



SCA Public Issues Committee MINUTES

March 13, 2019 – 7:00 PM
Renton City Hall
1055 S Grady Way, Renton WA 98057

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Council President Ed Prince, Renton, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 27 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included Councilmember Davina Duerr, Bothell (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Armondo Pavone, Renton (PIC Alternate); Mayor Debbie Bertlin, Mercer Island; Councilmember Susan Boundy-Sanders, Woodinville; Councilmember Wendy Weiker, Mercer Island; Alex Herzog, City of Woodinville staff; Alison Bennet, City of Bellevue staff; Sarah Ogier, City of Bellevue staff; Christie True, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Director; Jenny Huston, King County Executive Office staff; Lane Covington, King County Council staff; Simon Farretta, King County Council staff; Sarah Stiteler, City of Redmond staff; Leslie Morgan, unincorporated King County resident; Kim Brighton, unincorporated King County resident; and Janet Dobrowolski, unincorporated King County resident.

2. Public Comment

Chair Prince noted that three people had signed up for public comment and each person had three minutes to speak.

Leslie Morgan commented that she is a resident near Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. She stated that the King County Solid Waste Division did not listen to community concerns during the solid waste comprehensive plan approval process. She said that the continued operation of the Cedar Hills Landfill is causing damage to her property, community health, and would ultimately contaminate a regional aquifer in the area.

Janet Dobrowolski commented she opposed continued operation of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, and the Solid Waste Division did not accurately present alternatives, such as waste to energy incineration in the proposed comprehensive solid waste plan.

Kim Brighton, commented that she is a resident that lives near Cedar Hills Regional Landfill and that operation of the landfill impacts neighbors on a daily basis. She said the comprehensive solid waste plan was not prepared ethically, and improperly downplays environmental concerns from continued operation of the Cedar Hills Landfill.

Chair Prince closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the January 9, 2019 PIC Minutes

Chair Prince asked if there were any amendments to the January 9, 2019 PIC minutes.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, to approve the January 9, 2019 minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Prince reported that the SCA Board held a retreat on February 15. The theme was 'Building Our Future.' He noted that many current leaders are planning to retire, and the board talked about how to engage with future leaders of SCA to keep the organization strong. He said that the SCA Board identified affordable housing, transportation, apprenticeship and workforce development, equity and inclusion, as well as civility and toxic social media as priorities for 2019.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encouraged member cities participate in raising awareness. She said that in 2018, 35 cities participated in Sexual Assault Awareness Month by adopting proclamations and providing educational messages to their communities and encouraged all SCA members to participate in 2019. An email with more information was sent to SCA members on Tuesday, March 12.

Director Dawson reported that applications for the Census "Regional Complete Count Committee" are due on March 18, and that two members would be appointed to represent SCA.

Director Dawson reported for the benefit of those who attended to provide public comment on the Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan that the PIC would be taking no action on the plan at the meeting. She stated that under agenda item 14, the PIC would be receiving an update on the process for County Council review of the plan.

6. Children and Youth Advisory Board Appointment

PIC Nominating Committee Chair, Councilmember Ross Loudonback, North Bend, reported that the PIC Nominating Committee met on Friday, March 8, 2019 telephonically to review applicants for a vacant seat on the Children and Youth Advisory Board. The PIC Nominating Committee is recommending that Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, be appointed to the Children and Youth Advisory Board.

Councilmember Ross Loudonback, North Bend, moved, seconded by Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, to recommend to the SCA board of directors that Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, be appointed to the Children and Youth Advisory Board. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. 2019 State Legislative Session

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reminded PIC members that SCA contracted with Briahna Murray, Vice President of Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs, to monitor legislation and provide updates to PIC on SCA's legislative priorities during the 2019 session. Reports from Murray are sent to PIC members weekly via email.

Murray gave an update on the 2019 State Legislative Session. She reported that the cutoff for policy bills to be passed out of their chamber of origin has passed, limiting the number of bills still under consideration. She said the legislature is expected to have added focus on the budget, and that House and Senate proposals are expected to be released after the release of the March 2019 revenue forecast scheduled for March 20.

Murray reported on legislation moving forward to address homelessness and affordable housing. She said that HB 1406, which would allow local jurisdictions to impose a .02 percent credit against the state sales tax to fund affordable housing, is still alive and is scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Housing Stability and Affordability Committee on March 20. She said that legislators have also indicated that, as a part of addressing affordable housing, they intend to make reforms to the Residential Landlord Tenant Act and that three related bills would have upcoming hearings in March: HB 1440 (concerning notice of rent increases), HB 1462 (concerning notice of substantial renovation or demolition), and SB 5600 (concerning eviction procedures).

