



SCA Public Issues Committee

MINUTES

July 14, 2021 – 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. 30 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)).

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

Guests present included:

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Barbara de Michele, Issaquah (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Corina Pfeil, Kenmore (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Earnest Thompson, Normandy Park (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Kent Treen, Sammamish (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond (PIC Alternate); Council President Susan Honda, Federal Way; Councilmember Jennifer Robertson, Bellevue; Lacey Jane Wolfe, Bellevue staff; Diane Hart, Woodinville staff; Doug Levy, Renton consultant; Lauren Craig, King County staff; Jenny Huston, King County staff; Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, King County staff; Tom Goff, King County staff; Olivia Robinson, King County staff; Sharman Herrin, King County staff; Kelsey Beck, City of Seattle staff; John Sheller, King County Library System

2. Public Comment

Chair Malchow asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment. John Sheller, Government Relations Manager for the King County Library System provided public comment that as of July 14, 2021, all community libraries are fully reopened. He thanked PIC members and their communities for supporting the King County Library System. Sheller asked that a letter expressing his comments be included in the PIC minutes ([Attachment C](#)).

Chair Malchow asked if there was any further public comment. Hearing none, the public comment portion of the agenda was closed.

3. Approval of the June 9, 2021 PIC Minutes

Chair Malchow asked if there were any amendments to the June 9, 2021 PIC minutes. **Vice Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, moved, seconded by Councilmember Martin Moore, Federal Way, to approve the June 9, 2021 minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Chair's Report

Chair Malchow reported that PIC members previously discussed canceling the August meeting and would need to adopt a motion to formally cancel the meeting if that was the committee's intent. Malchow also reminded members that PIC will be seeking nominees to fill the PIC vice chair position for 2022. She encouraged interested PIC members to reach out to SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson for more information.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, moved, seconded by Mayor Sean Kelly, Maple Valley, to cancel the August PIC meeting. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson provided a report. She thanked everyone who was able to attend the most recent SCA Networking Event and said that SCA is exploring options to shift networking events to in-person but would likely continue hosting workshops and trainings virtually for the time being because they have been so well attended in that format. SCA is planning several trainings for July, including a presentation on SCA member city equity initiatives on July 23; a presentation on King County redistricting on July 26; and, a workshop with Amazon on their new housing equity fund on July 30. SCA is also planning a workshop with Microsoft on their affordable housing work and have received suggestions to host future workshops on new requirements from HB 1220, which was adopted during the 2021 state legislative session, as well as on community courts. She encouraged PIC members to reach out to staff with any additional suggestions.

Dawson reported the Implementation Board of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority met on July 14 and the Governing Committee would be meeting on July 15. The Staffing plan for the Authority was on the agenda for both meetings. SCA Governing Committee Members are working to ensure that subregional planning is appropriately staffed in the organization. The staffing plan org chart was amended as a result of feedback from SCA Governing Committee members. The Implementation Board unanimously approved the staffing plan on July 14 and the Governing Committee was expected to act on July 15.

Dawson said that King County has announced plans to purchase several additional hotels as part of its Health Through Housing Initiative. Locations of the additional hotels purchased include Queen Anne and North Seattle, Renton, and Redmond. Other purchases are being actively considered by the county.

6. Metro Plan Updates and Guiding Principles

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported King County Metro is currently working to update their three major transit policy documents: the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, Service Guidelines, and the long-range plan Metro Connects. The primary goal of updating these key policy documents is to better reflect and incorporate the principles and recommendations outlined in the Mobility Framework to center equity and sustainability in transit decisions. Over the last year and a half, the Regional Transit Committee (RTC) has been engaging with Metro on these documents and potential changes.

The Executive plans to transmit the policy updates in late July for possible action by the end of the year. RTC is expected to begin reviewing the transmitted documents at their September meeting. In preparation for this, the SCA caucus to RTC has been meeting regularly, including a number of extra workshops, to find areas of compromise and shared interests and priorities among the caucus. Through this work, the caucus has developed a set of high-level Guiding Principles for review and to bring back to PIC in September for possible action. The proposed Guiding Principles can be found starting on page 19 of the [July 14, 2021 PIC packet](#) .

The proposed Guiding Principles are grouped into sections under the headings of equity, growth, partnerships, and data & information sharing. The caucus wanted to lead the Guiding Principles with equity as that has been a primary focus in Metro's updates to align with the Mobility Framework and to ensure that investments are prioritized where needs are greatest while avoiding any disproportionate impacts of service changes in any one area of the county. The Guiding Principles also include priorities around growth and building a robust system that supports the region's goals for housing an employment growth. There is a section on partnerships, and the need to work with SCA and individual communities to incorporate local knowledge in decision-making. Lastly, the Guiding Principles touch on the need for transparency and making decisions based on data.

Dawson said the SCA caucus to RTC asked for PIC to review the proposed Guiding Principles to ensure they reflect the priorities and interests of all SCA cities. If adopted by SCA, the caucus will then work to make sure that these principles are reflected in policies as RTC begins formal review of the documents and considers amendments to what is transmitted by the Executive. The recommended action is to vote tonight to bring these principles back for potential action in September.

