1. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Ed Prince, Renton, Chair  
   2 minutes

2. **Public Comment** – Ed Prince, Renton, Chair  
   10 minutes

3. **Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2019 Meeting**  
   Page 4  
   2 minutes

4. **Chair’s Report** – Ed Prince, Renton, Chair  
   5 minutes

5. **Executive Director’s Report** – Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director  
   10 minutes

6. **Affordable Housing Committee Appointment**  
   ACTION  
   Page 17  
   Ross Loudenback, North Bend, PIC Nominating Committee Chair  
   5 minutes

7. **2019 State Legislative Session**  
   UPDATE  
   Page 18  
   Briahna Murray, Consultant  
   15 minutes

8. **Homelessness Response Governance and System Recommendations**  
   UPDATE  
   Page 21  
   Christa Valles, Senior Policy Analyst  
   15 minutes

9. **Initiative 976**  
   UPDATE  
   Page 26  
   Brian Parry, Policy Director  
   10 minutes

10. **King Conservation District Proposed 2020-2024 Rates**  
    UPDATE  
    Page 30  
    Christa Valles, Senior Policy Analyst  
    10 minutes
11. **Levies and Ballot Measures in King County**  
**UPDATE**  
Page 32  
Brian Parry, Policy Director

12. **Potential Upcoming SCA Issues**  
**UPDATE**  
Page 34  
Brian Parry, Policy Director

13. **Informational Items**  
a. **King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Update**

14. **Upcoming Events**  
a. SCA Networking Dinner (Legislators Panel – 2019 Session Recap, sponsor Gordon Thomas Honeywell) – Wednesday, May 22, 2019 – 5:30 to 8:00 PM – Renton Pavilion and Event Center  
b. SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, June 12, 2019 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM (6:00 PM Pre PIC Workshop- Metro Regional Service Planning) – Renton City Hall

15. **For the Good of the Order**

16. **Adjourn**
Sound Cities Association

Mission
To provide leadership through advocacy, education, mutual support and networking to cities in King County as they act locally and partner regionally to create livable vital communities.

Vision
Capitalizing on the diversity of our cities to lead policy change to make the Puget Sound region the best in the world.

Values
SCA aspires to create an environment that fosters mutual support, respect, trust, fairness and integrity for the greater good of the association and its membership.

SCA operates in a consistent, inclusive, and transparent manner that respects the diversity of our members and encourages open discussion and risk-taking.
1. Welcome and Roll Call
PIC Vice Chair Mayor Christie Malchow, Sammamish, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 28 cities had representation (Attachment A). Guests present included Councilmember Davina Duerr, Bothell (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Martin Moore, Federal Way (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Victoria Hunt, Issaquah; Simon Farretta, King County Council staff; Joyce Nichols, City of Bellevue staff; Doug McIntyre, City of Sammamish staff; Sarah Ogier, City of Bellevue staff; Alex Herzog, City of Woodinville staff; Bob Burns, DNRP Deputy Director; Dick Ryon, King Conservation District Chair; Bea Covington, King Conservation District Executive Director; Dierdre Grace, King Conservation District staff.

2. Public Comment
Vice Chair Malchow asked if any member of the public would like to provide public comment. Seeing none, Vice Chair Malchow closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the March 13, 2019 PIC Minutes
Vice Chair Malchow asked if there were any amendments to the March 13, 2019 PIC minutes. Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, to approve the March 13, 2019 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair’s Report
Vice Chair Malchow noted that the agenda for the evening is very full and asked that members limit themselves to one chance to speak during the discussion of items. She also reminded members that only the voting representative for the meeting should be at the table and participating in discussion unless specifically called upon by the chair.

5. Executive Director’s Report
SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that SCA had been named “Organization of the Year” by the Municipal League. She invited PIC members to attend the awards celebration on May 9. Tickets can be obtained at bit.ly/civicawards2019.

Dawson noted that SCA was hiring for a new Administrative Services Manager. Until a hire is made, administrative questions can be directed to her attention.

Dawson noted that the King County Council had voted on changes to the Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan since the last PIC meeting. Amendments included:
• Requiring King County to maintain a 1,000-foot buffer from the property line of the landfill;
• Requiring King County to develop a “bird management plan” which will be updated annually;
• Requiring a report on lifts and covers to limit methane gas emitted from landfill;
• Clarifying language on the maximum height of the landfill, as specified in a prior settlement agreement with neighbors;
• Requiring the King County Executive to work with regional partners to develop a plan for selecting the next disposal method, with a report due by December 31, 2021; and
• Looking at mitigation to the County for impact on roads from the landfill.


Dawson invited members to attend an upcoming SCA Networking Event featuring a panel of legislators to recap the legislative session on May 22, 2019. She thanked Gordon Thomas Honeywell for sponsoring the event.

Dawson referred members to the “Did You Know” item in the packet, noting that 33 of SCA’s 38 cities had taken action to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

6. 2019 State Legislative Session

Briahna Murray, Vice President of Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs, provided an update on SCA legislative priorities (a copy of latest SCA Legislative Report provided by Murray from April 15, 2019, can be found here). She began her report with updates related to affordable housing legislation. Murray noted House Bill 1406, which would authorize local governments to impose a .02% credit against state sales tax to fund affordable housing, has been designated as necessary to implement the budget and is not subject to the legislative cutoff. She noted that there is an effort to add elements of House Bill 1590 into House Bill 1406. She said this would allow counties and cities to impose a .05% sales tax increase councilmanically. She noted that legislation continuing funding for the Multifamily Tax Property Exemption is dead.

Murray reported that a small transportation package is being considered that could be funded by a three to five cent gas tax or some type of carbon fee. She also stated that House Bill 2132, which would authorize tolling on the I-405/SR 167 corridor, continues to be debated among legislators and is uncertain to pass this session.

Candice Bock, Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Director of Government Affairs, reported that an AWC budget alert was recently sent to city members. She noted that both proposed house and senate budgets include funding for 19 new classes at the Basic Law Enforcement Academy – a priority for cities in the 2019 session. Bock said that the proposed House budget would redirect project repayment funds away from the Public Works Assistance Account to fund education. She said this would undermine the ability for the Public Works Assistance Account to be a revolving fund that is sustainable. She noted that House Bill 1390, which would
increase PERS 1 COLA’s by 3% is still being considered and pass additional costs on to cities. She stated that any increase would be in addition to the 1.5% COLA increase granted to PERS 1 retirees in 2018, and amounts to an additional cost of $12 million in the 2019-21 biennium, and more than $65 million over the ten-year period. This would be on top of the $175 million local governments already pay in PERS 1 unfunded liability costs per year. She noted the PERS 1 fund was underfunded, even without the increase.

7. Affordable Housing Committee Appointment
Action on the Affordable Housing Committee Appointment was deferred to the May PIC meeting as the initial time frame for applications was not sufficient.

8. Challenge Seattle Middle-Income Housing Initiative
SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson gave a report on the Challenge Seattle Middle-Income Housing Initiative. She reminded members that at the last PIC meeting, the PIC had voted unanimously to bring back a possible SCA position in support of the need for, and for cities playing a role in, the creation of more middle-income affordable housing.

Since the last PIC, all SCA cities were invited to participate in a meeting with Challenge Seattle CEO Chris Gregoire and Microsoft President Brad Smith, which was held on April 2, 2019.

At that meeting, Brad Smith explained that Challenge Seattle CEOs had identified affordable housing as a top priority not because of the need for more affordable housing for their employees, but because you cannot have a vibrant community without affordable housing at all income levels, including middle income. He noted that there had been little to no focus on affordable middle-income housing, and no incentives for its creation. Microsoft and Challenge Seattle looked to cities and regions around the country and the world that are struggling with this issue. They found nowhere that had solved the challenge, but from that research they determined that in order to succeed, a from the ground up public/private partnership would be necessary.

