

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEFING:
KING COUNTY REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER ISSUES
July, 2017**

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)

July 12 and 19 meeting summaries:

Background:

On May 22, 2017, King County Executive Dow Constantine transmitted a proposed ordinance to place a six-year (2018-2023) Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy renewal (VSHSL) on the November ballot to replace the levy that expires at the end of 2017. The basic levy outline as proposed was as follows:

- The rate of the new levy would be \$0.12 per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV) (initial 2018 rate), up from \$0.05 per \$1,000 of AV (initial 2012 rate) under the current VHSL (the current levy rate is \$0.04 per \$1,000 as a result of the increase in the county's AV).
- The new levy would generate about \$60.7 million in 2018 compared to \$18.6 million in 2017 under the current levy.
- In the first year, no less than 50% of all proceeds (50% from each category) would be dedicated to promote housing stability, including capital facilities. In subsequent years, the housing distribution would fall to 25% across all categories.
- Under the \$0.12 initial rate, a homeowner with an AV of \$450,000 (King County median AV) would pay \$54 in the first year of this property tax, compared to \$18 at the current levy rate.
- A Bellevue homeowner with a median AV of \$690,000 would pay \$83 in the first year of the proposed levy compared to \$28 in 2017.

The Executive's proposed ordinance was referred to the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) as a "mandatory referral" under the King County Charter rules for regional committees, which means the levy cannot not advance without action by the RPC.

July 19 RPC Action:

The ordinance has been considered and amended by both the King County Council and the RPC several times. A history of the actions and amendments to the ordinance is below in "Legislative History of Ordinance." As of this writing, the most recent action was taken by the RPC on July 19 and is summarized as follows:

On July 19, the RPC took up the ordinance as amended by the King County Council at its July 17 meeting. The RPC unanimously approved an amended ordinance that did the following:

- *Allocates the distribution of funds for senior services as follows:*
 - *50% of the allocation to general senior services.*
 - *50% of the allocation to seniors who are also veterans, until 1) 75% of homeless senior veterans have been housed; or 2) \$24 million has been spent on housing senior veterans, whichever comes first.*
- *Allows existing levy services to continue into 2018 under the current Service Implementation Plan and prohibits levy expenditures for new services until the new Service Implementation Plan is approved by the King County Council.*
- *Requires that the Transition Plan be a mandatory referral to the RPC and changes the date of the Transition Plan transmittal from the King County Executive from August 23, 2017 to September 29, 2017.*

The RPC kept the levy rate at \$0.10 per \$1,000 AV as referred by the King County Council.

The ordinance as amended by the RPC was referred back to the King County Council for its consideration at a special meeting on July 20. Six votes are required for the County Council to approve a proposal other than what was recommended by the RPC. The deadline for action by the King County Council to place the VSHSL on the November ballot is August 1, 2017.

Legislative History of Ordinance

- On June 14, the RPC received the ordinance as proposed by the Executive and amended it to reduce the rate from \$0.12 to \$0.10 per \$1,000 AV and referred it to the King County Budget and Fiscal Management (BFM) Committee without recommendation.
- On June 28, the BFM Committee changed the rate back to \$0.12 per \$1,000 AV, added a provision regarding a payment assistance program for those who qualify for existing property tax exemptions, and language requiring accountability measures.
- On July 5, the King County Council reduced the rate to \$0.10 per \$1,000 AV and changed the distribution of levy funds to require that at least half of the funding in the seniors category go to seniors who are also veterans, thereby resulting in half of the total levy funds allocated to veterans and their families.
- On July 12, the RPC took up the ordinance as amended by the King County Council. After extensive discussion, the RPC voted to keep the rate at \$0.10 per \$1,000 AV and restored the equal distribution of funds among the veterans, seniors, and human services categories.
- On July 17, the King County Council voted five to four to approve a striking amendment that set the rate at \$0.12 per \$1,000 AV and allocated funding for senior services as follows:
 - 50% of the allocation would go to general senior services.
 - 50% of the allocation would be dedicated to seniors who are veterans until the number of homeless senior veterans is decreased by 75%. When that milestone is achieved, the funding would go to general senior services.

The RPC does not meet in August. The next meeting of the RPC is scheduled for September 13.

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE (RTC)

June 21 meeting summary:

- **Approved the Metro Connects Development Program work plan.** The RTC unanimously approved the Metro Connects Development Program (MCDP) work plan, after considering the proposed plan since February. The approval of this work plan sets in motion the creation of the MCDP, which is a requirement of the Metro Connects ordinance. The MCDP is the mechanism for implementing the Metro Connects Long Range Plan, which guides King County Metro's capital and service planning through the year 2040.

The technical development portion of the program includes the first two steps of the four-step cycle: 1) Plan (project and capacity identification) and 2) Do (develop/revise MCDP project schedule). The development of a regional project schedule will include collaboration with Metro's jurisdictional partners and agencies. Metro is convening a technical advisory committee (TAC) that will assist in the creation of a regional project schedule. Bellevue staff is participating on this committee.

