



DATE: May 22, 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 April 28 special meeting, the RPC:

- **Considered but did not recommend increasing the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy rate from \$0.10 to \$0.12 per \$1000 assessed property value.** On April 3, the RPC recommended the County Council adopt a levy renewal measure the \$0.10 rate. On April 17, the King County Budget and Fiscal Management (BFM) Committee made a separate recommendation at a rate of \$0.12. The RPC decided not to change its recommendation on April 28. Instead, both committee's recommendations were sent to the King County Council, who decided on May 2 to adopt the \$0.10 rate. King County voters will consider the VSHSL renewal measure as part of the August 1 special election.

The RPC did not meet in May. The next RPC meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2023. Councilmember John Stokes serves on the RPC.

Regional Transit Committee (RTC)

At its May 17 meeting, the RTC:

- **Discussed innovative and flexible mobility services.** Innovative and flexible mobility services are tailored to meet specific community needs and operate without a fixed route. Flexible service can provide more direct and dynamic connections than a fixed-route bus can in low-density areas of the County. Members heard about Metro Flex services, the Community Van program and Trailhead Direct.
- **Heard a briefing about Metro's capital toolkit for partners.** Partnerships between Metro and jurisdictions can help Metro achieve its adopted *Metro Connects* long-range plan. Partnerships can include direct funding for transit service or infrastructure improvements, or support for transit-supportive zoning. Members heard about the Bellevue College Connection Project, a partnership between Bellevue, Metro and Bellevue College.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for June 21. Councilmember Janice Zahn serves on the RTC.



Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

At its May 3 meeting, the RWQC:

- **Received a briefing on the County Executive's proposed 2024 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge.** The proposed 2024 monthly sewer rate is an increase of 5.75 percent, or \$55.11 over last year. A significant portion of each rate increase is to pay off debt which comprises about 40 percent of WTD's 2024 revenue requirements. WTD's primary rate drivers include regulatory compliance including the Combined Sewer Overflow Consent Decree and Ecology's General Nutrient Permit, constructing asset management and capacity improvement projects, protecting water quality and adding another 75 new positions in addition to the 96 that were added in 2023. The proposed 2024 monthly Capacity Charge for new connections to the regional system is \$74.73 per residential customer equivalent. This is a 2.4 percent increase from last year's rate of \$72.50.
- **Discussed federal funding opportunities.** With the recent passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), King County WTD staff are developing a strategy to pursue applicable federal funding opportunities available to wholesale suppliers. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator Casey Sixkiller and Puget Sound Partnership Deputy Director Larry Epstein presented to members about funding for Puget Sound to improve water quality.

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

Affordable Housing Committee (AHC)

At its May 1 meeting, the AHC:

- **Received a briefing on actions related to amending the Countywide Planning Policies (CPP's).** On March 22, the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) recommended King County Council adoption of CPP amendments to establish jurisdictional housing needs and an accountability framework for equitably meeting those needs. The GMPC also established a CPP Housing Chapter accountability framework and housing-focused comprehensive plan review standards. The GMPC Chair will transmit the recommended CPP amendments to King County Council in May. Upon receipt of the GMPC's recommendations, King County Council may consider and potentially adopt the recommendations in the third or fourth quarter of 2023, followed by city and town potential ratification by the first quarter of 2024.
- **Adopted the AHC's 2023 workplan.**



- **Received a briefing on a scope of work to provide technical assistance and guidance to assist jurisdictions in aligning the housing related elements of their comprehensive plans with the CPPs.** In December 2021, King County Council approved amended CPPs to provide guidance in advance of the 2024 statutory update of comprehensive plans that incorporated changes to the regional policy framework and to reflect new priorities addressing equity and social justice in King County jurisdictions. As described above, the GMPC approved the CPP amendments and approved rules and procedures for accountability framework implementation on March 22, 2023.

As part of the recommended amendments, AHC staff will provide early technical assistance and guidance to assist jurisdictions in aligning the housing-related elements of their comprehensive plans with the CPPs.

- **Received a briefing on recent Regional Affordable Housing Dashboard updates.** The dashboard provides accessible metrics and performance measures that assist with understanding King County's housing affordability crisis and demonstrate the impact of solutions to address it. The dashboard monitors progress towards the 2018 Regional Affordable Housing Task Force's (RAHTF) goal of eliminating cost-burden in King County by 2040, as well as regional progress to implement the RAHTF Five Year Action Plan. The dashboard was launched in 2021 and this update represents the first update since its launch.
- **Received a briefing on 2023 state legislation of interest to the AHC.** The AHC discussed relevant bills and identified legislation that members think necessitate AHC staff analysis and further Committee discussion.

The next AHC meeting is scheduled for June 15. Mayor Lynne Robinson serves on the AHC.

Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)

At its May 17 meeting, the GMPC:

- **Approved a motion to release proposed amendments to the Urban Growth Area Policies and Four-to-One Program in the King County CPPs, King County Comprehensive Plan, and King County Code for public review and comment.** These elements will be included in the Public Review Draft of the 2024 Update of the King County Comprehensive Plan. This public comment period will start in June and go through mid-July. Beginning in early 2024, the King County Council will consider the GMPC recommendations as the County Council reviews the 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan update package.



- **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, among others. Department of 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 work to identify how the bills impact the GMPC's work and work-program

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