In this spirit, Chris Gregoire approached mayors from nine of SCA’s largest cities, to see if there was interest in pursuing such a partnership. All nine mayors expressed strong interest, and since then three additional cities have signed on in support

Based on this initial support, Microsoft pledged what has been described as the largest ever corporate financial commitment on a civic issue. Both Brad Smith and Chris Gregoire noted that we have a culture of working together to solve challenges, and that will be needed if we are to see results. Brad Smith described this investment as a “vote of confidence in the mayors of the Sound Cities.”

The hope is that if SCA leaders demonstrate public sector leadership on the issue, other Challenge Seattle corporate leaders, and other philanthropic partners in the region, will follow Microsoft’s lead and put in additional capital to address this challenge.
Dawson noted that in the packet of materials was a PowerPoint presentation given by Brad Smith, detailing some of the challenges relating to the need for more middle-income affordable housing, and the threat to quality of life in the region if no action is taken.

Dawson opened the floor to questions.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, moved, seconded by Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, to recommend the following policy position to the SCA Board of Directors:

*SCA believes that healthy, vibrant communities are ones that offer affordable housing options for families and individuals all along the income spectrum.*

*In recent years, the speed of economic and population growth in our region has outpaced the growth in housing supply, creating a shortage of affordable housing—pricing out too many households and threatening the fabric of our community.*

*We will continue our work to address homelessness and low-income housing and we will also work to address the growing crisis of the lack of affordability of middle-income housing in the area.*

*Too many of our teachers can no longer afford to live near the schools where they teach. Too many nurses, teachers, police and other first responders are moving out of the communities they serve to find homes they can reasonably afford. Homelessness continues to rise, and our local workforce is commuting from farther and farther away—worsening congestion and eroding our sense of community.*

*To address this problem, we intend to do our part to break down barriers and provide incentives to substantially increase the supply of quality housing for all households in our community.*

*We will consider opportunities to advance housing affordability in the region, including but not limited to:*

1. *Making available at no cost, at deep discount, or for long-term lease, underutilized publicly-owned properties,*
2. *Updating zoning and land use regulations to increase density near current and planned public transit,*
3. *Reducing or waiving parking requirements in transit corridors to help reduce overall development costs,*
4. *Reducing or waiving impact and other development-related fees,*
5. *Streamlining and accelerating the permitting process for low- and middle-income housing projects to improve developer certainty,*
6. *Providing tax exemptions and credits to incent low- and middle-income housing development,* and
7. *Updating building codes to promote more housing growth and innovative, low-cost development.*
We believe that these efforts, combined with the support of the greater community, will make our region more affordable for all households and will advance quality of life throughout the region.

Vice Chair Malchow asked if there was any discussion.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, said that Shoreline was not supportive of the policy position as written. He said SCA doesn’t have the authority to consider many of the actions recommended in the Challenge Seattle Call to Action, and that this authority sits with individual cities. He said Shoreline is also concerned about the proposal to consider reducing impact fees, and that doing so would hurt the city’s ability to provide for parks, open spaces, and transportation infrastructure to maintain the city’s livability. He said the city does agree broadly with the goals of the policy statement.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, said that she generally agrees with the concept that growth should pay for growth, but that cities have to be flexible to address the affordable housing crisis. She asked for clarification about how SCA adopting a position in support would help the effort. Dawson said that Challenge Seattle and Microsoft and hoping that a show of broad support from cities will raise the profile of the discussion and encourage others in the private sector to step forward and invest in solutions.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said that Issaquah has signed onto the statement of support and that the city has already adopted some of the strategies proposed. He said affordable housing is a huge problem, not just in King County, and that it demands a broad response and jurisdictions being on the same page. He said that he supported the policy statement even if his city would not necessarily be implementing all of the recommendations.

Dawson said the original proposed statement in support of the Call to Action was developed in consultation with the nine mayors, to make clear that it was a commitment to consider a menu of options to address affordable housing, and that there is not a one-size-fits-all solution.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, spoke in support of the proposed policy position. He said SCA cities need to be leaders in addressing the affordability crisis. He said the statement is clear that it contains recommendations that can be considered, and not requirements.

Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw, said the language of the proposed policy was clear and non-binding. He said there are some suggestions on the list that Enumclaw may never implement, but that it is important to take action to ensure the most vulnerable people in our communities aren’t bearing the burden of the region’s growth by being unable to find an affordable home.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, said that it is important to look at opportunities to ensure housing is available to the full income spectrum and that the region needs to take a proactive approach.
Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, said the important thing to remember about the proposed policy position is that it is not a prescriptive list and not intended to force any city into adopting policies that they do not support. She said adopting an SCA policy position would show leadership as a united organization and help bring more private sector partners to the table.

Councilmember Michelle Hogg, Duvall, said the option of considering reducing impact fees raised some concerns and questioned how cities can guarantee any reduced costs are passed on to the homebuyer.

Councilmember Benson Wong, Mercer Island, said that his council discussed the statement and that a majority were supportive of its tone. He said he agreed with Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, that SCA itself did not have the authority to implement the policies being considered but could encourage members to make that commitment.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, said that she appreciated the non-mandatory nature of the statement that jurisdictions would consider opportunities to address affordable housing.

Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, said that the Mayor of Bothell has signed the statement in support of the initiative and that the council was also supportive. He said he is excited about moving the conversation forward and having the private sector at the table. He said that youth and seniors are at particular risk and should be a focus of regional efforts. He said his experience in construction and the homebuilding market made it clear to him that costs and fees imposed by jurisdictions are passed on to buyers.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, said that Redmond is looking at each of the recommended policies in the statement as well as other actions the city could take to lower the cost of building middle-income housing. He said he supported the statement as written and was concerned about watering it down with any changes.

Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, said that he sees taking this position as an extension of the recent work of the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force, which he co-chaired. He said we have an extreme shortage of housing available across a wide range of incomes. He said he was concerned that young people will never be able to afford to live in our communities unless the region takes action.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, suggested the policy statement could be wordsmithed by the board if necessary.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, moved, seconded by Councilmember Tom Stowe, Beaux Arts Village, to strike the proposed policy position and replace with the following:

SCA believes that healthy, vibrant communities are ones that offer affordable housing options for families and individuals all along the income spectrum.

SCA supports the efforts of Challenge Seattle to address housing affordability in our region. SCA encourages elected officials across King County and local partners...
to consider opportunities to make our region more affordable for all households and to advance the quality of life throughout the region.

Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold, Kirkland, said that he would not support the proposed amendment. He said it is important to make a strong statement about how the region will address affordable housing going forward.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said that his city did not feel that the initial policy position suggested that cities would implement each of the recommendations but rather that they would consider them. He said that having the proposals listed as examples of the types of actions under consideration is important to communicate.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, spoke against the amendment. He said he appreciated the intent of the proposed language but that it was important to retain the remainder of the statement as well.

Vice Chair Malchow asked if there was further discussion on the amendment to the motion. Seeing none, she called for a vote. The motion to amend failed with the city of Shoreline and the Town of Beaux Arts Village voting yes, and the remaining 26 cities voting no.

Vice Chair Malchow asked if there was further discussion on the original motion. Seeing note, she called for a vote. The motion passed with 25 cities voting yes, and the city of Shoreline and Town of Beaux Arts Village voting no. The city of Woodinville abstained from the vote.

9. Initiative 976
SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that at the March PIC meeting members were briefed about I-976 and asked to provide feedback on impacts if any to their cities, and how, if at all, SCA should be involved if a ballot measure moves forward.

Parry said I-976 will eliminate or significantly reduce several state and local funding sources including elimination of the authority for cities to include any vehicle licensing fees as a funding source for Transportation Benefit Districts (TBD’s). This would eliminate the funding source for 13 city TBD’s in King County. I-976 would also repeal the authority for Sound Transit to collect license fees, repeal sales tax on vehicle sales, and reduce or eliminate fees on electric vehicles and vehicle weight fees.

Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien, said I-976 would have a significant impact on the city’s transportation revenues and that she encouraged SCA to consider its options for taking a position.

Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw, said that his city council supports SCA considering taking a position. He said the initiative would gut their Transportation Benefit District and their ability to provide needed transportation improvements.
Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, said that in his opinion taking a position on a ballot measure would be outside of SCA’s role. He said he would prefer to see SCA be a neutral source of facts and information rather than be seen as advocating for a position.

