



SCA Public Issues Committee

AGENDA

April 8, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Renton City Hall

1. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, Chair 2 minutes
2. **Public Comment** – Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, Chair 10 minutes
3. [Approval of minutes – March 11, 2015 meeting](#) 2 minutes
Page 5
4. **Chair’s Report** – Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, Chair 5 minutes
5. **Executive Director’s Report** – Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director 10 minutes
6. [EMAC Appointment](#) 5 minutes
ACTION ITEM
Page 27
Hank Margeson, PIC Nominating Committee Chair
(5 minutes)
7. [Committee to End Homelessness – Draft Strategic Plan 2015-2018](#) 20 minutes
POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION ITEM
Page 28
Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director
(5 minute update, 15 minute discussion)
8. [Service Guidelines Task Force](#) 20 minutes
DISCUSSION ITEM
Page 52
Lyset Cadena, Senior Policy Analyst
(5 minute update, 15 minute discussion)
9. [Solid Waste Transfer Plan Review – Part 2](#) 20 minutes
DISCUSSION ITEM
Page 56
Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director
(5 minute update, 15 minute discussion)

10. [2015 Legislative Session Update](#)

DISCUSSION ITEM

15 minutes

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Lyset Cadena, Senior Policy Analyst
(5 minute update, 10 minute discussion)

11. [Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County](#)

DISCUSSION ITEM

5 minutes

Page 65

Lyset Cadena, Senior Policy Analyst
(2 minute update, 3 minute discussion)

12. [SCA Issues for 2015](#)

DISCUSSION ITEM

5 minutes

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Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director
(2 minute update, 3 minute discussion)

13. Informational Items

a. [Alternative Transit Service](#)

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b. [Military Centers](#)

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14. Upcoming Events

- a. Pre-PIC Workshop: Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan – Wednesday, May 13, 2015 – 6:00 PM – Renton City Hall
- b. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, May 13, 2015 – 7:00 PM – Renton City Hall

15. For the Good of the Order

16. Adjourn

Did You Know?

Did you know that since 2009, 95% of households in King County have been either rich or poor; a mere 5% could be considered middle income?

A Seattle Times article on March 7, analyzed the statement above that was made by King County Executive Dow Constantine and reported that to a large extent, the statement is true. The Seattle Times reviewed census tract information for King County between 2000 and 2012 and discovered that more than half of King County census tracts, 95% or more of household growth since 2000 has been at the top or the bottom of the income scale. In most of these, middle-income households declined in number. King County also grew by 85,000 households between 2000 and 2012 and the data shows that more than 40,000 of these households are low-income, earning less than \$35,000, and roughly the same number are high income, earning more than \$125,000.

To read the whole story and explore the data on the Seattle Times interactive map, go to <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/data/mapping-king-countys-disappearing-middle-class/>

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

To be the most influential advocate for cities, effectively collaborating to create regional solutions.

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.



SCA Public Issues Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

March 11, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Renton City Hall

1055 S Grady Way, Renton WA 98057

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. 25 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included John Stilin, Redmond Council; Layne Barnes, Maple Valley Council; Mary Jane Goss, Lake Forest Park Mayor; Kamuron Gurol, City of Burien; Ellie Wilson-Jones; Diane Carlson, King County Executive's Office; Diane Yates, King County Solid Waste Division.

2. Public Comment

Chair Talmas asked if any member of the public had any public comment. Seeing none, Chair Talmas closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Chair Talmas invited guests to introduce themselves. Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, welcomed Ellie Wilson-Jones who will join SCA as a policy analyst later this month. Ellie is currently employed by the Council of State Governments Justice Center. She has also worked for the City of Seattle as a legislative assistant and a legislative session aide. She holds an undergraduate and law degree from the University of Washington. Her other professional experience includes working for several years as a local government reporter. Dawson thanked members for supporting a small dues increase to support additional staff and provide more value to members. Members welcomed Ellie with applause.

3. Approval of the February 11, 2015 Minutes

Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen, Shoreline, moved, seconded by Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, to approve the February 11, 2015 meeting minutes.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Talmas reported that the SCA leadership meeting with King County Executive Constantine has been rescheduled to April 1. At the February 25, 2015 SCA Board meeting, the Board approved the policy position regarding Flexibility in Investment of Hotel/Motel Taxes for Affordable Housing that the PIC recommended at its February 11 meeting. The Board also discussed other topics including the Board retreat and the Metro Service Guidelines Task Force.

5. Executive Director's Report

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported that the SCA Board of Directors met in Snoqualmie in February, and will be meeting in Kent for its March meeting. The Board

appointed members to the 2015 Events Committee; adopted a position of support for SB 5799 and HB 1940, regarding protection of flood control district levies; and adopted a position of support for funding case management for low income seniors and disabled adults.

Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, SCA's representative to the AAA, and Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie, on behalf of the SCA Board, sent a request to mayors to sign onto a letter asking for support to increase funding for case management for low income seniors and disabled adults. Dawson provided the letter as a handout ([Attachment B](#)), which also included information on the number of individuals in each city receiving care through the program.

Dawson reported on the Metro Service Guidelines Task Force and Long-Range Plan Update, which was the topic of the Pre-PIC workshop. The Service Guidelines Task Force has begun meeting and SCA fought for small city representation on the Task Force. Mayor Matt Larson has been appointed to represent small cities and rural communities on the Task Force.

The Transportation Futures Task Force has been convened at the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), and is a group of elected officials, advocates and business leaders across Puget Sound that will be working on developing a roadmap to meet the region's transportation needs for the next 30 years and beyond. The elected officials on the task force include King County Executive Dow Constantine, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, and Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland. There is no small city or midsize city representative (or any city representative from Kitsap or Snohomish County) on the task force. The SCA caucus of the TPB will be asking for small city representation on the task force at the TPB meeting tomorrow morning.

Regarding the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN), the County Council has voted to put the public safety radio levy on the April ballot. Dawson passed around a handout ([Attachment C](#)) of frequently asked questions regarding PSERN.

SCA has sent a call for nominations to fill vacancies on the Emergency Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) and PSRC Transit Access Working Group.

Dawson reported that the County and the Seattle Foundation have selected the first 3 communities for "Communities of Opportunity" grants. One of the grants is to SeaTac/Tukwila, and the Seattle Foundation has also decided to fund planning grants to 2 additional communities, Skyway and Auburn. Additionally, the County is looking at incorporating more funding for this program into the Best Starts for Kids Levy. There will be a pre-PIC workshop on the Best Starts for Kids levy in April.

The Best Starts for Kids levy will also incorporate elements from the Youth Action Plan Task Force report. SCA staff initially intended to have an item on tonight's agenda regarding the Youth Action Plan, but the report is in the process of being substantially reworked, and SCA was asked by Council staff, in order to avoid confusion, to not have the plan on for comment. SCA is attempting to work on other avenues to get opportunities for feedback from cities on the plan.

SCA has been asked to participate in a Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) and King County Reentry Task Force. The focus of the Task Force and Workgroup is shifting from

planning to effectively implementing the grant-funded demonstration project. The intent is to establish a client-centered, team-based reentry approach pilot that will expand access to reentry resources and build stronger relationships with community providers to extend service networks. Kent Council President Dana Ralph is participating, SCA will monitor and staff as needed.

SCA is working on co-sponsoring an economic development summit that will bring together public sector partners on economic development. There will be more information to come.

SCA has also entered into a new partnership with the Seattle Chamber and Maud Daudon, President and CEO of the Chamber, will be our keynote speaker at our next networking dinner on April 1.

The Board of the Economic Development Council of Seattle and King County (EDC) was elected earlier this month. There are a number of SCA city representatives on the Board, and Dawson represents SCA as an organization. Mayor Backus of Auburn was elected to the Executive Board, and was elected Treasurer of the EDC.

6. Committee to End Homelessness – Draft Strategic Plan 2015-2018

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, provided an overview of what was being asked of members; first to consider asking for an extension of the timeline for adoption of the draft Strategic Plan and second, the opportunity to provide additional comments on the draft plan. The Committee to End Homelessness's Draft Strategic Plan has been before PIC members on previous occasions including at a workshop, and on the agenda in previous months. A number of SCA cities have provided feedback on the draft plan. Two handouts containing the feedback received by SCA to date was provided to members. Many cities shared concerns about a strategy to repeal ordinances that "criminalize homelessness" – several cities cited the need to have ordinances to deal with issues such as public camping and trespassing. Cities also shared concerns that the draft plan did not sufficiently address the suburbanization of poverty in King County, and the fact that services and access to services (including transit) are still often centered in Seattle. An overarching concern shared by cities is that the Plan lacked detail around costs, funding sources, and the implementing agency for many of the plan's strategies. Dawson noted that SCA had shared with CEH staff the need for an implementation plan, and that cities wanted to be engaged in that plan.

The timeline for plan adoption as currently proposed does not allow time for the plan to be finished nor does it allow cities the opportunity to see key details of the plan before they agree to support it.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Councilmember Janie Edelman, Black Diamond, to ask SCA staff to work with the SCA caucus members to the Committee to End Homelessness, and to draft a formal request from SCA members to delay adoption of the draft strategic plan in order to give time for a clearer picture to be had on costs, funding sources, and lead organizations responsible for implementation, as well as for cities to review and comment on these details.

Council President Margeson, Redmond, noted that while he appreciated the efforts of the CEH, and felt the plan was a good start, without costs being included and without details on who is responsible for strategy implementation, it was not a plan that would lead to achievement of the goals of the plan.

Deputy Mayor Nancy Tosta, Burien, noted that it is hard to react to the plan as there are so many gaps that need to be filled in, including who is going to be implementing specific strategies. She noted that many of the comments received would need to be incorporated in the next draft and that members would need to review that next draft.

Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, questioned what would happen if members didn't support the motion, and if adoption of the plan were not delayed. He questioned whether CEH would listen to feedback from cities. Dawson responded that the goal was to attempt to have city input into the plan. Based on the feedback received to date, it appears members are generally in alignment with their concerns about the plan. Cities want to help achieve the goals of the plan, and come up with a plan that is acceptable to cities and achieves the goals.

Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, expressed concern that the motion did not include a specific amount of time for additional consideration of the plan. He suggested that we ask for at least 90 days after publication of the next draft. Dawson noted that CEH staff had indicated that the latest date they thought would be appropriate for approval was late June. Responding to a question from Councilmember Nixon, Dawson said she expected to know Monday when to expect the next draft. Nixon asked whether the motion as currently before the body gave SCA staff sufficient direction, and Dawson responded that it did.

Council President Margeson noted that CEH does not need SCA's approval to move forward on the plan. But he expressed hope that CEH would work with cities, so that the strategies adopted would have buy in from cities.

Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie, suggested the plan segregate strategies by urban / rural / suburban needs. He noted managing homeless camping in a park is very different than homeless individuals camping in woods around a city. Dawson noted that there was also the issue of access to services and transit being different in urban and rural areas.

Chair Talmas called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued on the draft plan.

Councilmember Barry Ladenburg, SeaTac, noted that SeaTac had provided written comments. He noted that the draft plan was unclear on how it would link up with efforts currently being undertaken by cities.

Talmas questioned what legal responsibilities the plan created for cities. He noted that it was unclear from the plan who is responsible for implementation of many of the strategies, or what cities' responsibilities were for funding.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, referred to comments from Issaquah staff. He noted that addressing these issues required a continuum of care. It was important to view this plan in the context of other efforts already taking place within cities. The investments that cities are already making are important.

Margeson referred to an item in the PIC packet, a response from SCA to an unfair editorial in the Seattle Times about homeless encampments. He noted that the Seattle Times had declined to publish SCA's response. He suggested that SCA's response be posted in the comments section of the Times website in order to set the record straight, noting that the editorial was not balanced.

Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie, agreed with the criticism of the editorial, noting that there were numerous factual inaccuracies in the editorial. Space in the SCA response did not allow for a full refutation of all of the inaccuracies.

Dawson agreed to take Margeson's suggestion to SCA Board leadership.

Larson noted that days later, the Seattle Times posted another editorial decrying activity in Westlake Park in Seattle, and questioned whether the two editorials were consistent. Margeson agreed, and talked about some of the issues he had personally observed in Westlake Park in Seattle, with no police response. He noted that dealing with these issues did not have easy solutions, but would require balancing the need to provide services to the homeless with the needs of other citizens to make use of parks and other public spaces.

Councilmember John Stilin, Redmond alternate, also criticized the Seattle Times editorial and thanked SCA for the response.

Councilmember Bill Boyce, Kent, indicated that the City of Kent would provide feedback in writing by Friday.

Dawson noted that a number of SCA representatives would be attending an all-day CEH strategic planning session on Monday, March 16, 2015 including:

- Mayor Nancy Backus, SCA Vice President
- Doreen Marchione, SCA Representative to Committee to End Homelessness
- Lydia Assefa-Dawson, SCA Representative to Committee to End Homelessness
- Jennifer Henning, Renton
- Michael Hursh, Auburn
- Colleen Kelly, Redmond
- Londi Lindell, North Bend
- Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director

Dawson indicated that any additional comments could be sent directly to her.

