Census. There will be another update before the end of 2023.

- **Received a briefing on the status of Growth Management Planning Council's (GMPC) Motion 21-1.** GMPC motion 21-1, which was enacted as part of the Countywide Planning Policies adopted in 2021, directed the GMPC's AHC to conduct additional policy work relating to affordable housing in 2022 and 2023. Also in 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed House Bill 1220, which substantively amended the Growth Management Act to require jurisdictions to plan for and accommodate housing needs as part of their comprehensive plans.

The King County Council approved and ratified the housing-related amendments to the CPPs on behalf of unincorporated King County on August 15. Jurisdictions in King County have 90 days to take formal action to either ratify or disapprove the amendment. Bellevue City Council discussed the amendments on September 25 and will take action on ratification prior to the November 30 deadline.

The AHC met on November 16. A summary will be included in the next Intergovernmental Affairs packet. The next AHC meeting has not yet been scheduled. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the AHC.

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

At its September 27 meeting, the GMPC:

- **Took action on GMPC Motion 23-3 amendments to Urban Growth Area (UGA) Policies and Four-to-One Program.** The King County Council ordinance that adopted the CPPs in 2021 removed the UGA expansion policy changes and provided direction to review the policies and the Four-to-One Program. The Four-to-One Program allows the County to make UGA boundary changes in exchange for a permanent dedication of open space. The state legislature adopted Senate Bill 5593 in 2022 which allows for "no net gain UGA swaps"; this tool has substantive policy overlaps with the Four-to-One program. Beginning in early 2024, the King County Council is scheduled to consider the GMPC recommendations as the County Council reviews the 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan update package. Once the County Council approves amendments to the CPPs, the amendments will be sent to the cities and towns in King County for ratification. If ratified, any new Four-to-One proposals would be guided by the new provisions.
- **Received a briefing by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) on the**



**Certification of the 2021 CPPs.** PSRC works with local governments in reviewing their policies and plans, and then certifies them under state law authority and in accordance with the PSRC's adopted procedures. PSRC reviewed the CPPs and found that the policies address the VISION 2050 multicounty planning policies (MPPs) and the Regional Transportation Plan. At its July 2023 meeting, the Executive Board of the PSRC certified the 2021 King County CPPs. The Certification Report identified two primary issues where additional work may be warranted. These include more fully reflecting the MPP provisions related to tribal engagement and clarifying the growth targets for potential annexation areas (as well as growth target consistency). Both of these issues will be proposed for inclusion in the GMPC's 2024 work program.

- **Received a briefing on the 2022 School/County/City Coordination Meetings Report.** School siting has been a significant issue for the GMPC since the 2012 Countywide Planning Policies. In 2015, policies were added that directed biannual meetings between school districts and jurisdictions in King County, and the development of a report to the GMPC to document the outcomes of the meetings. The 2022 report indicated that the last two years of school activity was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Impacts varied across districts but for the most part reduced the pressure for expansion in many districts. Some are still working to recover their enrollment numbers.

The next GMPC meeting will be held in 2024. Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis represents Bellevue on the GMPC.

#### **King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) Elected Official Work Session**

At its October 12 meeting, the K4C:

- **Convened for the biannual K4C Elected Official work session for elected officials from K4C member jurisdictions,** along with interested elected officials from non-member jurisdictions. The meeting was for information only and included a presentation on Washington State Department of Commerce Energy Division (Commerce) grant resources and a discussion with State Representative Beth Doglio about the 2024 Legislative Session's climate priorities.
- **Received a presentation on Funding and Scaling Climate Action – State and Local Partnerships:** Michael Furze, Assistant Director for the Department of Commerce's Energy Division, provided a summary of multimillion-dollar state funding opportunities related to electric vehicle charging equipment, heat pumps, solar, grid reliability/resilience, and other energy projects. Beyond existing Washington State grant funding, Commerce expects federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA or Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to take several more months to be deployed through state governments. In pursuing state and federal funding, Commerce staff recommend that cities seek to align with



HEAL Act and Justice40 equity commitments as well as Washington's State Energy Strategy. In addition, for federal funding opportunities like the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants, the state is seeking to coordinate with local governments to optimize state, regional, and local efforts. Councilmember Zahn expressed interest in collaborating with King County Metro and regional partners to accelerate transit bus electrification. City of Bellevue staff are preparing to pursue federal and state funding opportunities related to climate, energy, transportation, waste, and related topics.

- **Received a presentation on 2024 K4C State Climate Legislative Interests:** Representative Beth Doglio, Chair of the House Environment and Energy Committee, provided an overview of upcoming state legislative priorities related to climate. Possible 2024 legislative climate related bills may deal with a statewide building energy incentive navigator program, energy audit requirements for homes at the point of sale, gas price transparency, electric lawn appliances, electric school buses, net metering for solar projects, extended producer responsibility, electric vehicle battery recycling, refrigerant recovery, and other topics. Representative Doglio emphasized recent legislative successes and the need to protect laws such as the Clean Energy Transformation Act (adopted 2019), Climate Commitment Act (2021), Clean Fuel Standard (2021), expanded Clean Buildings Performance Standards (2022), and the recent HB 1181 (2023). HB 1181 requires local governments to comply with the Growth Management Act and incorporate a climate element into Comprehensive Plans. City of Bellevue staff will monitor, prepare comments for, and advise Council on state legislative activities as the 2024 legislative session approaches.

The next meeting date for the K4C is still to be determined. Councilmember Janice Zahn represents Bellevue on the K4C.