

COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEFING: KING COUNTY REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER ISSUES

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)

June 8 meeting summary (May 25 meeting was cancelled due to power outage in downtown Seattle):

- **Briefing on Planning for Renewal of Mental Illness Drug Dependency (MIDD) Sales Tax.** The MIDD update focused on three areas: 1) community outreach efforts as part of developing the Service Improvement Plan; 2) the draft MIDD Comprehensive Retrospective Report required by Ordinance 17988; and 3) an update on the revised draft MIDD 2 funding and programmatic recommendations.

The Retrospective Report details how MIDD meets the established policy goals. There are 33 MIDD strategies funded and the report discusses each strategy's performance targets and describes reasons for not meeting targets where appropriate. Some of the MIDD successes include a significant reduction in psychiatric hospital utilization, a significant reduction in emergency department use, and a significant decrease in jail bookings.

In 2015 King County put out a call for concepts for proposals for the MIDD renewal, referred to as MIDD 2. There were 140 concepts submitted and more detailed briefing papers were prepared for 90 concepts proposed to move forward (Bellevue Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly participated in the review of those concept proposals). The MIDD 2 funding recommendations provide for a continuum of services, from prevention to crisis services, and the funding is proposed as follows:

- \$4.9 million for prevention and intervention
- \$16.6 million for crisis diversion
- \$7.3 million for recovery and reentry
- \$9 million for therapeutic courts
- \$19.7 million for system improvement, e.g. mental health services for persons not receiving or eligible for Medicaid and new mental health services in rural King County
- \$4 million for administration, including evaluation
- \$1.4 million designated for reserves.

Some of the questions from RPC members related to how MIDD investments are tracked across geographic areas and how MIDD 2 strategies will be aligned with the Best Starts for Kids levy investments.

More details on MIDD 2 can be found at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/mental-health-substance-abuse/midd-plan/midd-review-renewal-planning.aspx>

- **Ordinance Approving the Best Starts for Kids (BSK) Implementation Plan.** On November 15, 2015, King County voters approved Best Starts for Kids (BSK), a six-year property tax levy to fund a prevention-oriented regional plan aimed at supporting the healthy development of children and youth, families, and communities across the county. Based on updated figures, the BSK Levy expects to collect approximately \$400 million between 2016 and 2021. From the first year's levy proceeds, \$19 million has been set aside to fund a Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative. The remaining BSK levy proceeds are to be dispersed specified in the levy ordinance as follows, including estimated amounts:
 - 50% for children and youth under 5 years of age (\$185 million);
 - 35% for children and youth ages 5-24 (\$124.5 million);
 - 10% for continuing the "Communities of Opportunity" partnership (\$37 million); and
 - 5% for data and evaluation (\$18.5 million).

The BSK Levy General Implementation Plan was transmitted to the King County Council and the RPC on June 1, 2016. It was developed by County staff with input from stakeholders convened by the Executive, from the Children & Youth Advisory Board, and the Communities of Opportunity Interim Governance group (Terry Smith, Bellevue's Assistant Director of Parks & Community Services, serves on the Children and Youth Advisory Board). Each portion of the BSK has strategy areas, and within those areas are specific programmatic approaches which describe specific types of programs which may be funded to achieve the desired outcomes.

Some of the questions from RPC members related to geographic diversity and equity in areas typically underserved or without locally-based service providers and the RFP process. Action on the ordinance was deferred to the next meeting. The BSK Implementation Plan can be downloaded from:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/initiatives/best-starts-for-kids.aspx>

July 13 meeting summary, preceded by joint meeting with RPC and King County Health, Housing and Human Services Committee

- **Ordinance Approving the Best Starts for Kids (BSK) Implementation Plan.** A joint meeting of the RPC and the King County Health, Housing and Human Services Committee was held immediately preceding the RPC meeting for the purpose of discussing the BSK Implementation Plan. Since the RPC had received a detailed briefing on the Plan at its June 8 meeting, the discussion focused on several amendments proposed by the Sound Cities Association (SCA) relating to reporting, determination of need, and access to services as follows:
 - Reporting: 1) clarify the contents of and better distinguish between the required reports; 2) require annual reports (also referred to as the "Annual Performance Evaluation Reports") to be transmitted to the RPC (making the Implementation Plan consistent with KCC Ordinance 18088, the BSK Levy ordinance); 3) require the BSK Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan be transmitted to RPC; and 4) require these reports be developed in consultation with and reviewed by the Children and Youth Advisory Board (making the report drafting process consistent with that followed for MIDD levy reports, which are developed in consultation with the MIDD Oversight Committee).
 - Determination of Need: the following language is added with respect to determining the need for focused services (those not available countywide) - "*As we determine need for focused*

strategies and programs, consideration will be given to communities and populations experiencing rapidly increasing rates in the challenges facing children and families.”

