



SCA Public Issues Committee

MINUTES

February 9, 2022

TELEPHONIC

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Council President Bill Boyce, Kent, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 31 cities were represented ([Attachment A](#)).

Guests present included Deputy Mayor James Jeyaraj, Auburn (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Rami Al-Kabra, Bothell (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Rick Shaffer, Duvall (PIC Alternate); Deputy Council President Zach Hall, Issaquah (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Lorri Bodi, Lake Forest Park (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Earnest Thompson, Normandy Park (PIC Alternate); Kent Treen, Sammamish (PIC Alternate); Lacey Jane Wolfe, Bellevue staff; Chad Bieren, Kent staff; Diana Hart, Woodinville staff; Tom Goff, King County staff; Jenny Huston, King County staff; Sharman Herrin, King County staff; Olivia Robinson, King County staff; and Candice Bock, Association of Washington Cities (AWC) staff.

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](#)).

2. Public Comment

Chair Boyce asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment. Earnest Thompson addressed PIC and encouraged the region to give consideration to hyperloop technology as part of the update to the Regional Transportation Plan ongoing at the Puget Sound Regional Council.

There was no additional public comment and the public comment period was closed.

3. Approval of the January 12, 2022 PIC Minutes

Chair Boyce asked if there were any amendments to the January 12, 2022 PIC minutes. **Deputy Mayor Traci Buxton, Des Moines, moved, seconded by Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, to approve the January 12, 2022 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Chair's Report

Chair Boyce reported that he participated in an SCA board retreat in January where the board spent time talking about their personal values and how those inform their work on the board, regional committees, and in their city leadership. Boyce said that he was looking forward to hopefully beginning to hold more in-person meetings in 2022.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry thanked members for attending the evening's meeting and provided a brief report.

6. Legislative Session Update

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry introduced Candice Bock, Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Director of Government Relations, who provided an update on progress of the Washington State Legislative Session and city priorities. Bock provided an update on the status of priority bills, including the release of a statewide transportation package, legislation targeting "missing middle" housing, and law enforcement reform clarifications. As the status of bills changes quickly during the legislative session, Bock recommended members refer to the latest weekly AWC "[hot sheet](#)" for the latest information on priority bills AWC is supporting and opposing. Members participated in a question and answer discussion concerning active legislation.

7. Regional Boards and Committees Appointments

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that the PIC Nominating Committee met on February 1, 2022 to consider nominations to fill vacant alternate positions on the Domestic Violence Initiative Regional Task Force; the Joint Recommendations Committee; the King County Flood Control Advisory Committee; and, the Regional Transit Committee. Parry introduced Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, who serves as chair of the PIC Nominating Committee. Loudenback thanked members for their willingness to serve on regional boards and committees.

Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, moved, seconded by Councilmember Valerie O'Halloran, Renton, to recommend to the SCA Board of Directors the following appointments: Councilmember Jenne Alderks, Bothell, to fill a vacant alternate position on the Domestic Violence Initiative Regional Task Force; Councilmember Karen Howe, Sammamish, to fill a vacant alternate position on the Joint Recommendations Committee; Councilmember Sarah Moore, Burien, to fill a vacant alternate position on the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee; and, Councilmember Kathy Hougardy, Tukwila, to fill a vacant alternate position on the Regional Transit Committee. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Regional Transportation Plan Update

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on ongoing work at the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) to update the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP serves as the region's long-range transportation plan under both federal and state law and was developed to implement VISION 2050, the region's long-range plan for growth management. The plan is updated every four years for adoption by the Puget Sound Regional Council General Assembly, which includes representatives of each jurisdiction in the four-county PSRC region (King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish).

PSRC is seeking public comment on the draft RTP through February 28, 2022. The PSRC Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board will make any final recommendations to the final plan that will go before the General Assembly in May 2022. Adoption of a long-range

Regional Transportation Plan is required in order for federal funds to continue to flow to the region.

Parry said that over the life of the plan, the region is projected to grow by about 1.6 million people and an additional 1.1 million jobs. In total, the RTP encompasses nearly \$300 billion in future investments. More than half, 56%, is dedicated to maintenance and preservation. 70% of the new investments planned are for local and regional transit. These projects include planned light rail, bus rapid transit, and other system investments in transit agency plans. Overall, about 85% of the plan can be funded through sources that exist under state law, a slight improvement from existing plan. The remaining amount, about \$43 billion will need to come from new sources. Parry noted that the plan relies heavily on a shift away from the gas tax, which is declining over time, with a mileage-based user fee or Road Usage Charge.

