

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEFING:
KING COUNTY REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER ISSUES
*December 2018***

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. In addition, the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC), was formed in the early 1990s to comply with the Growth Management Act requirements for collaboration of counties and their cities on countywide planning policies. The GMPC meets three to four times per year to consider amendments to the countywide planning policies and to monitor progress on implementation. This is intended as a summary briefing; staff can provide more details on any of the items below.

REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE (RPC)

October 31 meeting summary:

- **RPC Review of the 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.** The King County Executive transmitted the 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan) to the King County Council in July and the Council referred the Plan to the RPC for review. The King County Charter and the King County Code establish a 120-day timeframe for the RPC to review legislation referred to it by the County Council. Based on the date the Plan was referred to the RPC, the original deadline for the RPC to complete its review was November 27.

King County Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer, who chairs the RPC, announced that the County Council will not act on the Plan in 2018 due to staff time constraints during budget deliberations and that the review period for the Plan by the RPC would be extended to March 31, 2019.

- **Regional Affordable Housing Task Force Recommendations Progress Report.** King County staff for the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force presented an overview of the work of the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force (RAHTF) to date. The RAHTF developed and is seeking feedback on a draft Five-Year Action Plan (Action Plan). The Action Plan contains a set of recommendations, strategies and actions for regional coordination to address the affordable housing needs across King County. The RPC discussed the Action Plan and supported the approach of the RAHTF, including formation of a subcommittee of the Growth Management Planning Council which is proposed to include broad representation from local government, private and nonprofit entities.
- **Election Update on Security, Prepaid Postage and Drop Boxes.** Julie Wise, Director of King County Elections updated the RPC regarding election security, prepaid postage results and

voter turnout, and new drop boxes. She reported that the August Primary Election was the first election conducted countywide with prepaid postage and voter turnout was the highest since the 2004 Primary. Ms. Wise also shared information regarding both physical security and cyber security for elections. For physical security, King County has facilities specifically designed for election security, including security and web cameras, badge and biometric controlled access and a paper trail for every ballot. There are many layers of cyber security, and the tabulation system is not connected to the internet which reduces opportunities to hack into the system.

The next meeting of the RPC is scheduled for December 12.

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE (RTC)

October 17 meeting summary:

- **King County Metro Transit 2017 Strategic Plan Progress Report.** King County staff led a discussion of the draft 2017 Strategic Plan Progress Report. This Report documents a period of growth in all public transit ridership within King County (including ridership in Metro, Sound Transit, and other transit agency services). The diversion of some Metro trips to the University Link Light Rail extension, the expansion of Metro bus hours that require time to build ridership, and overall population growth are among trends described in the report. The RTC members discussed the 66 measures used in the report and identified some measures that are duplicative or no longer relevant. Following its discussion, the RTC voted unanimously to accept the draft report.
- **One Center City and the Period of Maximum Constraint.** The RTC received a briefing on King County Metro's preparations for the "period of maximum constraint" from 2019 through 2021, when multiple large projects will have significant impacts on transit operations in the region and especially the Seattle Central Business District. One Center City is a partnership among the City of Seattle, King County, Sound Transit, and the Downtown Seattle Association to address mobility issues in Seattle during this period and extending until the Sound Transit East Link Extension project is completed in 2023. Some of the large projects creating impacts include:
 - Demolition of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and construction of a new Seattle waterfront;
 - Continuing public and private construction, including expansion of the Washington State Convention Center;
 - Sound Transit Light Rail Expansion, including East Link Construction; and
 - conversion of the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel to a light rail-only facility.

King County staff described near-term strategies for addressing mobility issues during this period, including signal improvements on 2nd and 4th Avenues, transit improvements on 3rd Avenue, and a new transit pathway on 5th and 6th Avenues in Seattle.

The next meeting of the RTC is scheduled for December 19.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE (RWQC)

Due to King County budget deliberations, the November RWQC meeting was cancelled.

The next meeting of the RWQC is scheduled for December 5.

