



DATE: June 26, 2023

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs

SUBJECT: King County Regional Committees Update

Regional Policy Committee (RPC)

At its June 14 meeting, the RPC:

- **Heard a briefing from the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) on its recently adopted Five Year Plan.** The adopted plan reflects feedback from Bellevue and other cities. For example, the plan includes language affirming that congregate shelters (such as Bellevue's Eastside men's shelter) are an important part of the current service system, and that any transitions to non-congregate models would be phased in over time with service levels maintained. KCRHA staff will be working with cities to develop subregional implementation plans, which will describe how the Five-Year Plan will be implemented in each subregion. KCRHA will return next month with a follow-up presentation with additional data.
- **Heard a briefing from the King County Office of Emergency Management.** The presentation described King County's four approaches to emergency management:
 - Provide region-wide planning and emergency response coordination for jurisdictional and private sector partners
 - Achieve a state of continuous improvement through the adoption of stands-based programs
 - Develop resilient and inclusive systems
 - Develop a strong workforce of internal and external partners
 RPC members discussed training and other opportunities for local jurisdictions to collaborate with the King County Office of Emergency Management.
- **Received a briefing on King County's Waste Management Plan on the Re+ Implementation approach.** Re+ is a community-focused, systems-level approach to creating a more circular economy by prioritizing reuse and recycling. King County's only active landfill, the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, will reach capacity by 2040. King County aims to implement Re+ actions by 2030 to reduce the amount of waste going to our landfill.

The next RPC meeting is scheduled for July 5, 2023. Councilmember John Stokes serves on the RPC.



Regional Transit Committee (RTC)

At its June 21 meeting, the RTC:

- **Heard a briefing on transit service in the rural area of King County.** Metro's adopted policies – the Strategic Plan, Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects – describe how transit service is allocated to different areas of the County. For areas outside of the Urban Growth Boundary, Metro classifies rural and Dial-A-Ride-Transit (DART) routes that serve lower-density areas. Metro provides fixed-route and DART; vanpool, vanshare and community van; rideshare and park-and-rides; and Community Access Transit (CAT).
- **Discussed progress on the RapidRide Prioritization Plan.** By 2035, Metro plans to operate 13-15 total RapidRide lines. Metro currently operates seven RapidRide lines (A-F and H) and is working to develop five more lines for planned openings by 2030, including RapidRide K (Bellevue, Kirkland). Metro will study an additional one to three corridors this year, followed by corridor evaluation and prioritization through April 2024.
- **Heard a briefing on the Safety, Security & Fare Enforcement (SaFE) initiative.** In January 2021, Metro began a reform initiative in response to the County Executive's declaration of racism as a public health crisis. The initiative has evolved to include a behavioral health pilot at two transit centers, terminal ambassadors at several locations in Seattle, and developing a fare education program.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for July 19. Councilmember Janice Zahn serves on the RTC.

Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

At its June 7 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Heard a report on wastewater governance.** A recent study commissioned by Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) examined the governance of wastewater treatment services, highlighting the benefits of the current centralized system but also identifying concerns about unclear roles and decision-making authority. The study proposed three governance recommendations: creating an Advisory Board with delegated decision-making authority, evaluating the feasibility of separating the West Point system, and considering the formation of an intergovernmental authority for remaining contract agencies. However, the County's bond counsel raised concerns about the compatibility of these recommendations with existing bond covenants and statutory authority.
- **Discussed long term capital improvement investments.** Members of the RWQC have requested a comprehensive understanding of the Wastewater Treatment Division



(WTD) long-term rate drivers and the impact of different assumptions on those rates. Factors contributing to increased long-term wastewater rates include capital projects, regulatory requirements, asset management, capacity projects, and funding approaches.

- **Heard an update on federal funding opportunities.** The RWQC Federal Advocacy Subcommittee met twice to discuss federal funding for wastewater infrastructure and is developing a strategy to pursue available funding opportunities. Regional collaboration is important to gain support from federal and state funding agencies.

The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for July 6. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC.

Affordable Housing Committee (AHC)

At its June 15 meeting, the AHC:

- **Discussed draft AHC Charter Amendments.** The AHC received a briefing on the scope of work for AHC charter amendments, reflected on AHC successes and challenges, and discussed how the AHC should evolve to capitalize on its strengths and current opportunities. Bellevue Mayor Lynne Robinson advocated for changing AHC membership to include a dedicated Bellevue seat. AHC staff will use the results of this preliminary scoping conversation to inform development of draft AHC charter amendments for future consideration by the AHC and the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC).
- **Discussed options for comparing jurisdictional progress to plan for and accommodate housing needs.** The AHC reviewed and provided input on three methods for comparing jurisdictional progress toward planning for and accommodating housing needs over the 2024-2044 comprehensive planning cycle.
- **Received a briefing on and discussed comprehensive plan review procedures and schedule.** The AHC received a briefing on the comprehensive plan review program, including plan review procedures, standards, and a tentative schedule. The comprehensive plan review program will be established upon King County Council Countywide Planning Policy amendment adoption and city ratification—a process that is anticipated to conclude in the last quarter of 2023 or first quarter of 2024.
- **Received briefings from AHC staff on several topics which included:**
 - Community Partners Table status and draft work plan
 - Transmittal of recommended Countywide Planning Policies amendments to King County Council
 - New guidance on documenting the local history of racially discriminatory and



- exclusive land use and housing practices
 - Staff analysis of May 2023 AHC member requests

The next AHC meeting is scheduled for September 21. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the AHC.

Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)

At its May 17 meeting, the GMPC:

- **Approved GMPC Recommended Amendments to Urban Growth Area Expansion Policies and the Four-to-One Program for public review and comment as part of the 2024 update of the King County Comprehensive Plan.** The Four-to-One Program allows the County to make UGA boundary changes in exchange for a permanent dedication of open space. This public comment period will start in June and close in mid-July.
- **Received a briefing on the 2023 Legislative Session.** The GMPC received a briefing on the countywide- and local-planning related outcomes of the 2023 legislative session. Numerous planning related bills were introduced in the 2023 session of the Washington State legislature, and several were signed into law. These included housing, transit-oriented development, accessory dwelling units, climate change, and more. Commerce staff provided an overview of the bills that were adopted that impact the GMPC's work on countywide and local planning issues and King County staff will identify how the bills impact the GMPC's work and work-program. As warranted, information will be brought back to GMPC for future discussion.

The next GMPC meeting is scheduled for September 27. Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis serves on the GMPC.