

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEFING:
KING COUNTY REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER ISSUES
April 27, 2015**

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. We will also include updates on other regional issues (e.g., King County Flood Control District, King Conservation District) as appropriate. This is intended as a summary briefing; staff can provide more details on any of the items below.

REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE (RPC)

April 8 meeting summary:

Managing Service Demand for the Solid Waste Transfer Network – Response to Motion 14145:

This item was a briefing on the King County Solid Waste Division's response to the King County Council's Motion 14145 directing analysis of operational, policy and capital strategies providing transfer services to the northeast portion of King County, including options that would not construct a new northeast transfer station. The report is draft and will be finalized by June 30, 2015. Comments on the draft report are due by May 6, 2015.

The analysis concludes that there are viable alternatives to building a new Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station even when the Houghton Transfer Station is closed (no later than 2023). The alternatives require a variety of other actions and decisions that must be taken in order to mitigate the impacts on other transfer stations. There will be severe impacts to Factoria Transfer Station from not building a new station in northeast King County when Houghton closes, including cars queued up all the way down SE 32nd Street to the intersection with Richards Road.

Strategies discussed in the report to mitigate the traffic impacts to Factoria include: mandatory collection, banning certain materials at transfer stations, low cost curbside bulky waste collection, extending hours, and peak pricing. These are large policy decisions that the region has not addressed or agreed to, although the Solid Waste Division recently asked that the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (MSWMAC) provide input on the policy issues in early summer in order to include some of the region's direction in the draft Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan. That draft plan is scheduled to be finalized in 2016, but current regional discussions are likely to drive the policy decisions now.

The next meeting of the RPC is scheduled for May 13.

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE (RTC)

April 15 meeting summary:

Transit Service Guidelines Task Force: At the request of the King County Council, a task force is

analyzing how transit service is evaluated and allocated. Councilmember John Chelminiak is representing Bellevue on the task force. The task force work program involves reviewing and making recommendations regarding: 1) How transit service performance is measured to reflect the varied purposes of different types of transit service; 2) Approaches to evaluating how the goal of geographic value is included in the guidelines, including minimum service standards; 3) Approaches to evaluating how the goal of social equity is included in the guidelines; 4) Financial policies for purchase of additional services within a municipality or among multiple municipalities; and 5) Guidelines for alternative services implementation. The Service Guidelines Task Force will do this work in the first part of 2015 so that it can influence development of both Metro's long-range plan, scheduled to be complete by mid-2016, and its service guidelines update, scheduled to be complete by April 2016.

At its April 15 meeting, the Regional Transit Committee received information about Metro's engagement of Service Guidelines Task Force members. The Task Force is presently considering: 1) the use of the Seattle Core and Non-Seattle Core bus route categories to hold the Seattle Core routes to a higher performance standard and the times of day that are evaluated independently (peak, off-peak, and night); 2) other large transit agencies' route categorization practices; and, 3) the Geographic Value component of the Service Guidelines (i.e., the role of the 85 centers, the basis for designating areas as transit activity centers, and impact of park-and-rides). The Task Force will continue its work at the next four meetings scheduled for April 30, May 21, June 3, and June 16.

Transit Long Range Plan: The King County Metro Transit Long Range Plan, scheduled for completion by the fourth quarter of 2016, will include the unmet transit service needs throughout King County as identified by the existing Metro Service Guidelines, as well as the service and capital elements of a future Metro transit network at various funding levels that support local jurisdiction and regional plans through 2040. The plan will take into consideration the Puget Sound Regional Council's economic, growth management, and transportation plans. Metro will develop the long-range plan in coordination with local jurisdictions – including the City of Bellevue – and regional transit agencies. Development of the long range plan will be based on the principle that jurisdiction comprehensive and transportation plans inform the long range plan and the long range plan informs jurisdiction comprehensive and transportation plans.

At its April 15 meeting, the Regional Transit Committee received information about Metro's engagement of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members on local issues, including where job and residential development is planned and where communities are poorly connected to transit. Observations from these TAC meetings – Bellevue representatives from both the Planning and Community Development and Transportation Departments were in attendance – will inform Metro's development and evaluation of the three "Initial Concepts" ("Coverage"; "Express"; and "Frequent") it will use to test different service emphasis, capital infrastructure, and integration concepts. The outcome of this initial review (complete: Q3 2015) will include a high level comparison among the three concepts integrated with planned Sound Transit service. Metro staff will then move on to identify the best parts of the "Initial Concepts" (complete: Q4 2015) and develop the "Preferred Concept" which will include capital, financing, and phasing elements (complete: Q1 2016).