7. 2015 Legislative Session Update

Lysset Cadena, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported that March 11, 2015 was the last day for bills to be considered in their chamber of origin. She noted that during final passage of the

transportation revenue bill, [SB 5987](#), two parliamentary questions were asked in regards to the number of votes needed to advance [SB 5987](#) to third reading and the number of votes required for final passage. After deliberation the Lt. Governor ruled that [SB 5987](#) was subject to the two-thirds majority vote but the rule would not be enforced by the Senate and therefore [SB 5987](#) would proceed with a simple majority vote. Cadena also noted that the Senate Transportation package includes language requiring the passage of six reform bills and stipulates that multimodal funding would be reverted to roads funding if the Governor enacts a low carbon fuel standard. The package can be found here, [2015 Senate Transportation Package](#). Cadena gave an update on bills including:

- [SB 5624](#) and [SJR 8204](#) would provide a framework to assist small to medium sized jurisdictions access the private debt (bond) market by providing state assistance to go through the process.
- [HB 2136](#) would create a marijuana revenue sharing system for cities and counties.
- [SB 5052](#) would align medical and recreation marijuana.
- [SB 5057](#) and [HB 1449](#) are two competing bills on the transportation of oil via rail and water.
- [SB 5799](#) and [HB 1940](#) would protect the King County Flood Control District's levy from suppression.
- [HB 1223](#) would allow King County to bond against future King County lodging tax revenues to acquire land and build workforce housing.
- [HB 1571](#) would create a paint recycling program under the Department of Ecology.

Cadena noted that the operating budget would be released in the next two-to-three weeks.

Chair Talmas asked whether there was any indication on when the transportation package would move forward. Cadena answered that the House would be hearing the bills in the next couple of weeks and negotiations could begin shortly after. Talmas asked whether the transportation project list could change. Cadena answered that the transportation project list could change depending on the negotiations.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, asked about the status of the 1% property tax lift. Cadena answered that the 1% property tax issue was part of the biennial budget discussions and would follow-up with more information once the budget is made public.

Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie, highlighted a recent Superior Court ruling stating that the payment in lieu of tax agreement and property tax exemption for the Salish Lodge violates the Washington Constitution. He noted that the State would be appealing the ruling. Other cities may wish to provide support by way of an amicus brief. Larson also noted that rationale of the recent court ruling would also apply to [SB 5811](#). Cadena stated that [SB 5811](#) did not meet the legislative cut-offs and a public hearing was never scheduled.

Councilmember Barry Ladenburg, SeaTac, asked about the carbon tax provision and clarification on the State Treasurer's statement that the Senate Transportation package is over bonded. Cadena answered that the carbon tax provision is in the Senate bill and will be part of the

negotiations with the House. In regards to the State Treasurer comments, this is not the first time the Treasurer has voiced his concerns. This is a policy matter for the legislature to make.

Dawson noted that SCA has not adopted a position on the carbon tax. SCA has urged legislators to continue negotiations in order to move forward a comprehensive transportation package.

Councilmember Marlla Mhoon, Covington, asked for clarification on the prevailing wage reform and the helmets to hardhats program. Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, noted that the helmets to hardhats program focuses on getting veterans back to work. She also stated that during earlier negotiations of the prevailing wage reform, the Senate was focused on lowering the percentage of apprenticeship work required on transportation projects. Cadena noted that she would review the bill and provide information to members.

8. Solid Waste Transfer Plan Review – Part 2

Doreen Booth, SCA Policy Analyst, provided a brief history of the transfer station plan review. At the direction of the King County Council, the Solid Waste Division (SWD) is currently evaluating how operational changes and capital improvements at transfer stations could mitigate for not building a new Northeast Transfer and Recycling Station. The main issue is the transactional capacity of transfer stations, the ability of transfer stations to handle additional self-haul and commercial customers without the Houghton station or a new Northeast station. Booth noted that the draft report going to the King County Council on March 31 would not include a recommendation but the final report due June 30 would provide a recommendation. The SWD is seeking comments (clarification from SWD staff on 3/12/15 – comments received now would be considered in the final plan but not the draft plan).

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, reminded members that the reason we asked for the Northeast Station not to be built was because the volume of material going to transfer stations did not require a transfer station to be built. Building a transfer station to accommodate car traffic is spending money on a station that is not needed. SCA supported not putting the Northeast Transfer Station into the Transfer Station Plan and the King County Council agreed with that recommendation. There are other ways to mitigate for the impacts to transfer stations. Margeson stated he was shocked that the Northeast Transfer Station was being revisited.

Members had a discussion about mandatory garbage service with Councilmember Barry Ladenburg, SeaTac, sharing SeaTac's recent experience with considering mandatory service.

Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen, the MSWMAC vice chair, suggested that member cities take a position on the options being considered and share those positions with their MSWMAC representative.

Booth noted that informational item 11B on the agenda, the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan update, provides additional information that is also relevant to the current discussion. The Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan is being updated and there are a series of questions cities are being asked to consider. SCA staff will be working with city staff over the next two months on the questions and the PIC will be hearing more about the work

beginning in May. The decision matrix included in the informational item lists a number of questions for cities to consider, including 4 questions about mandates.

Chair Talmas reiterated that the amount of garbage being generated now is less than when the plan was adopted. He expressed his surprise to see Concept 3, building a new Northeast Transfer Station, included in the SWD's analysis. The SWD was asked to address not building a Northeast Station. Woodinville does not support a Northeast Transfer Station.

Deputy Mayor Eggen noted that the model for transfer stations assumed a 70% recycling rate in the future. He encouraged cities without a MSWMAC member to appoint a member so that their cities' views could be represented.

Councilmember Ladenburg discussed his visit to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) and how recyclables are separated. He also expressed support for not allowing sharps (needles) in the waste stream.

Dawson shared that SCA has also been talking to haulers; they feel there are different ways to increase recycling. SCA will continue to work with cities and haulers on this issue.

9. Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

Lyset Cadena, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, provided an overview of the ballot measures as reported by SCA cities and King County. She asked PIC members to provide feedback on ballot measures that may have been missed or are incorrect.

Chair Talmas asked members if there were any additional ballot measures that need to be added.

Councilmember Armondo Pavone, Renton, mentioned that the Renton Regional Fire Authority will be on the spring 2016 ballot.

Deputy Mayor Nancy Tosta, Burien, noted that Highline School District had a bond measure on the February ballot that failed and the school district will be placing a bond measure on the spring 2016 ballot.

Councilmember Janie Edelman, Black Diamond, mentioned that the Enumclaw School District will place a capital levy on the April 2015 ballot.

Diane Carlson, King County Executive staff, noted that the South King Fire District will be adding a capital replacement measure on the April ballot.

10. SCA Issues for 201

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, stated that at the January 14, 2015 PIC meeting, members were asked to provide issues the PIC should consider this year. She reviewed the issues identified on page 60 of the PIC packet and invited members to provide feedback on whether other items should be added to the list. This will be a recurring item on the PIC agenda. Members can also bring items directly to SCA staff.

11. Informational Items

Chair Talmas reported that there are two informational items in the packet. The first item is on Military Bases and Regional Centers, which was addressed by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB). The second informational item is on the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan update.

12. Upcoming Events

The next SCA Networking Dinner will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Renton Pavilion Event Center. The keynote speaker will be Maud Daudon, President and CEO of the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is also the event sponsor.

The next Public Issues Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, at 7:00 PM at Renton City Hall.

13. For the Good of the Order

Barry Ladenburg, SeaTac, shared concern that the city of SeaTac is still waiting for the Supreme Court to weigh in on the \$15 per hour wage initiative.

Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, announced that on March 24 the city will be honoring the police officers that were involved in a shooting last fall. This is the first awards ceremony in 15 years and invited all to attend and one can contact city staff for details.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

2015 Roll Call – Public Issues Committee Meeting March 11, 2015

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	Dawn Dofelmire
Auburn	Nancy Backus	Bill Peloza
Beaux Arts	Tom Stowe	Richard Leider
Black Diamond	Janie Edelman	Tamie Deady
Bothell	Tris Samberg	Andy Rheume
Burien	Nancy Tosta	Stephen Armstrong
Carnation	Jim Berger	Kim Lisk
Clyde Hill	Barre Seibert	George Martin
Covington	Marlla Mhoon	Margaret Harto/Jeff Wagner
Des Moines	Melissa Musser	Jeanette Burrage
Duvall	Amy Ockerlander	Will Ibershof
Enumclaw	Mike Sando	Liz Reynolds
Federal Way	Dini Duclos	Jeanne Burbidge
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Eileen Barber
Kenmore	David Baker	
Kent	Bill Boyce	Dennis Higgins
Kirkland	Toby Nixon	Shelley Kloba
Lake Forest Park	Catherine Stanford	Tom French
Maple Valley	Erin Weaver	Layne Barnes
Medina	Michael Luis	
Mercer Island	Dan Grausz	Benson Wong
Milton	Debra Perry	
Newcastle	Lisa Jensen	Carol Simpson
Normandy Park	Shawn McEvoy	Doug Osterman
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Ken Hearing
Pacific	Leanne Guier	Vic Kave
Redmond	Hank Margeson	John Stilin
Renton	Ed Prince	Armondo Pavone
Sammamish	Bob Keller	Don Gerend
SeaTac	Barry Ladenburg	Mia Gregerson
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Chris Eggen
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Kingston Wall	Matt Larson
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Verna Seal
Woodinville	Bernie Talmas	Susan Boundy-Sanders
SCA Deanna Dawson Kristy Burwell Lyset Cadena Doreen Booth		

Voting members are highlighted in gray. Cities represented are **bolded**.



March 10, 2015

Dear Legislative Leaders:

We, the undersigned mayors, are writing to you about an important issue that impacts our most vulnerable residents. We would like to make you aware of a very serious issue relating to the provision of case management services for over 10,000 seniors and disabled King County residents. As a DSHS subcontractor, the King County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) provides Medicaid case management to eligible older adults and people with disabilities. AAA case managers authorize and coordinate in-home care services for frail low-income adults who would otherwise be in nursing homes. Case management is a cost-effective alternative to traditional nursing homes, it saves the State millions each year by avoiding costly nursing home care. In fact, the State spends three times more for a Medicaid nursing home bed than for in-home services coordinated by case managers.

We are writing to strongly support a \$28 million increase (\$14 million state; \$14 million federal match) to the case management program. This increase was requested by the Department of Social and Human Services (DSHS) in its decision package for the Governor’s consideration.

The Medicaid case management program in King County is faced with a significant decision point. Over the past 10 years, flat reimbursement rates, a 4% reduction in 2009, and increased operational costs have resulted in increased staff workloads, negatively impacting the quality of the program and increasing risk for vulnerable clients. The current funding framework is not sustainable. Without a significant increase to reimbursement rates, the AAA will be forced to relinquish the program to the State, potentially disrupting services for more than 10,000 vulnerable clients.

We firmly believe that our state’s AAA’s serve a critical and valuable purpose. Washington State has achieved impressive effectiveness and impact for these vulnerable citizens, and statewide we have demonstrated that our services are 2nd in the nation in quality, while 47th in cost. The King County AAA is proud of its long history and contribution to case management services, and we wish to continue our partnership with the state in this important work.

We urge you to support this increase for Medicaid case management, which would allow the King County AAA to continue providing high quality case management services. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



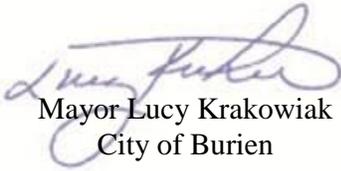
Mayor Nancy Backus
City of Auburn



Mayor Claudia Balducci
City of Bellevue



Mayor Carol Benson
City of Black Diamond



Mayor Lucy Krakowiak
City of Burien



Mayor Margaret Harto
City of Covington



Mayor Dave Kaplan
City of Des Moines



Mayor Will Ibershof
City of Duvall



Mayor Liz Reynolds
City of Enumclaw



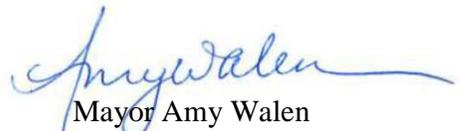
Jim Ferrell
City of Federal Way



Mayor David Baker
City of Kenmore



Mayor Suzette Cooke
City of Kent



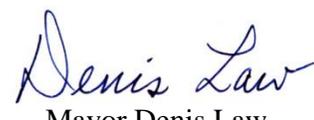
Mayor Amy Walen
City of Kirkland



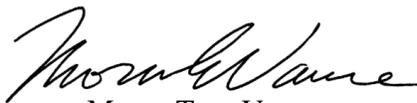
Mayor Mary Jane Goss
City of Lake Forest Park



Mayor Bruce Bassett
City of Mercer Island



Mayor Denis Law
City of Renton



Mayor Tom Vance
City of Sammamish



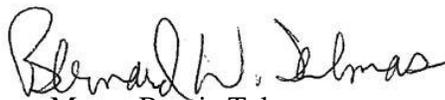
Mayor Edward B. Murray
City of Seattle



Mayor Shari Winstead
City of Shoreline



Mayor Matthew R. Larson
City of Snoqualmie



Mayor Bernie Talmas
City of Woodinville

Demographics for Medicaid Case Management Clients in King County

1. Number of Clients by CM Provider Office

CM Office	# of Clients	%	# Limited English	%	# Non White	%	Seattle	%	Other Cities / Unincorp	%
ADS Seattle	2,171	21%	684	11%	969	17%	2,171	57%	423	6%
ADS Renton	3,939	38%	1,804	29%	1,564	27%	136	4%	3,803	54%
ACRS	2,383	23%	2,216	36%	2,382	41%	1,004	26%	1,379	20%
CISC	767	7%	762	12%	766	2%	512	13%	255	4%
ECN	1,179	11%	755	12%	136	13%		0%	1,179	17%
Total	10,439	100%	6,221	100%	5,817	100%	3,823	100%	7,039	100%