Murray reported that HB 1923, which would have preempted local land use and zoning control, was amended to encourage cities to consider local tools to increase housing supply but that there is still the possibility the bill could be amended again in the Senate to establish broad mandates for cities. She said SB 5812, requiring certain cities to adopt regulations that authorize Accessory Dwelling Units, was amended to exempt cities that have already adopted such regulations before the effective date of the act and remains under consideration in the House.

Murray said that the Senate proposed transportation revenue package narrowly passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee and was referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee for further consideration. She said it appears unlikely that the package will advance further during the 2019 session. She said that HB 2132, concerning planned construction projects and tolling portions of I-405, SR 167, and SR 509 would have a hearing on March 14.

Murray said that legislation to remove the 1% cap on increases to property taxes had been introduced in HB 2145, but it is unclear if it will have a public hearing this session. She said that legislation relating to wrongful death claims is expected to move forward, and that this will have financial impacts on cities.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, asked for the status of HB 1797. Murray reported the legislation was voted out of committee but was not voted out of its house of origin prior to the cutoff.

Councilmember Benson Wong, Mercer Island, asked for additional detail about HB 1923, concerning increasing density. Murray said the version of the bill that passed the House would encourage cities to select from a menu options to increase density and affordability. She said the bill is expected to be significantly amended when it is considered by the Senate.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, asked for an update on legislation related to condominium liability reform. Murray said that two bills, SB 5334 and HB 1576, have been approved in their houses of origin and continue to move forward during the 2019 session.

8. Initiative 976

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on a proposed initiative to the legislature, I-976, and its potential impacts on state and local transportation revenue and mobility projects. He said that SCA is looking for direction from PIC members on how SCA should engage in the issue if at all.

Parry said I-976, sponsored by Tim Eyman, was filed in March of 2018 as an initiative to the legislature to repeal, reduce, and remove authority to impose a range of state and local taxes, fees, and other charges relating to vehicles. If passed, the I-976 would reduce funds for state and local government transportation projects by over \$700 million in the 2019-2020 biennium and more than \$4.2 billion in the next 10 years. This includes an estimated annual loss of at least \$124 million in established Transportation Benefit Districts. In addition, the measure would eliminate nearly \$7 billion in Sound Transit Revenues forecast through 2041.

Parry said I-976 would impact the following state and local funding sources:

- Repeal the authority for Transportation Benefit Districts (TBDs) to impose any vehicle license fee, including voter-approved license fees, eliminating this as a local funding option (TBDs would still be authorized to impose a 0.2% sales tax with voter approval). Thirteen cities in King County have TBDs that are funded at least in part by MVET;
- Repeal the authority for Regional Transit Authorities (Sound Transit) to impose a motor vehicle excise taxes (MVET);
- Repeal the authority for Public Transportation Benefit Areas to impose an MVET for passenger ferry service and for Sound Transit
- Limit all other vehicle license and registration fees to \$30, including the electric vehicle fee, commercial trailer and snowmobile fees, and weight-based fees for vehicles up to 10,000 pounds;
- Repeal the 0.3% tax on motor vehicle retail sales

In addition, I-976 would require the retirement or refinancing of all Sound Transit bonds that have MVET revenue pledged to them. The agency indicates this will likely lead to other fund sources Sound Transit collects being diverted away from local projects to repay bonds that are currently being repaid with MVET funds.

Parry said that SCA was looking for information from PIC members on potential impacts of I-976 on their communities and any next steps that should be taken by SCA.

Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw, expressed concern about the impacts to Enumclaw and said the city would lose ongoing project funding that has allowed the city to complete projects for which they have received significant public feedback in support.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, said that I-976 would impact many cities negatively. She said that the TBD in Lake Forest Park is \$40 and that without this funding tool, as a small residential city with limited resources, funding road projects would take away from general fund resources.

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson stated that many SCA Board members have expressed concerns about the impact to cities from the initiative. She said she would appreciate PIC members discussing I-976 impacts with their councils and staff to provide feedback on whether SCA should be engaged moving forward. She noted that SCA has not taken positions on ballot measures in the past.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, asked if there would be a PIC or Board action with regard to I-976. Dawson said that SCA would like input from the PIC as to whether SCA should consider any action.