Members were encouraged to review the proposed Guiding Principles with their city councils and provide any feedback to SCA staff prior to the September PIC meeting.

Dawson noted that Councilmember Jennifer Robertson, Bellevue, who serves as Vice Chair of RTC and Chair of the SCA RTC Caucus was in attendance to say a few words about the Guiding Principles.

Councilmember Jennifer Robinson, Bellevue, thanked PIC for reviewing the Guiding Principles and SCA Policy Analyst Jackie Wheeler for her efforts in support of the work of the SCA RTC caucus. She said the caucus has worked together to seek to represent all of SCA in their discussions with other RTC members. She noted that SCA is a minority voice on RTC, but that having the support of SCA as a whole would help strengthen their positions when working with other members of the committee.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, suggested adding language to the Guiding Principles emphasizing the need for first and last mile transit solutions. SCA Executive Director Dawson said staff would follow-up with RTC caucus members about making that point more explicit in the proposed principles.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, thanked everyone who worked on the proposed Guiding Principles for their efforts.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, moved, seconded by Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, to bring the proposed Guiding Principles including any suggested revisions to the September PIC meeting for potential action. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Countywide Planning Policies

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that the King County Growth Management Council (GMPC) met on June 23 and approved a package of amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies (CPP's). Action to recommend the policies followed discussion and action on a series of proposed [amendments](#). The most significant area of discussion centered on affordable housing policy and in particular how to best ensure that affordable housing need is being met throughout the county in an equitable manner and that all jurisdictions are doing their part.

To provide a forum to continue discussion of these issues, the GMPC directed the Affordable Housing Committee (a subcommittee of the GMPC) to commence a collaborative effort over the next year to reevaluate the issues raised and recommend further CPP housing chapter amendments by the end of 2022. Setting up a separate track to continue reviewing these issues allows time for in-depth discussion while the rest of the CPP's, including various policy updates and growth targets, move forward to keep with the timing of upcoming updates to local comprehensive plans that many cities have already begun scoping for.

Revisions to the policies include a much greater focus on planning for health and equity; greater emphasis on climate change; and, significantly, through local growth targets the CPP's implement VISION 2050 at the countywide level, which sought to plan for a much greater share of the region's growth to be tied to access to transit connected to job centers.

Parry said that during the process of updating the CPP's, some concerns were raised that the draft policies did not go far enough to recognize disparities in affordability by subregion or to hold jurisdictions accountable to meet their share of projected countywide need. The direction to the Affordable Housing Committee from the GMPC is to approach this issue in several ways and provide the GMPC with further potential changes to the housing chapter of the CPP's by the end of next year. First is to monitor and report housing supply, including disparities between subregions, through the Affordable Housing Dashboard and other reporting. In addition, the Affordable Housing Committee is asked to explore city-level goals and targets for affordability. These are to be informed by work that the Department of Commerce was directed to produce during the last legislative session on the same topic. Finally, the Affordable Housing Committee is tasked with recommending an "accountability and implementation framework" to equitably meet affordable housing needs throughout the county. What this accountability mechanism might look like is unclear. This will be an important discussion moving forward at the Affordable Housing Committee that we will be following closely and anticipate bringing back to PIC in the future.

Next steps for the CPP's as recommended by the GMPC is that they must first be approved by the County Council and then ratified by at least 30 percent of cities and towns representing at least 70 percent of the total county population. Upon ratification, the CPP's become binding on the County and its 39 cities and provide direction on elements that must be included in local comprehensive plans.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, asked about the discussions concerning implementation and accountability and who would be responsible for ensuring goals are being met. Parry said there is not currently any entity with that authority and that it was an open question that the Affordable Housing Committee would need to consider in their review.

8. Clean Water Plan

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry provided an update on work in the region to develop a Water Plan as well as new developments related to nutrient management regulation from the Department of Ecology.

Over the next few decades, the county is expected to spend billions of dollars in water quality investments, and the Clean Water Plan will guide those investment decisions whether they be programs or capital investments. The King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) has been providing monthly briefings to both the Regional Water Quality Committee and the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee throughout the planning process. WTD has presented on the various actions (projects or programs) that they will use to build potential strategies for further evaluation and assessment to eventually land on a preferred strategy for council consideration. The Clean Water Plan is expected to be transmitted by the WTD to the County Council sometime in 2022. WTD has hosted a number of Elected Officials' Workshops. The next workshop is scheduled for September 21 and another on October 22.

Parry noted that the Clean Water Plan will guide substantial public investment and will have significant long-term effects both in terms of system and water quality improvements as well as to ratepayers. SCA will continue to update PIC on the planning process for the Clean Water Plan and opportunities for engagement whether that be through separate SCA workgroups with interested cities or county-led efforts.

