



## SCA Public Issues Committee

### MINUTES

October 13, 2021 – 7:00 PM

TELEPHONIC

#### 1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Deputy Mayor Christie Malchow, Sammamish, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. 32 cities were represented ( [Attachment A](#) ).

Guests present included James Jeyaraj, Auburn PIC Alternate; Barbara de Michele, Issaquah PIC Alternate; Lorri Bodi, Lake Forest Park PIC Alternate; Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond PIC Alternate; Pam Fernald, SeaTac PIC Alternate; Lacey Jane Wolfe, Bellevue staff; Doug Levy, Renton consultant; Diane Hart, Woodinville staff; Lauren Batalias, King County Metro; Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, King County Local Hazardous Waste Management; Tom Goff, King County Council staff; Sharman Herrin, King County Wastewater Treatment Division; Kelsey Beck, Seattle staff; Hannah Smith, Seattle staff; Vicky Clarke, Cascade Bicycle Club; Ethan C. Campbell, Central Seattle Greenways.

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 Malchow asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment.

Vicky Clarke, Cascade Bicycle Club Policy Director, said the Cascade Bicycle Club is an advocate for bicycle safety and were among the original supporters of laws requiring helmet usage in the region in the 1990's. She said that the organization's understanding of the negative impacts of disproportionate enforcement of helmet laws led them to reconsider their position. She said that while they continue to support helmet usage, they are also in support the proposal before the King County Board of Health to repeal helmet regulations to address enforcement concerns.

#### 3. Approval of the September 8, 2021 PIC Minutes

Chair Malchow asked if there were any amendments to the September 8, 2021 PIC minutes.

**Vice Chair Councilmember Ross Loudonback, North Bend, moved, seconded by Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Covington, to approve the September 8, 2021 minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### 4. Chair's Report

Chair Malchow noted that at previous meetings there was discussion of potentially canceling the November PIC meeting. **Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, moved, seconded by Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, to cancel the November 10, 2021 PIC meeting.**

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, asked if not meeting in November would have any effect on PIC's schedule to recommend regional board and committee appointments. SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson said that the PIC Nominating Committee is scheduled to make its recommendations in time for the December PIC meeting, and that canceling the November PIC meeting would have no effect on the schedule.

**There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **5. Executive Director's Report**

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that the Port of Seattle and the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce worked with economic development managers from SCA cities to craft a new program called the Trusted Community Partner Network. This was presented to the City Managers group earlier this month, and mayors should have received a letter about it earlier in the day. It is a program to have navigators embedded in community to assist businesses. The Port and Chamber, in its role as the Associate Development Organization (ADO) for King County, are hoping that cities will partner in this effort using American Rescue Plan Act funds, or grant funds from the Port. She encouraged members to reach out if they have any questions.

Dawson noted that the CEO for Greater Seattle Partners recently resigned and that she has been asked to join the search team for a new CEO on behalf of SCA. She asked members to reach out to share any feedback on what the region should be looking for in a new leader of the organization.

The SCA Equity and Inclusion Cabinet met earlier in the week to plan the next installment in SCA's Racial Equity and Justice series, which will be on Allyship. More information will be provided to SCA members as plans are finalized.

The SCA Annual Meeting will be held on December 1, 2021. At that meeting, the SCA budget and dues for 2022 will be voted upon, and there will also be a celebration of retiring SCA members.

### **6. Metro Policy Updates and Amended SCA Guiding Principles**

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson noted that the PIC considered at its last two meetings proposed Guiding Principles developed by SCA members to the Regional Transit Committee to identify and advocate for areas where is true consensus between SCA cities as they evaluate updates to Metro's 2021 updates to King County Metro's policy documents: the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation; the Service Guidelines; and Metro Connects.

The Guiding Principles, as presented in September, were passed unanimously by PIC. When the Guiding Principles were brought to the SCA Board for adoption, board members representing Snoqualmie Valley and South Valley raises some concerns about the level of service provided to

their communities by Metro. The Guiding Principles recommended unanimously by PIC were adopted by the board. While the concerns raised were less with the Guiding Principles than with Metro service generally, SCA staff committed to working to find language that could be added to the Guiding Principles that would communicate some of the issues raised by the cities in more rural areas of the county. In addition, SCA worked in the past month to ensure that Metro was aware of the concerns raised. Dawson said that Metro has been responsive to the concerns raised, and has agreed to meet with the Snoqualmie Valley and South Valley cities.