Councilmember Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie, noted potential impacts to the city’s Transportation Benefit District and that she would be supportive of SCA providing neutral information about impacts.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, said a potential ballot measure would have a major impact on the region, and that she would be supportive of SCA considering taking a position.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, noted potential impacts to cities and that members should continue to consider the right role for SCA.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, noted potential impacts on light rail reaching Issaquah.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, said she had concerns with taking a position and that SCA’s focus should be on providing information.

Executive Director Deanna Dawson said staff would bring the issue back to a future PIC meeting to continue the discussion.

10. **King Conservation District Proposed Work Plan and Budget**

SCA Senior Policy Analyst Christa Valles reported on the King Conservation District (KCD) proposed work plan and budget proposals under consideration for 2020-2024. KCD collects a flat fee from landowners based on parcel type in King County. Valles noted tables on page 53 of the April PIC packet showing the current rate structure for 2015-2019 as well as the proposed rates for the 2020-2024 period.

KCD is proposing an average rates and charges increase of $3.70 per parcel per year, generating $2.8 million per year over and above current rates and charges revenues, which would bring KCD’s total rates and charges budget to $8.9 million per year for the 2020-2024 period. Valles noted that KCD receives other revenues for its programming, mostly grants, but in recent years it has also supported its budget with approximately $2 million of its reserves and $1.6 million from a lawsuit settlement.

Valles said that the KCD Advisory Committee has not yet voted or endorsed the proposed increase. At the March 2019 KCD Advisory Committee, members requested to see other rate scenarios, including an inflation only option, and inflation plus some additional programming option.

Valles concluded her presentation and then introduced Councilmember Victoria Hunt, Issaquah, who serves on the KCD Advisory Committee. Victoria read a statement of support for KCD’s programs written by a subset of KCD Advisory Committee members (Attachment B).

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, asked Councilmember Hunt if the KCD Advisory Committee members had received information on the other rate options outlined in the SCA staff memo. Councilmember Hunt said the KCD Advisory members had requested
additional rate options following KCD’s presentation at the March pre-PIC workshop and comments made by other SCA members in attendance, but that the information has not yet been reviewed by the KCD Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, said he was concerned about the rate of increase being considered by the KCD. He encouraged KCD advisory members to identify the top priorities for funding and asked for more information to clarify the success of their programs.

Valles said KCD was requesting to add an Evaluation specialist to their staff improve their ability to measure the impacts of their programs.

Councilmember Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie, said her city definitely benefits from the forest management and Firewise programs, and these programs benefit the rural area around Snoqualmie as well as urban residents.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, noted he is on the Advisory Committee as a representative of Bellevue, and caucuses with the other SCA members. Councilmember Stokes said he appreciated the views shared by Councilmember Hunt. He said there has been an active working group with many stakeholders who have worked hard to develop these programs and show how they work, and suggested bringing to a future PIC meeting additional data to show the proposed programs work and benefit cities. He said that while the rate of increase under consideration may be a high percentage that it is low in terms of actual dollars and that the benefits of the programs provided by KCD are significant.

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson noted that the KCD Advisory Committee was formed in response to the last review process that occurred in 2013-14.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, said that the City of Shoreline has adopted a blanket policy statement that says Shoreline will not support any proposed rate increases greater than inflation. He said that he would also like to see the KCD consider changes to the manner in which its Board of Supervisors are elected to provide greater transparency and public involvement.

Councilmember Susan Boundy-Sanders, Woodinville, said that KCD’s drainage assistance program has helped Woodinville reduce polluted run-off from farmlands.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, said that Auburn has benefited in numerous ways from KCD. She said that much of the increase in rates being considered by KCD can be attributed to inflation.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, said that she appreciated the meeting with KCD leadership and that she would like more information about the funding scenarios under consideration. She noted the important work of the KCD, but stressed the need to be fiscally responsible.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, asked whether this would come back to PIC and if there was time to take action on a position relative to the proposed rate increase.

Valles said the next KCD advisory committee meeting was on April 17 and members may be asked to make a decision on whether to support a proposed rate increase then. The King County Executive needs to transmit legislation to the King County Council no later than July and
the KCD Supervisors also have to take this up and make a recommendation to the King County Executive, so the timeline is tight.

Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien, stated she would support SCA taking a position on the rates if time allowed.

11. King County Parks Levy Renewal
SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the proposed ordinance being considered at the King County Council to place a proposition to renew the King County Parks on the August 2019 ballot. PIC was briefed on the proposal from the County Executive in March, and the proposal was since amended by the Regional Policy Committee.

Parry said while the total levy is proposed to grow, the funding available to cities is also increased and SCA advocated successfully to ensure funds available to cities are as flexible as possible to support a wide range of projects.

Parry said On February 21, King County Executive Dow Constantine transmitted Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084, which would place on the August 6, 2019 ballot a proposition authorizing a six-year property tax levy that would generate approximately $744 million. On March 28, following intensive negotiations, the Regional Policy Committee recommended a revised levy package that would generate approximately $810 million over six years. Changes adopted by the RPC affecting the overall levy total include funding to support two new grant programs proposed by members of the County Council: $44 million was added to the levy to support publicly owned pool capital improvement projects; and, $22 million was added to support integrated floodplain management projects. Additional changes adopted by the RPC increased the flexibility of grant funds for which cities are eligible as advocated for by SCA; provided additional commitment related to funded trail projects; and, made modest revisions among spending categories.

Parry said the proposed levy rate is 18.32-cents per $1,000 of assessed value and would cost the owner of a $600,000 home approximately $110 per year. By comparison, the current levy was approved at a rate of 18.77-cents per $1,000 of assessed value, with this rate decreasing over time due to increasing assessed values. All told, the owner of a home valued at $600,000 would see year-over-year increase of approximately $31 in cost of the levy from 2019 to 2020.

12. Homelessness Governance & System Recommendations
SCA Senior Policy Analyst Christa Valles updated members on developments related to Seattle and King County’s proposal to consolidate their homeless funding and staffing into a single agency. She said that the major questions about governance, funding, legal form of new entity, staffing, and more have not yet been resolved. The Seattle City Council has been receiving regular briefings and the King County Council (KCC) has also been briefed on progress.

SCA Executive Director, Deanna Dawson, said the King County Executive has offered to provide the KCC with bi-weekly briefings to the Committee of the Whole. King County staff have also offered to meet with SCA members who participated on the Executive Leadership Group, including Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor John Chelminiak, Bellevue; and Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton.
13. Vision 2050
SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that PSRC is seeking feedback on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft SEIS) released on February 28, 2019 as part of the update to extend the region’s plan for growth – VISION 2040 – out to the year 2050.

The formal commend period for the Draft SEIS will run through April 29, 2019. Following public comment on the Draft SEIS, the GMPB will work to select a preferred growth pattern in Spring of 2019 with the goal of issuing a draft of the full update to VISION 2050 in July.

Parry said that cities are encouraged to review the alternative growth scenarios presented in the Draft SEIS 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.

Parry said that King County Executive Dow Constantine also drafted a comment letter and distributed a copy to PIC members for their information (Attachment C).

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, said the city would be sending a comment letter to PSRC that closely mirrored the draft letter provided by the County Executive.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, encouraged cities to share their comments with SCA staff so that they could be provided to SCA representatives on the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board. He said this would allow SCA representatives to advocate for cities more effectively.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said the City of Issaquah is holding a series of meetings to understand their options and develop their position.

14. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County
SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that the next election would be held on April 23 and would include several funding measures proposed by local schools and special purpose districts.

15. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues
SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson said the Pre-PIC Workshop in May would be with Ann Macfarlane of Jurassic Parliament and encouraged members to share any suggested topics.