Councilmember Dennis Robertson, Tukwila, said that Tukwila would be impacted negatively by I-976 and that limiting mobility in the region makes it more difficult to connect housing to jobs.

Council President Tola Marts, Issaquah, said that extending light rail to Issaquah is one of the last projects currently planned as a part of ST3 and that the city has made commitments to growth based on the expectation light rail will be extended to the city.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, said that the passage of I-976 would have a large negative impact on the region's economy.

Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw, noted that Enumclaw is not within the Sound Transit boundary and that it is unfortunate that eliminating TBD funding that is important to small cities was wrapped-up in the discussion with funding for Sound Transit.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, said that PIC members should go back to their cities to discuss the issue and at PIC in April be prepared to discuss whether SCA should take a position on I-976. He noted that SCA has not taken positions on initiatives in the past and that this should be taken into consideration.

Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, said that if PIC elects not to recommend taking a position, SCA may instead have a role in communicating facts about what the impacts of I-976 would be.

9. Challenge Seattle Middle-Income Housing Initiative

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that in January, [Challenge Seattle](#) launched an affordable middle-income housing initiative with the release of a white paper titled [The Invisible Crisis: A Call to Action on Middle-Income Housing Affordability](#).

The report identifies the lack of affordable housing for middle-income families and individuals as an "invisible crisis," and offers recommendations to both the public and private sectors to support the development of affordable middle-income housing. The data and research

provided in the report are intended to inform efforts to lead on the issue and build public support for action.

In total, the Call to Action recommends 15 actions they identify as having the greatest ability to reduce the cost to build affordable workforce housing. The report argues that “for the private sector, the focus should be on providing low-cost capital, land, and other investments,” and that “for the public sector, donating land and adopting smart policies and regulations will break down barriers and incent the creation of more middle-income housing.”

From the private sector, Microsoft has pledged to commit \$500 million to address the crisis. The company has said that \$225 million will be loaned at below-market interest rates for workforce housing development initially focused on the Eastside and targeting households earning between \$62,000 and \$124,000 per year. An additional \$250 million will go toward market rate loans for affordable housing construction throughout King County targeting households earning 60% of Area Median Income, or about \$48,000 for a two-person household. And, \$25 million will be provided through philanthropic grants to address homelessness.

For the public sector, Challenge Seattle has asked cities to pledge to consider a variety of land use and regulatory recommendations within the report. While the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force Five-Year Action Plan considered recommendations to support housing affordable to a wider range of incomes – including very low income (below 30% Area Median Income) – the proposals included in the Call to Action are consistent with strategies identified in the Action Plan to reduce the cost of market rate housing.

Dawson said that nine cities signed-on to the commitment prior to the release of the report at the request of Challenge Seattle and several more have since stated their commitment or are considering doing so. She said that Challenge Seattle asked SCA to consider taking a policy position in support of the initiative and asked for feedback from PIC members.

Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, said that an SCA position could go beyond encouraging cities to take action to address affordable housing and could include recommended actions that could be taken by the county and state. He noted that many of the regulations and fees that impact development are controlled by the state government.

Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw, said that the cost of housing is making it especially difficult for those starting out. He said that impact fees and permit costs make it difficult to build housing that could be purchased by middle-income households.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, said that this is a great opportunity for SCA to emphasize the importance of the issue and to encourage others to join the effort.

Deputy Mayor Austin Bell, Burien, said that he agrees with considering recommending an SCA position in support of the Call to Action at the April PIC meeting.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, said that she would take the issue back to the city for discussion, and agreed that it is important to speak on the issue with one voice.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, noted that the City of Redmond has already signed-on to support the Call to Action and that he agrees with PIC considering a position in support at its April meeting.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, that SCA staff draft a position in support of the Challenge Seattle Middle-Income Housing Initiative for consideration by PIC at its April meeting.

Chair Prince asked if there was further discussion.

Councilmember Dennis Robertson, Tukwila, said that he felt it was likely that his city would be supportive.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said that he would discuss the issue with his council and that it was likely they would be supportive.

Mayor Elaine Cooke, Woodinville, complimented the work of the King County Affordable Housing Task Force. She asked how this proposal fits in with that work. Dawson noted that the two could be seen as complimentary if done well.

Deputy Mayor Christie Malchow, Sammamish, said the City of Sammamish has signed-on in support and that the proposed statement of support provides options for cities to implement tools that are the best fit for their communities. Not all cities will do all seven items. What works in each jurisdiction may be different. She encouraged members to view this regionally, rather than in the silo of what can be done individually in a city.

