

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

***October 12 meeting summary:***

- **Approved the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Service Improvement Plan (SIP)**  
The RPC approved two separate MIDD-related ordinances. The first ordinance approves the MIDD Sales Tax Service Improvement Plan (SIP). There were two substantive amendments related to this ordinance. The first amendment adds another seat to the MIDD Oversight Committee specifically for a representative from a grassroots organization representing cultural populations. The second amendment includes language stating that King County will encourage organizations receiving MIDD 2 funds to provide technical assistance and/or sub-contract with smaller community organizations/groups that serve vulnerable populations but may not meet King County's contracting requirements. The second ordinance revises the policy goals for the MIDD, consistent with the SIP, and requires transmittal to the King County Council of an implementation plan and evaluation plan by August 3, 2017. The King County Council is expected complete deliberation on the scope of the SIP in November, concurrent with the 2017-2018 budget process. The approved policy goals include:

**MIDD 2 Policy Goals:**

- Divert individuals with behavioral health needs from costly interventions such as jail, emergency rooms and hospitals to community based service providers.
  - Reduce the number, length and frequency of behavioral health crisis events.
  - Increase culturally-appropriate, trauma-informed behavioral health services.
  - Improve health and wellness of individuals living with behavioral health conditions.
  - Explicit linkage with, and furthering the work of, other King County and community initiatives.
- **Received a briefing on King County Executive Dow Constantine's 2017-2018 proposed biennial budget** Dwight Dively, Director of King County's Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, provided an overview of the Executive's proposed \$11.3 billion biennial budget that the King County Council will consider over the next several weeks. The 2017-2018 proposed biennial General Fund budget is \$1.65 billion. Due to a revenue shortfall, the General Fund budget reflects a \$22 million reduction from the current funding levels. King County attributes the shortfall to state-

imposed revenue restrictions and a structural gap in funding sources. While the implications of the reductions are still to be determined, like previous years, the proposed reductions will impact public health and public safety services. The King County Council is currently deliberating and is slated to adopt a balanced budget in late November.

The next meeting of the RPC is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9.

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

### ***September 21 meeting summary:***

- At its September meeting, the RTC continued its ongoing review of the Metro Connects Long Range Vision, which was transmitted to the County Council on August 10. At its August 17 and August 30 meetings, the RTC identified the following key issues as needing further discussion and explanation before the committee can approve the final plan:
  - The relationship between the 25-year Long Range Vision, Strategic Plan, Service Guidelines.
  - More detailed baseline information (performance measures) and Metro financial assumptions.
  - Clarify how Metro will get from today to 2040, particularly in regard to partnership funding and implementation.
- The RTC received a briefing on the third quarter 2016 Alternative Services Update. Starting with the recession of 2008, fluctuating funding and growing demand for mobility drove the development of alternatives to fixed-route transit service in communities that do not have the land use, density, or topography to support a productive fixed-route transit network. The concept has evolved into a four-year demonstration program with dedicated funding for the 2015-2016 biennium. As of June, the demonstration program is working with 10 communities on 14 projects, with community outreach being a central theme. Metro staff will continue to keep the RTC updated on the Alternative Services Program.
- The RTC accepted the 2015 Metro Strategic Plan Progress Report, which was first introduced at its August meeting. The Strategic Plan Progress Report is Metro's primary tool for demonstrating how Metro is moving toward the goals identified in the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2011 – 2021. It informs 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. Metro has reported on the Progress Report annually; however, the RTC formally accepts the Report on a biennial basis.

The next meeting of the RTC is scheduled for October 19, which is after the time of this writing. The meeting will be held in a workshop format, and is expected to address final issues regarding the King County Metro Connects Long Range Vision.

## **REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE (RWQC)**

The RWQC did not meet in October and is not expected to meet in November. The next meeting of the RWQC is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7.

## **GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE (GMPC)**

### ***September 28 meeting summary:***

- The GMPC voted to recommend three technical amendments and one substantive amendment to the urban growth area (UGA) boundary as recommended by the King County Council Transportation, Economy and Environment Committee. The technical amendments shifted road right-of-way into and out of the UGA and potential annexation areas of Covington and Enumclaw. These changes were necessary to clarify future responsibility for road maintenance upon annexation by these cities.

The substantive amendment involved moving an area from urban to rural at the request of Issaquah. The County and Issaquah ultimately agreed to redesignate a smaller area than originally requested to respect the amount of development that exists in the area that is to remain urban. The two westernmost parcels of the remaining urban area abut Bellevue. Access to the area is from both Issaquah and Bellevue. In 2006, Bellevue reviewed and considered adding a portion of the area to Bellevue's potential annexation area; however, the area is difficult to serve and the City Council declined to add the area to our potential annexation area. The area remains in Issaquah's potential annexation area.

The amendments now go to the King County Council for approval and ratification on behalf of the County. The amendments will then be sent to cities for review and possible ratification under the provisions of the Countywide Planning Policies.

- The GMPC had an abbreviated agenda in order to devote time to a joint workshop with King County members of the Growth Management Policy Board regarding the issue of conditional certification by PSRC, growth targets established by King County, and the interrelationship with VISION 2040. The purpose of the joint workshop was to explore these issues and create a common foundation of information and understanding. No action was scheduled or taken. The GMPC asked staff to explore options for reviewing the growth targets in the context of the issues raised and VISION 2040.

The next meeting of the GMPC is scheduled for Wednesday, November 30.