16. Upcoming Events
SCA Networking Dinner (Legislators Panel – 2019 Session Recap, sponsor Gordon Thomas Honeywell) – Wednesday, May 22, 2019 – 5:30 to 8:00 PM – Renton Pavilion and Event Center

SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, May 8, 2019 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM (6:00 PM Pre-PIC Workshop with Ann Macfarlane of Jurassic Parliament) – Renton City Hall

17. For the Good of the Order
Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, said that the first meeting of the newly formed South King Housing and Homelessness Partnership was held on April 10 and that members were very excited about the new organization.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, agreed to provide the Did You Know item for May’s PIC meeting.

18. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.
## Public Issues Committee Meeting
### April 10, 2019

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<td>Algonia</td>
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<td>Brian Parry</td>
<td>Cynthia Foley</td>
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Voting members are highlighted. Cities represented are bolded.
As SCA representatives to the KCD Advisory Committee, we are supportive of KCD’s proposed scope of work for the 2020-2024 program period. Our support is based on the following:

1. Over the last year and a half, all of us have participated in KCD’s planning process, both through monthly Advisory Council meetings, and in some cases through extra sessions focused on specific program areas. We have developed greater understanding of the programs, and confidence in the KCD staff members who carry them out.

2. The new programs introduced in the current 5-year period have proved successful and have demonstrated demand for continuation in the next 5-year period.

3. Virtually all of KCD’s programs help build resilience to counter the effects of global warming. With some programs, like fire prevention, stream and lakeshore improvements, and forest health, this link is very direct.

4. Other programs like those aimed at agriculture and food systems also contribute to sustainability of land and water resources, and are important for expanding access to healthy food and teaching natural resource stewardship

Many KCD programs are aimed at member cities, and the KCD county-wide scope of work recognizes that our cities do not exist in isolation, and allows cities to benefit from conservation practices spread over the larger geographical area.

_In conclusion, the SCA representatives to the KCD Advisory Committee are supportive of KCD’s proposed scope of work for the 2020-2024 program period._

Susan Boundy-Sanders, City of Woodinville
Brenda Fincher, City of Kent
Victoria Hunt, City of Issaquah
Amy McHenry, City of Duvall
Mark Phillips, City of Lake Forest Park
Wendy Weiker, City of Mercer Island
King County and the cities in the county have been successfully implementing VISION 2040 by focusing the majority of growth into the cities and the Urban Growth Area (UGA), creating vibrant urban centers, protecting natural resource lands and rural areas, and focusing public investments to support efficient use of the land. The Central Puget Sound Region needs to continue to efficiently use its land and wisely focus its investment of public funds as we look to the future.

King County intends to stay on this pathway of creating a sustainable future for our residents. VISION 2050 should reinforce this successful foundation and focus on those issues that were not fully addressed in VISION 2040 to carry the region into the future.

VISION 2040 was approved in May, 2008 – before both Sound Transit 2 and Sound Transit 3 were approved resulting in a 116 mile regional light rail system upon completion. Additionally over the last several years the local transit agencies in the region have adopted long range plans which would implement VISION 2040. The preferred alternative for VISION 2050 must recognize the land use opportunities presented by the future regional transportation system that will be more transit-oriented than in 2008 while creating more opportunity for all of our current and future residents.

The growth pattern should maintain integrity of the Urban Growth Area
The continued success of planning in accordance with the Growth Management Act centers on directing growth to the existing UGA. This allows for the development of vibrant urban centers and an efficient transportation system while allowing for sustainable rural areas and protection of our natural resource lands. The Transit Focused Growth alternative performs best at keeping growth within the UGA.

- Transit Focused Growth directs 98% of growth to the UGA while Stay Course is at 95% and Reset Urban Growth at 94%.
- Transit Focused Growth results in 6% of growth within a ¼ mile of the UGA boundary while Stay the Course is at 9% and Reset Urban Growth at 10%.
The growth pattern should prioritize cities and centers for accommodating growth

Directing growth to our cities and centers presents the greatest opportunity for the largest number of residents while allowing the region to efficiently use public infrastructure. The Transit Focused Growth alternative performs the best at directing growth to the largest cities and centers.

- Metro and Core cities receive the most population growth in the Transit Focused Growth alternative.
- The Reset Urban Growth alternative directs growth away from the Metro and Core cities, although less so in King County since our growth pattern is more established.

The growth pattern should build on the opportunities and investment of the expanded transit network

The new growth pattern must acknowledge how the expansion of the transit network, both Sound Transit expansion and local transit systems, will guide us into the future. The Transit Focused Growth alternative, by definition, directs the most growth to locations within proximity to high capacity transit.

- The Transit Focused Growth alternative shows the greatest increase in transit trips with 84% of King County growth locating in proximity to transit.
- The Reset Urban Growth alternative locates only 61% of King County's growth in proximity to transit, which is even less than Stay the Course at 64%.

The growth pattern should advance racial and social equity as a cornerstone of the plan

Due to historic patterns of disinvestment and undervaluation, communities that are majority low income and Native American/Alaska Native, people of color, immigrants and refugees, and speak limited English will face substantial and disproportionate displacement pressure in all of the alternatives as the region continues to grow. Consequently and urgently, community-driven, place-based displacement and gentrification risk strategies must be included in VISION 2050. VISION 2050 must set minimum expectations for all jurisdictions within the region to implement these strategies to reduce the disproportionate burden on these communities and ensure equitable growth in our region, prioritizing quality of life improvements for communities most in need.

The Transit Focused Growth alternative locates the most housing and jobs within proximity to high capacity transit, which will create the greatest opportunity for all residents along with the right strategies and implementation measures. This option is the best pathway for equitable growth as long as the region plans for housing affordability and an inclusive economy. VISION 2050 should mitigate against increased
displacement pressure by pursuing regional strategies and compelling local actions that preserve and add to the region’s affordable housing stock and create family-wage jobs in areas proximate to transit.

The growth pattern should allow for a variety of housing types while addressing housing affordability for all residents, especially for those in the lowest income categories

High and middle density developments create a greater opportunity for housing affordability as the region grows. Locating more housing in proximity to transit creates opportunity by allowing households to forgo a car, which decreases their monthly expenses. The Transit Focused Growth alternative has the highest concentrations of growth in proximity to high capacity transit.

- Transit Focused Growth has the greatest share of high density growth in King County at 83% compared to 67% for the Reset urban Growth.

While high density growth is important for achieving our environmental and growth management goals, VISION 2050 should provide mitigation with strategies that also encourage middle density housing development, which could add to the region’s affordability.

The growth pattern should avoid environmental impacts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

The greenhouse gas emissions are projected to decrease with all alternatives due to the wider use of cleaner fuels. But, in order to ensure that the region reduces its greenhouse gas emissions, we need to incorporate reduction goals into VISION 2050, prioritizing eliminating the disproportionate burden of environmental impacts to low income and Native American/Alaska Native, people of color, immigrants and refugees, and those who speak limited English. The King County Climate Change Collaborative (K4C) has countywide greenhouse reduction goals and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency has region-wide reduction goals. These already established goals should serve as a basis for greenhouse gas reduction goals in VISION 2050. VISION 2050 should recognize the disproportionate burden of environmental impacts that low income communities and communities of color in the region currently bear and include strategies to reduce this burden and mitigate against future environmental health impacts.

- While Greenhouse Gas Emissions as CO₂ decrease in all alternatives from the base year, the Transit Focused Growth alternative sees the greatest reduction at 16%.
In terms of impervious surface, the Transit Focused Growth alternative develops
the least amount of land while Reset Urban Growth creates the highest amount
of impervious surface.

Regarding the region’s ecosystems, the Transit Focused Growth alternative
poses the least risk of adverse effects to the ecosystems compared to the
alternatives that spread more growth into rural and urban unincorporated areas.

The analysis presented in the Draft State Environmental Impact Statement points to the
Transit Focused Growth alternative as the best path forward based on the desired
outcomes of the regional growth pattern.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine
King County Executive
Item 06: Affordable Housing Committee Appointment

**ACTION**

**SCA Staff Contact**
Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159

**Action**

The PIC Nominating Committee met on April 29, 2019 to consider nominations to fill positions on the King County Affordable Housing Committee for recommendation to PIC. If approved by PIC, the recommended candidates will be considered for formal appointment by the SCA Board of Directors at its next meeting on May 15.

