



**DATE:** February 10, 2026

**SUBJECT:** King County Regional Committees Update, January 2026

### **Regional Policy Committee (RPC)**

At its January 26 meeting, the RPC:

- **Approved the receipt of the Best Starts for Kids (BSK) annual report.** The report provides information about expenditures, services delivered, and outcomes for BSK activities, including geographic data by ZIP code. In addition, the report includes information about the in-depth evaluation BSK completed in 2024, and other ongoing data analysis to track progress and inform continuous improvements. The report describes BSKs work to strengthen fiscal infrastructure and develop consistent and proactive communications regarding contracts and fiscal management.
- **Approved the 2024 annual mental illness and drug dependency (MIDD) evaluating summary report.** The 2024 report provides key outcomes and themes in MIDD's implementation in 2024, also available on the online MIDD Data Dashboard where users can explore MIDD data and outcomes. The dashboard provides fiscal information on MIDD investments, plus demographic and outcomes data for the fund overall and by initiative.
- **Selected the next vice chair of the RPC.** In 2026, King County Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer serves at the committee chair and Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus was selected to serve as the Vice Chair.
- **Discussed a RPC 2026 work plan,** which will be voted on at the next meeting.
- **Heard from Seattle Mayor Katie Wilson** on regional collaboration moving into 2026.

The next RPC meeting is scheduled for February 11. Councilmember Lynne Robinson serves on the RPC representing the Sound Cities Association.

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

The RTC did not meet in January. The next RTC meeting is scheduled for February 18. Councilmember Vishal Bhargava serves on the RTC.

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

At its January 7 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Welcomed new members to RWQC,** including Deputy Mayor Hamilton, King County Councilmember Lewis, Redmond Council President Stuart, and Auburn Councilmember Amer.

- **Heard from Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) Director John Taylor on the response to the December 2025 flood event.** Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) treatment plans experienced much higher flow volumes than typical and continued to operate as intended.
- **Discussed the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) policy framework.** Chair Balducci encouraged members to provide feedback throughout the process but prioritize the completion of the plan (the current RWSP planning horizon ends in 2030). Members encouraged WTD to highlight interconnections between the policy areas that will be presented throughout 2026.
- **Reviewed the draft 2026 RWQC work program.** The work program includes briefings on the RWSP, the 2027 sewer rate and capacity charge, WTD's capital program and water quality issues. RWQC will also consider sending a letter to the King County Council regarding the 2027 sewer rate.

The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for February 4. Deputy Mayor Dave Hamilton serves on the RWQC representing the Sound Cities Association.

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

The GMPC did not meet in January. The 2026 GMPC meeting calendar has yet to be published. Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis represents Bellevue on the GMPC.

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

The AHC did not meet in January. The next AHC meeting is scheduled for March 4. Councilmember Claire Sumadiwiryra serves on the AHC representing the Sound Cities Association.

### **Eastrail Regional Advisory Council (RAC)**

At its January 30 meeting, the Eastrail RAC:

- **Received a briefing on upcoming major capital projects, celebrations and activation events.** This item included an update on the Wilburton Trestle project, which is currently under construction. At the project's groundbreaking in 2024, King County announced that the project was anticipated to be open to the public in mid-2026. However, as work to rehabilitate the Trestle has advanced, the contractor has found more extensive deterioration of wooden structural elements than expected, requiring additional work. The project is now anticipated to be open for public use in mid-2027. King County will update the public through a newsletter, which will be forwarded to Council for their awareness.
- **Reviewed and approved the 2026 RAC work plan,** which includes engaging federal and state leaders to support priority projects, coordinating to address corridor management issues, and coordinating communication about major milestones, community engagement opportunities and events.

- **Approved a letter notifying RAC members of removing Eastside Greenway Alliance (EGA) as a member of the RAC.** The EGA was formerly made up of a coalition of nonprofit organizations to support development of Eastrail and engage private sector stakeholders. Since then, the EGA has become non-operational with roles absorbed by other entities.
- **Received a briefing on the 2 Line opening across Lake Washington.** Sound Transit recently announced that full 2 Line service will begin Saturday, March 28.
- **Reviewed the new Eastrail video,** which celebrates Eastrail progress to date and looks ahead to the next phases of work. The video can be viewed at <https://eastrail.org/>
- **Discussed future meetings and federal railbanking legislation.** Last year, U.S. Representative Sam Graves (Republican-MO) introduced House Resolution (H.R.) 4924 – the Rails to Trails Landowner Rights Act. If enacted by Congress, this bill would make problematic changes to railbanking, which is a voluntary agreement between a railroad company and a public agency or non-profit sponsor to use an out-of-service rail corridor as a trail. The majority of the Eastrail has already been railbanked; approximately one mile of the trail adjacent to Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park in Renton has yet to be railbanked. For areas already railbanked, the legislation opens the door for third parties to advocate for narrowing the corridor and would impose new federal requirements on both existing and new railbanked segments. Bellevue and other RAC members will monitor the legislation and advocate as needed.

The next Eastrail RAC meeting has not been scheduled. Councilmember Claire Sumadiwiry represents Bellevue on the Eastrail RAC.