Parry said the Department of Ecology (DOE) released a draft nutrient management rule in June with a comment period running through August 16. The general permit addresses discharges from wastewater facilities to the Puget Sound, and the level of excess nutrients going into the Sound from those sources. Excess nutrients are, in particular, higher nitrogen concentrations that result in excessive algae growth, which then leads to a host of negative water quality and biological outcomes.

As proposed by DOE, King County estimates they will exceed the proposed nutrient limits by 2022. They estimate that a long-term solution would require upgrades to existing and new facilities, potentially costing into the tens of billions of dollars. Meanwhile, the county notes that wastewater treatments plants are a relatively small contributor to overall nutrient sources

feeding into the Sound and is proposing Department of Ecology pursue other approaches to address the issue that may be both better and more economical.

Parry said King County is preparing a comment letter to the Department of Ecology to highlight their concerns and they are also creating a template to assist cities who are interested in also providing comment that should be available by the end of the week. Parry said the letter template would be sent to SCA members when available.

Mayor Marianne Klaas, Clyde Hill, asked if the proposed new regulations concerning nutrient management would have a direct impact on work that must be performed by cities or if the impacts were only to regional wastewater facilities.

9. Solid Waste Rates and Fees

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported on proposed increases to King County Solid Waste Rates and Fees. At the April 2021 PIC meeting, PIC discussed the topic of 2022 solid waste rates and fees as well as sewer rates in detail. PIC took emergency action on sewer rates at that meeting in support of more incremental or gradual rate increases (when necessary) to mitigate impacts on ratepayers. Since that action, the County Executive transmitted his solid waste rate proposal to council for consideration that follows an incremental approach. The proposal would raise the current per-ton disposal rate by 9.4%, or the equivalent of \$0.71 on the average monthly bill for curbside customers. Both the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (MSWMAC) have been actively engaged in this process and they have both already submitted letters to the King County Council recognizing the need for this rate increase to support the solid waste system and ensure continued work on necessary projects.

The King County Council's Budget and Fiscal Management Committee is expected to take up the solid waste rate proposal on July 20 before going to the full council for consideration ahead of the September 30 deadline.

10. Levies and Ballot Measures

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that several fire district funding measures would be on the August primary ballot. He also highlighted that the cities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park are considering placing measures to fund pedestrian and park improvements on the November ballot. Vice Chair Boyce said that the Kent Regional Fire Authority was considering seeking approval for a lifetime fire benefit charge. Councilmember Lorri Bodi, Lake Forest Park said the city is engaging the public on a potential permanent levy proposal for sidewalks, parks, bikeways, and other amenities. Councilmember Ross Loudonback, North Bend, said the city was looking at a Transportation Benefit District renewal proposal for November.

11. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on issues anticipated to come before PIC at future meetings.

12. Member Roundtable

Members held a roundtable discussion on what aspects of PIC are most important to members and their cities, how SCA can ensure that PIC continues to serve the needs of member cities, and how to best ensure that PIC is accessible, welcoming, and inclusive to all individual representatives.

13. Informational Items

Chair Malchow noted an informational item in the meeting packet concerning the update to the regional Hazardous Waste Management Plan.

14. Upcoming Events

Upcoming SCA events include:

- a. SCA Board Meeting – Wednesday, July 21, 2021 – 10:00 AM to Noon
- b. SCA City Equity Initiatives Presentation – Friday, July 23, 2021 – Noon to 1 PM
- c. SCA Presentation: King County Redistricting – Monday, July 26, 2021 – Noon to 1 PM
- d. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, August 11, 2021 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM

15. For the Good of the Order

No discussion.

16. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
July 14, 2021**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	none
Auburn	Nancy Backus	James Jeyaraj
Beaux Arts Village	Athena Howes	Tom Stowe
Bellevue	Janice Zahn	Jeremy Barksdale
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	
Bothell	James McNeal	Tom Agnew
Burien	Krystal Marx	Nancy Tosta
Carnation	Dustin Green	Kim Lisk
Clyde Hill	Marianne Klaas	Kim Muromoto
Covington	Joseph Cimaomo	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Traci Buxton	none
Duvall	Michelle Hogg	Rick Shaffer
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	none
Federal Way	Martin Moore	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	none
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	Lorri Bodi
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Les Burberry
Medina	Jennifer Garone	Jessica Rossman
Mercer Island	David Rosenbaum	Benson Wong
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	none
Redmond	Angela Birney	Vanessa Kritzer
Renton	Armondo Pavone	Ed Prince
Sammamish	Christie Malchow	Kent Treen
SeaTac	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Will Hall
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	none
Snoqualmie	Katherine Ross	Matt Larson
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Zak Idan
Woodinville	Gary Harris	Rachel Best-Campbell
Yarrow Point	Dicker Cahill	none

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

SCA Public Issues Committee – July 14, 2021
Attachment B – Zoom Chat Log

From Earnest Thompson to All panelists : Sorry. Zoom rocks. Decreased carbon imprint. Saves time and money. For those who feel a need to hug someone ...try your family. At the minimum keep a hybrid zoom format.