**Recommended Action:** PIC recommends the SCA Board of Directors appoint members and alternates to the King County Affordable Housing Committee as follows:

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<th>Members</th>
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<td>Mayor David Baker, Kenmore</td>
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<td>Mayor Debbie Bertlin, Mercer Island</td>
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<td>Councilmember Claude DaCorsi, Auburn</td>
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<td>Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien</td>
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<th>Alternates</th>
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<td>Mayor Ken Hearing, North Bend</td>
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<td>Councilmember Marli Larimer, Kent</td>
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<td>Councilmember Ryan McIrvin, Renton</td>
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<td>Deputy Mayor Lynne Robinson, Bellevue</td>
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**King County Affordable Housing Committee**

The King County Affordable Housing Committee is a new committee being formed to serve as an ongoing structure for regional collaboration to promote affordable housing preservation and production, and oversee implementation of the affordable housing Five-Year Action Plan that was approved in December by the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force.

SCA has appointing authority for four member and four alternate positions on the committee. A draft of the charter for the committee, including additional detail about its purpose and make-up, can be found here.

**Next Steps**

Recommendations from PIC will be considered by the SCA Board at its meeting on May 15, 2019. For more information, contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.
Item 07:
2019 State Legislative Session

UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact
Brian Parry, Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org, 206-499-4159
Information provided by Briahna Murray, Vice President of Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Affairs

SCA Legislative Committee Members
Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, Chair; Mayor David Baker, Kenmore; Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent; Mayor Amy Ockerlander, Duvall; Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park

Update

Briahna Murray, Vice President of Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Affairs, will provide an update to PIC members on the 2019 legislative session and priority issues identified in the 2019 SCA Legislative Agenda.

The 2019 legislative session concluded on time on April 28. The final legislative report is included here as Attachment A.

Background
The SCA 2019 Legislative Agenda focuses on legislative requests in three priority issue areas: Address the Affordable Housing and Homelessness Crisis; Invest in Transportation Infrastructure and Mobility; and, Provide Tools for Cities to Address Other Critical Local Priorities. SCA contracted with a consultant, Briahna Murray, Vice President of Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Affairs, to provide regular updates on SCA legislative priorities which have been distributed weekly by email to PIC members.

Next Steps
Please share this information with your city. Questions may be directed to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.

Attachments
A. SCA Legislative Report – April 29, 2019
The legislature adjourned sine die (or “last day”) on Sunday evening minutes before midnight, completing all of its work within the constitutionally mandated period of time. Below are the highlights for the end of the session. Full details will follow later this week.

**Final Budgets Summarized**

**Operating Budget**
The final operating budget spends $52.4 billion, an increase of roughly 20% from the 2017-19 budget of $43.7 billion. The budget is based on five new revenue sources: 1) switching from a flat rate Real Estate Excise Tax to a variable rate based on the sale price of the property (SB 5998); 2) removing a preferential business and occupation tax rate for international investment companies (SB 6016); 3) replacing the out-of-state sales tax exemption with a refund mechanism (SB 5997); 4) increasing the B&O tax rate for travel agents (SB 6004) and 5) raising the B&O tax rate for large financial institutions (HB 2167). In addition, the legislature increases the B&O tax rate for certain business categories and dedicates the revenues to higher education (HB 2158). No capital gains tax was passed.

**Capital Budget**
The capital budget invests $4.9 billion in state agency construction projects, grant and loan programs for local governments, and in K-12 school and higher education facility construction. In addition, $3.8 billion is re-appropriated for projects previously authorized but not yet completed. $96.5 million for local and community projects awarded through competitive programs and direct legislative grants;

**Transportation Budget**
The final transportation budget includes a very small list of new projects. This is because actual gas tax revenue ended up being less than projected and the legislature was only able to fund new projects through a one-time $50 million transfer of Hazardous Substance Tax revenue out of the Model Toxics Control Act Account.

**Legislative Priorities**

**Address Affordable Housing and Homelessness**
The final budgets made significant investments in affordable housing:

- $175 million was allocated to the Housing Trust Fund (a historic high amount!);
- The Legislature approved Senate Bill 5334 to reform the Condominium Liability Act;
- The Legislature approved House Bill 1406 which allows local jurisdictions to impose a credit against the state sales tax to fund affordable housing. The final version of the bill authorizes cities and counties to each impose a .0146 credit against the state sales tax. A city is authorized to impose the county’s portion of the .0146 if the city has imposed a local tax to fund affordable housing (property or sales) or the county does not utilize its authority;
- **House Bill 1590**, authorizing counties to councilmanically increase the sales tax to fund affordable housing, did NOT pass.
- Local control is maintained over density, land use and accessory dwelling units. The Legislature passed House Bill 1923, which incentivizes rather than mandates cities to accept
density. The ADU bill that preempted local control, Senate Bill 5812, failed to pass the Legislature.

- The Legislature approved Senate Bill 5444 implementing reforms to the state mental health system in response to the Trueblood settlement. Additionally, the Operating and Capital Budgets made significant investments into implementing these reforms and funding community behavioral health facilities.

**Invest in Transportation Infrastructure and Mobility**

- The Legislature did not significantly increase revenue to local governments to meet local transportation needs. The Joint Transportation Committee is tasked with making recommendations to the 2020 Legislature regarding local transportation revenues.

**Provide the Tools for Cities to Address Other Critical Local Priorities**

- State-shared revenues are fully funded in the final Operating Budget, except for the Public Works Assistance Account. The Operating Budget swept $160 million out of the account, leaving only $95 million left in the account - $85 million which will be available for competitive application.

- The Legislature approved House Bill 1219, providing increased flexibility with real estate excise tax revenues to fund affordable housing.

- The final Operating Budget allocates $16.4 million to continue streamlined sales tax mitigation payments to impacted jurisdictions through 2021. Additionally, the four-year budget includes an intent to continue the payments through the 21-23 biennium.

- The final Operating Budget allocates the necessary funding for 9 additional classes through the Basic Law Enforcement Academy. This is the amount requested by the Criminal Justice Training Committee to meet the expected law enforcement training needs across the state.

- The Legislature approved Senate Bill 5993 increasing the hazardous substance tax to fund the Model Toxics Control Account and additional stormwater projects.
Item 08:
Homelessness Response Governance & System Recommendations

**UPDATE**

**SCA Staff Contact**
Christa Valles, Sr. Policy Analyst, christa@soundcities.org, (206) 495-5238

**Executive Leadership Group Members**
Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor John Chelminiak, Bellevue; Council President Ed Prince, Renton

**Update**

| With the goal of making homelessness rare, brief and one-time, government, philanthropy, business, and people with lived experience are working towards improved regional coordination. Efforts are underway to consolidate the current governance structure, assess existing investments, and develop a regional action plan. At the May PIC meeting, SCA staff will update members on recent developments related to these activities. |

**Background**

Between October and December 2018, an “Executive Leadership Group” (ELG), which included King County Executive Dow Constantine, Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan, Bellevue Mayor John Chelminiak, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, and Renton City Council President Ed Prince, along with representatives from the business and philanthropic community, convened three times to discuss regional homelessness governance.

On December 14, 2018, the consulting firm National Innovation Service (NIS) released a multi-media website identifying actions to improve the region’s response to the homelessness crisis, including a recommendation to consolidate the region’s investments and efforts to address homelessness into a new agency (See Attachment A for a summary of NIS’s recommendations).

Following the NIS release in December 2018, Mayor Durkan and Executive Constantine expressed support for moving ahead with consolidation. SCA’s ELG representatives, however, indicated SCA would need more information about the new agency before it could support consolidation. They also requested SCA have equal representation with Seattle and King County on any potential governance board.

