

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEFING:
KING COUNTY REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER ISSUES
*January 2022***

This briefing summarizes recent actions taken by the three regional committees formed as a result of the merger of King County and Metro. The three regional committees are the Regional Policy Committee, the Regional Water Quality Committee, and the Regional Transit Committee. Staff will also include updates on other regional issues as appropriate (e.g., King County Flood Control District, King Conservation District, Affordable Housing Committee, King County Board of Health, King County Regional Homelessness Authority). Summaries also include the work of the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC). Formed in the early 1990s to comply with the Growth Management Act requirements for collaboration of counties and their cities on Countywide Planning Policies, the GMPC meets three to four times per year to consider amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies and to monitor progress on implementation. These updates are intended to be summary briefings; staff can provide more details on any of the items below.

REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE (RPC)

At its January 12 meeting, the RPC:

- **Discussed forming a Waste to Energy Advisory Committee.** King County's 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan directed the expansion of Cedar Hills Regional Landfill in Maple Valley, which has served as King County's municipal solid waste disposal location since 1965. In 2018, the County estimated that with no action, the landfill's capacity would be exhausted in 2028. King County is conducting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process on development scenarios to extend Cedar Hills' ultimate capacity to 2037-2046. As part of the EIS process, the County will consider waste to energy options. RPC members asked whether the County's existing solid waste advisory committees could make recommendations on this option instead of forming a new advisory committee. The RPC may consider action on this item in February.
- **Elected Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus as Vice Chair for 2022.**
- **Discussed the RPC's 2022 work program.** County staff presented a draft work program. The draft includes a list of "mandatory referral" items, which are topics that the County Council is required to refer to the RPC for review and a potential recommendation. The Veteran Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) is a mandatory referral item that will likely be a major RPC work item in 2022. First approved by voters in 2005, the levy has been renewed three times. The 2018-2023 VSHSL includes a property tax of 11 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation.
- **Recommended changes to the Best Starts for Kids (BSK) levy governance.** The RPC recommended the County Council adopt legislation to incorporate the 2022-2027 BSK levy into King County code and preexisting ordinances. These ordinances would update the membership

of two BSK advisory committees. The updated ordinances will maintain Bellevue's seat on one of these committees, the Children and Youth Advisory Board.

- **Received a briefing on the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA).** In 2019, King County and the City of Seattle signed an interlocal agreement to establish KCRHA as a separate governmental agency. KCRHA's mission is to "significantly decrease the incidence of homelessness throughout King County, using equity and social justice principles." KCRHA staff is developing a five-year regional homelessness plan as well as sub-regional plans. The Eastside Sub-Regional Plan will include Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Woodinville, Sammamish, Issaquah, and Mercer Island. Bellevue staff is participating in the sub-regional planning process by providing data, giving input into data collection and analysis, and facilitating input from people with lived experience of homelessness. KCRHA intends to circulate the draft sub-regional plans in March, when Bellevue staff will review and provide feedback.

The next RPC meeting is scheduled for February 9. Councilmember John Stokes serves on the RPC.

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE (RTC)

The RTC met on January 19 and a summary will be included in the February Regional Issues packet. The next meeting of the RTC is scheduled for February 16. Councilmember Jennifer Robertson serves on the RTC.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE (RWQC)

At its December 1 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Received a briefing from King County Wastewater Treatment Division's (WTD) decision to pause the Clean Water Plan (CWP)** for an undetermined amount of time. WTD staff needs more certainty on some key regulatory issues before continuing development of the CWP. In addition, WTD acknowledged needing more time to address the King County Auditor's Office recent concerns about the CWP planning process.
- **Received briefings on WTD's major wastewater capital projects** that are in final design or construction. Major capital undertakings through 2030 include 41 conceptual Conveyance System Improvement (CSI) projects as well as required Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) control projects. Specific details were provided on the \$570 Million Joint Ship Canal Water Quality Project. This is a partnership between Seattle and WTD to control six CSOs that discharge untreated wastewater into the Ship Canal and Lake Union in compliance with a federal Consent Decree. The project is managed by Seattle and is scheduled for completion in December 2025.

The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for February 2. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL (GMPC)

At its December 1 meeting, the GMPC:

- **Designated Candidate Countywide Centers.** In December 2020, the GMPC approved an interim designation process so that jurisdictions with local centers that meet countywide center designation criteria could participate in countywide transportation funding competitions in 2022 and 2024, and plan for their countywide centers as a part of the 2024 periodic update of Comprehensive Plans. Following comprehensive plan updates in 2024, the GMPC will act in 2025-26 to adopt a final set of countywide centers. VISION 2050 policies direct that the countywide portion of transportation funding competitions include criteria to focus projects on areas such as Countywide Centers.
- **Recommended approval of King County Council amendments to GMPC on Countywide Planning Policies (CPP's).** The GMPC took action on the CPP's in June 2021. The King County Council recommended changes, including a new workplan item directing the County Executive to review the Four-to-One Program. This initiative is intended to create a continuous band of open space along the urban growth area boundary and to prevent sprawl.
- **Discussed the 2022 GMPC Workplan.** The GMPC discussed the schedule and workplan for 2022 as well as the need for additional working sessions to move specific topics forward.
- **Received an update on the Affordable Housing Committee's (AHC) work directed by the GMPC relating to CPP's.** A primary topic for GMPC in 2022 will be to participate in the work being done by the AHC under GMPC Motion 21-1 which adopted recommended amendments to the King County CPPs. The amendments included further modifying the draft Housing Chapter to align with recent changes to the Growth Management Act and address stakeholder input. Due to time constraints, the adopted Housing Chapter did not incorporate all proposed amendments or resolve all stakeholder concerns.

The next GMPC meeting is scheduled for March 2. Councilmember Jennifer Robertson represents Bellevue on the GMPC.