

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

The RPC did not meet in November. The next meeting of the RPC is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14.

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE (RTC)

The Regional Transit Committee did not hold its regularly scheduled October or November meetings. In lieu of its regular meetings, the RTC held two special workshops on October 19 and November 16 to discuss remaining questions regarding the Metro Connects Long Range Plan. The RTC is scheduled to approve the Metro Connects plan at its December meeting.

At its October 19 workshop, the RTC focused its discussion on clarifying elements of partnership in the Metro Connects Plan. At its November 16 workshop, the RTC engaged in a question and answer session with King County Metro staff on how the existing Metro planning documents (the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, Service Guidelines and Annual System Evaluation Report) will work with Metro Connects. King County Metro proposed a new “Metro Connects Development Program,” which would bridge the gap between existing Metro reports and implementation of Metro Connects and budget decisions. Bellevue staff will continue to track how Metro Connects will be funded and implemented in this new program. Metro staff committed to bringing a fully fleshed out program back to the RTC in 2017.

The next meeting of the RTC is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE (RWQC)

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

KING COUNTY CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION WORK PLAN

In March 2016, King County Executive Dow Constantine submitted a Land Conservation and Preservation Work Plan (Land Conservation Plan) to the King County Council. This plan identified parcels of land throughout King County that could be acquired for conservation and preservation purposes. The work plan also called for Executive Constantine to convene a 28 member, broad-based Land Conservation Advisory Group to evaluate the work plan’s scope, factors for implementation and potential funding sources. Councilmember Slatter is a member of the advisory group.

The Land Conservation Plan sets out a plan to conserve 5,500 parcels totaling 66,000 acres of high value conservation lands for future generations. The lands are located almost exclusively in unincorporated King County. Lands proposed to be conserved fall into at least one of five conservation categories: natural lands, forests, agriculture, rivers, and regional trails. Some lands are listed as multi-objective, conserving those lands would support more than one conservation category.

Other than a few isolated parcels related to regional trail acquisitions and rivers, the Land Conservation Plan does not currently include lands located within cities. The work plan that King County developed earlier this year calls for the county to coordinate with cities to include areas inside cities. Accordingly, King County staff is reaching out to cities and Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) to consider city needs for conserving high value conservation lands.

The estimated cost to conserve (through a combination of land purchases and the purchase of development rights) the proposed 66,000 acres is \$1.5-\$1.8 billion over 30 years, which includes both cost of acquisition, operations and maintenance of the lands. King County has developed a projection for land conservation funds, setting out one option for how to fund the work plan using historical and new funding sources and projecting those sources out for 30 years. Note that the current estimated costs for land acquisition do not include costs for any city lands that might be added to the Land Conservation Work Plan.

There is a gap in funding of \$380 million to purchase the currently proposed 66,000 acres of lands based on using existing funding sources and additional funding from levy to close the gap. The consideration of options on how to close that gap is one of the main focus areas of the Land Conservation Advisory Group.

The advisory group has four more meetings and Bellevue staff will continue to track the work of the advisory group and report back to Council in early 2017.

REGIONAL ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES OF KING COUNTY (RASKC)

King County provides animal services under contract to 25 cities in the County, including Bellevue. Beginning in February, the Joint City-County Collaboration Committee (JC4) began meeting to begin working on a 2018-2022 successor Interlocal Agreement (ILA), as the current ILA terminates on December 31, 2017. Bellevue staff have actively participated in this process.

The City of Kirkland has indicated it will likely depart the system. As a result, two cost models have been developed, one that includes Kirkland in the system and one that does not. King County is working with cities to mitigate some of these cost impacts.

King County is asking cities to indicate their interest being part of a new agreement by sending in a “non-binding” letter of interest by the end of the year. The County will provide cities with a draft agreement by the end of the year, based on discussions to date on an agreement in principle. The cities and County will meet in January 2017 to finalize the estimated cost allocation, based on the number of cities indicating they will remain in the system; they will also review the draft agreement and discuss proposed changes. Cities will need to provide a final notice of interest to the County by March 1, 2017, and approve an agreement by June 1, 2017.

With the City of Kirkland likely opting out of the system, new cost structures and allocations will be analyzed. Bellevue staff is reviewing costs and services for continuing to contract with King County, which will include a comparative analysis of costs and service scenarios for staying in the regional system versus providing animal control services locally. Bellevue staff recommends that Bellevue inform King Council that the city intends to remain in the county system pending the outcome of the staff analysis of options and potential future council direction. Staff anticipates briefing the Council on the details of this analysis early next year.