Source: Client Profile Report for December 2014

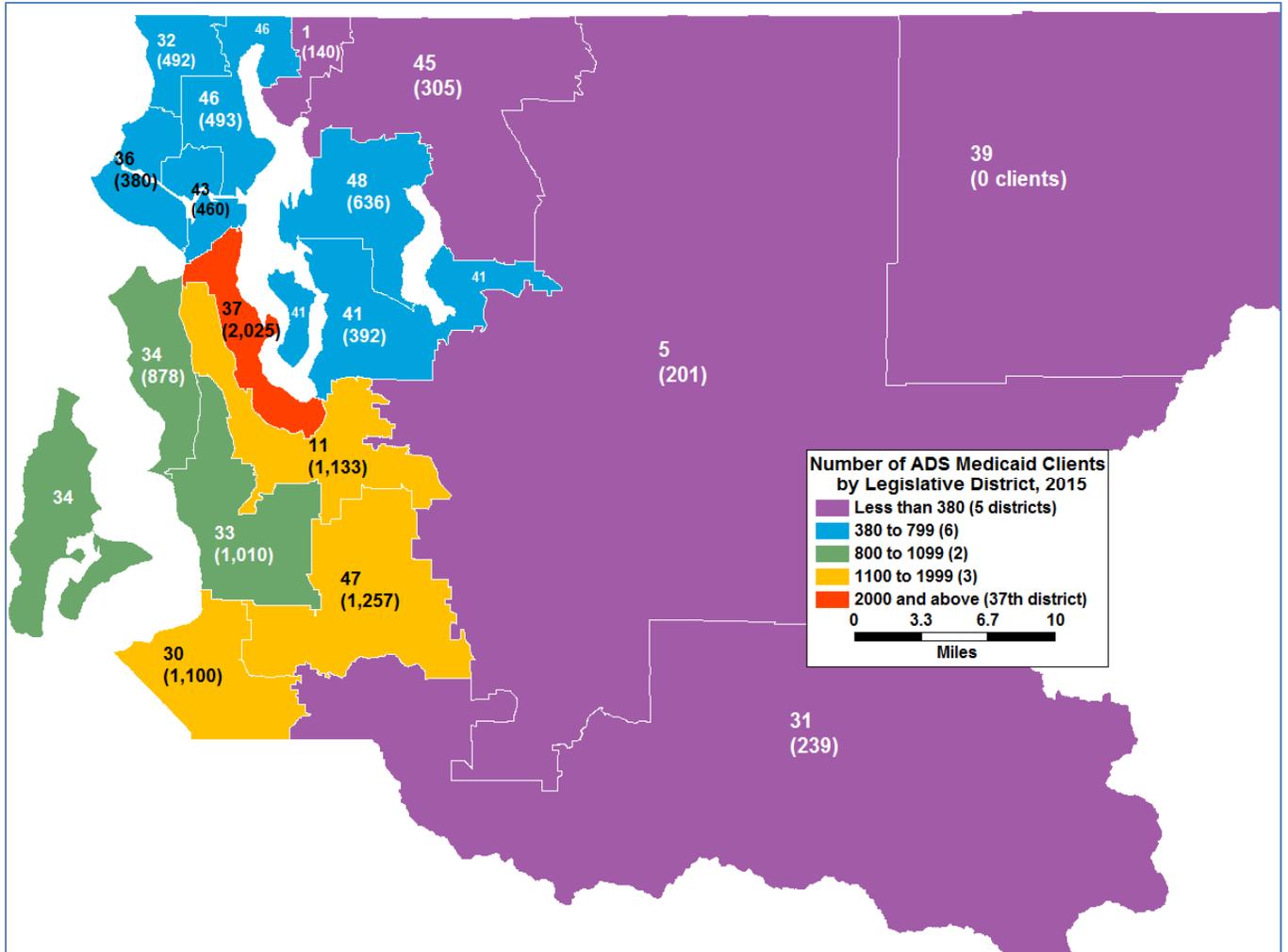
2. King County has a more diverse and complex client population than other parts of the State.

ADS serves 25% of all Medicaid CM clients in the state, however, these clients comprise 50% of all Limited English Speaking and 50% of all minority clients in the state. Approximately \$250k per year is spent on translation and interpretation. In addition to costs associated with translation/interpretation, this diverse client base has greater health disparities and more complex care needs.

3. # of Clients served in 2014 by Legislative District

Leg. District	# of King County Clients in 2014
1	140
5	201
11	1,133
30	1,100
31	239
32	492
33	1,010
34	878
36	380
37	2,025
39	-
41	392
43	460
45	305
46	493
47	1,257
48	636
Total	11,141

Demographics for Medicaid Case Management Clients in King County



4. Clients by Geographic Sub-Region, all providers

Region	Clients	%
Seattle	3,356	32.3%
East King	1,472	14.2%
North King	694	6.7%
South King	4,825	46.4%
Vashon	17	0.2%

Source: Client Profile Report for December 2014

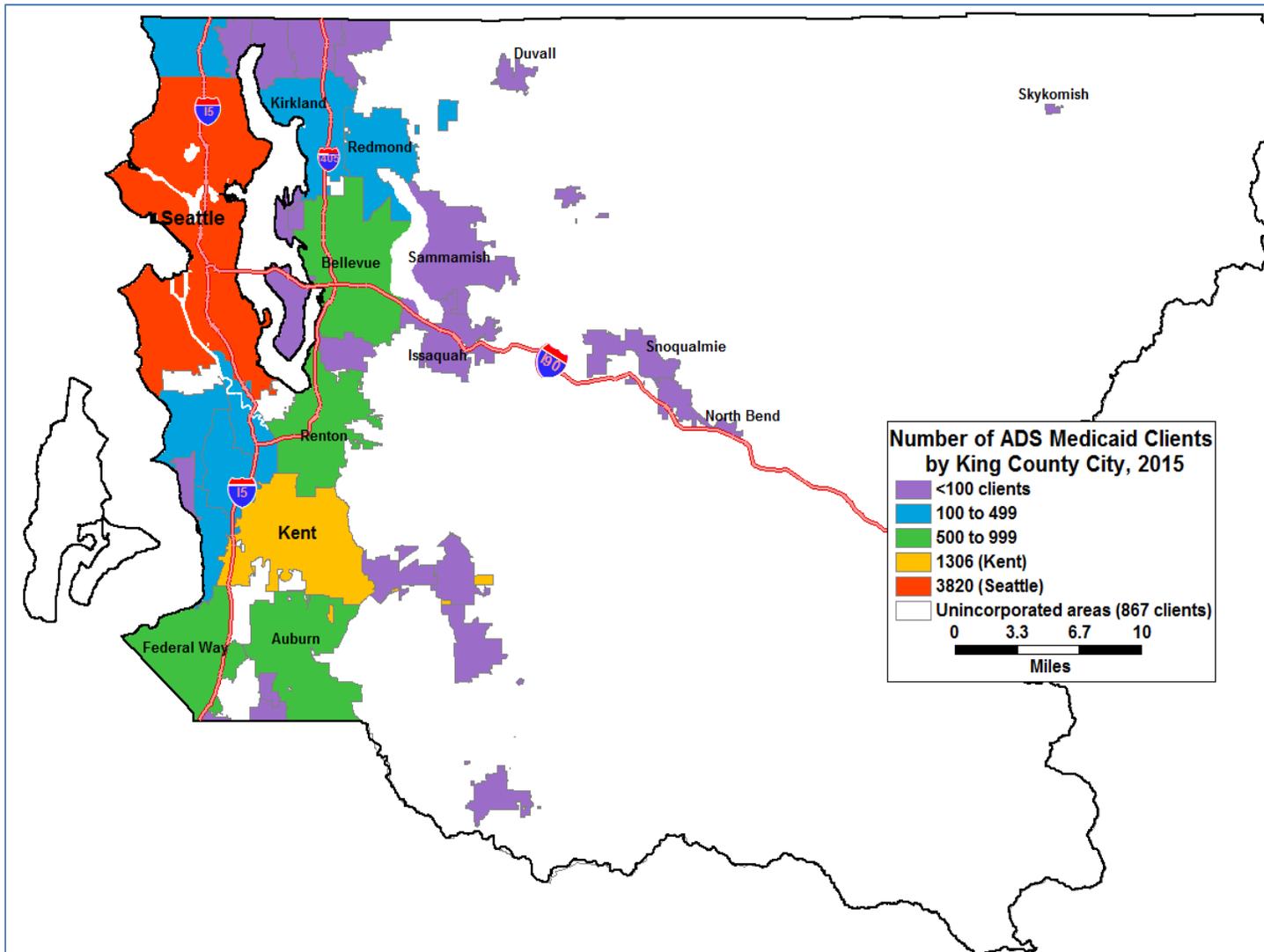
Demographics for Medicaid Case Management Clients in King County

5. Number of Clients served in 2014 by Municipality

City	Number of Clients	%
Algona	24	0.2%
Auburn	573	5.1%
Beaux Arts	-	0.0%
Bellevue	732	6.6%
Black Diamond	10	0.1%
Bothell	64	0.6%
Burien	353	3.2%
Carnation	2	0.0%
Clyde Hill	-	0.0%
Covington	48	0.4%
Des Moines	158	1.4%
Duvall	4	0.0%
Enumclaw	30	0.3%
Federal Way	828	7.4%
Hunts Point	-	0.0%
Issaquah	72	0.6%
Kenmore	78	0.7%
Kent	1,306	11.7%
Kirkland	316	2.8%
Lake Forest Park	26	0.2%
Maple Valley	29	0.3%
Medina	-	0.0%
Mercer Island	49	0.4%
Milton	5	0.0%
Newcastle	17	0.2%
Normandy Park	18	0.2%
North Bend	13	0.1%
Pacific	24	0.2%
Redmond	152	1.4%
Renton	592	5.3%
Sammamish	33	0.3%
SeaTac	266	2.4%
Seattle	3,820	34.3%
Shoreline	326	2.9%
Skykomish	-	0.0%
Snoqualmie	8	0.1%

Demographics for Medicaid Case Management Clients in King County

City	Number of Clients	%
Tukwila	270	2.4%
Woodinville	28	0.3%
Yarrow Point	-	0.0%
All cities	10,274	92.2%
King County total	11,141	100.0%
unincorporated	867	7.8%





PSERN (Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network)

FAQ

Q: What is PSERN?

A: *PSERN is a construction project that will replace the current aging emergency radio communications network with a new emergency radio communications network.*

Q: What are emergency radio communications networks used for?

A: *When we call 9-1-1, a dispatcher sends us police officers, fire fighters, and emergency medical staff using a separate radio system known as the King County Emergency Radio Communications System. The same system is used by these responders to coordinate their activities at emergency incidents and to communicate with managerial staff that is directing their response to the incident.*

Q: Why do we need a new emergency radio communications network?

A: *The current network is approaching 20 years old and is in danger of failing if it isn't replaced in a timely manner.*

Q: How much will PSERN cost and how will it be paid for?

A: *The project, including sites, equipment, labor, sales tax, and interest on the bonds will cost approximately \$273 million. The Metropolitan King County Council has approved a measure to be placed on the April 28th, 2015 ballot to fund the project.*

Q: What kind of funding measure will be before voters this spring? What funding options were considered? Why was this option chosen?

A: *The Metropolitan King County Council has authorized a levy lid lift for voters to consider on April 28th, 2015. Several funding options were considered including Criminal Justice Sales Tax, Emergency Communication System Sales Tax, Excess Levy, Excess Levy and a Levy Lid Lift, Sharing the Financing with the Subregional Entities, Sharing the Financing with All Jurisdictions and Partial Funding Options. It was decided that using a Levy Lid Lift is the only viable option for funding a new system with a single taxing measure.*

Q: If approved by voters, how much are taxes going to increase?

A: *7.0 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value over 9 years. This equates to \$26.46 per household, per year for the median value of \$378,000.*



Q: Can't we just replace a couple of parts or migrate rather than replacing the whole system?

A: *The parts that the current system uses won't be compatible with the new network. In addition, the current system cannot support the new technology PSERN will have.*

Q: Why must a new system be funded now rather than later? What are the risks of delaying funding until later?

A: *The longer we delay after spare parts and repairs cease to be available at the end of 2018, the greater is the risk that responders will be unable to communicate when needed. Technically speaking, the system will lose capacity and coverage area.*

With the above said, we have taken certain precautionary steps to address system problems if this does occur. For example, we have purchased a cache of spare parts. If we do not have a part or our supply runs out we would then look to purchase the part from a secondary vendor.

Q: Are there additional concerns with our current system?

A: *Yes. The system was designed in 1992 for the County's population at that time. Since then, the County's population and the dispersal of that population have grown in ways no one could anticipate. As a result, our system does not cover all of the areas in the County where services is needed and is lacks the capacity needed during large-scale disasters and incidents.*

Q: Why can't first responders use cell phones?

A: *Cell phones are not an option due to lack of reliability. They don't have sufficient back up or the capacity to operate in a power outage or other widespread emergency situations. Most importantly, they do not work the way emergency radio system do. They are not capable of operating in a "dispatch" fashion where one person broadcasts to many people, nor are they capable of working "off network" such as radio to radio operations that are often used at fire scenes.*

Q: Who is leading the project?

A: *There are four owners of the radio communications system—Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA), King County, City of Seattle and Valley Communications (ValleyComm). Each entity owns separate towers and equipment run by a central computer. King County is responsible for leading and implementing the project on behalf of the owners and will see the project through to completion.*



Q: Is there a binding document guaranteeing the County can effectively manage vendor contract(s) and other parts of the project?

A: *The County and other partners are in agreement about roles and responsibilities during PSERN planning, construction, and testing, and that agreement is in the Implementation Period Interlocal Agreement. This Interlocal Agreement will form the basis for PSERN Project governance.*

Q: Will the ownership and operation of the new system remain the same as for the current system?