Parry said that the PSRC Transportation Policy Board, who is currently reviewing the draft plan, have had ongoing discussions concerning whether the plan does enough to address safety and climate change and that those are likely to be continued areas of focus as the plan is finalized.

Parry encouraged members to provide feedback either directly to PSRC or to SCA so that it may be shared with SCA members of the Transportation Policy Board.

Council Vice President Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond, said she is supportive of the plan overall and that one issue the City of Redmond is interested in is seeing analysis on how well the plan is anticipated to connect affordable housing with access to transit.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, said she appreciates the work that has gone into updating the plan. She said she supported more emphasis being placed on safety, climate change, and equity, and that robust data is needed to guide decision-making.

9. Regional Wastewater Treatment

SCA Policy Analyst Kazia Mermel reported on several updates on regional wastewater management. King County's Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) is in the process of developing a Clean Water Plan that will guide investments in wastewater management over the next 40 years. The decisions made in the plan will have significant implications for water quality, climate resilience, and sewer rates across King County.

The last time the Clean Water Plan was brought to PIC, WTD had extended the planning timeline by a year, so that transmittal to the County Council was expected at the end of 2022. However, WTD has since put the plan on pause indefinitely so as to allow for some regulatory uncertainty to resolve and to better incorporate feedback from stakeholders, including members of the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC).

One major source of regulatory uncertainty is the Nutrient General Permit, which was issued by the Washington Department of Ecology on December 1, 2021. The Nutrient General Permit sets limits on the levels of nutrients, particularly nitrogen, that wastewater treatment plants are permitted to discharge into the Puget Sound.

The WTD has expressed concerns about the permit. Reducing nutrient levels in wastewater effluent requires large capital improvements and therefore tends to be expensive and relatively inflexible. To address these concerns, King County and several other jurisdictions have filed appeals, which are currently scheduled to be heard jointly by the Pollution Control Hearing Board in 2023. King County has also filed a motion for stay, which will be resolved sooner, likely in the coming weeks.

The outcome of the appeal will have significant implications for WTD's future planning. As such, WTD may not resume the Clean Water Plan development process until that appeal is resolved, which would be in 2023.

In the meantime, SCA staff have been coordinating with staff from sewer districts, Seattle Public Utilities, and SCA member cities to draft Guiding Principles for the Clean Water Plan. These Guiding Principles outline expectations for affordability, equity, scope, and process, among other important priorities shared across the cities and sewer districts. SCA staff have shared these principles with the SCA caucus of the RWQC and anticipate bringing a draft version to a PIC meeting in the next few months for input.

In parallel to these efforts on the Clean Water Plan and the Nutrient General Permit, Seattle has contracted with independent experts at Portland State University to conduct an evaluation of the region's wastewater governance system, with an eye toward identifying alternative approaches to wastewater governance. As part of this process, and to make sure that their efforts are aligned with the rest of the region, Seattle is putting together a Regional Stakeholder Committee, and has granted the SCA Board appointing authority for three of its members. At their January 2022 meeting, the Board appointed Mayor Penny Sweet of Kirkland, Mayor Leanne Guier of Pacific, and Mayor Allan Ekberg of Tukwila to this committee.

SCA staff will continue to update PIC on the Clean Water Plan, the status of the Nutrient General Permit, and any additional opportunities for engagement in regional wastewater management.

Deputy Mayor Traci Buxton, Des Moines, said that it seemed like the Nutrient General Permit was introduced without a lot of time for stakeholders to react. She appreciates the extra time to consider how this will move forward and appreciates learning about issues like this at PIC.

Councilmember Valerie O'Halloran, Renton, expressed concern that the issuance of the Nutrient General Permit was rushed and that there is insufficient scientific backing. She says she is relieved to hear about the appeal and engagement with stakeholders, and she hopes that there will be more robust science going forward.

Mayor Katy Harris, Yarrow Point, asked whether capital improvement dollars would be collected from cities based on population or water usage, or by other means. Parry responded that the Clean Water Plan investments would primarily be funded through the sewer rate.

10. King County Homeless Count

SCA Policy Analyst Hali Willis reported that the King County Regional Homelessness authority is using a different method in 2022 to complete the Point-In-Time (PIT) count required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) every other year. The PIT has two parts: a sheltered and unsheltered count. The sheltered count uses administrative data to count the number of people staying in shelters on one night. The sheltered count will not be different this year, other than it will take place March 1 instead of in January.

The Authority will use different methodology for the unsheltered count in 2022, but it will still yield a count of people living unsheltered. Typically, volunteers count the number of people they observe living outside over the course of a few hours in the early morning in January. In King County, the unsheltered count has also included some qualitative outreach to learn more about people living unsheltered, their needs and the barriers to accessing service they face. Due to the short time frame and other factors, this may not provide a very accurate count or insights into the needs of people living unsheltered.