- Access to Services: the following language is added with respect to considering transportation challenges when ensuring opportunities are made available across the county -- *“With regard to assuring that opportunities are available across the diversity of geographies in our County, thought will be given to the nuance that access includes—not just the number or presence of services in a particular region, but the distance an individual may need to travel to access services and the means of transportation available to that individual. Consequently, in thinking through ways to address this issue, implementation staff will consider how equity might be enhanced for applicable programs and strategies through transportation subsidization options as an alternative to program siting-based solutions.”*

The amendments were approved at the RPC meeting following the joint meeting and the amended Plan will be considered by the King County Health, Housing and Human Services Committee at its meeting on July 19 with action expected in September 2016.

The agenda items related to the Mental Illness Drug Dependency (MIDD) renewal and the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) were deferred to the next RPC meeting due to lack of time.

The August meeting of the RPC is cancelled and the next meeting will be on September 14.

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE (RTC)

June 15 meeting summary:

At its June meeting, the RTC was briefed on King County Metro’s Rider/Non-Rider Survey and the Draft King County “MetroConnects” long range plan.

- **King County Metro Rider/Non-Rider Survey.** The Metro rider survey is performed every year, with additional surveying of non-riders every other year. The surveys were performed in late last fall and included more than 1,800 respondents who were called on land lines and cell phones. Metro conducted supplemental sampling to ensure low-income householders were well-represented.

Overall satisfaction with Metro is at 88% (last year at 90%). The survey uses nine dimensions to evaluate satisfaction from riders. Metro’s presentation focused on the primary drivers of satisfaction: level of service, personal safety, comfort/cleanliness and transferring. RTC members expressed interest in more information about survey data related to park-and-ride lots, fare payment, and cleanliness at transit stops.

- **King County “MetroConnects” Long Range Plan.** Metro staff briefed the RTC on the public outreach efforts related to the Draft Long Range Plan. King County staff will incorporate the feedback received during the public comment period into an updated plan. The RTC is expected to begin its review of the updated plan after it is transmitted in mid-August. The RTC will have 120 days to review the final plan, unless an extension is requested by members. Final King County Council approval of the plan is anticipated in early 2017.

The July of the RTC have been cancelled. The next meeting of the RTC is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE (RWQC)

June 1 meeting summary:

- **“Cascadia Rising” briefing on upcoming Disaster Preparedness Exercise.** The committee received a briefing in advance of the Cascadia Rising emergency preparedness exercise scheduled for June 7-10. Jurisdictions throughout Washington, Oregon and California planned to participate in the exercise, coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Administration, the Washington Department of Emergency Management and the King County Office of Emergency Management. The exercise was intended to engage and evaluate the response to a major regional natural disaster, in particular a large earthquake. King County’s Wastewater Treatment Division planned to participate. Its participation would allow the WTD to evaluate its incident response team, communications systems, plans and procedures and overall coordination.
- **Stormwater Infiltration and Inflow – Background and Update.** Infiltration and inflow (I/I) is clean stormwater and/or groundwater that enters the sewer system through cracked pipes, leaky manholes, or improperly connected storm drains, down spouts and sump pumps. I/I can drive system capacity, expansion and increased costs. The briefing to the committee provided background on I/I and an update on efforts to address the issue in the wastewater system. The Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee’s (MWPAAC) Engineering and Planning Subcommittee has initiated a discussion and task force to brainstorm I/I programs that might result in a benefit to the wastewater system. The group is looking at guidelines, funding and side sewer inspections and/or maintenance standards (since the majority of I/I comes from private side sewers). The work is ongoing and updates will be brought back as work progresses.
- **Building Cities in the Rain – Stormwater Management Options in the Urban Context.** The committee received a briefing on the State Department of Commerce planning effort with jurisdictions in the region to develop a watersheds evaluation and prioritization strategy, which may be used for stormwater retrofit transfer purposes through a related program with the State Department of Ecology. The RWQC was interested in the stormwater efforts due to the work being done on I/I in the wastewater system (see report above). The Building Cities in the Rain program may result in an evaluation that could be used to establish a stormwater control transfer program that targets high priority watersheds for transfer of stormwater retrofits from watersheds with lesser potential for achieving desired environmental outcomes. The voluntary program is an attempt to provide another option in the tool box to harmonize the Growth Management Act, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination permits (NPDES) and salmon recovery.

The RWQC did not meet in July and will not meet in August due to the County Council recess. The next meeting of the RWQC is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7.

UPDATE: 2017-2018 Wastewater Rate and Capacity Charge

On June 20 the King County Council approved the 2017-2018 wastewater rate and capacity charge proposal.

The current rate is \$42.03 per month, and it will increase by 5.2% to \$44.22 per month for 2017. No increase is proposed for 2018. Increased debt reduction targets are the primary driver for the wholesale

rate, accounting for 3.8% of the increase and will result in increased cash financing of the capital improvement program. The WTD's plan for total debt reduction from 2017-2030 will reduce debt by \$582 million (out of total debt of \$4.5 billion). The rest of the rate increase, 1.4%, is the general inflationary increase for operations and capital, after incorporation of operational efficiencies and debt service savings from bond refundings in 2015-2016.