A: *A new consolidated operational and governance agency will be created. This public, non-profit organization, working closely with the current co-owners, will take the lead with the purchase, implementation and testing of the new network. It will also operate and maintain the new system infrastructure going forward. It will have the same level of jurisdictional representation as the current emergency radio system and will have increased representation from the first responder community. An Operations Period Interlocal Agreement has been drafted to address governance of the operations of the PSERN once completed.*

Having a single entity operating and maintaining the system infrastructure, rather than four entities doing that work, should result in improved service: when there is a problem with the system we will be able to skip the step of determining which owner is responsible to fix it.

Q: Who will run the non-profit organization?

A: *The organization will be governed by a four-person board of directors. One board member will be appointed by each of the following: the City of Seattle; the 5 Valley Communications Center member cities jointly; the 5 Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency member cities jointly; and King County. There will be two additional new members who will be appointed to the cities not otherwise represented on the board—1 non-voting police representative and 1 non-voting Fire representative. Each member will have an equal vote.*

Q: How long will it take to complete the project?

A: *Once construction begins, it will take approximately 5 years for completion.*

Q: Why is there a 20% Contingency?

A: *We only have one opportunity for project funding and cannot go back for additional funds. If there are cost overruns, the County would be responsible for them so we need to ensure that a contingency is available. The County has a project management methodology in place, however, on a project this size there are significant risks—specifically site development. As part of the planning phase, the County interviewed internal and external construction consultants and a 20% was contingency the consensus.*



- Q: Why don't the four system co-owners have savings to pay for the capital costs of the new system?**
- A:** *Each of the co-owners put aside some funds for a new system. Over the years of operating the current system savings have been used to fund mid-life upgrades that have kept portions of the network refreshed as well as adding capacity to certain areas. Today these savings in aggregate are very small compared to the cost of a new system.*
- Q: Weren't replacement reserves supposed to be accumulated by the co-owners for system replacement, and if so, why can't they fund the project?**
- A:** *They can, however this is a large project and the accumulated funds are less than 1/20th the total project cost. The County and co-owners do not have sufficient available funds to pay for a project of this size without additional revenue. In 1992 when initial planning for the current network was done, a formula to generate replacement reserves was created by each of the four owners. Through time those funds have been used to keep the current system upgraded, and to support early phases of the PSERN project. Even if the funds weren't spent over the years, we would have less than ¼ of the total PSERN project cost because in 1992 no one could have anticipated King County's population would increase so fast nor cover so large an area of the County. Also, because the practice has been to use funds for mid-life upgrades, co-owners need to retain their funds until the PSERN has been completed to ensure they have contingency to maintain the current system.*
- Q: If the County is paying for all the assets, why shouldn't the County operate and maintain PSERN both during the project and after the project is completed?**
- A:** *The County Executive believes that centralization is needed for this regional service and that the best model is to operate and own it using a public, non-profit entity. Current owners have agreed to this approach and have drafted an Interlocal Agreement that will accomplish this.*
- Q: How long will the County need to operate and maintain PSERN after Full System Acceptance?**
- A:** *An Implementation Period Interlocal Agreement contains provisions for automatically transferring PSERN from the County to the non-profit operator once the project is finished..*
- Q: What will happen to PSERN operations and maintenance if the non-profit operator does not take over PSERN at or soon after FSA?**
- A:** *In this event, the County will own and operate PSERN, but only until such time as it can be transferred to the non-profit agency. The Implementation Period Interlocal Agreement contains provisions for partners and users to pay the County for its operation and maintenance of PSERN after PSERN starts operation until the ownership and operations is turned over to the non-profit organization.*



Q: How can we be sure there will be no need to dip into the Current Expense Fund because of cost overruns or unanticipated expenses? Who will be responsible for cost overruns?

A: *The county and its partners have done much to ensure that all costs have been accounted for in the project budget and subsequent funding measure. Technical consultants were used to analyze needs and assist with development of system requirements. A competitive RFP process was used to get the best system vendor at the best price. As the project goes into implementation, it will be subject to project governance with and external to the County, and also expects to hire an independent Quality Assurance firm, as well as independent construction management to oversee civil radio site work. The combination of these will help contain costs. Lastly, the project has hired a competent and experienced project staff that will utilize project management best practices.*

Q: How long will the system last before we need to fund a new one?

A: *The new system will last at least 20 years.*

Q: Today radio system users pay monthly fees for use of the radio system. Could the new system's capital costs be funded through rate increases rather than a tax increase?

A: *This is possible, but not practical. To pay for capital costs monthly fees would need to more than double. Monthly fees are usually paid out of the agency's general funds, so any increase in rates would impact that agency's fund source.*

Q: Why are there two different rates for radio users?

A: *1. Some radio users use less features than others, therefore providing service for them is less expensive.*

2. We want to encourage users to use PSERN, especially those that have various types of demands such as school districts and utilities.

Q: How does this relate to the discussions I've heard about the possible decrease in the number of 9-1-1 dispatch centers?

A: *There is no relationship between the PSERN project and dispatch center consolidation. They are independent initiatives. System planning has included all of today's centers. If there are fewer centers that are in business when system equipment is ordered, our order and design will be adjusted accordingly. The Interlocal Agreements will also make commitments to continue service to the dispatch centers.*



Q: Is there widespread support for a new network and the ballot measure from city elected officials, police and fire chiefs, police and fire line staff, emergency managers, dispatchers, and County Executive?

A: *There is a clear, shared vision of the need to replace the current system and build a new radio system now.*

Q: There have been some concerns raised by Junior Tax Districts such as Fire Districts about revenues being negatively impacted by the levy lid lift. Is that true?

A: *Fire districts should not be harmed due to this measure. Last year, assessed property values in King County increased significantly, so we anticipate that the County tax rate will decrease sufficiently to cover potential impact to all Fire Districts. Other junior tax districts such as Parks and Hospital districts could be impacted in the initial years of the measure.*

For more information:

- Project Web site: www.psern.org
- Follow us on Twitter: [@radiomatters](https://twitter.com/radiomatters)
- PSERN project staff:
 - David Mendel, Project Director, 206-263-7942
 - Karla Clark- Communications Manager, 206-263-1583
 - Marlin Blizinsky, Government Relations Officer, 206-269-8047



April 8, 2015
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 6:

Recommendation from the PIC Nominating Committee Regarding a Vacancy on the Emergency Management Advisory Committee (EMAC)

Action Item

Staff Contact

Deanna Dawson, Executive Director, office 206-433-7170, deanna@soundcities.org

SCA PIC Nominating Committee Representatives

Chair Hank Margeson, Redmond Council President; Ed Prince, Renton Council President; Leanne Guier, Mayor of Pacific; Ross Loudanback, North Bend City Councilmember.

Potential Action:

To recommend to the SCA Board of Directors the appointment of Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, to an alternate position on the Emergency Management Advisory Committee (EMAC).

Background

The PIC Nominating Committee met on March 26, 2015 in order to consider and recommend applicants.

EMAC:

SCA has one vacancy on the Emergency Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) for an unexpired three-year term ending 12/31/2015.

SCA has three member seats and three alternate seats on the EMAC. Current SCA members on the EMAC include: Sean Kelly, Maple Valley; Don Persson, Renton; Penny Sweet, Kirkland; and alternates include: Pam Fernald SeaTac; Marianne Klass, Clyde Hill. In addition to these SCA appointments, the city of Kent has a representative.

Commander Mark Hagreen of Redmond Police Department served as an alternate on the committee. Commander Hagreen has resigned his position, as he is retiring from the force. The current vacancy is for this position.

The EMAC and its subcommittees advise, assist, review, and comment on emergency management and homeland security issues, regional planning and policies. EMAC is an advisory body to the King County Executive, the King County Council, and the Office of Emergency Management on emergency management issues in order to facilitate coordination of regional emergency planning in King County.



April 8, 2015
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 7:

Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) Strategic Plan Update

POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION ITEM

SCA Staff Contact

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, Deanna@soundcities.org, 206-433-7170

Ellie Wilson-Jones, SCA Policy Analyst, ellie@soundcities.org, 206-433-7167

CEH Members:

Councilmember Doreen Marchione, Kirkland; Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way

Interagency Council (IAC) Members:

Michael Hursh, Auburn; Colleen Kelly, Redmond; Jennifer Henning, Renton

Staff will provide an update on the Committee to End Homelessness draft strategic plan and ongoing work by cities and SCA to ensure that the plan addresses concerns raised by cities.

CEH Strategic Plan Update

At the March 11, 2015 PIC meeting, members voted unanimously to request an extension of the timeline for the Committee to End Homeless (CEH) Governing Board to adopt their draft strategic plan. The SCA Board of Directors also unanimously agreed to request such an extension and sent a letter, [Attachment A](#), to that effect to the Governing Board co-chairs on March 18. The letter reflected concerns raised by cities about the draft plan, including the lack of detail on costs, sources of funding and lead partners for implementation of specific strategies. The CEH Executive Committee did agree to extend the timeline to late June.

On March 16, 2015, CEH held a strategic plan retreat to delve into the details of the draft strategic plan. A [revised strategic plan](#) was presented at the retreat ([Attachment B](#)); however, the revision did not yet incorporate or address city comments submitted by SCA. Those comments, as well as feedback received at the strategic plan retreat, will be addressed in the next iteration of the strategic plan, which CEH staff indicates will be released on April 15, 2015.

Member cities had a number of representatives attend the Strategic Plan retreat. Elected officials present were Kirkland Councilmember Doreen Marchione, Federal Way Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus, and Kent Councilmember Brenda Fincher. Staff members present were Londi Lindell, North Bend; Michael Hursh, Auburn; Colleen Kelly, Redmond; Jennifer Henning, Renton; Doreen Booth, SCA; and Arthur Sullivan, A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH).

Subsequent to the retreat, SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson and Michael Hursh, Auburn, met with Mark Putnam, CEH Executive Director, to discuss next steps. SCA has agreed to coordinate feedback from IAC, CEH Governing Board members, elected officials and staff on items as requested by CEH as the draft plan is revised. SCA staff have been meeting and coordinating with CEH Governing Board Members, IAC Members, and other city staff to work on ensuring that the revisions to the strategic plan document reflect concerns raised by cities. SCA staff and leadership have also met with County Executive Dow Constantine to discuss concerns about the plan, and the timeline for adoption proposed by CEH staff.

As of this writing, the proposed timeline is as follows:

- April 15:** Revised CEH Strategic Plan will be released
- April 15 – May 13:** Presenters from CEH, IAC and SCA will be available to cities to present revised plan
- May 13:** SCA Public Issues Committee will have a first opportunity to weigh in on the revised plan
- June 10:** SCA Public Issues Committee reviews and considers a recommendation on the plan
- June 17:** SCA Board of Directors acts on the PIC recommendation

SCA will continue to provide information and seek feedback from cities as additional information becomes available.

Attachments

- A. [SCA Letter Requesting Extension of Timeline for CEH Plan Approval](#)
- B. [CEH Strategic Plan](#)



SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION

36 Cities. A Million People. One Voice.

2015 Board of Directors

March 18, 2015

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Matt Larson
Mayor
City of Snoqualmie

The Honorable Mayor Ed B. Murray
Co-Chair CEH Governing Board
City of Seattle

Dan Brettler
Co-Chair CEH Governing Board
401 5th Avenue
Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98104

Vice President

Nancy Backus
Mayor
City of Auburn

PO Box 94749
Seattle, WA 98124-4749

Treasurer

Don Gerend
Councilmember
City of Sammamish

RE: Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) Strategic Plan Timeline

Dear Mayor Murray and Mr. Brettler:

Member-at-Large

Dave Hill
Mayor
City of Algona

We are writing to you on behalf of the Board of Directors and the 36 member cities of the Sound Cities Association (SCA) to express our request for an extension of the timeline of approval of the Committee to End Homelessness' Strategic Plan.

Past President

John Marchione
Mayor
City of Redmond

As you know, the Sound Cities Association (formerly the Suburban Cities Association) was founded in the 1970s to help cities in King County act locally and partner regionally to create vital, livable communities through advocacy, education, leadership, mutual support, and networking. Collectively, our 36 member cities represent nearly one million constituents in King County.

Members

Bill Allison
Mayor
City of Maple Valley

SCA cities are committed to the shared goal of ending homelessness, and we appreciate the hard work that has gone into the draft strategic plan to date. Our cities have carefully reviewed the plan, and our members have discussed at our Public Issues Committee (PIC). Many of our cities have submitted written comments on the plan.

David Baker
Mayor
City of Kenmore

Chris Eggen
Deputy Mayor
City of Shoreline

As reflected in those comments, cities are concerned that the current iteration of the draft plan is lacking detail on costs, the sources of funding, and who will be the lead partner responsible for implementation of various strategies. The feedback received from cities to date suggests a need for a robust process involving cities and other partners in order to develop the detail currently lacking in the plan, as well as the need for an implementation strategy. This process will take more time than that currently scheduled by the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) prior to adoption of the plan. Cities also need an opportunity to fully review and provide meaningful feedback on the revised draft strategies as they are developed. Cities have also expressed concerns about some aspects of the current draft plan. We are committed to working with the CEH to address those concerns, and to come up with solutions.

Jim Haggerton
Mayor
City of Tukwila

Bob Harrison
City Administrator
City of Issaquah

Dennis Higgins
Councilmember
City of Kent

Bernie Talmas
Mayor
City of Woodinville

For these reasons, the SCA PIC and the SCA Board voted unanimously to request that the CEH adopt a new timeframe for adoption of the plan that will allow for the plan to be more fully developed, and for cities and other partners to be engaged in that process. It is our understanding from CEH staff that they would prefer a date of no later than end of June 2015. While this would require an aggressive schedule for revision and review, we believe that this time frame is workable, if efforts on the work needed begin immediately.