In order to collect more qualitative information to better understand the barriers people living unsheltered face to accessing services, the Authority will conduct qualitative outreach and the count of unsheltered people over the course of the month of March rather than one night in January. Another difference is the Authority will use “snowball sampling” to find people by asking each respondent to identify other homeless and unsheltered respondents that may not be connected to services. The Authority plans to make their findings available publicly in May.

Willis encouraged members to provide any questions but noted that research plan is still in development and many details are not yet available. Additional information is anticipated to be available in late February.

Deputy Mayor Susan Honda, Federal Way, noted that she has participated in the PIT count in prior years. She asked for clarification about the time of day the count would be conducted and how the Authority will avoid duplicative counting. She also suggested the interviews include asking people about their needs for addiction treatment.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said he supports the increased qualitative data and asked what concerns the Authority had with the previous method of collecting quantitative data. Willis responded that the Authority is concerned that the previous methodology was significantly undercounting the true number of homeless individuals in the region.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, who serves on the Authority’s Governing Committee, noted that there have been at least four different prior methodologies and all have had different challenges in assessing the true number of homeless individuals in the region. Changing the timing of the count should identify more people who experience homelessness throughout the year and connect more people with homelessness services.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, said that she appreciated the effort to get better information directly from those experiencing homelessness so that policymakers can better understand the needs for the varied communities we are trying to serve.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, said that the proposed new method seems like a much better approach and better way of getting feedback.

Councilmember Amy Falcone, Kirkland, said that she appreciates seeing the Authority taking a thoughtful approach to the homelessness count and to getting better information about the barriers people experience in connecting with the services they need. She suggested the Authority should engage a social scientist in their work.

Deputy Mayor Susan Honda, Federal Way, asked for additional information on whether volunteers would still be needed and if the Authority would be coordinating with police and parks department personnel.

Council Vice President Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond, asked for additional information on whether outcomes data would be published in a format grouping data from multiple cities or by each individual city.

11. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the results of the February election, including that the City of Shoreline parks levy was passing with 68% support and had met the minimum threshold for voter turnout required for approval.

12. Upcoming Events

Chair Boyce highlighted upcoming SCA events, including:

- a. SCA Board Meeting – Wednesday, February 16, 2022 – 10:00 AM to Noon
- b. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, March 9, 2022 – 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

13. For the Good of the Order

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, highlighted for members that the King County Board of Health would be considering the following week whether to repeal their bicycle helmet regulations, noting that PIC members held a robust discussion on the topic at a previous meeting.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned 8:49 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
February 9, 2022**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona		
Auburn	Nancy Backus	James Jeyaraj
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	
Bellevue	Janice Zahn	Jeremy Barksdale
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	
Bothell	James McNeal	Rami Al-Kabra
Burien		
Carnation	Kim Lisk	Dustin Green
Clyde Hill	Marianne Klaas	Kim Muromoto
Covington	Joseph Cimaomo	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Traci Buxton	
Duvall	Michelle Hogg	Rick Shaffer
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Corrie Koopman Frazier
Federal Way	Susan Honda	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Zach Hall
Kenmore	David Baker	Corina Pfeil
Kent	Bill Boyce	
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	Amy Falcone
Lake Forest Park	Tom French	Lorri Bodi
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	
Medina	Jennifer Garone	Jessica Rossman
Mercer Island	David Rosenbaum	Ted Weinberg
Milton	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Tim Cedar
Newcastle	Linda Newing	Paul Charbonneau
Normandy Park	Sue-Ann Hohimer	
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Heather Koellen
Pacific	Leanne Guier	
Redmond	Vanessa Kritzer	Angela Birney
Renton	Armondo Pavone	Valerie O'Halloran
Sammamish	Amy Lam	Kent Treen
SeaTac	Jake Simpson	Senayet Negusse
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	John Ramsdell
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	James Mayhew	Cara Christensen
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Kathy Hougardy
Woodinville	Mike Millman	Rachel Best-Campbell
Yarrow Point	Katy Harris	

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

SCA Public Issues Committee – February 9, 2022
Attachment B – Zoom Chat Log

19:05:12 From Leah Willoughby, SCA to Cara Christensen and all panelists:
Are you attending in place of James Mayhew?

19:05:24 From Cara Christensen to Hosts and panelists:
Yes, I am.

19:25:55 From Leah Willoughby, SCA to Corina Pfeil, Kenmore Councilmember and all panelists:

I do not see David Baker in attendance. Are you attending in his place this evening?