The next meeting of the RTC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE (RWQC)

April 1 meeting summary:

Resolution to Approve 2015 Work Plan for the Regional Water Quality Committee: The Committee approved its Work Plan for the year. There are four areas of focus for the Committee this year. The primary item will be refinements and amendments to the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP). The Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) put together a staff working group to review the RWSP policies and suggest changes. Paul Bucich, Utilities Assistant Director for Engineering, has been participating for Bellevue. The suggested modifications will be brought forward in spring to RWQC intergovernmental staff and RWQC, likely using a subcommittee format.

Another focus for the Committee will be tracking and advising on the County Council budget provisos that apply to wastewater. These include the grant program for water quality projects (Waterworks – old Culver fund), an effort to improve transparency in cost estimating for capital projects, and reports and advice from a Technical Review Panel that will be advising on Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) control projects.

The final area for the RWQC's Work Plan will be the Conveyance System Improvement Program assessment that will drive the program and policies as well as continued review of the County's Wastewater Treatment Division capital debt and how future rates, the capacity charge and overall debt capacity are linked.

Updating the Regional Wastewater Services Plan and selecting Subcommittee membership: The Committee discussed the review process for potential amendments to the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) and selected subcommittee membership on a review subcommittee. The RWQC selected King County Councilmember Jane Hague, Lake Forest Park Councilmember John Wright, Sewer Commissioner Bill Tracy and a Seattle elected official (to be named later) to serve on the review subcommittee, in addition to intergovernmental staff. The MWPAAC working group (including Bellevue staff representation) will begin to transmit recommendations for RWSP policy sections as they complete them, which will allow the subcommittee of the RWQC to begin review of the recommendations. Bellevue staff will participate as a member of the intergovernmental staff group. The timeline for processing all of the policy sections in the RWSP would likely extend through early-to-mid-2016.

Ordinance for the WaterWorks grant program: King County Wastewater Treatment Division staff began working with MWPAAC in mid-2014 to gather input and suggestions regarding the re-establishment of the WaterWorks grant program (the old "Culver" fund that was put on hold during a lawsuit against the County). A working group of MWPAAC proposed criteria and made its suggestions later in the year to the Executive and the RWQC. The County Council determined that there was insufficient time during budget deliberations to develop and specify the funding criteria. Therefore, for this budget cycle, the Council allocated half of the \$4 million (1.5% of wastewater operating budget) for the grant program and half to be allocated to specific programs or projects as established by Council ordinance. This item is legislation that establishes the grant program. The proposed ordinance was similar to what the working group from MWPAAC proposed, with one key difference. Similar to MWPAAC, the proposal established a grant ranking committee. MWPAAC had recommended that it have 3 representatives on the grant ranking committee. The proposal before the RWQC reduced MWPAAC representation to 1, and added 3 King County residents as well as an additional King County Council representative (to bring that number to 2). Other than representation, the proposal was very similar to MWPAAC's recommendation. The RWQC adopted an amendment to the ordinance to

increase the number of MWPAAC representatives to 3 (from the 1 proposed), with representation from cities, districts and Seattle. The ordinance will now move to the County Council for consideration.

Motion regarding a work plan and schedule for the Expert Review Panel to review the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) projects: This item was in response to a County Council budget proviso. King County is obligated by a consent decree with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state Department of Ecology to implement a long-term CSO control plan and complete all projects by 2030. The Council's budget proviso required that the County Executive develop a work plan for utilizing an expert review panel to review and make recommendations regarding optimization, cost control, and risk management for CSO control projects. MWH, Americas, Inc. and its team of sub-consultants have been selected as the expert review panel. The expert review panel is expected to work starting in mid-2015 through 2016. The RWQC approved the motion acknowledging receipt of the work plan utilizing the expert review panel.

Status of Water Quality Rules, Fish Consumption Assumptions and Governor's Proposed Toxics Mitigation Legislation: The briefing provided an overview of rulemaking by the Department of Ecology with regard to fish consumption assumptions that impact water quality standards. It also provided information regarding Governor Inslee's proposal regarding efforts to reduce and mitigate toxics through legislation. Both the House and the Senate have made changes to the Governor's proposed legislation to limit the Department of Ecology's authority under the rule to restrict products. The Senate changes in particular were unacceptable to the Governor, so it remains to be seen how this issue will play out in the Legislature and then the Governor's office.

The next meeting of the RWQC is scheduled for May 6.