Dawson said the revised language proposed in the October 13, 2021 PIC packet was developed through work with SCA board members and other mayors from Snoqualmie Valley and South Valley, as well as with the Chair and Vice Chair of the SCA caucus of the Regional Transit Committee and their staff.

Dawson said that, if adopted, the revised Guiding Principles would be brought back to the SCA Board with the hope that there can be unanimous support.

Councilmember Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie, said that she reviewed the revised language with her city council and that they appreciated the added language.

Councilmember Michelle Hogg, Duvall, said that she appreciated the proposed changes and was supportive.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, asked if the new language might be interpreted to mean that there is expectation of transit service to every area of the county, including very rural areas that are not planned for future transit. SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson said that the question was raised and discussed when the revised language was being developed and that the consensus was that the new language should not be interpreted to imply an expectation that absolutely every corner of the county, no matter how rural, would be served by transit.

Councilmember Ross Loudonback, North Bend, said that he is concerned about protecting the limited resources available to provide transit service in the Snoqualmie Valley.

**Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, moved, seconded by Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Covington, to recommend the SCA board adopt the Metro Plans and Policy Updates Guiding Principles as shown in [Attachment C](#) . The motion passed unanimously.**

## **7. 2022 SCA State Legislative Agenda**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported SCA is beginning the process of collecting SCA member city legislative agendas in preparation for developing a 2022 SCA Legislative Agenda that reflects member city priorities. Parry reported that the Association of Washington Cities identified their legislative priorities recently and that they include passage of a state transportation package, supporting basic local infrastructure funding, and expanded local authority for Transportation Benefit Districts to extend sales tax collection beyond current statutory limits. He encouraged members to share their legislative agendas or initial issues their city is prioritizing for the 2022 legislative session with SCA staff.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, said that she anticipated the city's legislative priorities to look similar to the 2021 SCA legislative priorities with an emphasis on addressing areas of confusion or unintended consequences related to recently adopted law enforcement reforms.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, said that she anticipates priorities for Kirkland to include affordable housing and homelessness, and that they are pursuing a capital budget request for a feasibility study of a regional mental health crisis triage facility. Curtis noted that she serves as an SCA appointee on the King Conservation District Advisory Committee, and highlighted that legislation to reform the manner in which Conservation District Board of Supervisors are elected is expected to have traction in 2022.

## **8. Board of Health Bicycle Helmet Regulation**

SCA Policy Analyst Hali Willis reported on the Board of Health's (BOH) work to mitigate disproportionate enforcement of King County's Bicycle Helmet Regulations.

This issue was brought to PIC to inform members of potential changes the BOH is considering related to helmet laws, and solicit any feedback members may have for SCA representatives to the BOH.

The BOH first implemented regulations requiring bicycle helmet use in 1993, and extended it to Seattle in 2003. One study of the 2003 Seattle expansion showed that severe head injuries and bicyclist fatalities decreased after the helmet law went into effect. Local law enforcement has authority to enforce BOH regulations, including the Helmet Regulations. Bicyclists without helmets can face a \$30 civil fine plus court costs, and first-time infractions can be dismissed upon proof a helmet was obtained. In addition, fines can be waived or alternatives provided by the court, including reduced fines, community service, and additional time to pay the fine.

Data from Seattle presented to the Board in June demonstrated that Black, Indigenous and Hispanic/Latino cyclists were disproportionately cited for riding without a helmet relative to their share of the population, as were cyclists experiencing homelessness. Disproportionate stops and citations of people of color and people experiencing homelessness prompted the board to consider alternatives that could accomplish two goals: Eliminate disproportionate enforcement and maintain strong encouragement of universal, all-ages helmet use. At the September meeting, the Board discussed two options put forth by staff.