EASTSIDE RAIL CORRIDOR (ERC) REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC)

October 11 meeting summary:

- **ERC Trail Branding Work Session.** The King County Department of Parks and Natural Resources (DNRP) is leading an effort to establish a “brand” for the ERC and to build support and awareness around the multiuse trail. The ERC partners have hired ICON, a creative agency out of Atlanta, Georgia to help the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) and the broader group of ERC stakeholders build the brand for the ERC — a process which will culminate in a new name/brand and visual identity system. At this meeting, ICON summarized its findings from interviews with key stakeholders, including Bellevue Councilmember John Stokes, who represents Bellevue on the committee. RAC members provided additional feedback regarding the value of the ERC, emphasizing the ERC’s role in connecting Eastside cities.
- **Funding Commission Status and Preview.** The ERC Funding Commission is made up of 17 representatives from the private and non-profit sectors. The RAC convened the Funding Commission earlier this year to provide recommendations regarding potential funding sources for ERC trail projects. The Funding Commission has met six times and plans to meet once more to finalize its recommendations to the RAC. At this meeting, the co-chairs provided an update on the Funding Commission’s progress. The Funding Commission used three criteria to group unfunded and partially-funded ERC projects:
 - Connectivity – projects that are necessary to build a continuous corridor.
 - Consistent improvements – projects that provide a wide, paved surface to support all users.
 - Enhancements – projects that improve the user experience.

The Funding Commission has identified four projects as first-tier, high-priority projects, that are necessary to create a continuous corridor from Renton to Woodinville. The first-tier projects are:

- I-90 steel bridge in south Bellevue - an existing connection over I-90 that needs to be renovated, and including art could help make the bridge a landmark;
- Wilburton Trestle in Bellevue – the iconic, historic structure that will provide one of the signature experiences of the trail;

- NE 8th Street Bridge in central Bellevue – a grade-separated crossing of the busiest surface street along the corridor at the busiest segment of the trail;
 - Totem Lake Connector in Kirkland – an iconic pedestrian and bicycle trail crossing over the busy, four-way intersection that carries upwards of 50,000 vehicles per day.
- **Integrating Art into the ERC: Redmond and Kirkland.** Redmond and Kirkland staff presented an overview of public art plans for the ERC. Redmond has installed art along the Redmond Central Connector, which is the Redmond-owned portion of the ERC. Redmond's art is already a distinguishing feature of that segment. Kirkland recently adopted a public art plan for the Kirkland-owned segment, the Cross-Kirkland Corridor. The RAC members recommended that stakeholder staff collaborate to establish a coordinated arts plan for the entire corridor. This work will be incorporated into the RAC's 2019 workplan.

The RAC held a special branding meeting on November 29, a summary of which will be included in the next Regional Committees Update.

The next meeting of the ERC RAC is scheduled for January 25.

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT (KCD)

November 27 meeting summary:

The King Conservation District (KCD) Advisory Committee met on November 27 to review initial concepts for a five-year work program for 2020-2024 which is subject to approval by the King County Council. 2019 will be the fifth and final year of the KCD's current work program. In mid-2019, the KCD will submit a 2020-2024 rate increase and work program proposal to the King County Council for approval. The KCD will continue working with the Advisory Committee and other stakeholders in 2019 to develop the proposal. Bellevue Councilmember John Stokes serves as Chair of the Advisory Committee.

The KCD serves 35-member jurisdictions (34 cities and King County) representing a total population of 1.8 million. Its program of work focuses on the following priorities:

- Regional Food System and Sustainable Agriculture
- Rural Farm Plans and Technical Assistance
- Urban Farm Plans and Technical Assistance
- Rural Forestry and Urban Tree Canopy Enhancement
- Shoreline and Riparian Education and Assistance
- Expanded Landowner Incentive Program

Current KCD Rates and Charges

District funding is based on a system of rates and charges assessed on properties in King County that

are within the KCD. The current annual rates and charges are \$9.65 per residential parcel, \$9.48 per commercial parcel, and \$10 per agricultural parcel. The rates and charges provide annual revenue of slightly more than \$6.1 million. The current rate was developed and approved by the King County Council in 2014 to fund the 2015-2019 work program. The KCD leverages this revenue with grants and other resources to cover additional expenses. In 2019, KCD's total budget including all revenue sources is approximately \$7.5 million.