SCA staff presented the NIS findings at the January 2019 PIC meeting, which can be found in the January 9, 2019 PIC packet, and also provided an update on related activities at the March 13 and April 9, 2019 PIC meetings.
Update

Significant questions will need to be resolved before consolidation of the regional homelessness response system can occur, including the following:

- What is the appropriate legal structure of the newly consolidated agency? The options under discussion are either a Public Development Authority or some joint-powers construct.
- What funding streams in which amounts will be allocated by whom and how?
- How will the consolidated agency be governed? Who will have oversight and decision-making authority over the agency? What authority will the governance board have?
- How will the new agency be organized, what are key staff roles and responsibilities, salary schedules and other benefits?
- What will be the scope of the consolidated agency’s powers and authority? How will regional policies be responsive to local differences?
- What will be the selection process for an Executive Director, who will the ED report to and who will have future hiring and firing authority for this position?

Resolving these questions will not be easy and will require input from multiple parties. Mayor Durkan and Executive Constantine have initiated preliminary discussions with the Seattle City Council and King County Council respectively, but no decisions have been made yet. Any significant policy decisions will require legislative approval by both the Seattle and King County Councils.

Legislative Branch Engagement

Beginning this year, the Seattle City Council has held several high-level committee briefings to discuss consolidation. While no decisions or detailed discussions have yet occurred in the public committee briefings, some Seattle City Councilmembers have expressed support for moving forward with consolidation and making significant progress towards this goal in 2019. The Seattle City Council has also formed an internal working group to examine various issues it needs to resolve before consolidation can occur.

NIS and King County Executive staff briefed the King County Council’s Health, Housing, and Human Services committee on March 19, 2019 and a second briefing occurred on April 30. The April 30 discussion was robust, with County Councilmembers1 asking numerous questions about the process for reaching agreement on whether and how King County and Seattle should consolidate homelessness efforts. Councilmembers also commented on the need to involve the suburban cities in discussions, identify clear outcomes, and ensure a new agency has the ability to pivot quickly and act with authority. Councilmembers also communicated concerns and frustrations they were hearing from constituents about the crisis and its impact on public spaces. Councilmember Dembowski’s closing comments summed up some of the reservations expressed by others in that his support for consolidation would require confidence that a new agency represented a clear improvement over the status quo and could deliver results.

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1 Councilmembers Balducci, Dembowski, Kohl-Wells, Lambert, and Upthegrove were in attendance
SCA Involvement

As discussions between the Executive and King County Council commence and decision-points are teed up, Executive Constantine has offered to hold regular briefings with SCA’s ELG members (Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor John Chelminiak, Bellevue; Council President Ed Prince, Renton) and SCA staff so that information shared with the King County Council is also provided to SCA’s representatives.

In addition, a staff working group is being reconfigured into a Steering Committee and four subcommittees. Current SCA representatives\(^2\) who have been participating in the work group will sit on the Steering Committee, policy and planning, and external affairs working groups. SCA expects these groups to begin convening in early May.

Related Activities

Consultants from the Community for Supportive Housing (CSH) are to begin work on a “Regional Action Plan” (RAP), which will draw upon the work completed by NIS and the findings of a Focus Strategies report that assessed current investments across the region. The current thinking is that the RAP will guide the work of a newly consolidated homeless agency. The RAP scope of work, expected to be completed in the fall, includes the following deliverables:

- A description of the current problem and landscape;
- Definition and measures of success;
- Assessment of the crisis response system capacity (e.g., emergency shelter, transitional housing, diversion, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing) and identification of gaps;
- Baseline data of inflow and outflow and clear strategies to increase outflow and decrease inflow based on system data and identified risk factors (such as behavioral health needs, interaction with criminal justice, child welfare) by sub-populations;
- Projections for needed housing placement rate to reach desired goals;
- Strategies to increase the supportive and affordable housing pipeline including identifying policy changes and/or incentives to working with private market and developers;
- Geospatial analysis of homelessness services; and,
- Data dashboards.

The RAP is also expected to address, or leave room to address, sub-regional planning and policies. One of the staff work groups being stood up as part of this process will help inform the RAP as it is developed. Two human service staff from the North/Eastside and South cities have been invited to participate on this work group and are expected to relay information between various North/East and South city forums where human service staff and planners meet regularly.

All Home Reconfiguration

The Federal Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to create a Continuum of Care (COC) to coordinate homeless services and receive federal funding for homelessness. King County’s COC is called All Home and its staff are housed in King County’s Department of Community and Human Services. The All Home Board includes two SCA members

\(^2\) SCA policy staff and two human service staff representing the north and eastside cities
(Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, and Councilmember Keith Scully, Shoreline), along with representatives from King County, the City of Seattle, non-profit providers, and the Seattle Public Housing Authority.

The All Home staff at King County have been working with the CSH consultants to examine options for reconfiguring the All Home board and staff, with the assumption that consolidation will occur. Many All Home board members appear comfortable moving ahead with a new charter and reconfiguring the board before consolidation occurs, though several of the decisions, including the new charter, would not take effect until a newly consolidated agency is created. There is some question as to whether it makes sense to solidify these decisions before the details associated with consolidation are firmed up, but there is also a desire by some on the Board to have All Home ready to act quickly once a newly consolidated agency is created.

Next Steps

SCA staff are being briefed on these items by County staff on a regular basis and will continue to provide on-going briefings to PIC and work with King County and Seattle to identify opportunities for SCA to provide input. Questions or feedback can be provided to SCA Senior Policy Analyst Christa Valles at christa@soundcities.org, or (206) 495-5238.
Summary of NIS December 2018 Recommendations

1. Institute a system-wide theory of change.

2. Create a joint powers authority between Seattle and King County (exact form of “joint powers” TBD).

3. Keep governance board membership small with clear decision-making structures and real expertise of the issues. Director of new agency reports to Mayor of Seattle and County Executive. Revisit board structure every four years.

4. Prioritize funds for projects and services that do the following: 1) address acute need; 2) create pathway to permanent housing; and 3) provide “economic mobility” supports. NIS found that “touchpoints” outside of these categories “…do nothing to accelerate the end of the crisis, confuse people experiencing homelessness, and erode public trust…”

5. Overhaul data infrastructure system to improve customer experience as well as our ability to understand what is working and not working well so we can pivot accordingly.

6. Re-design customer intake processes.

7. Expand physical and behavioral health services.

8. Create a system accountable to the customer—customer’s needs should drive the services delivered.

9. Develop a funders collaborative to ensure business, philanthropy, and government investments are aligned and working from a shared vision and theory of change. The goal would be to help partners strategically match gaps in public funding to private funding opportunities and ensure investments are complementary vs. unintentionally detrimental.

10. Increase availability of affordable housing, especially for extremely low income (0-30% AMI)

11. Create institutional alignment across partners and sectors in Seattle & King County. Key agencies: Seattle Office of Housing, Seattle Human Services Dept., Public Health, King County Dept. of Community and Human Services, COC, Public Housing Authorities—Seattle, King County, Renton.
Item 09: Initiative 976

**UPDATE**

**SCA Staff Contact**
Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org, (206) 499-4159

**Update**

Initiative 976 (I-976), sponsored by Tim Eyman, is an initiative to reduce, and remove authority to impose a range of state and local taxes and fees that fund transportation and mobility projects that will appear on the November 2019 general election ballot.

At the March and April PIC meetings, members were briefed on the funding sources that would be impacted by I-976 and asked to review potential impacts to their cities. Members and SCA staff also noted the necessity of carefully complying with limitations under state law for what local government officials and agencies may and may not do in regard to supporting or opposing a ballot proposition.

Washington State law ([RCW 42.17A.555](https://laws.wa.gov/codified statutory acts/)) broadly prohibits the use of any public facility or resources from being used in support or opposition to a ballot proposition with three limited exceptions:

1. Local elected bodies, including city councils, may vote on a motion or resolution supporting or opposing a ballot proposition if the meeting is properly noticed and both sides are given equal opportunity to express their position.
2. Elected officials may make a statement at an open press conference in support or opposition to a ballot proposition.
3. Local offices or agencies may engage in activities that are part of their normal and regular conduct, which may include preparation of objective and neutral presentation of facts concerning a ballot proposition.