Chair Prince noted that there was a motion on the table and asked if there was further discussion. **There was no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.**

10. King County Parks Levy Renewal

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the renewal of the King County Parks Levy and changes to the proposal under consideration by the King County Council since the PIC was briefed in January.

Parry said the feedback member cities have provided is that they did not want to see a large increase to the levy out of concern for tax fatigue among voters, and to ensure that funding for cities that flows through the levy is as flexible as possible. He said the levy renewal proposed by County Executive Constantine generally moved in the direction SCA has been advocating.

Parry noted that the proposed increase in the levy to support the Land Conservation Initiative was reduced from what was originally under consideration, keeping the levy rate lower overall. City passthrough funding is proposed to double from \$29 million in the current levy period to \$60 million, and that these funds remain flexible for city park uses. SCA staff is also working with the County to make other funding available to cities in the levy as flexible as possible.

Specifically, there is funding in the levy set aside for “city open space” acquisition that SCA has advocated should be available for cities to use toward active recreation as well.

Parry said the Regional Policy Committee, which includes SCA representatives, is expected to take action on the levy proposal at its meeting on March 28. From there, the Council could approve the final levy, or make amendments to the proposal which would then be considered by the Regional Policy Committee at a future meeting date. Final approval to place the levy on the August 2019 ballot is expected to occur by the end of April 2019.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, noted that he was part of a group of SCA board members that recently met with King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci to provide SCA’s perspective on the levy.

Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, said that the City of Kirkland would like to see more commitment in the levy to specific projects, especially with regard to regional trails. He said they would also like to see SCA representation on any boards formed to oversee the allocation of grant funds within the levy.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, noted that her message to the county has been to ensure that there is not unnecessary process or strings attached to the funds available to cities from the levy. She agreed with Nixon that the levy includes an illustrative list of regional trails projects and more could be done to commit to specific projects to give certainty to voters.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, said that he represents SCA on the Regional Policy Committee. He said the levy supports regional facilities that benefit more residents than the city or part of the county where that facility is located. He said there has been really good involvement from cities in developing the levy. He said the levy would be moving forward quickly, and encouraged SCA members to provide any additional feedback on the levy to staff.

11. VISION 2050

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the release of the [Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement](#) (Draft SEIS) for the update to VISION 2050, the region’s plan for future growth, for public comment. Parry said that all cities are facing challenges that are impacted by growth, and that the Draft SEIS provides cities with a good opportunity to take a big picture look at how the region is planning to grow and what unique impacts that might have on different cities.

Between now and 2050, the region is projected to grow by 1.8 million people and 1.2 million new jobs. The Draft SEIS includes analysis of three unique scenarios for how that growth could be accommodated for their performance and environmental impacts. The three growth scenarios modeled in the Draft SEIS are referred to as: Stay the Course, Transit Focused Growth, and Reset Urban Growth. Each build from the existing framework of VISION 2040, which seeks to focus growth within already urbanized areas – particularly in centers – developed in walkable, compact, and transit-oriented communities.

This summer, following the public comment period on the Draft SEIS, the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) will work to select one of the alternatives or a hybrid of more than one alternative that will form the basis of any changes to the Regional Growth Strategy in VISION. The formal comment period for the Draft SEIS will run through April 29, 2019.

A draft of the full update to VISION 2050, including any changes to the multicounty planning policies to support the selected growth alternative, is projected to be released in July 2019. Final adoption of the updated plan is slated for the Spring of 2020.

Cities are encouraged to review the alternative growth scenarios presented in the Draft EIS and their potential impacts, and provide input to PSRC as well as SCA staff and representatives on the GMPB as they work toward developing a preferred alternative.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, asked for additional information on the timing of the update to VISION and how that relates to cities' comprehensive planning processes. (*Note: a summary of major planning milestones can be found linked [here](#).*)

Councilmember Benson Wong, Mercer Island, asked if there was any flexibility with the timeline to respond to the Draft SEIS. Parry said the formal comment period had already been extended by a month, and that he did not expect PSRC to extend that period further. He said that SCA members could also provide feedback throughout the development of the update to VISION to SCA staff and SCA representatives on the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board.