One option was to repeal the enforcement section, but keep the regulation on the books. Although this option would eliminate disproportionate citations, it would not necessarily change disproportionate law enforcement stops, because cyclists without helmets would still be breaking a law. This was of concern to the Board because engagement with law enforcement can result in trauma and physical harm, particularly for people of color. The second option was to repeal the helmet regulations and replace with a resolution taking a clear policy stance on the benefits of universal helmet use. This option would eliminate disproportionate stops and citations. At the September meeting, the Board directed staff to develop legislation to repeal the helmet regulations and replace them with a resolution on the importance of helmet use, and the board may vote on this new legislation this month. The

proposed resolution takes a clear policy stance on the benefits of all-ages helmet use for riders of bicycles and other wheeled devices like skateboards and scooters, and encourages Board members to support efforts to promote helmet use in their jurisdictions.

Any Board action does not preempt municipal helmet laws, so cities with their own helmet laws will not be directly affected by any change. BOH action would also not prevent cities from passing helmet laws. Note that Kenmore and Woodinville have helmet laws, but they directly reference the County's Helmet Regulations, so they would be affected by any BOH action.

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson, noted that a [letter from Cascade Bicycle Club](#) in support of the proposed repeal was sent to PIC members earlier in the day. The information in the letter was similar to the testimony presented under public comment by their Policy Director Vicky Clarke.

Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, noted that he is a member of the BOH. He said that the SCA caucus of the BOH wanted to bring this item to PIC due to the fact that the proposed repeal of the helmet regulation would impact cities. Mayor Baker noted that caucus members have generally been in favor of removing the penalties of the helmet laws due to information presented to the BOH on inequitable enforcement.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, expressed concerns that removing the Helmet Regulations would lead to negative health outcomes and questioned the rationale of repealing the regulations rather than ensuring they are applied equitably. Marts said that he doesn't find the arguments for repealing the helmet law compelling, and shared personal experiences supporting the importance of helmet use.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, said that he agrees with the direction the BOH appears to be going in abolishing the penalties in the Helmet Regulations. He said the region should be working to encourage bicycle and bicycle helmet use, and design infrastructure to ensure bicyclist safety.

Mayor Gary Harris, Woodinville, shared personal experiences on the importance of helmet use, and said that he is against repealing helmet regulations.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, shared that Kirkland does not regularly enforce the helmet law, but instead focuses on education and safety checks. Curtis noted the importance of improving infrastructure and separating bikes from cars and spoke in favor of repealing the regulation.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, shared that she is an alternate on the BOH, and noted that the current discussion has reflected the importance of helmet use. Councilmember Zahn said the BOH is looking for the best approach to get people to wear helmets, and is considering whether a compliance-based system the best way to achieve that goal when there are unintended consequences regarding who is cited for not wearing a helmet. Zahn noted the importance of helmet use for bicyclists and riders of scooters, motorcycles, and skateboards,

and asked whether cities are doing education and outreach, or using law enforcement to promote helmet use. She spoke in favor of repealing the regulation.

Councilmember Michelle Hogg, Duvall, expressed concerns about repealing the regulation and noted that she spoke with one of her city council colleagues who feels that if the helmet regulations are repealed it will lead to increased head injuries and fatalities. Councilmember Hogg shared a personal experience that emphasized the importance of helmet use.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, agreed with Councilmember Marts that helmets make a positive difference. Backus agreed with Councilmember Zahn on the importance of education and noted that officers in Auburn carry helmets in their cars to provide to residents without them and that this provides an opportunity for education.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, said she agreed with those who think the helmet regulations should not be removed. She noted that her city has its own helmet law and would not be impacted by the BOH repealing their helmet regulations, but that she did not support a repeal. Assefa-Dawson suggested that jurisdictions look to address what is driving disproportionate citations.

Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Covington, suggested that education on bike safety and helmets will do more than the enforcement. Cimaomo noted significant progress on encouraging people to wear helmets in recent decades, and noted the importance of helmet use. Cimaomo suggested leaving the regulations in place but removing enforcement in favor of education.

Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw, said that he supported an educational approach and shared an example of a program in Enumclaw where police officers gave out “tickets” to young bicyclists that could be exchanged for a free helmet if they needed a helmet, or a free frozen yogurt as a reward for using a helmet.