The policy guidance component of the program includes the second two steps: 3) Check (review schedule and policy guidance) and 4) Adjust (changes to schedule and policy guidance).

Within the four-step cycle, the MCDP work plan outlines several key deliverables:

- 2017 Policy Report
A policy report to identify near- and long-term policy needs to be transmitted to the King County Council by October 31, 2017 and reviewed by the RTC. The Policy Report will:
 1. Describe how policy guidance influences service and capital decisions in the regional project schedule;
 2. Include a gap analysis of additional policy that could make the MCDP more effective; and
 3. Include preliminary recommendations on any changes to policy that could be considered as part of this program and potential timing and method for making those changes.
- Development Program Biannual Updates
 1. Provide information on the status of the MCDP; and
 2. Provide the status of the program's connection to Metro's guiding policies and development of the service and capital project schedule.
- Regional Project Schedule
The regional project schedule will be developed through the MCDP technical advisory committee, with input from the RTC. It will:
 1. Align the scopes and schedules of regional projects, city, and transit agency projects; and
 2. Identify system and cost efficiencies.

The RTC will have a key role in the policy guidance component of the MCDP. The Committee is charged with ensuring that Metro has the policy guidance needed to implement the vision and sharing and gathering input on project schedules and how to put policy guidance into practice.

In addition to providing ongoing collaboration, discussion and input to support the MCDP, the

specific RTC functions include:

- Consider and act on a motion for the Policy Report due October 31, 2017;
 - Review and inform the MCDP project schedule;
 - Advise on the jurisdictions' priorities as details of the MCDP are refined;
 - Advise on the development of policy guidance on partnerships, and any other policy guidance that will increase the effectiveness of the MCDP;
 - Provide feedback to Metro and jurisdiction staff about proposed regional service and capital project schedule; and
 - Review and approve the Annual Service Evaluation Report (previously known as the Service Guidelines Report), including a report on Metro Connects implementation status, service investment prioritization and alternative services.
- **Informational briefing on On-Time Performance.** Metro staff updated the RTC on Metro bus on-time performance. For the first time since January 2014, system wide, Metro met its 80% on-time target in April. Meeting this metric is credited to:
 - New service hour investments: 20,000 hours were added in 2015 and 2016 specifically for reliability and an additional 60,000 hours were added in March of 2017;
 - New capital investments like retiming of traffic signals and improving choke points; and
 - New operational improvements such as restructuring some bus routes.

The 80% metric is an industry standard and evaluates the percentage of time buses arrive between one minute before and five minutes after their scheduled arrival times. Metro buses typically experience the greatest late arrivals during the P.M. peak period.

- **Informational briefing on Zero-Emission Vehicles and Future Metro Plans.** Metro staff updated the RTC on the plan to achieve a zero-emission Metro bus fleet by 2040, as envisioned in Metro Connects. Current plans call for an additional 120 battery-electric buses to be added to the fleet by 2020. Currently, Metro is testing zero-emissions vehicles in Bellevue. Several of the additional buses are planned to be serviced at the Bellevue bus base, with deployment planned for Eastside Metro routes 226, 241, 221, 245 and 246.

The presentation included a status update on the current Metro bus fleet, technology options for zero-emission bus technology, and an overview of near term testing and costs of transitioning to zero-emission as compared to current fleet practices.

- **Follow up information on Community Connections quarterly briefing from May meeting.** At the May meeting, Metro staff provided an update on the status of community connections projects in the outreach phase, performance measurement, and 2017 program development. At the June meeting, Metro continued discussion on lessons it learned from the pilot application process in 2017.

July 19 Meeting

The next meeting of the RTC is scheduled July 19, which is after the time of this writing. The agenda includes the following:

- Briefing on Metro Transit Speed and Reliability Guidelines and Strategies; and
- Briefing on Metro Transit in Motion Program.

Because the Council will be on recess for the regularly scheduled August regional issues meeting, a summary of the July meeting will be available in the September regional issues packet.

The RTC does not meet in August. The next meeting of the RTC is September 20.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE (RWQC)

The RWQC did not meet in July and is not scheduled to meet in August. The next meeting of the RWQC is September 6.

KING COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT (FCD) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 13 meeting summary:

The King County Flood Control District (FCD) Advisory Committee met to review the preliminary 2018-2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and associated work program. This is the first of several meetings to review of the six-year CIP and 2018 operating budget and provide a recommendation to the FCD Board of Supervisors by the end of August. Mayor John Stokes is Bellevue's representative on the Advisory Committee. At this initial meeting, FCD staff provided information regarding flood program accomplishments, the FCD financial plan, and the draft 2018-23 capital program. King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn, Flood District Board of Supervisors Chair, provided remarks and entertained questions from the Advisory Committee.