Amy Walen
Mayor
City of Kirkland

Executive Director

Deanna Dawson

We appreciate the hard work of the Governing Board, and we look forward to working with you on this important effort.

Sound Cities Association
6300 Southcenter Boulevard
Suite 206
Tukwila, WA 98188
(206) 433-7168
SCA@SoundCities.org
www.SoundCities.org

If you have any questions about this request, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director Deanna Dawson at (206) 433-7170, or at Deanna@SoundCities.org.

Sincerely,



Matt Larson
President, Sound Cities Association
Mayor, City of Snoqualmie

- c.c. SCA Board of Directors
- SCA Public Issues Committee
- Mark Putnam, Director, CEH
- Doreen Marchione, CEH Governing Board Member
- Lydia Assefa-Dawson, CEH Governing Board Member
- Jennifer Henning, IAC Member
- Michael Hursh, IAC Member
- Colleen Kelly, IAC Member

GOAL 1: Make Homelessness Rare

Raise visibility on the causes of homelessness, and create a stronger sense of urgency and accountability on the part of citizens, cities, county, state and federal governments to address community-level determinants of homelessness.

OVERVIEW

Making Homelessness Rare requires **clarity** on the role of CEH and partner systems in ending homelessness; the rigorous use of **data** to make transparent the causes and remedies to homelessness; and an **unwavering commitment** to work across system boundaries and to hold ourselves and partners accountable for making lasting changes.

In 2012, the Journal of Public Affairs published *New Perspectives on Community-Level Determinants of Homelessness*, a study of predictive factors for community rates of homelessness. (Nonsubscribers can read an overview here.) Findings include:

- **Housing Market Factors:** An increase in rent of \$100 per month correlates with a 15% increase in metropolitan homelessness and 38% in suburban or rural areas. Local Trend: Seattle rents fastest rising in the nation, per Seattle Times, Sept 2014.
- **Economic Conditions:** Poverty and unemployment rates are positively associated (correlate) with rates of homelessness. Local Trend: Poverty in King County is on the rise, with south King County reflective of the suburbanization of poverty, per Seattle Times, May 2013.
- **Safety Net:** The extent to which social safety net programs (with specific reference to mental health funding) provide adequate assistance can impact the chances that households will experience homelessness. Local Trend: Washington State ranks 47 out of 50 in per capita access to psychiatric beds per Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2009.
- **Transience:** While in-migration may be positively associated with strong labor markets, it may also increase the vulnerability to homelessness of those less well-suited to compete in these arenas. Local Trend: Seattle is a city of newcomers, per Seattle Times October, 2014.

The causes of homelessness are complex, and the solutions must be shared. Rising poverty, low wages, state and federal cuts to safety net programs, racism and the effects of disproportionality, lack of affordable housing, and criminalization of people experiencing homelessness -- all contribute to increased rates of homelessness and **All community partners** will need to be accountable to addressing these local determinants of homelessness.

OUTCOMES

- ➔ Fewer people exit institutions directly to homelessness
- ➔ No cities have policies that criminalize homelessness
- ➔ Our community creates more housing affordable to those making 30% of AMI
- ➔ More people are prevented from becoming homeless overall

STRATEGIES

- 1.1 Prevent people from becoming homeless
- 1.2 Create more affordable housing
- 1.3 Change policies that criminalize living on the streets

Strategy 1.1: Prevent people from becoming homeless**Basis: Need, Data and Effectiveness****Prevent people from losing their homes**

Homelessness prevention strategies such as financial or legal assistance, housing stabilization, family reunification or other interventions can help households resolve a housing crisis that would otherwise lead to homelessness. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) reports innovative practices are emerging that target and coordinate stabilization and prevention supports towards those most likely to become homeless. Communities are using shelter data to understand the profile of people who experience homelessness, and targeting prevention efforts to similarly matched people. Similarly, King County prevention strategies shall:

Target prevention services towards those that mirror a shelter population (ensuring an active focus on addressing disproportionality)

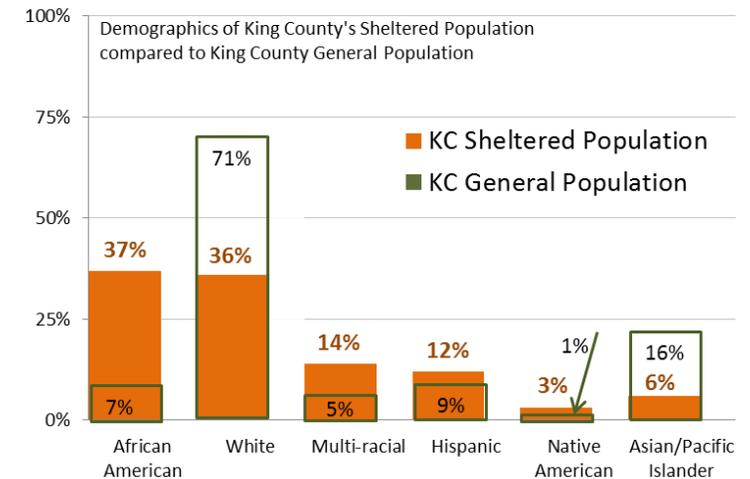
- Compared to King County demographics, Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islanders are three times more likely to be represented in shelter populations; African Americans are six times more likely; Native Americans are seven times more likely. (CEH Annual Report, 2013).
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Queer (LGBTQ) youth and youth of color are disproportionality homeless - ~40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. (Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Comprehensive Plan, 2013).
- Immigrants and Refugees face additional language barriers and compose almost 20% of the homeless population in King County (United Way of King County Community Assessment, 2012).
- Families involved with the Child Welfare System are at increased risk of homelessness. Inadequate housing is a key factor contributing to children being referred to child welfare, and as many as 30% of children could be reunited with their parents if safe affordable housing were available. (Keeping Families Together and Safe, 2005).
- Risk factors for homelessness among veterans is associated with vets who are younger, enlisted with lower pay grades, diagnosed with mental illness, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Military Sexual Trauma (MST) or other disability. (US Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Homeless Incidence and Risk Factors for Becoming Homeless in Veterans, 2012).

Strategically time and/or locate interventions

- Place-based strategies, such as Communities of Opportunity within the Health and Human Services Transformation Plan, invest resources in King County neighborhoods that rank lowest on an index of the social determinants of health (including housing), where targeted investments will have the greatest impact.
- Most youth who run away from home return home relatively quickly. Prevention supports that quickly connect a young adult within the first 48-72 hours to friends, family or other stable situation can make that return safe and sustainable. (YYA Comprehensive Plan, 2013).

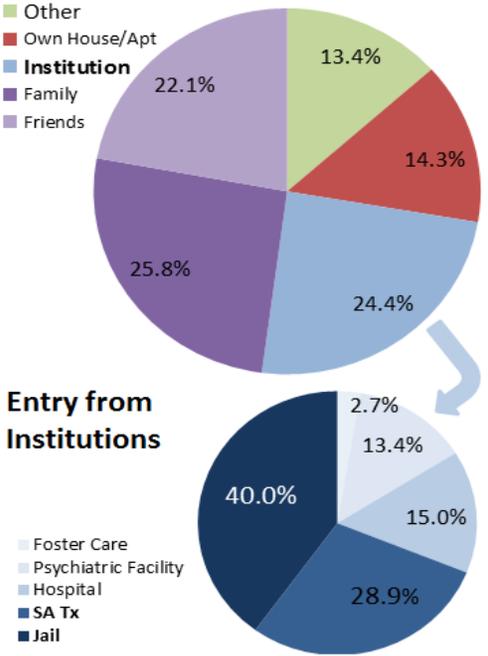
Target Prevention Services

to match the profile of people experiencing homelessness



Where Do They Come From

Non-chronic Adult Homelessness: Background and Opportunities
NAEH Conference Presentation | August 6, 2014
Dennis P. Culhane | University of Pennsylvania



Strategy 1.1: Prevent people from becoming homeless

Basis: Need, Data and Effectiveness

Prevent exits to homelessness

Housing problems, including homelessness, are common among individuals leaving jails, foster care, treatment programs and hospitals. One in five people who leave prison become homeless soon thereafter, if not immediately (NAEH Re-Entry.) More than one in five youth who arrive at a youth shelter come directly from foster care. Participants tend to have limited or low incomes, and, often due to criminal or credit history, lack the ability to obtain housing through the channels that are open to other low-income people.

Research by Dennis Culhane indicates that 24.4% of single adults become homeless upon discharge from an institution, with nearly 70% of those exiting jails or treatment facilities. Single adults comprise the great majority of people experiencing homelessness in King County (~9,200 annually). Halving the number discharged into homelessness by jails or treatment facilities each year in King County could reduce the number of homeless single adults by 800. (9,200 x .25 x .70 = ~1,600. Reducing the discharge rate by half = ~800 fewer homeless single adults.)

A proven discharge strategy is provision of subsidized housing with associated support services. Washington State initiated the Earned Release Date (ERD) Housing Voucher Program which pays \$500 per month for up to three months in rent assistance for individuals exiting corrections. A recent study conducted by Washington State University found that offenders who receive housing vouchers commit fewer and less-violent crimes than offenders who don't, and cost savings are more than double what was projected. Both King County's Familiar Faces and the City of Seattle's LEAD project seek to reduce the cycle of institutionalization and homelessness.

Refugees are at risk of homelessness upon termination of supports. Refugees resettled in the United States under the Refugee Act of are eligible for cash assistance (up to eight months through Washington State Department of Social and Health Services), case management (three months, provided by Voluntary Agencies, or VOLAGS) and English language training. The original duration of benefits under the Refugee Act of 1980 was up to 36 months, which more closely matches the time-frame necessary for a majority of refugees to obtain economic self-sufficiency and social stability. As noted in a 2009 report, *Refugee Resettlement in Washington*, significant numbers of refugees are passing the current time period for assistance without obtaining self-sufficiency, with the need for English language training especially acute.

In Washington, the Washington State Interagency Council on Homelessness is charged with creating greater levels of interagency coordination and to coordinate state agency efforts with local entities addressing homelessness, including the specific requirement to review and improve strategies for discharge from state institutions that contribute to homelessness. This council should establish goals for discharge planning and work closely

Goal 1: Rare

Strategy 1.1: Prevent people from becoming homeless**Basis: Need, Data and Effectiveness****Connect people to supports**

Beginning in 2000, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has targeted its McKinney-Vento Act funding more exclusively to housing-focused activities (as opposed to supportive services.) This policy decision presumed that mainstream programs such as US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Medicaid, Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) and General Assistance could cover the gap resulting from the change. Some programs, such as Healthcare for the Homeless, have services tailored to participants experiencing homelessness. Others, such as McKinney-Vento homeless student liaisons, are creating that capacity. Still others tend to screen out people experiencing homelessness due to perceived challenges of meeting their unique needs. Across all of these programs, however, there remain inadequate capacity and gaps in service.

In 2010, HUD commissioned a study by national experts on Strategies for Improving Homeless People's Access to Mainstream Benefits and Services. The study identified **barriers** to accessing mainstream services and mechanisms to reduce these barriers.

1. **Structural barriers** affect homeless individuals and families who face unique obstacles because, by definition or circumstance, they do not have the ready means of communication, transportation, regular address, and documentation that most mainstream programs require. Smoothing mechanisms such as street outreach, transportation, coordinated entry or co-location of services can reduce these barriers.
2. **Capacity barriers** result from lack resources (either finite or capped.) Many communities find a heightened awareness of capacity, and joint messaging of the need for increased capacity, have helped to expand resources at the local level.
3. **Eligibility barriers** are program rules that limit for who may receive the benefit or for how long. Changing mechanisms such as reduced criteria to entry or prioritization can help to target services towards those most vulnerable.

It is not surprising that people experiencing homelessness in King County experience each of these types of barriers. Examples:

1. **Structural Barriers:** King County is one of the largest counties in the nation, with 39 incorporated cities, 2,307 square miles (twice the size of Rhode Island), making coordination and transportation across the regional challenging.
2. **Capacity Barriers**
 - Washington ranks 47th in the nation in psychiatric beds per capita. (Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2009).
 - Statewide, flexible non-Medicaid mental health funding from the state general fund has been reduced by \$33.2 million (27%) since 2009, exacerbated by concurrent elimination of state hospital beds. (King County MHCADSD/Behavioral Health).
3. **Eligibility Barriers:** The US Department of Veterans Affairs and King County are to be commended for allocating millions of dollars in new resources through its VASH and SSVF programs and Veterans and Human Service Levy respectively. However, receipt of these important resources can be dependent on a veteran's discharge status, length of time spent on active duty, and VA-determined disability.

“Homelessness is the bellwether for the rest of our society. It tells us whether our education system is working, whether our criminal-justice system is working, whether our foster-care system is working.”

