



DATE: March 27, 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 March 8, 2023 meeting, the RPC:

- **Received a briefing on the proposed King County Ordinance for the renewal of the Veterans, Seniors, Human Services Levy (VSHSL).** The proposed 2024-2029 levy would replace the existing 2018-2023 levy. VSHSL levies fund programs that connect veterans, military service members and their families, as well as individuals and families in need with affordable housing, employment, behavioral health treatment, and other services. The RPC will vote on the new VSHSL levy proposal at the RPC special meeting scheduled for April 3, 2023. Following RPC action, the King County Council will vote on whether to place the measure before the voters on the August 1, 2023 ballot.

If approved by voters, the 2024-2029 VSHSL will levy a property tax of \$0.10 per \$1,000 in assessed value, generating \$581.5 million in revenues over the life of the levy. A Bellevue homeowner with a median assessed valuation of \$1.2 million would pay an estimated \$101 annually to the levy, an increase of approximately \$10.60 versus the current VSHSL levy rate.

The next regular RPC meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2023. Councilmember John Stokes serves on the RPC.

Regional Transit Committee (RTC)

At its March 15 meeting, the RTC:

- **Received a briefing on *Metro Connects* long range plan and Metro's support for regional planning.** Metro is offering to engage with jurisdictions as they update comprehensive plans. Several resources will be available this spring including interactive Metro Connects maps, materials on how to use Metro Connects when updating comprehensive plans and educational presentations.
- **Briefed on the progress on RapidRide K and J lines.** RapidRide expansion is a critical element to Metro's Strategic Plan and *Metro Connects*. Metro had begun planning for RapidRide K (Bellevue, Kirkland) and RapidRide R (Seattle) but the work was paused in 2020 due to budget impacts of COVID-19. Both RapidRide K and R were



included in King County's 2023-2024 biennial budget. The new funding will be used to advance the K Line to 10 percent design, re-engage the community, work with Bellevue and Kirkland to identify funding sources or partnerships, and establish a delivery schedule.

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

Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

At its March 1 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Held a special meeting to discuss and prioritize the annual workplan topics.** Prioritized issues include RWQC governance/authority; King County Wastewater Treatment Division's fiscal/rates policies and strategies affecting the long-term sewer rates (e.g., capital program, operations, cash funding, capacity charge methodology, asset management), Clean Water Plan, water quality regulations, and regional sewage disposal contracts.

The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for April 5. Councilmember Conrad Lee serves on the RWQC.

Affordable Housing Committee (AHC)

At its March 16 meeting, the AHC:

- **Took action to select members to serve a two-year term and elect a Chair and Vice Chair.** According to the AHC Charter, AHC members are selected every odd numbered year in January by the Chair of the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC), with concurrence from the GMPC membership. Seattle, King County, and Sound Cities Association caucuses recommend new AHC appointments for their members, with some caucuses recommending new members every year. Members serve two-year terms and there is no limit on the number of times members can be reappointed. As such, all AHC member terms expired at the end of 2022. The AHC also elected Councilmember Balducci as Chair and Alex Brennan from Futurewise as Vice Chair.
- **Received a briefing on GMPC discussion around Motion 21-1.** The AHC received a briefing on the status of GMPC review of the AHC's recommended response to GMPC Motion 21-1, the recommended components King County Council will potentially adopt and cities ratify, and changes to countywide and jurisdictional housing needs based on final data from the Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce).
- **Took action to approve the AHC's 2023 work plan.** The proposed work plan was



approved by the AHC with modifications relating to support for Federal and state legislation to advocate for greater opportunities for affordable housing and equity in upcoming legislative sessions.

- **Received a briefing on housing related state legislation.** The AHC was briefed on bills being considered through this legislative session relating to housing issues and the status of the bills as they moved forward.

The next AHC meeting is scheduled for May 1. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the AHC.

Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)

At its March 22 meeting, the GMPC:

- **Received a briefing on the UGA Expansion Policies and Program and the Interjurisdictional Team (IJT) recommendations.** The King County Council ordinance that adopted the CPPs removed the UGA expansion policy changes recommended by the Growth Management Planning Council. In its place, direction was included to review the policies and the Four-to-One Program. The Four-to-One Program allows the County to make UGA boundary changes in exchange for a permanent dedication of open space. The state legislature adopted Senate Bill 5593 which allows for “no net gain UGA swaps”; this tool has substantive policy overlaps with the Four-to-One program. The purpose of the briefing is to share recommendations from the IJT review in advance of the proposed GMPC action in May.
- **Took action on Affordable Housing Committee’s recommended response to GMPC Motion 21-1.** King County staff briefed the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) on the Affordable Housing Committee’s (AHC or Committee) recommendations on GMPC Motion 21-1. The GMPC approved motion 23-1 recommending King County Council adoption of CPP amendments needed to establish jurisdictional housing needs and an accountability framework for equitably meeting these needs; and approved motion 23-2 which includes the AHC’s recommended Countywide Planning Policies (CPP) Housing Chapter accountability framework and housing-focused comprehensive plan review standards.
- **Took action on AHC member appointments for the next two years.** The roster of non-elected members for 2023 and 2024 is composed of the same non-elected members who participated in the AHC in an appointed or provisional capacity in 2022. New members included Sunaree Marshall (on behalf of Executive Dow Constantine), King County Department of Community and Human Services; Councilmember Amy Falcone, Kirkland, Sound Cities Association and King County Council Chair Dave Upthegrove, King County Council. In addition, the AHC elected Councilmember Claudia Balducci as Chair and Alex Brennan as Vice Chair.



- Received a briefing on Washington State Office of Financial Management 2022 Growth Projections. GMPC received a briefing on the 2022 Growth Management Act (GMA) population projections produced by the Office of Financial Management (OFM), and their relationship to growth targets. GMPC provided direction that the adopted growth targets are consistent with the 2022 population projections.

The next GMPC meeting is scheduled for May 17. Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis serves on the GMPC.