12. Homelessness Response System

SCA Senior Policy Analyst Christa Valles gave a brief update of activities related to the City of Seattle's and King County's interest in consolidating their efforts to end homelessness by moving their related staff and funding sources into a newly formed agency. Several consultants have been engaged to help inform these efforts. SCA staff are keeping an eye on any issues and decision points that SCA members will want to weigh in on. Valles apologized for the cancellation of a consultant briefing that week to SCA members due to scheduling conflicts and that an April briefing on the consultant report would be possible. Valles noted more information was included in her memo. There were no questions.

13. King County Charter Review Commission

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the work of the King County Charter Review Commission. He noted that several topics being considered by the Commission were highlighted in the PIC packet. The Commission is still pulling together more detail on each of these topics and drafting background papers, so additional information is forthcoming. He said that SCA would continue to monitor the work of the Commission, but that staff have not heard from cities that SCA should be proactively engaged with the process.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, suggested the Commission could consider making a change to the Charter Committees (Regional Policy Committee, Regional Water Quality Committee, and Regional Transit Committee) to set term limits for chairing those committees.

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson said that she had heard concern from the City of Kent about a proposal to reduce the role of the Charter Committees. She encouraged members to give feedback that the role of cities on these committees is important.

14. Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

SCA Policy Analyst Cynthia Foley reported that an additional public hearing on the plan will be offered on March 20 in Renton. She noted that Executive Director Dawson had already reported updates in the approval process at the beginning of the meeting.

15. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the results of ballot measures in the February 12 election, and on upcoming measures that will go to voters. Parry highlighted that the Seattle School District's proposed operations levy and capital levy both passed; and, the Renton School District's proposed operations levy was approved, but a measure concerning proposed capital bonds did not receive enough total votes to qualify despite receiving more than 62.5% of votes in favor.

16. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that there would be a pre-PIC workshop on April 10 at 6:00 PM at Renton City Hall on King County Metro Innovation and Mobility with Metro General Manager Rob Gannon. A pre-PIC workshop in May is being planned with Ann Macfarlane of Jurassic Parliament, and a workshop is being planned in July with PSRC staff to present on the update to VISION 2050.

Councilmember Dennis Robertson, Tukwila, suggested that climate change could be a presentation topic in 2019. He noted that the growth may accelerate in the Northwest as climate change impacts other regions of the United States.

17. Informational Items

Chair Prince noted that there was a memo in the packet on the Responsible Recycling Taskforce Recommendations.

18. Upcoming events

Chair Prince said there will be an SCA Networking Dinner on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at 5:30 PM at the Renton Pavilion and Event Center. The guest speaker will be Attorney General Bob Ferguson. The event sponsor is Inslee Best.

Chair Prince said the next PIC meeting will be held on April 10, 2019 at 7:00 PM at Renton City Hall.

19. For the Good of the Order

Chair Prince asked if there were any comments for the good of the order. Seeing none, Chair Prince closed this portion of the agenda.

20. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
March 13, 2019**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	Bill Thomas
Auburn	Nancy Backus	John Holman
Beaux Arts Village	Tom Stowe	Aletha Howes
Bellevue	John Stokes	Janice Zahn
Black Diamond	Janie Edelman	Tamie Deady
Bothell	James McNeal	Davina Duerr
Burien	Austin Bell	Nancy Tosta
Carnation	Dustin Green	Kim Lisk
Clyde Hill	Barre Seibert	George Martin
Covington	Fran Hollums	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.
Des Moines	Traci Buxton	Matt Mahoney
Duvall	Michelle Hogg	Jennifer Knaplund
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Tony Binion
Federal Way	Lydia Assefa-Dawson	Martin Moore
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Chris Reh
Kenmore	David Baker	Nigel Herbig
Kent	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
Kirkland	Toby Nixon	Jay Arnold
Lake Forest Park	Catherine Stanford	Tom French
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Linda Johnson
Medina	Sheree Wen	Alex Morcos
Mercer Island	Benson Wong	Tom Acker
Milton	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Mary Tompkins
Newcastle	Allen Dauterman	Carol Simpson
Normandy Park	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Jonathan Chicquette
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Ken Hearing
Pacific	Leanne Guier	David Storaasli
Redmond	Hank Margeson	Angela Birney
Renton	Ed Prince	Armondo Pavone
Sammamish	Christie Malchow	Pam Stuart
SeaTac	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Keith Scully
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Katherine Ross	Matt Larson
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Dennis Robertson
Woodinville	James Evans	Elaine Cook
Yarrow Point	Dicker Cahill	
SCA	Deanna Dawson Brian Parry Christa Valles	Cynthia Foley Dana Almberg Caitlin Magee

Voting members are highlighted. Cities represented are **bolded**.