Mayor Marianne Klaas, Clyde Hill, said that from her perspective working in healthcare she did not support repealing the helmet regulations given the effectiveness of helmets for injury prevention. Klaas said the focus should be on uncovering the root causes of disproportionate enforcement and ensuring enforcement is equitable.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, shared personal experiences emphasizing the benefits of helmet use, and stated that she’s not sure changing the law so that it’s legal to ride a bicycle without a helmet is a good idea. Kruller proposed a sliding scale for fees based on ability to pay and giving judges latitude on penalties. She stated that if the goal is to reduce disproportionate policing of people of color, then the focus should be on eliminating that bias. Councilmember Kruller said that she would like to see statistics from other jurisdictions where helmet laws have been repealed and what impact that has on injuries to cyclists.

Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, voiced appreciation for the discussion about inequitable impacts for various communities. He expressed interest in learning more about the

effect of the current regulation on marginalized communities. He stressed the importance of having data to understand who is being affected and how.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, stressed the importance of education on the benefits helmet use and suggested working to resolve inequitable enforcement.

Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien, shared a personal story about the benefits of helmet use, and voiced concern that repealing the helmet regulations would imply to the public that helmet use isn't important.

Councilmember Tom French, Lake Forest Park, noted that a lack of sufficient data makes it difficult to assess the costs and benefits of repealing the helmet regulations. He said that there is a need to examine inequitable enforcement of regulations more broadly than just helmet usage. He supported addressing the inequitable enforcement without repealing the regulations.

Mayor Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, shared that she doesn't believe Normandy Park enforces helmet regulations, and voiced support for the program highlighted by Councilmember Chance LeFleur, Enumclaw, that takes an educational approach and rewards youth for using helmets.

## **9. King County Clean Water Plan**

SCA Policy Analyst Kazia Mermel provided an update about the development of a King County Clean Water Plan.

King County is in the process of developing a Clean Water Plan that will guide billions of dollars' worth of investments in wastewater infrastructure over the next 40 years. The decisions made in this plan will influence regional water quality, climate resilience, and sewer rates across King County for decades to come.

SCA members on the Regional Water Quality Committee have been very engaged on this issue, using their platform at RWQC meetings to ask key questions about both the planning process and the plan itself.

The Clean Water Plan development process has been extended by one year. Originally, the plan was set to be transmitted to council at the end of 2021. Now, the plan will be transmitted at the end of 2022 or later.

The King County Auditor's Office recently conducted a review of the Clean Water Plan planning process and highlighted areas where increased transparency could be beneficial for policymakers. The management letter and Wastewater Treatment Division's response can be found on pages 32-50 of the PIC packet.

Financial transparency was one key issue identified by the Auditor's Office, echoing questions RWQC members have raised about financial and environmental tradeoffs. The Wastewater Treatment Division is in the process of developing five strategies, or alternative versions of the

Clean Water Plan. These strategies are guided by different philosophies. Strategies A and B focus on conventional approaches, Strategies C and D explore innovative ideas, and Strategy E emphasizes increased resilience and stability. The Wastewater Treatment Division currently plans to publish a document towards the end of the first quarter of 2022 that will explain each of those strategies in detail, including the costs and the water quality outcomes associated with each strategy.

SCA staff and RWQC members are working to determine what the opportunities will be for SCA members to engage with the Clean Water Plan. In addition, Wastewater Treatment Division staff have offered to present on the Clean Water Plan to city councils. For more information, contact Olivia Robinson ( [Olivia.Robinson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Olivia.Robinson@kingcounty.gov) ) or Sharman Herrin ( [Sharman.Herrin@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Sharman.Herrin@kingcounty.gov) ), Government Relations staff for WTD.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, asked if the King County Council had determined who would be the new chair of the Regional Water Quality Committee. SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson said that County Councilmember Reagan Dunn will be chairing RWQC.

Councilmember Dustin Green, Carnation, requested further information on how costs will be distributed across the county and whether cities that have previously made investments in wastewater infrastructure will be impacted equally. Green referenced the Carnation Treatment Plant, which was built to a higher environmental standard than many other treatment plants.

#### **10. 2022 Regional Board and Committee Appointments & Chair Appointment of 2022 PIC Nominating Committee**

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that the Sound Cities Association (SCA) has appointing authority to numerous regional boards and committees. The appointment process occurs in late fall each year. In the interest of being as transparent and inclusive as possible, the Public Issues Committee (PIC) was provided with an update on anticipated vacancies for 2022, and an opportunity to ask any questions about the appointment process. In addition, Dawson reported that per the PIC Operating Policies, PIC Chair Malchow would be appointing the four members of the 2022 PIC Nominating Committee from each geographic caucus at the October PIC meeting.

