

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEFING:  
KING COUNTY REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER ISSUES  
*September 2016***

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)**

***September 14 meeting summary:***

- **Discussion of the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Service Improvement Plan (SIP)** The RPC discussed two separate MIDD-related ordinances now before the committee. The first, proposed ordinance 2016-0427, would approve the MIDD Sales Tax Service Improvement Plan. The second, proposed ordinance 2016-0428, would revise the policy goals for MIDD, consistent with the SIP, and require transmittal of an implementation plan and evaluation plan by August 3, 2017. The RPC is expected to take action on these ordinance at its October 12 meeting. If approved by the RPC, the King County Council is then expected complete deliberation on the SIP in November, concurrent with the 2017-2018 budget process.

Once the SIP is approved by the King County Council and program funding is finalized in the biennial budget, MIDD staff will begin preparing implementation and evaluation plans providing more detailed information about the delivery and assessment of the final slate of MIDD 2 initiatives. Consistent with the Proposed Ordinance 2016-0428 now before the RPC, the implementation and evaluation plans will be transmitted to the King County Council next August.

- **Received the Veterans and Human Services (VHS) Levy Annual Report and Plan for 2017 Renewal.** The committee approved a motion calling on the King County Executive to produce two reports that will set in motion planning for potential renewal of the VHS levy. The first report will be an analysis of what's working well in the current levy, what other human services need to be addressed, and how the levy fits with other funding sources for human services. The second report would include information about the cost of housing every homeless veteran in the county.

The Sound Cities Association (SCA) worked with King County Councilmembers Claudia Balducci and Rod Dembowski on a striking amendment that incorporated two changes:

- Adds expansion of veterans court as an additional area for the Executive to analyze when considering potential future levy investments
- Requires that the reports be transmitted for approval by the RPC

If approved by the County Council, Executive staff will draft these reports by January 19. Then, the Executive will draft a proposed ballot measure ordinance that specifies the levy amount being sought and the general areas for levy investment.

- **King County Executive's Solid Waste 2017-2018 Rate Proposal.** The Committee received a briefing regarding the King County Executive's 2017-2018 solid waste rate proposal. The proposal is being deliberated by the King County Council.

The Executive is proposing a fee increase from the current rate of \$120.17 to \$137.75 per ton, a 14.6% increase. This fee is commonly known as the "tipping fee," which is paid at the transfer station or landfill for the transfer and disposal of garbage. Any increase in the tipping fee is passed through to garbage customers under the terms of a city's contract with its local collection vendor. For Bellevue, it is estimated that the wholesale solid waste increase (which is only part of a total bill for a city customer) would translate to an approximate 3% increase for a residential customer and an approximate 5% increase for a commercial customer.

The King County Solid Waste Division (KCSWD) estimates that approximately 75% of the proposed rate pays for the increased cost of current services and planned capital improvements at the Cedar Hills Landfill and transfer stations. The remaining 25% of the rate increase adds spending to reinforce service reliability and conduct a transfer station demand management pilot project.

The increase to fund a transfer station demand management pilot in 2018 has generated the most discussion and controversy among cities. This pilot is intended to test whether changes to services, hours and prices at existing transfer stations (primarily at the Factoria Transfer Station) can meet customer and system needs in order to avoid the construction of a new transfer station in the northeast area of the county when the Kirkland (Houghton) station closes (and potentially the Renton transfer station closes as well).

Bellevue and several other northeast cities have concerns regarding the scope of the proposed pilot, specifically whether the proposal will undercut regional equity by focusing all of the potentially negative impacts (traffic congestion, increased fees, and environmental impacts) on Bellevue, the Factoria Transfer Station and other northeast cities. Bellevue staff has been communicating concerns to KCSWD staff as well as County Council staff and members. Staff also continues to work closely with other northeast cities, such as Kirkland, that are concerned about the approaches being proposed. Staff will keep Council updated on changes as the rate increase proposal is considered by the King County Council.

The next meeting of the RPC is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12.

### **REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE (RTC)**

#### ***August 17 meeting summary:***

- **The RTC accepted the King County Metro Transit 2015 Strategic Plan Progress Report.** The Strategic Plan Progress Report is Metro's primary tool for demonstrating how it is moving toward the goals identified in the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2011 – 2021, informing Metro's efforts to improve performance and help guide future transit decisions and strategic planning. The Progress Report includes peer comparisons to provide a general sense of whether Metro is improving, maintaining, or falling behind in comparison to national trends. The RTC reviews the plan on a biennial basis.

The Progress Report reflects a year with several changes from previous years, including: implementation of Seattle Proposition 1; savings from low fuel prices; cost containment as a result

of the Great Recession; a March 2015 fare increase; implementation of the ORCA LIFT reduced fare program; and greater integration with Sound Transit.

The RTC began its review of the Metro Connects Long-Range Transit Service and Capital Plan following the incorporation of public feedback received during the public comment period, which concluded on June 1. The RTC will have 120 days to review the final Metro Connects plan, unless a member requests an extension. This item is anticipated to be the primary topic of focus for the RTC through the end of the year. The Committee is scheduled to approve the plan in early 2017.

***August 30 special RTC workshop summary:***

- **The RTC held a special workshop to learn more about the revised Metro Connects Long-Range Transit Service and Capital Plan.** The workshop provided an opportunity for RTC members to engage directly with Metro staff in a discussion about: the plan's relationship to other policy documents and plans; the plan's service network and alternative services; and how the plan could be implemented. Metro staff will continue to provide more information on these topics as the RTC reviews Metro Connects throughout the remainder of the year.

