

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEFING:
KING COUNTY REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER ISSUES
*August 1, 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 July 13 meeting, the RPC:

- Received a briefing on the King County Superior Court, which is the largest trial court in the state and has jurisdiction over criminal and civil matters in the County. Presiding Judge Patrick Oishi provided an update on the following issues:
 - Safety issues – incidents have occurred at the King County Court building and in the adjacent City Hall Park, which is owned by Seattle. Some King County judges have advocated for the County to assume ownership and operation of City Hall Park. The County and City are exploring an exchange of land.
 - Technology in the court – due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Superior Court introduced new technologies such as virtual jury selection. Some civil cases can be tried virtually.
 - Criminal backlog – the Superior Court is facing an historic backlog of almost 5,000 felony cases. COVID-19 continues to be a contributing factor. The City has not been impacted by the Superior Court delays thanks to case settlements and virtual case proceedings.
- Received a briefing on 988 crisis line implementation. As a result of federal legislation, people anywhere in the US can dial 988 and be connected to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which can currently be reached by dialing 1-800-273-TALK (8255). This national service began on July 16. The 988 system connects people experiencing mental health, substance use or suicidal crisis with crisis counselors. Counselors assess callers for suicidal risk, provide crisis counseling and crisis intervention, engage emergency services when necessary, and offer referrals to behavioral health services. The system is free to use, and available 24/7/365 through any land line, cell phone, or voice-over internet device in the US. Services are available in English and Spanish, with interpretation services available in over 250 languages.

- Received a briefing on the 2021 Best Starts for Kids (BSK) annual report. BSK is a regional initiative aimed at supporting the healthy development of children and youth, families, and communities across King County through strategic investments in promotion, prevention and early intervention programs and services. The 2021 report is the final annual report of the 2016-2021 levy, which generated approximately \$400 million.

The RPC will not meet in August. The next RPC meeting is scheduled for September 14. Councilmember John Stokes serves on the RPC.

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE (RTC)

The July 20 RTC meeting was cancelled. The next RTC meeting is scheduled for September 21. Bellevue City Councilmember Jennifer Robertson serves on the RTC.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE (RWQC)

At its July 8 meeting, the RWQC:

- Received a briefing on the Wastewater Treatment Division's ongoing WaterWorks Grant program. About \$4.8 million is allocated in WTD's 2023-2024 budget for the grant program which is intended to improve water quality within WTD's service area. Half of the grant funds are awarded through a competitive process managed by WTD and the other half is distributed directly by the King County Council. The next round of grant applications are due in early 2023 with awards expected by winter 2024.
- Received a briefing on WTD's Resource Recovery program which implements technology and operational practices to reuse or recycle the byproducts produced from wastewater treatment processes. This includes composting the biosolids for agricultural use, capturing and turning the heat generated into energy, and reusing treated water for non-potable purposes.

The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for September 7. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE (AHC):

The AHC met on July 27 and a summary will be included in the September Regional Issues packet. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the AHC.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL (GMPC):

The GMPC met on July 27, and a summary will be included in the September Regional Issues packet. Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis serves on the GMPC.