Chair Malchow announced that she had reappointed three Nominating Committee members: Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, representing the South Caucus; Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw, representing the South Valley Caucus; and, Councilmember Ross Loudonback, North Bend, representation the Snoqualmie Valley Caucus. A new member from the North Caucus was needed due to Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, decision to step down from the Nominating Committee after many years of distinguished service. Malchow said that she had appointed councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, to represent the North Caucus.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, noted that the process for applying for committees was easier than in years past and thanked SCA Director of Finance and Administration for her work on streamlining the process.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, asked if there was a best way to find information on the frequency and dates of meetings for the many regional boards and committees. SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson noted that the PIC packet and the call for nominations include links to each committee's website, which includes that information, but that staff would look for other opportunities to provide that information.

#### **11. Levies and Ballot Measures**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on upcoming levies and ballot measures that would be considered by voters at the November General Election.

#### **12. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on issues being monitored by SCA staff and encouraged members to provide feedback.

#### **13. Upcoming Events**

Chair Malchow reported that upcoming SCA events include:

- a. SCA Board Meeting – Wednesday, October 20, 2021 – 10:00 AM to Noon
- b. Lunch with the SCA Board Series – SCA Past President Dana Ralph – Friday, October 22, 2021 – Noon to 1:00 PM
- c. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, November 10, 2021 – 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM – subject to cancellation

#### **14. For the Good of the Order**

Chair Malchow reminded members that there would be no November PIC meeting.

#### **15. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting  
October 13, 2021**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	Troy Linell
<b>Auburn</b>	Nancy Backus	James Jeyaraj
Beaux Arts Village	Athena Howes	Tom Stowe
<b>Bellevue</b>	Janice Zahn	Jeremy Barksdale
<b>Black Diamond</b>	Tamie Deady	
<b>Bothell</b>	James McNeal	Tom Agnew
<b>Burien</b>	Krystal Marx	Nancy Tosta
<b>Carnation</b>	Dustin Green	Kim Lisk
<b>Clyde Hill</b>	Marianne Klaas	Kim Muromoto
<b>Covington</b>	Joseph Cimaomo	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Traci Buxton	
<b>Duvall</b>	Michelle Hogg	Rick Shaffer
<b>Enumclaw</b>	Chance LaFleur	Corrie Koopman Frazier
<b>Federal Way</b>	Martin Moore	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	none
<b>Issaquah</b>	Tola Marts	Barbara de Michele
<b>Kenmore</b>	David Baker	Corina Pfeil
<b>Kent</b>	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
<b>Kirkland</b>	Kelli Curtis	Toby Nixon
<b>Lake Forest Park</b>	Tom French	Lorri Bodi
<b>Maple Valley</b>	Sean Kelly	Les Burberry
Medina	Jennifer Garone	Jessica Rossman
<b>Mercer Island</b>	David Rosenbaum	Benson Wong
Milton	Jim Gillespie	Shanna Styron Sherrell
<b>Newcastle</b>	Linda Newing	
<b>Normandy Park</b>	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Ernest Thompson
<b>North Bend</b>	Ross Loudenback	Heather Koellen
<b>Pacific</b>	Leanne Guier	
<b>Redmond</b>	Angela Birney	Vanessa Kritzer
<b>Renton</b>	Armondo Pavone	Ed Prince
<b>Sammamish</b>	Christie Malchow	Kent Treen
<b>SeaTac</b>	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
<b>Shoreline</b>	Chris Roberts	Will Hall
<b>Skykomish</b>	Henry Sladek	none
<b>Snoqualmie</b>	Katherine Ross	Matt Larson
<b>Tukwila</b>	Kate Kruller	Zak Idan
<b>Woodinville</b>	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 – October 13, 2021**  
**Attachment B – Zoom Chat Log**

From James Jeyaraj to Hosts and panelists:  
I am not sure

From Deanna Dawson, SCA to Everyone:  
James we do have Mayor Backus now

From James Jeyaraj to Hosts and panelists:  
Cool

From Kate Kruller - Tukwila to Hosts and panelists:  
Kate Kruller Tukwila