



SCA Public Issues Committee

MINUTES

March 11, 2020 – 7:00 PM

TELEPHONIC

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Deputy Mayor Christie Malchow, Sammamish, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 29 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included Councilmember James Jeyaraj, Auburn (PIC alternate); Councilmember Jeremy Barksdale, Bellevue (PIC alternate); Councilmember Semra Riddle, Lake Forest Park (PIC alternate); Councilmember Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond (PIC alternate); Councilmember Thomas McLeod, Tukwila (PIC alternate); Councilmember Barbara de Michelle, Issaquah (PIC alternate); Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland (PIC alternate); Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent; Councilmember Kristina Soltys, Covington; Councilmember Susan Honda, Federal Way; Candace Bock, AWC staff; Carl Schroeder, AWC staff; Joyce Nichols, Bellevue staff; Kelsey Beck, Seattle staff; Hannah Smith, Seattle staff; Diana Hart, Woodinville staff; Stephanie Pure, King County Metro staff; Tom Goff, King County Council staff; Lauren Craig, King County Metro staff; Doug Levy, Renton consultant; Mary Joe de Beck, Issaquah staff; Kellye Mazzoli, Bothell staff; Jeff Brauns, Newcastle staff; Susan Oxholm, King County staff.

Chair Malchow suggested moving discussion of Public Health and COVID-19 to earlier on the agenda to ensure there was adequate time for discussion. **Vice Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, moved, seconded by Mayor Linda Newing, Newcastle, to move agenda Item 10, Discussion of Public Health and COVID-19 to Item 7b. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

2. Public Comment

Chair Malchow asked if any member of the public would like to provide public comment. SCA President Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent, said that SCA is committed to ensuring everyone is informed regarding the COVID-19 health crisis. She expressed her appreciation for the work SCA staff is doing to provide cities with information about the virus outbreak and actions being taken to respond to the health crisis. She encouraged member cities to continue providing information about actions they are taking to SCA staff so that it can be shared among other members and cities can learn from each other.

Chair Malchow asked if there was anyone else who would like to provide public comment. Hearing none, Chair Malchow closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the February 12, 2020 PIC Minutes

Chair Malchow asked if there were any amendments to the February 12, 2020 PIC minutes. **Vice Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, moved, seconded by Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, to approve the February 12, 2020 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Chair's Report

Chair Malchow stated that the PIC meeting was being held telephonically and online due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. She noted that the SCA bylaws provide for meetings to be held by telephone in the event of an emergency situation.

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry provided an overview of how the meeting would be facilitated using GoToMeeting software. He noted that any discussion in the chat logs would be maintained for public records purposes ([Attachment B](#)).

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that Policy Analyst Cynthia Foley departed SCA and wished her well in her future endeavors. She said that SCA is allowing staff to telecommute due to the COVID-19 outbreak and would be exploring options for moving more meetings telephonically during the crisis. She thanked members for joining PIC telephonically during the ongoing emergency, and said that meetings would return to being in-person as soon as it was prudent to do so.

6. Potential Change to November 2020 PIC Meeting Date

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that at the February 12, 2020 Public Issues Committee meeting, members adopted Resolution 2020-1 setting the PIC's 2020 Meeting Schedule. The usual date for meeting in November falls on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2020. Members were asked to provide feedback on potential alternate dates for the November meeting – potential options include Wednesday, November 4 or Thursday, November 12. Based on member feedback a revised meeting schedule resolution will be brought back to PIC for action at a future meeting.

7. 2020 Legislative Session

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry introduced Candice Bock, Director of Government Relations and Carl Schroeder, Government Relations Advocate for the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) who provided an update on the 2020 Washington State Legislative Session.

Schroeder reported on several bills related to affordable housing and funding to address homelessness being considered in the supplemental budget. The legislature approved \$160 million to fund additional shelter beds and expand access to affordable housing. [HB 2797](#) extending the deadline for jurisdictions to participate and expands allowable uses of funds authorized in 2019 by [HB 1406](#), under which cities and counties receive a portion of state sales taxes collected in the jurisdiction for affordable housing passed the legislature. [HB 1590](#) providing councilmanic authority for cities and counties to impose a sales tax for affordable housing and related services passed the legislature. [HB 2497](#) adding the development of permanently affordable housing to the allowable uses for community revitalization financing, local infrastructure financing tool, and local revitalization financing. [SB 6617](#) requiring cities and counties planning under GMA to adopt regulations related to accessory dwelling units passed the legislature with fewer mandates for cities than were being considered earlier in the session. Schroeder said that [HB 2342](#), extending the deadline for the next update to local comprehensive

plans in King County to June 30, 2024 (previous deadline was June 30, 2023) also passed the legislature.