The Sound Cities Association has not previously taken positions for or against any ballot initiative, and it is not clear that the exception allowing such a position to be taken would apply to an organization such as SCA. SCA has historically considered its role to provide members with factual information and educational materials that can be shared with elected officials, staff, and the community. SCA staff recommends this type of neutral activity continue to be the role of SCA with regard to I-976.

**Background**

Initiative 976 (I-976) 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 that fund transportation and mobility projects.
As an initiative to the legislature, the Legislature was allowed three options:

1. Take no action and the initiative will be placed on the November ballot;
2. Propose an alternative and the alternative and the original initiative will be placed on the November ballot; or,
3. Pass the initiative as written into law.

The 2019 legislative session ended on April 28, 2019 without action being taken to approve I-976 or to offer an alternative measure. As a result, the initiative will be placed on the November ballot as a stand-alone measure.

At the March and April PIC meetings, members were briefed on the funding sources that would be impacted by I-976 and asked to review potential impacts to their cities. In addition, members asked SCA staff to review options available to SCA as an organization for engaging with a ballot proposition.

Washington State law (RCW 42.17A.555) broadly prohibits the use of any public facilities from being used in support or opposition to a ballot proposition. Per guidelines of the Public Disclosure Commission, “facilities of a public office or agency include, but are not limited to, use of stationary, postage, machines and equipment, use of employees of the office or agency during working hours, vehicles, office space, publications of the office or agency, and clientele lists of persons served by the office or agency.”

There are three limited exceptions to this broad prohibition:

1. Local elected bodies, including city councils, may vote on a motion or resolution supporting or opposing a ballot proposition if the following steps are taken: (1) the notice for the meeting must include the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (2) equal opportunity is provided for the expression of an opposing view.
2. Elected officials may make a statement at an open press conference in support or opposition to a ballot proposition.
3. Local offices or agencies may engage in activities that are part of their normal and regular conduct. This exception has been interpreted by the Public Disclosure Commission to include preparation of objective and neutral presentation of facts concerning a ballot proposition. Communications for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election are prohibited. This exception also allows for the use of meeting room facilities in a nondiscriminatory, equal access basis, such as a public forum of pro and con representatives discussing a ballot measure.

The Sound Cities Association has not previously taken positions for or against any ballot proposition, and it is not clear that the exception allowing such a position to be taken would apply to an organization such as SCA. SCA has historically considered its role to provide members with factual information and educational materials that can be shared with elected officials, staff, and the community. SCA staff recommends this type of neutral activity continue to be the role of SCA with regard to I-976.
Additional Resources
The following resources are recommended for additional information on what activities are permitted for city officials:

- MRSC, *Use of Public Facilities to Support or Oppose Ballot Propositions*;
- AWC, *Guidelines for Elected and Appointed Officials’ Participation in Elections Activity*.

The Public Disclosure Commission is the agency responsible for interpreting and enforcing RCW 42.17A. The Commission encourages local government officials to contact them with questions regarding the use of public facilities in a ballot campaign. Their contact information is available through their website.

Funding Impacts of I-976
If passed, 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.

Many of the funds proposed to be reduced or eliminated by I-976 are currently deposited in the state Multimodal account, which provides flexible funding to support a variety of local mobility projects. Mobility investments that would be impacted include new transit service, park and ride lots, demand management programs, as well as speed and reliability improvements.

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);
- 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; and,
- Repeal the 0.3% tax on motor vehicle retail sales.

The repeal of authority for TBDs to impose an MVET would eliminate the funding source for 13 TBDs in King County. 18 King County cities have voted to authorize TBDs. Of these, 13 are funded at least in part by MVET. The remaining five are unfunded or are supported by sales tax only.
Additional detail on funding impacts, including local TBD’s that would be impacted, can be found in the March 13 PIC Packet.

**Next Steps**
SCA staff will continue to monitor and provide information to members on the potential impacts of I-976. For more information, please contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.
**Item 10:**
King Conservation District Proposed 2020-2024 Rates

*Update*

**SCA Staff Contact**
Christa Valles, Sr. Policy Analyst, Christa@soundcities.org, (206) 495-5238

**SCA KCD Advisory Committee Members**
Councilmembers Brenda Fincher, Kent (member); Mark Phillips, Lake Forest Park (member); Wendy Weiker, Mercer Island (member); Amy McHenry, Duvall (alternate); Victoria Hunt, Issaquah (alternate); Susan Boundy-Sanders, Woodinville (alternate).

**Other SCA Elected Official with own Seat on KCD Advisory Committee**
Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue

*Update*

The King Conservation District is in the fifth and final year of its 2015-2019 work plan, which SCA endorsed in 2014. Over the past year, the King Conservation District has been working with its Advisory Committee, including SCA and Bellevue representatives and City of Seattle and King County staff, to develop a new 2020-2024 work plan and an accompanying rates and charges budget to support it.

The KCD Advisory Committee has not yet endorsed a specific proposal to the KCD Board of Supervisors, but it has been considering options that include increasing KCD’s annual per-parcel rates and charges fee. At a March Pre-PIC workshop, KCD presented a proposed 2020-2024 rates and charges budget to SCA members, and SCA staff provided more detail about this proposal at the April 2019 PIC meeting.

**Background**
The King Conservation District (KCD) provides a variety of voluntary programming to 34-member cities and King County, providing education, technical assistance, and grants to private landowners and urban stakeholders to achieve its conservation goals.  

At a March 2019 pre-PIC workshop, KCD staff presented a proposal to increase the maximum annual parcel rate from $10 to $13.85 with an average parcel increase of $3.70. At the April PIC meeting, SCA

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1 Enumclaw, Federal Way, Milton, Pacific and Skykomish are not members
2 Additional information about KCD’s current various programs and initiatives can be found [here](#).
staff provided additional background and information about the proposal, including information on KCD programs and how KCD rates are calculated, which can be found in the April 2019 PIC packet.

The KCD Advisory Committee has not yet endorsed or recommended a rates and charges budget and related program of work for 2020-2024 to the KCD Board of Supervisors, who in turn will make a recommendation to the King County Executive. As described above, KCD is proposing an average rates and charges increase of $3.70 per parcel per year, which would generate approximately $2.8 million over and above current revenues, bringing KCD’s total rates and charges budget to about $8.9 million per year for 2020-2024.

During the April PIC discussion of KCD’s rate proposal, several PIC members indicated support for KCD’s programming and identified examples of direct benefits to their cities. Other members also expressed appreciation for KCD’s programs but stated they were concerned about the size of the increase and encouraged SCA’s advisory committee members to consider lower-cost alternatives.

Update
At the April 17 KCD Advisory Committee, committee members reviewed various rate options provided by KCD staff. Advisory members discussed whether to support a resolution to the KCD Board of Supervisors endorsing a program of work that would require an average per parcel rate increase of $3.70 per year, generating $8.9 million annually (up from $6.1 million currently generated).

Committee members decided a letter from the advisory board to KCD board of Supervisors would be preferable to a resolution. This letter is currently being drafted by a subset of committee members, so the specific content is not known at this time. However, at the April 17 meeting, some members noted the letter should outline issues and concerns raised during KCD’s engagement process by committee members or other parties, though there was no agreement at that time what specific issues merited inclusion in the letter.

Next Steps
SCA staff expect the KCD advisory committee to finalize a letter to the KCD Board of Supervisors at the next advisory committee meeting on May 8. Once the KCD Advisory Board’s letter to the KCD Board of Supervisors is finalized, SCA staff can share it with PIC members. It is anticipated that the KCD Board of Supervisors will make a recommendation to the King County Executive in May or June 2019. The King County Executive will need to transmit legislation to the KC Council by July 2019 for existing or new rates to be in place by January 1, 2020 since KCD’s current rate structure expires on December 31, 2019.
Item 11:
Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact
Brian Parry, Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org, (206) 499-4159

Discussion
This is a monthly item on the PIC agenda to share information on recent and upcoming local levies and ballot measures in King County. Items identified as “potential future ballot measures” are under consideration or reflect potential renewal of an existing levy but have not been approved to be placed on the ballot and may not ultimately move forward.