Father Stephen Sundborg,
President, Seattle University
and CEH Governing Board member

1.1 PREVENT PEOPLE FROM BECOMING HOMELESS		LEAD PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	METRICS
1.1.A	<p>Integrate prevention strategies in local planning, recognizing that success of strategies can be highly dependent on client typology. Strategies must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an explicit focus on addressing disproportionality. • Be based on data and emerging research specific to the variances of each population and initiative. • Incorporate rigorous data and analysis as part of implementation to test and refine targeting efforts. 			
1.1.B	<p>Invest prevention resources in communities where the need and opportunity for gain is greatest, borrowing from the work of the Health and Human Services Transformation Initiative, Communities of Opportunity, LEAD, and others</p>			
1.1.C	<p>Expand proven discharge / exit programs to serve more people. Assure key systems (foster care, criminal justice, healthcare, mental health) incorporate discharge plans for housing within their support services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share known best practices of proven discharge-planning models. • Advocate for the incorporation / expansion of discharge planning efforts. • Advocate on behalf of partners for necessary resources to incorporate or bring to scale discharge planning efforts. 			
1.1.D	<p>Influence the workplan(s) of policy makers and funders. Advocate to the State for a stronger Interagency Council on Homelessness commitment to prevent homelessness. Establish Memorandum of Agreement with cross-system partners such as employment, criminal justice, physical and mental health, education, and entitlements. Set goals to increase access to cross-system services, reduce barriers to enrollment, and (where necessary) end exits to homelessness. Support the State in advocating to the Federal government for policy and funding changes.</p>			
1.1.E	<p>Reduce Capacity Barriers in other support systems Advocate for necessary resources and availability of critical services frequently needed by people experiencing homelessness (e.g., treatment on demand, employment.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support siting requests for new programs and services to assure regional distribution of housing and services. • Secure sustainable funding for expanded and enhanced services and housing. • Provide professional development to cross-system partners on best practices for serving people experiencing homelessness. 			
1.1.F	<p>Reduce Eligibility Barriers Reduce screening criteria and program rules that get in the way of providing services and housing to the most vulnerable.</p>			

Strategy 1.2: Create More Affordable Housing

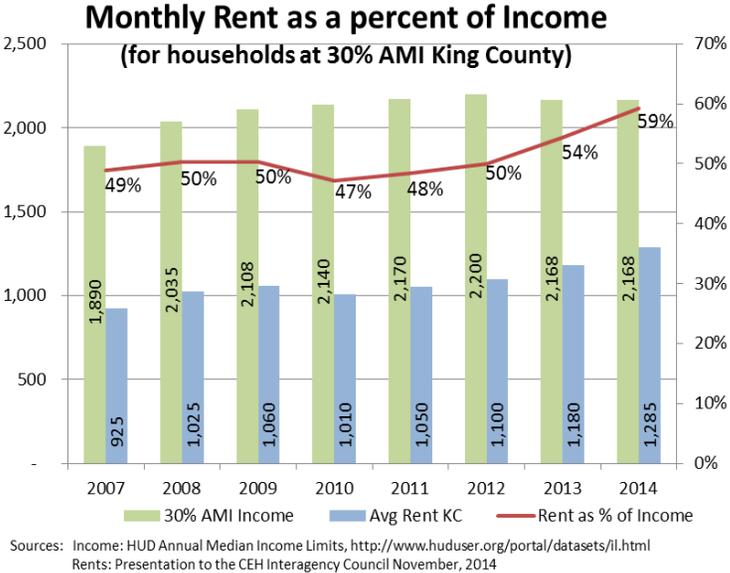
Basis: Need, Data and Effectiveness

Rising Rents

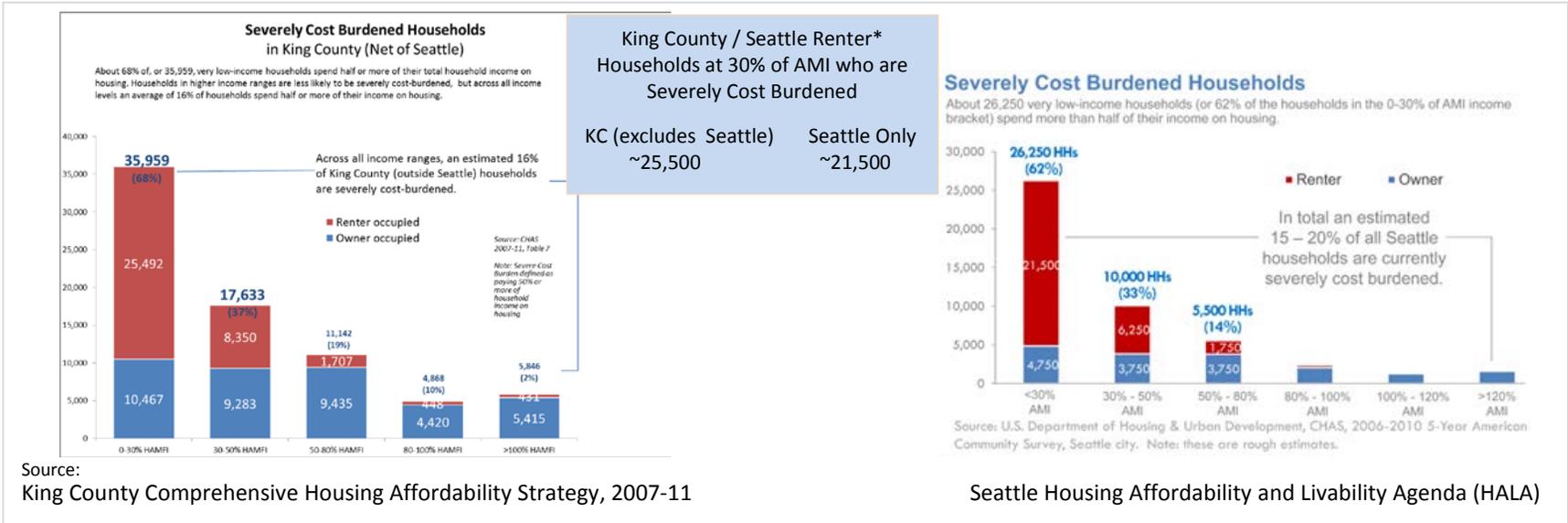
Erosion in renter incomes coupled with a surge in demand for rental housing has pushed the number of households paying excessive shares of income for housing to record levels. (Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, *America's Rental Housing: Evolving Markets and Needs*, 2013). These trends are mirrored locally, shown in the chart to the right.

A review of 300 cities and states that receive federal homeless funding found a median rent increase of \$100 was associated with a 15% increase in homelessness in urban areas, and a 38% increase in rural or suburban areas (Journal of Urban Affairs, *New Perspectives on Community-Level Determinants of Homelessness*, 2012.) This trend is observable in the rise in our region's annual census of unsheltered persons and suburbanization of poverty and homelessness in South King County. Affordable housing distributed regionally with supports based on local needs, is a critical need.

The charts below provide the number of households in King County who are particularly vulnerable – renters (in red) who are extremely low income (30% or below of Area Median Income, or AMI) and also severely cost burdened (paying more than half their income towards housing costs).



Goal 1: Rare



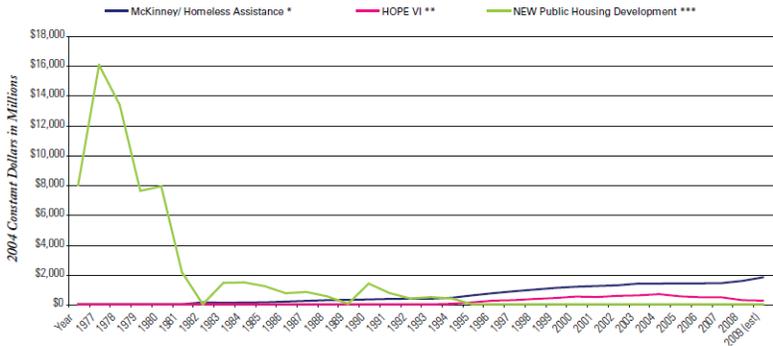
Diminished Federal Supports

The federal government plays a crucial role in affordable housing creation.

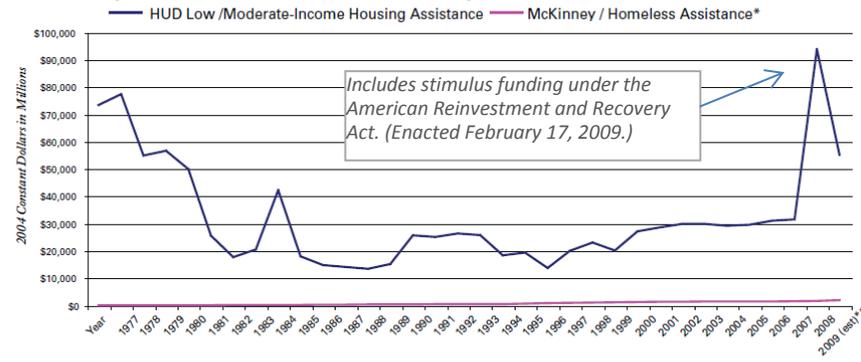
The Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP) reports in their 2010 Update, *Without Housing*, that from 1937 through the late 70's, federally funded affordable housing provided an essential safety net for low-income households. In the early 1980s, this safety net was abandoned (Charts 1 and 2), while tax expenditures on homeownership (mainly through the mortgage interest deduction) outstrip support for homeless housing (Chart 3). This is confirmed by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) which reports that federal housing spending is poorly matched to need. Federal supports are tilted toward homeowners, leaving low-income renters without help and only about one in four low-income families eligible for rental assistance actually receives it (Chart 4).

Goal 1: Rare

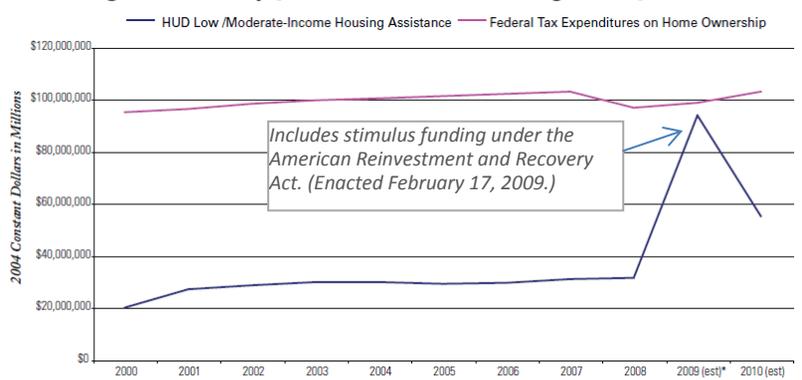
1) Comparison of Budget Outlays for Homeless Programs, HOPE VI and New Public Housing Development [WRAP Without Housing, 2010]



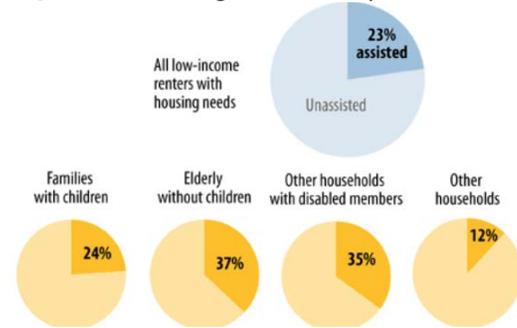
2) HUD Low/Moderate-Income Housing Budget Authority and McKinney/Homeless Assistance Outlays [WRAP Without Housing, 2010]



3) Comparison of Federal Tax Expenditures on Home Ownership and HUD Budget Authority [WRAP Without Housing, 2010]



4) Rental Assistance Programs Reach only a Fraction of Needy and Eligible Renters [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2013]



1.2 CREATE MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING		LEAD PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	METRICS
1.2.A	<p>Each year, establish and advance a federal, state and local agenda, with a goal to reduce the number of households at 0-30% AMI who are severely rent burdened.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance a federal, state and local agenda to advocate for affordable housing • Align with partner efforts to encourage the use of range of tools, creative policy and land use regulations that jurisdictions can use to increase the development of new affordable housing, preserve existing affordable housing and address issues of substandard housing. 			
1.2.B	<p>Increase access among vulnerable populations in existing affordable housing projects through the provision of after-care supports, or otherwise reduce screening criteria and increase access to housing among people with criminal histories, poor credit and negative rental histories.</p>			

Goal 1: Rare

Strategy 1.3: Change policies that criminalize living on the streets

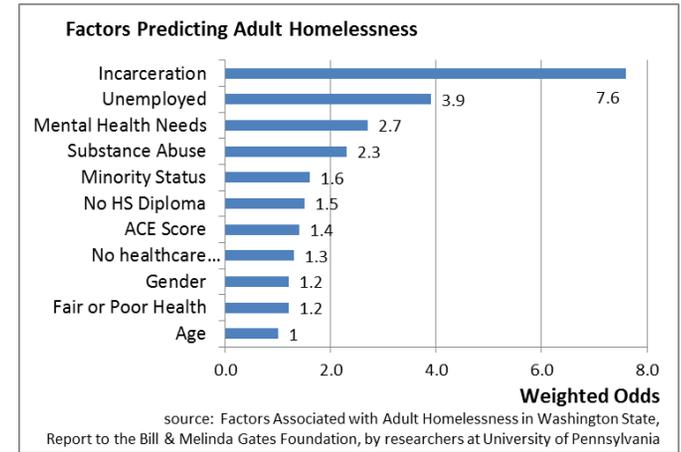
Basis: Need, Data and Effectiveness

Rising criminalization

Policies that criminalize homelessness are costly and rarely result in housing stability. Penalizing people experiencing homelessness tends only to exacerbate mental and physical health problems, create or increase criminal records, and result in the loss of key personal documents that make it even harder to exit homelessness. Yet, as reported by the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty in their 2014 report, *The Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities*, there has been an increase in laws criminalizing homelessness since 2011.

Reducing policies that unnecessarily create a criminal history is an important step in making homelessness rare. A 2013 report, *Factors Associated with Adult Homelessness in Washington State* delivered to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, reflects that Individuals with a history of incarceration were 7.6 times more likely to report experiencing adult homelessness.