Bock reported that the supplemental transportation budget provides \$10.3 billion in transportation funding and does not delay projects that were previously on the “pause” list provided by the Governor for the current biennium. She said [HB 2804](#), expanding Local Revitalization Financing projects by providing new funding and increasing the state’s annual contribution supporting projects was still being considered (*the bill did not pass*).

Councilmember Kate Kruller asked what level of reduction was expected for freight mobility. Bock said it was in the range of approximately \$7 million.

7b. Public Health and COVID-19

Executive Director Deanna Dawson provided an update on the latest guidance from the Governor’s office and from Public Health Seattle-King County related to COVID-19. SCA is providing daily emails to member cities with the latest information and recommendations as well as actions that cities are taking in response to the public health emergency. Dawson noted that the situation is very fluid and recommendations related to actions that should be taken to reduce the spread of the virus are being updated daily. SCA is facilitating communication among member cities, state, and county leadership. SCA has also partnered with MRSC on a [webpage](#) with COVID-19 resources for local governments. Dawson encouraged members to send any questions they may have to SCA to facilitate getting answers on their behalf. PIC members were asked to provide any updates related to their city’s response to COVID-19 that had not already been shared in SCA’s daily email to members.

8. Regional Transit Funding Measure

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that a pre-PIC workshop that was scheduled for the evening was canceled. The King County Transportation District, made up of the members of the King County Council, was scheduled to meet earlier in the day but that meeting was canceled as the County Council reevaluates options in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Dawson said it appears likely that a transit funding measure will not be moving forward in 2020. (*Note: SCA staff were informed on March 16 that the county council has decided not to proceed with a countywide transit measure in 2020 due to the ongoing focus on response to COVID-19*).

9. King County Regional Homelessness Authority

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck explained that the Regional Homelessness Authority is formed through an interlocal agreement between Seattle and King County. It is primarily charged with managing contracts and procurement for organizations that provide services to people experiencing homelessness, in addition to collecting data from those recipients of public dollars. The new authority will also oversee the homelessness management information system (HMIS), and Coordinated Entry for All. This Authority will not be conducting direct services. It is not managing shelters, addressing “upstream interventions,” or managing behavioral health services.

Rinck said there are four tiers of authority within the Regional Homelessness Authority:

- The Governing Committee
- The CEO
- The Implementation Board
- The Advisory Committee

Rinck said the Governing Committee is the tier where SCA has direct representation, and that it will be made up of elected officials as well as people with lived experience. The implementation board is also referred to as the expert board and includes 13 members who possess a balance of skills and expertise. She referred members to [page 48 of the PIC packet](#) for more information about the expertise sought for the Implementation Board.

Rinck said the last tier within authority is the Advisory Committees. The interlocal agreement requires that there be at least one advisory committee to perform the functions of the mandatory Federal Continuum of Care Board. (This is the work done currently by All Home, which will be phased out.)

Rinck reported that the first meeting of the Governing Committee was supposed to be on March 12; however, this meeting will be rescheduled to April due to the COVID-19 outbreak. At the first Governing Committee meeting, members will select a Chair for the committee, decide on a process for selecting a search firm to recruit the CEO, and decide on a plan for appointing the Implementation Board. SCA will appoint two members to the Implementation Board and is beginning the process of collecting names of potential nominees that could be put forward. Rinck encouraged members to send along names of potential nominees to the implementation board to Executive Director Deanna Dawson.

On March 2, SCA hosted a briefing and discussion for SCA members on the Regional Homelessness Authority. Members were asked at the meeting to answer the following questions about their cities and homelessness to inform SCA representatives on the Governing Board:

- What is your city's philosophy when it comes to homelessness crisis response?
- What is your city doing to provide homelessness crisis response services currently?
- What are the gaps in crisis response in your city? Where are additional resources needed?
- What suggestions do you have for potential SCA appointees to the Implementation Board?