The County's wastewater capacity charge is updated every three years, and in the intervening years, the capacity charge is increased to reflect inflation. This year the base charge was updated for 2017-2019. County policy requires an update to the cost and growth projections, interest rate assumptions, and other factors in order to calculate a new capacity charge. After the update, the 2017 capacity charge is \$60.80 per month, a 3.6% increase from the 2016 charge of \$58.70. The total payment over 15 years would be \$10,944 or \$8,974 if the customer chooses to pay up front in one lump sum.

The wholesale rate increase of 5.2% translates into a 3.0% retail rate impact for Bellevue customers. The typical Bellevue residential wastewater bill for 2016 is \$75.35. The 2017 wholesale increase will add \$2.26 to the typical bill. Under the early outlook budget forecast, the total monthly bill for 2017 is \$79.72 (including increases for wholesale, local and taxes).

GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL (GMPC)

May 25 meeting summary:

- **Discussion of potential amendments to the urban growth area as part of the King County Comprehensive Plan Update.** Three of the potential amendments are technical adjustments to include or exclude road rights-of-way near Covington and Enumclaw to avoid shared or disjointed road maintenance responsibilities upon annexation. Of the five substantive amendments, one is adjacent to Bellevue and involves a request by Issaquah to remove 466 acres from its urban growth area and designate it as rural. This is due to steep slopes, poor access and difficulty serving this area. The King County Executive is recommending only the undeveloped eastern portion (188 acres) be removed from the urban growth area and that the developed area remain urban and in Issaquah's potential annexation area. The area that would remain as "urban" has road access both to Issaquah and to Bellevue and a small area abuts Bellevue's eastern city boundary. Issaquah would prefer that the entire area be designated as "rural;" however, they are not contesting the Executive's recommendation for designation of just the eastern portion.

The four remaining potential urban growth area amendments have no direct implications for Bellevue. All four are expansions requested by jurisdictions and/or property owners adjacent to the cities of Sammamish, Carnation, North Bend and Snoqualmie. The Sammamish and Snoqualmie requests were previously considered. Neither of these two proposals meet the criteria of the Countywide Planning Policies for expansion of the urban growth area and both were previously rejected by King County and by the GMPC. The proposed amendments for Carnation and North Bend are new and though they do not currently meet the criteria for expansion, they are working with the County to meet the criteria under the 4:1 program – a provision of the Countywide Planning Policies that allows for an increase in the urban growth area under certain conditions, including a requirement of four acres of permanently dedicated open space for every one acre of new urban land.

At its next meeting, the GMPC will be asked to make a recommendation on any of these proposals that are included in the King County Comprehensive Plan Update.

The next meeting of the GMPC is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, pending completion of King County Council consideration of amendments to the urban growth area.

KING COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 30 meeting summary:

The King County Flood District (FCD) Advisory Committee met on June 30 to review a preliminary work program and budget for 2017. Councilmember John Stokes is Bellevue's representative on the Advisory Committee. The FCD is not proposing a tax increase above the allowed 1% plus new construction. Total tax revenue is expected to increase from \$54.57 million in 2016 to \$56.54 million in 2017. The 2016 tax levy rate is 12.98 cents per \$1,000 assessed value.

FCD staff has posed several issues for the Advisory Committee to consider. Many of the issues concern how the FCD should prioritize and complete its capital work plan as new needs are identified (such as \$44 million in additional Green River flood control projects) or as the FCD must respond to critical flood damage repairs or complete actions that can reduce future flood risk (such as home elevations).

Bellevue staff has been working closely with Sound Cities Association staff and other jurisdictions to develop a list of questions and information needs that must be addressed in order to ensure that Advisory Committee members are well-informed and can engage in a meaningful discussion about the policy choices. That request has been submitted to FCD staff and includes a request for background, options and analyses for each issue. Staff also requested that the Advisory Committee add one meeting to its schedule to allow time for further review of the issues.

Funding remains unchanged in the budget for Willowmoor project; this will allow work to proceed to 30% design. On Monday, June 20, the Flood Control District Executive Committee passed a motion to proceed to 30% design for the project. The motion was consistent with Bellevue City Council feedback and direction on the project. The motion specifically states the following are to be included as the project is developed:

- Develop the split channel alternative,
- Include variable depth pools for fish habitat,
- Conduct a feasibility analysis for a dynamic weir,
- Include a maintenance plan,
- Pursue grants for cold water supplementation, and
- Continue existing maintenance during design and permitting.

As you will recall, Bellevue receives a direct allocation of funds through the Subregional Opportunity Fund in the FCD. In 2016, Bellevue's allocation is \$592,000. Bellevue is using this funding for the Factoria Boulevard Storm Conveyance Improvement Project. This project will construct conveyance system improvements to reduce or eliminate flooding along Factoria Boulevard, between SE 38th and Richards Creek. Current design alternatives are being evaluated, and the project is expected to go to bid for construction in 2017.

In addition to this funding from the Subregional Opportunity Fund, Bellevue has a major project on the FCD's capital project list. This project which is estimated at about \$8 million will address Newport Shores flooding issues. Final design for the new fish passable structures will be completed in 2017, and construction will be completed in 2019.

The FCD Advisory Committee will meet again on July 27 and then again in early August to finalize its recommendation to the FCD Board of Supervisors.