

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEFING:
KING COUNTY REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER ISSUES
*September 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 September 14 meeting, the RPC:

- Received a briefing Harborview staffing and bed capacity. Harborview is the only Level 1 trauma center in the four-state region that includes Washington, Alaska, Idaho, and Montana. Level 1 is the highest level of comprehensive care for people with major injuries. Harborview is owned by King County and operated by the University of Washington. Harborview went into “divert” mode August 11-18 when the region’s first responders were asked to divert less critical patients, called “basic life support” patients to other hospitals. When the divert period began, Harborview was caring for 560 inpatients, more than 130 percent of its licensed capacity of 413 patients. Hospital leaders expect additional divert periods this fall.
- Received a briefing on behavioral health crisis care in King County. In August, King County Executive Dow Constantine announced a coalition to develop a response to the degrading state of behavioral health care in King County. The coalition will develop a broad policy proposal alongside Executive Constantine’s budget this fall that will prioritize behavioral health, increase resources, strengthen the workforce, and call on local agencies, jurisdictions, and service providers to develop solutions in partnership. Executive Constantine is prioritizing three areas to bolster the behavioral health system:
 - Building a regional network of care centers so individuals, families and first responders can access same-day care 24/7 for thousands of people annually.
 - Restoring and expanding the residential mental health bed capacity, which helps people recover for extended periods of time. Residential mental health treatment ensures care is more effective, more accessible, and more equitable.
 - Developing the workforce to staff these services sustainably, for patients and providers.

Evaluating compensation models and creating recruitment and retention strategies for credentialed and non-credentialed behavioral health workers.

RPC members identified crisis care needs in their communities, such as collaborating with local law enforcement agencies and assisting patients to schedule follow-up care.

- Recommended the King County Council accept 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 next RPC meeting is scheduled for October 12. Councilmember John Stokes serves on the RPC.

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE (RTC)

At its September 21 meeting, the RTC:

- **Received a briefing on the RapidRide prioritization process.** Metro Connects, approved in late-2021, identifies RapidRide (bus rapid transit) candidate lines for the future transit network. Metro Connects directed King County Metro staff to develop a RapidRide Prioritization Plan to select the lines for the Interim Network (approximately 2035), due by June 30, 2024. Metro is plans to study identified corridors this fall through December 2023 leading with equity and sustainability, as well as engagement with partner jurisdictions.
- **Received a briefing on innovative and flexible mobility services.** Flexible mobility services are tailored to meet specific community needs and operate without a fixed route. These services are generally collaborative with communities where fixed route may not serve the best need. As identified in Metro Connects, flexible mobility options will continue to expand that complement bus service, while also matching local conditions and community needs. Options will focus on priority populations and build on and complement existing services such as community vans, vanpools, and on-demand ridesharing services.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for October 19. Bellevue City Councilmember Jennifer Robertson serves on the RTC.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE (RWQC)

At its September 7 meeting, the RWQC:

- Received a briefing on a draft template proposed by the RWQC Vice Chair to summarize key issues and policies for the RWQC's consideration and discussion. The RWQC desires to engage in more robust discussions with King County Wastewater Treatment Division on key issues of concern, especially WTD's policies. The draft template could be used to detail the

concern/questions, frame the issue and identify what analysis is needed to make informed recommendations.

- Received a briefing from on the status of several recent combined sewer overflows at King County's wastewater pump stations. King County owns 48 pump stations throughout its wastewater service area. Backup generators are installed at the pump stations if a power outage occurs to prevent sewer overflows. Unfortunately, overflows have been occurring fairly frequently over the past several years, sometimes due to failure of the generator to operate correctly.

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

AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE (AHC):

At its July 27 meeting, the AHC:

- Received a briefing on the Community Partners Table's (CPT) reflections on development of affordable housing targets and engagement around this topic. The CPT is an advisory group of stakeholders with lived experience of underrepresented communities, including people with low incomes and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). The CPT analyzes Affordable Housing Committee (AHC or Committee) recommendations to address the housing crisis.
- Recommended that the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) a three-part accountability framework for equitably meeting King County affordable housing needs:
 - Jurisdictional affordable housing targets that clarify the amount of countywide housing need a jurisdiction will be held accountable to planning for and accommodating
 - Countywide Planning Policy (CPP) amendments necessary to implement the three-step framework (Review plans, Monitor and report and require adjustments)
 - Recommended plan review standards that the AHC would use when commenting on comprehensive plan alignment with the CPP housing chapter
 - Comprehensive plan certification pilot proposal
 - Description of how/if the framework and amendments address GMPC member amendments proposed in 2021
- Received a briefing on methodology for establishing jurisdictional affordable housing targets as required by GMPC Motion 21-1. The three options for establishing jurisdictional affordable housing needs include:
 - Option 1. Focus on new growth: Same shares of new housing growth are affordable in every jurisdiction
 - Option 2. Focus on 2044: Same shares of total housing stock in 2044 are affordable in

every jurisdiction

- Option 3: Focus on new growth (Option 1) adjusted for local factors: Same shares of new housing growth are affordable in every jurisdiction and adjusts outputs within each income band by the following factors:
 - Percent share of housing that's currently affordable at 0-80 percent AMI
 - Percent share of housing that's currently income restricted at 0-80 percent AMI
 - Subregional ratio of low-wage jobs to low-wage workers

The next AHC meeting is scheduled for September 29. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the AHC.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL (GMPC):

At its July 27 meeting, the GMPC:

- Approved the updated City of Sammamish housing unit and employment 2019-2044 growth targets. These growth targets reflect updated infrastructure availability and include 2,100 housing units and 728 jobs.
- Received a briefing on the County's continued work on the accountability framework and allocation methods for distributing countywide housing need between the jurisdictions, as described under AHC above.

The next GMPC meeting is scheduled for September 28. Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis serves on the GMPC.