Criminalization is an issue of disproportionality. A 2011 Task Force report on Race and Washington’s Criminal Justice System shares multiple examples of implicit bias in the criminal justice system. As the report states, “...because of the cumulative effect of ... policies that have disproportionate impacts and ... subtle bias at various decision points, a disproportionate number of people of color in Washington State find themselves incarcerated or otherwise involved with the criminal justice system, a disproportion that cannot be accounted for fully by involvement in crime [p. 21.]”



1.3 CHANGE POLICIES THAT CRIMINALIZE LIVING ON THE STREETS		LEAD PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	METRICS
1.3.A	Repeal or mitigate local ordinances that criminalize survival strategies or impose harsh penalties. Partner with local councils and law enforcement to develop proactive strategies to engage individuals who are homeless, assuring that ordinances against camping in parks, loitering on sidewalks etc. are adopted/enforced as a last resort.			
1.3.B	Support the enhancement and expansion of alternative sentencing options , helping individuals avoid a criminal history. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement strategies from the United States Interagency Council report on criminalization, <i>Searching Out Solutions: Constructive Alternatives to the Criminalization of Homelessness</i> to create or enhance alternative sentencing. Support efforts to secure sustainable funding for diversion courts and other alternative programs. Collaborate with Diversion Courts, Familiar Faces, LEAD and others partners to better integrate referrals and services among people experiencing homelessness. 			
1.3.C	Reduce the effects of criminalization in housing (and employment): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote fair hiring and fair housing policies as they relate to criminal histories. Reduce screening criteria within housing programs that creates barriers to housing. 			

GOAL 2: Make Homelessness Brief and One-Time

To make homelessness **Brief** and **One-time**, we must align funding and programs to support the strengths and address the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

OVERVIEW

Making Homelessness Brief requires ensuring that for those who do become homeless it is a brief episode. Shortening the length of time families and individuals are homeless reduces trauma and also creates capacity in our crisis response system for others in need. In 2013, households spent an average of 141 days in our crisis response system, far above CEH’s goal of 20 days.

Making Homelessness One-Time requires ensuring that homelessness is a one-time occurrence, and those we support to move to permanent housing do not become homeless again and return to our crisis response system. Currently 85 percent do not return to homelessness within two years, while 15 percent return to homeless. CEH’s goal is that only five percent return to homelessness.

For many non-disabled people, finding living wage employment is an essential part of moving from homelessness – and usually one of the biggest challenges. To make significant progress on this issue we will need to increase coordination efforts with the employment system to expand capacity and flexibility to better meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. We must also better equip homeless providers with the tools to assess and connect clients for whom employment is appropriate to the most suitable resources.

A well-functioning ‘system is essential to making homelessness a brief and one-time occurrence. King County needs a clear, consistent, and targeted approach that quickly and compassionately assesses household’s needs and provides tailored services to people experiencing a housing crisis.

Through research and experience we now know which intervention types are needed in our continuum to address homelessness. Our understanding of the needs and strengths of people experiencing homelessness, combined with our understanding of the housing and services that work, must now be applied to “right-size” our housing and services into a more effective system than can house more people. This requires the entire funder and provider community to embrace an approach that focuses on safety, matching, immediate placement into permanent housing, and supporting stability.

OUTCOMES

- People experiencing homelessness get the right service strategy with the right intensity of services
- More people are served by existing programs
- People are homeless for shorter periods of time
- Housing measures are improved (obtain/maintain permanent housing)

STRATEGIES

Work with all CEH partners to:

- 2.1 Address crisis as quickly as possible
- 2.2 Assess, divert, prioritize and match with housing and supports
- 2.3 Right-size housing and supports to meet needs of people experiencing homelessness in our community
- 2.4 Create employment and education opportunities to support stability

Strategy 2.1: Address crisis as quickly as possible

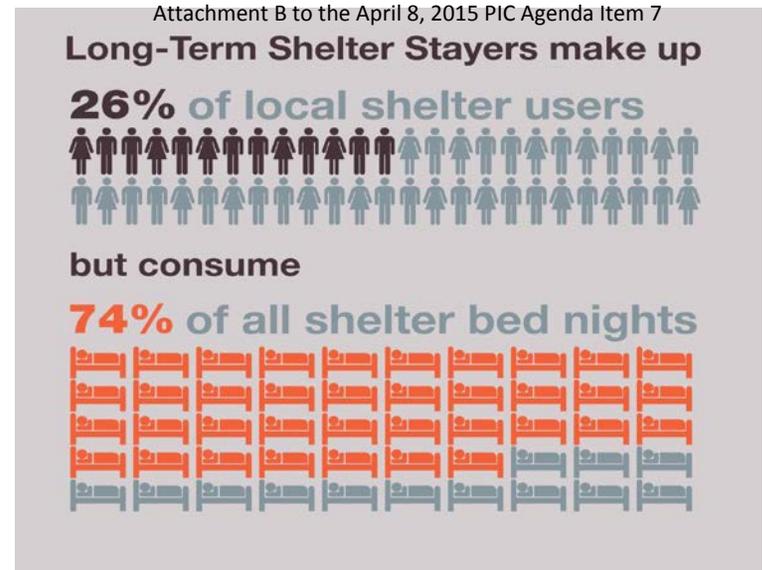
Basis: Need, Data and Effectiveness

In a well-functioning crisis response system, we would not expect to be able to prevent all crises that lead to homelessness - there will always be a need to provide short-term support to people experiencing crisis and living unsheltered in our community. People need a safe and secure place to stay during their crisis so they can focus on the pressing need at hand: locating permanent housing.

Emergency shelter, as well as non-traditional interim survival mechanisms such as car camping and tent encampments, has played an important role in our community. Despite our current capacity to shelter 9,500 individuals per year and the high level of funding towards these interventions, it's not meeting the demand.

We expect to see increased performance through the right-sizing of our homelessness response system through efficiencies that move people out of homelessness as quickly as possible. In the short-term, however, we simply need more options for those who are living on the streets. Interim survival mechanisms (such as legal encampments and car camping) provide an option for some, and should be linked to service provision focused on moving people quickly into shelter or long-term housing.

A strategy we have employed to make the experience of homelessness brief in King County is prioritizing those that had been "stuck" in shelter the longest for permanent housing placement. Mostly men with a median age of 56, "Long-Term Shelter Stayers" used a majority of our emergency system's capacity while only making up about a quarter of the total shelter population. Now we are moving these "Long-Term Shelter Stayers" to permanent housing, while freeing up capacity in our shelters for others. In 2013, 85 people who were staying 180 days or more in shelter the year before moved to permanent housing. This frees up at least 15,300 "bed nights" for new shelter users. Locally, in 2015, new federal investments will enable to us to house 200 additional people in permanent supportive housing.



2.1 ADDRESS CRISIS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE		LEAD PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	METRICS
2.1.A	Ensure shelter capacity to meet the needs of the community, including the preservation of existing shelter and increasing capacity to meet specific needs by population and region. Includes creating pathways to housing through non-traditional shelter models and interventions for long-term shelter stayers. Utilize National Alliance to End Homelessness tool to set system targets, which uses local data to make projections for system-level outcome improvements.			
2.1.B	Increase support and community education for crisis response needs , including interim survival mechanisms to create pathways to housing that bring people out of the elements.			

Strategy 2.2: Assess, divert, prioritize and match with housing and supports

Basis: Need, Data and Effectiveness

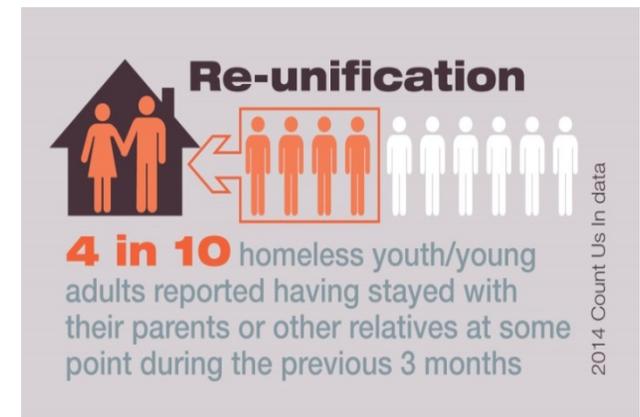
If a person does become homeless, we must work to make their experience brief. Entering the crisis response system is traumatic for families, and costly for the overall system. For this reason, we are adapting services to prioritize quickly connecting people with housing. In addition, assessment shall also lead to appropriate linkages with employment services to assist in a rapid pathway into housing.

Right-sizing our homeless assistance services into an effective crisis response system requires a network of providers who have embraced the approach that focuses on immediate placement into permanent housing. USICH provides the following framework to shift from a program-centered to a client-centered system:

- **Access to a Community-Wide Response System** When a housing crisis occurs, how do people access help? Can assistance be provided to avert (or minimize) trauma associated with housing loss? Access to housing and services should be consolidated, while access points and approaches may vary by subpopulation. The system must be client focused and shall: (i) be easily accessible, (ii) utilize a standardized assessment tool, (iii) include community supported prioritization of the most vulnerable, and (iv) allow for movement within the system to accommodate changing needs.
- **Assessment** Exactly how much help each household actually requires can be difficult to determine. While the process may be a bit different for highly vulnerable unsheltered individuals than it is for families and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, effective communities still use a common tool to assess needs and prioritize placement into housing often in the form of a vulnerability index or other prioritization tool.
- **Assignment of Intervention** While much of the new approach is focused on permanent housing, interventions may vary, and the goal remains to provide the least expensive intervention that solves homelessness for each household. Some people may need only a short-term intervention (a rapid re-housing approach, or a lighter-touch diversion), while others may require an ongoing subsidy to remain stably housed (coordinated through local housing authorities or affordable housing partners). Still others will need an ongoing subsidy with wraparound services in permanent supportive housing. Services are associated with each type of intervention, but the level and duration will vary for each household.

One way we have begun testing this new “least expensive” approach is through a shelter diversion project for families. By diverting entry to shelter, we increase the availability of shelter and housing for those who are most vulnerable. This model works for those who can find an alternative option with minimal support, short-term assistance is offered, such as conflict resolution with landlords, shared housing options, and financial assistance. In the first nine months of the Family Shelter Diversion Project 33% of families were successfully diverting from shelter or were still in progress of exploring options outside of shelter.

This approach is also being adapted locally to serve specialized populations. LifeWire’s Housing Stability Program tested the approach whether survivors of domestic violence could avoid homelessness and shelter stays with assistance to stay in their existing housing or find new housing. During the first year, their shelter turn-away rate dropped from 1:30 to 1:8, 50% were able to stay in their own housing and 31% successfully moved into long-term housing without having to go to shelter. Youth and young adults often return home to parents or relatives quickly. New and ongoing programs are providing in-home support to homeless youth and young adults with family where safe and appropriate, to prevent or quickly end their episode of homelessness.



2.2 ASSESS, PRIORITIZE AND MATCH WITH HOUSING AND SUPPORTS		LEAD PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	METRICS
2.2.A	Ensure there is a coordinated assessment system which can assist in appropriately identifying and prioritizing candidates for the right housing and services intervention.			
2.2.B	Integrate into the coordinated assessment process a standardized employment readiness assessment that leads to appropriate linkages with employment services .			
2.2.C	Expand capacity to divert people from shelter , providing housing focused services prior to housing placement, including community-based strategies that provide (safe and appropriate) alternative options to shelter, creating a “what will it take” approach to get people on a pathway into housing .			
2.2.D	Ensure admission criteria for homeless housing projects reflects Housing First practices (reducing criteria based on income, disability, treatment compliance, criminal histories, etc.) while ensuring agencies have the capacity to provide appropriate services for the target population.			

Strategy 2.3: Right-size housing and supports to meet needs of people experiencing homelessness in our community

Basis: Need, Data and Effectiveness

We have learned a great deal about what programs work best for each of the homeless populations. We have taken important steps to set system-level performance targets, and funders and providers have worked closely to develop performance targets for each program type as well.

We now need to take a system level approach to right-size our resources to create the right mix to meet the needs of families and individuals, move them into permanent housing faster, and connect them to community supports to maintain housing stability.

Perhaps the most significant systems shift will be right-sizing the existing homeless system to one that provides an array of homeless interventions that best match the needs of people experiencing homelessness. This will result in freeing up more intensive (and expensive) interventions for individuals that need them, while also allowing us to serve many times more people, more quickly.

Based on initial modeling, as well as local and national research, we are finding that the potential to improve is great. Shifting our investments to focus on diversion, rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing we will house more people, with equal or better housing retention outcomes.

Our family homelessness system has already begun a system right-sizing process and the youth / young adult system is developing the framework to scope the ideal housing continuum for young people. Funders, in partnership with providers, need to use data to drive right-sizing. In February 2015, the National Alliance to End Homelessness released a new tool, developed by Focus Strategies, which uses local data to make projections for system-level outcome improvements. This modeling tool should be very useful and we are in process of learning how to use it.

Having the right mix of housing and services is the first step, a well-functioning system also requires:

- Offering a housing pathway as quickly as possible for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
 - Utilize data and best practices to refine existing rapid re-housing models; define the model for young adults; and, adapt the approach to meet unique geographic housing needs/constraints.
- Tailored services and connections to the community-based supports are available to keep people in their housing avoid returning to homelessness.
 - Ensure equitable access and outcomes for those vulnerable individuals and families that are disproportionately impacted by homelessness.
 - Provide client-centered services, focused on promoting housing stability (intensity and duration of services are tailored to the individual).
 - Utilize a progressive engagement approach that starts off offering a small amount of assistance initially, and adds more if needed to help each individual reach stability. This strategy uses the lightest touch possible for each household to be successful, knowing more assistance can be added later if needed.
- Increasing affordable housing opportunities for people exiting homelessness.