Rinck reported that that SCA has received answers from about 10 cities and asked cities that have not sent in responses to email them to Executive Director Deanna Dawson.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, reported that the All Home Coordinating Board in the process of identifying those with lived experienced to serve on the new Governing Committee.

10. Affordable Housing and Countywide Planning Policies

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck reported that the Affordable Housing Committee began meeting in June of 2019 and has since adopted its 2020 workplan and now it working on one of its chartered responsibilities: recommending changes on the housing chapter of the Countywide Planning Policies (CPP's), to the Growth Management Planning Council. The CPPs are updated every five years and provide consistent expectations for what must be included in cities' comprehensive plans. The committee is expected to recommend changes to the Housing Chapter of the CPP's to provide new guidance on housing given the changes in the county since the last update. Rinck highlighted that information on how the countywide planning policies are approved, updated and how they affect cities' comprehensive plans can be found on [page 61 of the PIC packet](#).

Rinck said that in January the committee discussed options of recommendations to the current housing chapter of the CPP's and that areas of discussion included methods for measuring regional accountability; geographic distribution and siting of affordable housing; policies to address affordability for very low-income households; and, metrics measuring affordable housing goals and need

SCA caucus members of the AHC provided feedback on each of these issue areas, using the SCA caucus guiding principles approved from the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force. The feedback SCA members gave regarding the CPPs can be seen on page 64.

Rinck said the passage of HB 2342 would push the deadline for city updates to comprehensive plans back one year to June 30, 2024, and that this would provide additional time for the committee to consider potential CPP updates.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, asked about the Committee's work plan for 2020 and where the proposed updates to the CPPs are shown on their plan. SCA Policy Director Brian Parry clarified the summary of the work plan doesn't show topic areas for updating the CPP's, but that it is part of the Committee's work to review and recommend land use actions to increase and diversify housing choices and maximize affordability.

11. VISION 2050

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the draft update to the region's plan for growth, VISION 2050. VISION is the plan that sets expectations for the four-county region that makes up the Puget Sound Regional Council: King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap Counties. The role of VISION is to provide a framework for managing that growth in the region with a consistent set of goals to provide for a sustainable region and high quality of life. The policies and growth pattern included in VISION will ultimately directly influence the type of planning that has to be included in local comprehensive plans on a range of topics.

In February, the PSRC Executive Board reviewed the draft plan as recommended by the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board. The current schedule calls for the Executive Board make their final recommendation at their meeting on March 26; however, it is unclear whether that meeting will take place in light of the COVID-19 outbreak and action may be deferred to April. The final recommendation will then go before the PSRC General Assembly at their annual meeting on May 28, 2020.

Parry said a limited set of amendments were proposed to the plan during the February Executive Board meeting that are expected to be voted upon at the next Executive Board meeting along with the full plan. Notably the Executive Board will be asked to decide an issue that received significant debate earlier in the process related to the distribution of population in Snohomish County in the plan.

At the Executive Board meeting in February, some Board members raised concerns about indirect impacts to a potentially more dispersed growth pattern in Snohomish County and whether it would lead to negative environmental and transportation impacts (such as increased passthrough traffic) in the region. Snohomish County and others supporting their proposed growth pattern have questioned the role of PSRC in requiring changes to what was negotiated and approved by Snohomish County and its cities' countywide planning body, Snohomish County Tomorrow. Snohomish County has also noted that they have programs in place to transfer development rights from the rural area to urban parts of the county and that their projections for growth are based on pre-existing development rights and not new lots.

The SCA caucus to the Executive Board did not reach a consensus position at their February meeting. PSRC staff are continuing to work with Snohomish County and other stakeholders on the Executive Board to resolve the issue, but it is very likely to remain in play at the next Executive Board meeting.

Parry said that SCA representatives on the Growth Board supported the draft plan and felt that it reflected guiding principles adopted by SCA in 2019. He asked members to discuss VISION within their cities and share any concerns or to contact SCA if they need any additional information.

12. Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that Cedar Hills Landfill, the last remaining landfill in King County and primary destination for solid waste in the county, is expected to reach capacity sometime between 2035 and 2041. The 2019 King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan directs King County to invest in extending the life of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill by expanding the area for landfilling while also beginning work to identify the next disposal option before a required five-year plan update.

During the 2019/2020 biennial budget process, the King County Council funded a study to analyze two disposal options: siting and development of a waste to energy incineration plant, and exporting solid waste out of the county by rail. The Waste-to-Energy and Waste Export by Rail Feasibility Study, conducted by Arcadis U.S., Inc., was released on October 4, 2019.

The Arcadis Team recommends waste-to-energy as the preferred disposal option, as compared to waste export by rail. The study found long-term cost savings, improved recycling rates, and potential for net negative greenhouse gas emissions with the inclusion of carbon capture technology. The Arcadis Team recommends that King County pursue additional evaluation, analysis of permitting and siting considerations, and other steps necessary to move forward with waste-to-energy disposal.

Parry reported that the Solid Waste Division is also developing a Zero Waste of Resources Plan. He said the Division would like to use this planning process consider actions that could diminish the quantity of waste being disposed, which in turn would impact the type and scale of future disposal options under consideration.

The 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan requires the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget to engage regional partners to develop a plan for long-term disposal. A status report on this plan is required to be delivered to the King County Council by December 31, 2021.

Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, said that he appreciated seeing the county seriously considering waste to energy as a disposal option.

Councilmember Ernest Thompson, Normandy Park, said that he agreed the county should be considering waste to energy and that shipping by rail is outdated.

13. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that the King County Library System is planning to seek voter approval for an operations levy that would bring their rate to 50-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, up from a current rate of 32-cents, in August. There is also expected to be a capital construction levy in November of 15 to 18u-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value for Harborview Medical Center. Parry asked members to provide updates on any ballot measures under consideration in their cities or impacting their communities, in particular any efforts to backfill transportation funding lost due to I-976.

14. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry highlighted potential upcoming issues on [page 74 of the PIC packet](#). He asked members to provide feedback on issues they would like to be the focus of future PIC discussion, pre-PIC workshops, or training opportunities.

15. Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, April 8, 2020 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM

16. For the Good of the Order

Chair Malchow asked if any members had any items for the good of the order. Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, thanked staff and PIC members for making the meeting a success despite having to be held telephonically due to the public health emergency. Other members echoed their support.

17. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
March 11, 2020**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	
Auburn	Nancy Backus	James Jeyaraj
Beaux Arts Village	Tom Stowe	Aletha Howes
Bellevue	Janice Zahn	Jeremy Barksdale
Black Diamond	Erin Stout	Tamie Deady
Bothell	James McNeal	Tom Agnew
Burien	Krystal Marx	Nancy Tosta
Carnation	Dustin Green	Kim Lisk
Clyde Hill	Marianne Klaas	Kim Muromoto
Covington	Fran Hollums	Joseph Cimaomo
Des Moines	Traci Buxton	
Duvall	Michelle Hogg	Jennifer Knaplund
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Tony Binion
Federal Way	Martin Moore	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	N/A
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Barbara de Michele
Kenmore	David Baker	Corina Pfeil
Kent	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	Toby Nixon
Lake Forest Park	Tom French	Semra Riddle
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Les Burberry
Medina	Jennifer Garone	Jessica Rossman
Mercer Island	Benson Wong	David Rosebaum
Milton	Jim Gillespie	Shanna Styron Sherrell
Newcastle	Linda Newing	Tony Ventrella
Normandy Park	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Ernest Thompson
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Heather Koellen
Pacific	Leanne Guier	David Sporaasli
Redmond	Angela Birney	Vanessa Kritzer
Renton	Ed Prince	Armondo Pavone
Sammamish	Christie Malchow	Kent Treen
SeaTac	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Will Hall
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Katherine Ross	Matt Larson
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Thomas McLeod
Woodinville	Elaine Cook	Gary Harris
Yarrow Point	Dicker Cahill	
SCA	Deanna Dawson Brian Parry	Alexis Mercedes Rinck Leah Willoughby

Cities present at the meeting are **bolded**. Voting representatives present are highlighted.