FCD revenues are expected to increase from \$54.57 million in 2017 to \$56.07 million in 2018. The 2017 tax levy rate is 11.7 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV). Bellevue property owners contribute approximately 8.1% to the total FCD budget. In addition to projects on the FCD's capital project list that benefit Bellevue, Bellevue receives approximately \$500,000 - \$600,000 of project support annually from the Subregional Opportunity Fund. The program also provides flood reduction grants to individual jurisdictions and well as grant funding to the Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs).

FCD CIP

Bellevue has one large project in the CIP, the Lower Coal Creek Flood Hazard Reduction Project. This project will replace five culverts and improve two outfalls in lower Coal Creek in Newport Shores, and construction on the first phase starts this summer. The entire project has been funded at \$8.2 million in the CIP. However, recent design work for the first culvert, including an evaluation of soil conditions and regulatory requirements, resulted in the need for additional funding to complete all phases of the project. In order to successfully complete the entire project and address the flooding issues in the area, the project budget has been increased by about \$6 million, for a new total project cost of \$14.2 million.

Bellevue staff has been working closely with FCD staff and Board of Supervisors staff on a budget modification to address these issues, and the new \$14.2 million budget for the Coal Creek project and an updated schedule have been added into the proposed budget by FCD Board Chair Dunn. As noted above, the proposed CIP budget will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee. The FCD Board of Supervisors (the King County Councilmembers) typically acts on the final budget in the fall.

The Willowmoor Project, also in the CIP, is important to Bellevue because of its beneficial impact on Lake Sammamish. The County is finalizing an agreement with the City of Redmond to take the lead on this project.

Bellevue's Subregional Opportunity Fund Projects and Grants

Bellevue is using funds from its 2017 Subregional Opportunity fund for the Meydenbauer NE 8th Street project, which will upsize stormwater pipes on 100th Avenue NE from NE 12th Street through NE 4th Street and tie into a line at the north end of the Downtown Park in order to reduce recurring flooding in the area. 2016 Subregional Opportunity funds are being used for the Factoria Boulevard Storm Conveyance Improvement Project, which will construct conveyance system improvements to reduce or eliminate flooding along Factoria Boulevard between SE 38th Street and the Richards Creek inlet. The City has also received a \$94,000 Flood Reduction Grant which will be used to replace five culverts just east of Larsen Lake with a bridge.

The FCD Advisory Committee will meet again on July 26, August 10, and August 22 (if needed) to finalize its recommendations to the FCD Board of Supervisors.

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT (KCD)

June 21 meeting summary:

The King Conservation District (KCD) Advisory Committee met to review the 2016 Annual Report and approve the 2018 Program of Work and associated budget. The KCD is in the third year of a five-year work program approved by interlocal agreement with the King County Council. Bellevue Mayor John Stokes serves as Chair of the Advisory Committee. Both documents were discussed and approved by committee members. The committee encouraged the district to continue to document tangible outcomes from its programs.

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

District funds are based on a system of rates and charges assessed on properties in King County with the average property owner paying \$9.45 per year. The 2018 KCD budget from rates and charges in 2018 is expected to be approximately \$6.1 million, with the City of Bellevue contributing approximately \$525,000. In 2016, Bellevue received several KCD grants: \$30,000 for the Lake Hills Greenbelt SE 8th Street Wetland Buffer; \$50,000 for the Urban Meadow at the Bellevue Botanic Garden; and \$25,000 for tree canopy preservation outreach.

KING COUNTY REGIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK FORCE

July 14 meeting summary:

This was the kick-off meeting for the King County Regional Affordable Housing Task Force (Task Force), which is comprised of 12 elected officials appointed by King County. Members include King County Executive Constantine and five county councilmembers (Councilmembers Balducci, Dembowski, Gossett, Kohl-Welles, and von Reichbauer), Seattle Mayor Murray, Seattle

Councilmember Johnson, and four representatives of the Sound Cities Association (SCA). Mayor Stokes is one of the four SCA appointees, representing East King County. Other SCA appointees are North Bend Mayor Hearing representing rural area cities; Renton Councilmember McIrvin representing South King County; and Kenmore Mayor Baker representing North King County.

The meeting included an overview of the purpose of the Task Force and its objectives, some of the data and analysis being used to frame the issue, and perspectives of experts in the field. Five objectives are guiding the work of the Task Force:

1. Assess current state of affordability, including ongoing efforts of jurisdictions;
2. Develop a recommended statement of intent to address the crisis in King County;
3. Identify collective tools and actions that can be taken at the regional level;
4. Develop a recommended state legislative strategy for affordable housing and homelessness; and
5. Develop a dashboard for tracking region-wide progress in meeting the goals of the Countywide Planning Policies.

The charge to the Task Force is to prepare a work program by October 2017 and a final report and recommendation to the King County Council by the end of 2018. Monthly meetings of the Task Force are anticipated to begin in September. Bellevue staff will continue to monitor the progress of the Task Force and will update Council as appropriate.