In 2018, the property owners in Bellevue paid approximately \$525,000 in KCD rates and charges. Of the \$6.1 million collected countywide, approximately \$1.4 million is returned to the contributing jurisdictions in the form of jurisdictional grants each year. In 2018, Bellevue applied to use approximately \$95,000 in jurisdictional grant funding for City parks, forestry and garden investments. Under the current KCD rate structure, Bellevue is eligible for approximately \$78,000 in grant funds each year. Funds not used in one year roll over to the next.

KCD Proposal for 2020-2024

The KCD is currently developing its 2020-2024 work program and rate proposal which would carry forward the same priorities and services the organization currently offers. One proposal being considered by the KCD is a rate increase of approximately 30%, or about \$3 per parcel per year, depending on the parcel type. A 30% rate increase would raise roughly \$1.9 million per year in additional funds for the District. This would increase the annual KCD revenue collected from rates and charges from \$6.1 million to \$8 million. The KCD staff has stated that this 30% increase is needed to cover the cost of inflation in King County since 2015, which is the year the current rates were established, through 2024.

In the first quarter of 2019, the KCD will host workshops and meetings with stakeholders to explore alternative program and rate scenarios and get feedback on the work program. Staff will provide a briefing for Council as the KCD proposal moves forward.

KING COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT (FCD) UPDATE

On November 5, the King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the 2019 Flood Control District (FCD) tax rate and the 2019 operating and capital budgets for the FCD. While the FCD is allowed under state law to adopt a tax increase of 1%, the Board declined to exercise the increase and held the levy at the same dollar amount as 2018. The FCD will collect \$56,466,880 in 2019 at a property tax rate of approximately 9-5-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The 2019 FCD budget includes \$1,756,563 for the WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program, and \$586,871 for Bellevue's Subregional Opportunity Fund.

Background

As reported in Council's September 2018 regional issues update, the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee met five times over the summer to review a work plan and budget for 2019 and voted to recommend the budget to the FCD Board of Supervisors. As part of its budget approval letter,

the Advisory Committee made a number of recommendations to the FCD Board of Supervisors, including:

- Maintain regular quarterly meetings for the interjurisdictional Joint Basin Technical Committee (a staff committee that helps support the work of the FCD Advisory Committee).
- Provide opportunities for communication between the Advisory Committee and the anticipated committee that will likely be established to update to Countywide Flood Hazard Management Plan.
- Recommend that the FCD develop a definition for Multi-Benefit Projects – projects that achieve additional benefits beyond flood risk management.
- Keep the Advisory Committee informed on FCD home elevation studies and related impacts.
- Consider funding studies on emerging scientific issues related to flood management.
- Provide technical support and FCD Executive Director participation in King County's Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, & Flood Advisory Committee.
- Consider new and emerging information for capital project requests.
- Move implementation of the South Fork Snoqualmie River Levee Setback Project forward to 2019.

The FCD's 2019-2024 Capital Plan includes funds for Bellevue to complete the Lower Coal Creek Newport Shores project. This \$14 million project will reduce flooding and improve stream conveyance in the Newport Shores neighborhood in the areas adjacent to Coal Creek as it approaches Lake Washington. The 2019-2024 CIP also includes funding for King County to continue work on the Willowmoor project, which aims to control water levels in Lake Sammamish and improve conditions in the Sammamish River immediately downstream of the lake and within Marymoor Park to prevent seasonal flooding that has damaged property on the lake.

As noted above, Bellevue receives a direct allocation of funds through the Subregional Opportunity Fund of the FCD. The allocation is based on the assessed value of the jurisdiction. In 2018, Bellevue's allocation is \$608,198. Bellevue has used Subregional Opportunity funds to support design and construction of capital projects, including flood reduction and conveyance improvements in the Meydenbauer Basin, Sunset Creek at SE 30th, and Factoria Boulevard. The FCD also provides flood reduction grants to individual jurisdictions in addition to dedicated Subregional Opportunity Fund awards.

The next meeting of the Flood Control District Advisory Committee is anticipated to be in spring 2019.