Results of April 23, 2019 Special Election (as of April 23, 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Evergreen Health                    | Capital Bonds. $345 million, 20-year bond to fund enhancements to the medical center campus. Estimated at 18-cents per $1,000 of assessed value.* | Approved: 58.5%
This requires 60% yes vote with minimum turnout of 56,283 voters. Rejected: 41.5% |
| Lake Washington School District     | Capital Projects Levy. $20 million per year over six years to fund district-wide capital projects. Estimated to average 27-cents per $1,000 of assessed value. | Approved: 56.1% Rejected: 43.9% |
| King County Fire District 27        | Proposed merger into King County Fire District 10.                      | Approved: 46.2% Rejected: 53.8% |
| King County Fire District 40        | Continuation of Benefit Charge. Authorization to continue collecting voter-authorized benefit charges for six years. | Approved: 88.1% Rejected: 11.9% |
| Vashon-Maury Island Park and Recreation District | Park District Levy Renewal for 2020-2023. Authorize the district to impose a property tax of not more than 52-cents per $1,000 of assessed value for four years beginning in 2020. | Approved: 54.1% Rejected: 45.9% |
| Woodinville Fire and Rescue         | Continuation of Benefit Charge. Authorization to continue collecting voter-authorized benefit charges for six years. | Approved: 84.2% Rejected: 15.8% |

*Requires 60% yes vote with minimum turnout of 56,283 voters

Potential Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kirkland</td>
<td>Fire Services and Capital Levy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Future Ballot Measures – Countywide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>King County</td>
<td>Regional Parks Levy. Six-year, $810 million levy. Estimated at 18.3-cents per $1,000 of assessed value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>Seattle Public Library</td>
<td>Operations Levy. Seven-year, $213 million levy to fund operations and maintenance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Potential Future Ballot Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>King County</td>
<td>Medic One/EMS Levy. Six-year, $1.1 billion levy. Proposed levy rate of 27-cents per $1,000 of assessed value beginning in 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>King County Library System</td>
<td>Operations Levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>Transportation Benefit District Renewal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>King County</td>
<td>Best Starts for Kids Renewal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Next Steps

Please share this information with your city and provide information on upcoming elections in your city to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.
Item 12:
Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact
Brian Parry, Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org, (206) 499-4159

Update
This is an ongoing, monthly PIC item noting issues that SCA members have asked to be brought to the PIC.

Potential Issues
Throughout the year, issues brought forward by SCA members are tracked in this ongoing, monthly agenda item and may be taken up by the PIC through workshops, briefings and discussion items, and as action items.

The following issues have been identified as topics for potential workshops or briefings in 2019:

- Metro Regional Service Planning (June)
- PSRC VISION 2050 (July)
- Addressing Toxic Social Media
- Equity and Inclusion

If you or your city has additional items to be added to the list of potential upcoming SCA issues, or items to suggest for future trainings or workshops, please contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry, brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.
**Item 13a:**
Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**SCA Staff Contact**
Cynthia Foley, Policy Analyst, [cynthia@soundcities.org](mailto:cynthia@soundcities.org), (206) 495-3020

**SCA Members of the Regional Policy Committee**
Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue (Caucus Chair); Mayor Dave Hill, Algona (Caucus Vice Chair); Deputy Mayor Austin Bell, Burien; Council President Angela Birney, Redmond; Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell; Councilmember Bill Peloza, Auburn

**Informational Item**

On April 24, 2019 the King County Council passed [Ordinance 18893](https://example.com), which authorizes the **King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan** (CSWMP).

The plan sets strategies for disposal of solid waste in King County over the next 20 years, and guides actions related to curbside collection, transfer, and processing of waste and recyclable materials.

The plan will now be sent to the 37 cities that participate in the King County Solid Waste System (all King County cities except Seattle and Milton). Upon receiving notice of passage at the King County Council, cities will have 120 days to act to approve or disapprove the plan. The plan must be approved by cities representing three-quarters of the population of cities that choose to act on the plan. The plan will then be sent to the Washington State Department of Ecology for final approval.

**Background**

On April 24, 2019 the King County Council passed [Ordinance 18893](https://example.com), which authorizes the **King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan** (CSWMP). The plan sets strategies for disposal of solid waste in King County over the next 20 years, and guides actions by King County, all cities in King County except Seattle and Milton, and private companies that provide curbside collection, transfer, and processing of waste and recyclable materials.

The Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (CSWMP) addresses the many public and private components of the regional solid waste system, including:

- The King County Solid Waste Division’s operation of the Cedar Hills regional landfill, ten transfer facilities, nine closed landfills, and many programs to reduce and recycle waste;
- City efforts to promote recycling and provide for curbside pick-up of materials, either as a direct city service or through contracts with private haulers; and
• Private companies’ collection of materials at the curbside and operation of processing facilities that convert recyclable and organic materials into marketable products.

Disposal Through 2040 and Beyond
The CSWMP states that King County will invest in capital projects to extend the life of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill until approximately 2040. Without these projects, the landfill is projected to exceed capacity in approximately 2028 depending on a variety of factors, including tonnage received.

While the plan does not specify next disposal method after the ultimate closure of Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, the approved CSWMP requires the King County Executive to work with regional partners to develop a plan for long-term disposal, and then transmit legislation implementing the next long-term disposal method. A report on the development of the plan is to be transmitted to the King County Council by December 31, 2021. Options under consideration include constructing a Waste-To-Energy facility and waste export by rail.

Waste Transfer Facilities
The CSWMP recommends capital investments to continue modernizing the waste transfer system. The plan highlights work that has already been completed to replace the First Northeast Transfer Station in Shoreline (completed in 2008), the Factoria Transfer Station (completed in 2017), and the Bow Lake Transfer Station (completed in 2013). In addition, work that is ongoing to replace the Algona Transfer Station with a new South Recycling and Transfer Station with an anticipated opening date in 2023.

The plan also recommends that the Houghton Transfer Station in Kirkland be closed and replaced with a new facility in the Northeast portion of the county, and that the Renton Transfer Station be closed when replacement capacity becomes available within the system.

Sustainable Materials Management
Prevention of waste entering the system and expansion of recycling are highlighted in the CSWMP as an important strategy to reduce the volume of disposal of solid waste. The plan includes an interim goal of diverting 70% of waste that would otherwise be deposited in the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill to recycling.¹ By comparison, the overall recycling rate in the county in 2015 was 54%.

The plan offers recommended actions that cities can take to increase recycling and reduce waste. Recommended actions can be undertaken voluntarily, and cities may choose to tailor their recycling program to local conditions. For example, a city with a large concentration of apartments and condominiums might focus more efforts on programs for multi-family residents. Communities with primarily single-family homes might focus

¹ This goal combines single-family, multi-family, non-residential, and self-haul recycling activity. It does not include construction and demolition debris (which have separate recycling goals), and some other waste sources that are not typically handled by the county system.
education and promotion on food scrap recycling for their residents. Cities with many restaurants, grocers, or other food related businesses might look at ways to promote the recycling of food scraps or to partner these businesses with local food banks to donate surplus food to those in need. Cities with booming construction activity may want to encourage the recycling and reuse of construction and demolition materials.

**Next Steps**

The plan will be submitted to the 37 cities (all King County cities except Seattle and Milton) that participate in the solid waste system for approval. Upon receiving notice of Council action, cities will have 120 days to act to approve or disapprove the CSWMP. The plan will be sent to cities after it is signed by the King County Executive. To become final, the plan must be approved by cities representing three-quarters of the population of cities that choose to act on the plan. The plan will be then sent to the Washington State Department of Ecology for final approval.

Cities in the King County solid waste system will receive notification of passage of the CSWMP at the King County Council and approval at RPC in the first half of May. Cities may act to approve or disapprove the plan by motion or resolution.

The King County Solid Waste Division has offered to provide a presentation on the updated CSWMP to cities upon request. Contact King County Solid Waste Government Relations Administrator Dorian Waller at Dorian.Waller@KingCounty.gov to schedule a presentation.

Comments questions on the CSWMP can be sent to SCA Policy Analyst Cynthia Foley at cynthia@soundcities.org.