The next meeting of the RTC is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, which is after the time of this writing. The committee is anticipated to address the following agenda items:

- Discuss the King County Metro Connects Long Range Plan
- Receive a briefing on the Third Quarter 2016 Alternative Services Update
- Discuss and consider approving the King County Metro Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2011-2021 and Service Guidelines, accepting the King County Metro Transit 2015 Strategic Plan Progress Report.

A meeting summary will be included in the October 24 regional issues packet.

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE (RWQC)**

***September 7 meeting summary:***

- **Update on Conveyance System Improvement (CSI) Project.** RWQC received a status report regarding the wastewater Conveyance System Improvement Program Plan (Plan). This update to the Plan is designed to identify where additional conveyance capacity will be needed through 2060 in King County's regional wastewater conveyance system. The King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) staff has been engaged in an assessment and update effort, coordinated with the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) and local agencies. The WTD is asking local agencies to provide input by the end of September. There are a few projects being proposed in Bellevue, and Bellevue staff has been reviewing and preparing comments that will be submitted by the deadline. To date staff has no serious concerns with the proposed projects. The briefing provided the RWQC with background, project status information and information regarding the anticipated RWQC review upon completion of the planning effort.
- **Ship Canal (Combined Sewer Overflow Control) Project Status Update.** King County is obligated by a 2013 consent decree with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state Department of Ecology (DOE) to implement a long-term combined sewer overflow (CSO) control plan and complete all projects by 2030. CSOs are discharges of untreated or partially treated sewage and stormwater released directly into receiving waters during heavy rainfall when sewers have reached capacity. The City of Seattle also entered into a similar consent decree to control its CSO

basins by 2030. King County's CSO Control Plan anticipates potential King County/Seattle joint projects to address CSOs where appropriate.

This item updated the RWQC regarding the Ship Canal Water Quality Project, which is a joint King County/Seattle project to control five Seattle CSO basins in Ballard and Fremont/Wallingford as well as King County's 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue West and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northwest CSO basins. Both the King County Council and the Seattle City Council have approved the terms of the Project and the agreement that specifies the funding of the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of the facility.

In general, costs will be shared with Seattle paying 65% and King County paying 35% of the costs. Seattle will be the lead agency during design and construction and will be the owner and manager of the facility after completion. King County will have an ongoing and defined role in decision making, in particular where it concerns any proposal to amend the scope or on issues affecting schedule and budget. King County's share is currently estimated at \$134 million. The Project will include a storage tunnel, conveyance facilities, a pump station and force main.

- **Capital Project Cost Estimating Work Group Update.** In response to an audit report by the King County Auditor noting the need for strengthening cost estimating processes in planning level cost estimates for wastewater capital projects, the County Council included a proviso in the 2015-2016 budget to address planning level cost estimating. The proviso required establishment of a technical working group to make recommendations regarding: (1) the processes to establish and update planning level cost estimates from the time of preliminary design to thirty percent design, and (2) the processes to reconsider projects as they move from project identification to thirty percent design. This agenda item updated the RWQC on the project status, including draft recommendations from the group. The technical working group includes two Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) representatives, including one from Bellevue, Andrew Lee, and Utilities Deputy Director. It is expected that the group will finalize technical recommendations by December.

The RWQC will not meet in October or November due to County Council budget deliberations. The next meeting of the RWQC is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7.

### **KING COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT (FCD) ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

#### ***Information from July 27 and August 16 meetings:***

As reported in Council's July 25 regional issues update, the King County Flood District (FCD) Advisory Committee has been meeting throughout the summer to review a work plan and budget for 2017.

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.

After review of the FCD Capital Improvement Program and Operating Budget, the Advisory Committee voted to recommend the budgets to the FCD Board of Supervisors. The Advisory Committee also included a letter with the following additional recommendations:

- 1) Create a formal link/role between Advisory Committee elected officials serving on river corridor

planning committees and the FCD Advisory Committee itself. This will allow for timely flow of information and a role for the Advisory Committee in how new projects identified in the corridor planning efforts will be integrated and prioritized into the larger FCD capital improvement plan.

- 2) Provide the Advisory Committee with a formal role in the development of the update to the Flood Hazard Plan.
- 3) Create a formal budget line item for flood damage repairs (funding remains the same but becomes more transparent) and provide more briefings in the future about historical costs, future projections and post-repair information so as to better understand how repairs impact completed and planned projects.
- 4) Initiate a review of the home elevations program to evaluate: public versus private roles, rising costs, and trade-offs between elevation and acquisition.
- 5) Do not fund the King Conservation District (KCD) request for additional funding for the Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP) in 2017. The KCD requested a standing line item in the FCD budget of between \$250,000 and \$350,000 per year to supplement the work it is doing as part of the King County ADAP. The program focuses on assisting farmers in clearing agricultural drainage ditches. The Advisory Committee indicated it wanted to better understand the specific request and its nexus to the work of the FCD, project targets, program effectiveness, accountability and other funding opportunities.

The FCD Board of Supervisors is expected to act on the FCD budget as part of its budget deliberations this fall.

#### Background Information

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 38<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### Willowmoor Project Update

Funding remains unchanged in the FCD budget for Willowmoor project; this will allow work to proceed to 30% design. On June 20, the FCD 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 moves forward:

- 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.