2.3. RIGHT-SIZE HOUSING AND SUPPORTS TO MEET NEEDS OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY		LEAD PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	METRICS
2.3.A	Commit to right-sizing our homeless housing stock and services based on typology and needs throughout the system so we can house more people; utilize National Alliance to End Homelessness tool to set system targets.			
2.3.B	Increase diversion opportunities to enable a rapid pathway into housing, building on a program that has shown tremendous success; utilize National Alliance to End Homelessness tool to set system targets.			
2.3.C	Increase rapid re-housing opportunities to enable people to locate housing and exit homelessness quickly; utilize National Alliance to End Homelessness tool to set system targets; utilize National Alliance to End Homelessness tool to set system targets.			
2.3.D	Increase Permanent Supportive Housing for those who are chronically homeless, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain existing capacity. • Optimize utilization (examples: prioritizing admission for those with the highest needs; support Move-Up (graduation) strategies. • Identify appropriate and sufficient services funding to ensure housing stability in PSH (e.g. mainstream sources such as Medicaid). 			
2.3.E	Increase the capacity of providers to implement tailored services ; utilizing progressive engagement and Housing First practices that are flexible and responsive to the needs and priorities of individuals.			
2.3.F	Increase access to housing opportunities by expanding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated, countywide, landlord outreach / engagement strategies to recruit private market rental partners (such as the One Home campaign). • Access to subsidized low income multi-family housing that is not set-aside for people experiencing homelessness. Examples include decreasing tenant screening barriers and implementing homeless preferences in low income multi-family housing. • Alternative permanent housing options that are less expensive, such as shared housing, host homes, boarding houses, and SROs. 			
2.3.G	Ensure culturally appropriate, tailored, and responsive services / relevant pathways out of homelessness.			
2.3.H	Support people moving into permanent housing to establish healthy and supportive relationships, and integrate into their new community to ensure stability.			

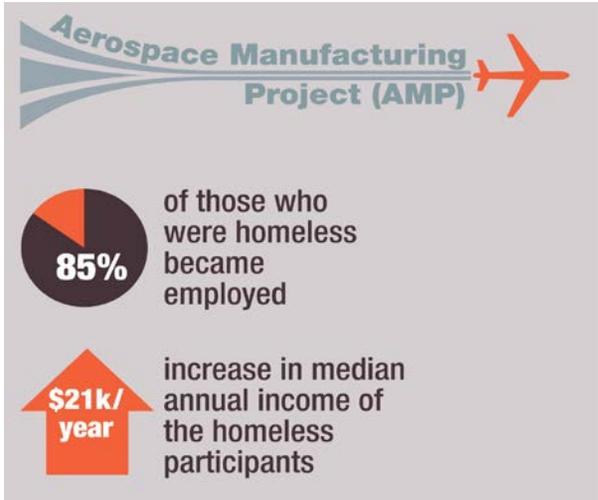
Strategy 2.4: Create employment and education opportunities to support stability

Basis: Need, Data and Effectiveness

Creating employment and education opportunities is an obvious approach to stabilizing people in housing and ensures that they do not return to our homeless system. Unemployment, underemployment, and low wages relative to rent burden put millions of families at risk of homelessness nationally and are frequent causes of homelessness. For many individuals experiencing homelessness, finding living wage employment is an essential part of moving on from homelessness –and usually is one of the biggest challenges.

Many individuals experiencing homelessness face obstacles to finding and maintaining employment and in surveys and focus groups tell us they need assistance. As a result, connecting people with job training and placement programs is critical to ensuring they have the tools they need for long-term stability and success. Further, added coordination and access to work supports like childcare subsidies and transportation assistance can help increase the likelihood that individuals will be able to retain employment.

Through employment programs, people who are or have been homeless can access job-training programs that increase their individual skill set and enhance their ability to find gainful



Goal 2: Brief and One-Time

2.4 Create employment and education opportunities to support stability		LEAD PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME	METRICS
2.4.A	Recruit more businesses to train and hire people who have experienced homelessness to increase capacity to assist people in accessing employment and increasing income			
2.4.B	Increase access to employment programs through employment navigation services, which support people experiencing homelessness to increase and sustain income through employment			
2.4.C	Integrate financial empowerment strategies into housing services to improve financial stability (e.g. money-management advice and coaching).			
2.4.D	Reduce barriers faced by people experiencing homelessness to accessing employment and educational programs by structuring employment programs to meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness.			
2.4.E	Formalize cross-system agreements to improve access to employment and outcomes of people experiencing homelessness by developing State and local level memorandum of agreement, and include agreements regarding leadership, staff training, goals and outcomes.			
2.4.F	Improve data collection on the employment needs and outcomes of people experiencing homelessness.			

GOAL 3: A Community to End Homelessness

It will take the entire Community to End Homelessness.

Strategy 3.1: Engage residents, housed and homeless, to take community action

All partners must be aligned if we are to meet the goals of this plan, and a new level of engagement and accountability among all sectors is needed.

Awareness and engagement of residents of King County, including those housed and those experiencing homelessness, will support our goals of making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time in King County. Efforts like the Rethink Homelessness campaign in Orlando, Facing Homelessness in Seattle, and Invisible People nationally, are effective at changing perception and sparking action by individuals and neighborhoods.

Business need concrete opportunities to provide resources, financial and in-kind, and to provide leadership to reach the plan's goals. Communities that have strong business community partnership in efforts to end homelessness are providing leadership opportunities for businesses. Instead of asking business leaders to attend meetings and provide input, we need to maximize their contributions by providing concrete opportunities to support the goals of this plan, including job creation, housing access, and state and local policy changes.

A strength of our community efforts to end homelessness, for decades, has been the strong commitment of congregations countywide. Many congregations have provided land and buildings to keep people safe and out of the elements, led local and state advocacy, increased community awareness through communications, and provided concrete opportunities to provide jobs and housing for people experiencing homelessness. We must strengthen these programs by increasing their visibility and providing support, and encouraging more congregations to join the efforts.



OUTCOMES

- ➔ Increased awareness and active engagement of residents
- ➔ Increased leadership and active engagement of business and faith leaders
- ➔ Effective and efficient governance and system infrastructure

STRATEGIES

- 3.1 Engage residents, housed and homeless, to take community action
- 3.2 Provide effective and accountable community leadership

Goal 3: A Community to End Homelessness

3.1 ENGAGE RESIDENTS, HOUSED AND HOMELESS, TO TAKE COMMUNITY ACTION		LEAD PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	METRICS
3.1.A	Launch an ongoing community-wide public awareness and engagement campaign , such as the Rethink Homelessness campaign in Orlando, to humanize and personalize homelessness among all residents, house and homeless. Develop multiple forms of media and hold regular community forums. Create opportunities for action through advocacy, volunteerism, donations, and more.			
3.1.B	Establish a business leaders task force and action plan , such as the Home for Good model in Los Angeles, to establish goals and strategies for the business community. Areas of focus for the task force could include fundraising, advocacy, job creation, and housing access.			
3.1.C	Expand successful initiatives that engage faith institutions and individual congregants, particularly around advocacy, recruitment of landlords, and hosting of day centers, meals, shelter, and encampments. Increase visibility of these efforts, and provide support to congregations.			

Goal 3: A Community to End Homelessness

Strategy 3.2: Provide effective and accountable community leadership

The 2005-2015 Ten-Year Plan brought together key leaders from multiple sectors to build political and public will to end homelessness in King County. This strong level of public and private engagement led to successes such as the Campaign to End Chronic Homelessness, through which partners developed nearly 2,400 new units of housing for chronically homeless individuals, by funding in a coordinated way to maximize our results. We have also successfully aligned funding to support strategies for addressing youth and family homelessness.

The governance and decision-making of the Committee to End Homelessness has become overly complicated and diffuse. For example, the Governing Board has authority to set strategic direction, yet does not as a body have the authority to increase revenue, change policy, or make funding decisions. The Interagency Council has the authority to recommend policy and investment priorities, yet not to make funding decisions. The Funders Group are not aligning funding as seamlessly as envisioned, as they must balance the recommendations of the Interagency Council with their trustees or elected officials. The Consumer Advisory Council plays an important role in providing input, and is represented on the Governing Board and Interagency Council, and its role and voice could be strengthened.

Changes to governance in communities such as Portland and Minneapolis have led funders and providers to clarify roles and accountability for community-level, not funding stream or program-level, results. CEH must provide clear policy recommendations and investment opportunities for local, state and federal funders to support efforts that lead to regional, community-level results.

We have learned that collaboration is hard, and takes time. Shared accountability for making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time is necessary. To successfully implement this plan, infrastructure, including staffing, capacity building for staff, database management, evaluation, and advocacy, are necessities, not luxuries. These staffing roles can be filled by partner agencies throughout the community. These roles have been filled by CEH, local government, philanthropy, advocacy organizations, congregations, businesses, providers, and people experiencing homelessness at different times over the past 10 years. We must be more intentional about roles and responsibilities moving forward, to leverage the resources we have toward a common goal.



3.2 PROVIDE EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP		LEAD PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	METRICS
3.2.A	<p>Establish a single “Community Leadership Council”, consolidating the Governing Board and Interagency Council. The Community Leadership Council will be supported by a strong, working Executive Committee, of which all members will sit on the Leadership Committee. The role of this body will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing oversight and leadership for the implementation the CEH Strategic Plan • Organizing to provide for a system of housing and services to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness in King County • Holding ourselves accountable for ensuring results 			
3.2.B	<p>Support the success of the CEH Strategic Plan with strong, interagency staffing among funders and provider partners. Staffing should be highly coordinated yet does not need to be co-located. Focus areas for staffing to support CEH should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data quality and analysis • Coordinated assessment and housing placement • Funding coordination • Training and capacity building to support change • Advocacy, communications and community building 			
3.2.C	<p>Establish a Memorandum of Agreement among local government, philanthropy, and community partners to implement the CEH Strategic Plan, aligning funding and committing to community-level outcomes. The memorandum should define roles of authority, establish staffing responsibilities, and provide clarity of commitment among partners to achieving the goals of the plan.</p>			
3.2.D	<p>Recognize our partners’ successes through social media, blogs, quarterly reports, regular convenings, and an annual Summit. We strive to build community among the partners working to end homelessness, and celebration is key to weaving together this community of committed champions.</p>			



April 8, 2015
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 8:

Service Guidelines Task Force

Discussion Item

SCA Staff Contact

Lyset Cadena, Senior Policy Analyst, lyset@soundcities.org, 206-433-7169

SCA Representatives to the Service Guidelines Task Force

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor Fred Butler, Issaquah; Mayor Suzette Cooke, Kent; Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen, Shoreline; Mayor Jim Ferrell, Federal Way; Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie; Mayor John Marchione, Redmond.

Background

In 2009, in response to Metro's ongoing financial challenges and the increasing regional interest in improving efficiency of the system, the first Regional Transit Task Force (RTTF) was convened. The RTTF recommended a new policy framework and service allocation methodology. The new concepts were adopted in the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2011-2021 and the King County Metro Service Guidelines.

As a result of the Metro's reliance on sales tax and the impacts of the recession, the King County Council unanimously adopted a resolution relating to financing transportation improvements; submitting a ballot measure (Proposition 1) regarding transportation funding to the qualified electors of the King County transportation district at a special election on April 22, 2014.

Proposition 1 failed to be approved by the voters of King County and on April 24, 2015, the King County Executive transmitted for the County Council's consideration a proposed ordinance that would have reduced Metro transit service by 16 percent, or approximately 550,000 annual hours with an additional 34,000 hours held in reserve. SCA member cities questioned the service reductions and how the Service Guidelines were being applied to determine a route's ranking for reduction.

Establishment of the Service Guidelines Task Force

The adopted 2015-2015 King County Biennial Budget included a proviso requiring the Executive to transmit a motion establishing a regional stakeholder transit task force to review and make recommendations regarding:

1. How transit service performance is measured as specified in the Metro Service Guidelines to reflect the varied purposes of different types of transit service;
2. Approaches to evaluating how the goal of geographic value is included in the Metro Service Guidelines, including minimum service standards;

3. Approaches to evaluating how the goal of social equity is included in the Metro Service Guidelines;
4. Outline financial policies for purchase of additional services within a municipality or among multiple municipalities; and
5. Outline guidelines for alternative services implementation.

Service Guidelines Task Force Objectives

1. **Transit Service types:** The Task Force will review and consider the transit service types that are currently included in the guidelines and make recommendations on potential additional types of service. For each suggested service type, including alternative services, the Task Force will review potential performance measures, such as crowding standards, and may recommend modifications to achieve desired outcomes that could be incorporated into the service guidelines.
2. **Geographic value:** The Task Force will consider and make recommendations on minimum levels of service established by the service guidelines or added through future long range planning efforts. The Task Force will also consider and make recommendations on the role of park-and-rides in providing geographic value.
3. **Social equity:** The Task Force will consider and make recommendations on additional ways to incorporate social equity measures in the guidelines, such as incorporating social service agencies into the analysis. The Task Force may examine available information and data on social and human services, shifting land uses and demographic trends.
4. **Financial policies for purchase of additional services:** The Task Force will consider the newly established Community Mobility Contracts (CMC) program and the current financial policies for the purchase of additional services within a municipality or among multiple municipalities as it relates to the Service Guidelines. The Task Force may make recommendations on changes to the guidelines as they relate to the CMC program.
5. **Guidelines for alternative services implementation:** The Task Force will build on the work completed for the Alternative Service Delivery five-year implementation plan and the 2015-2016 budget. The Task Force will review the alternative service type and guidelines for implementation as part of the service types and geographic value discussions. The Task Force may make recommendations on changes to the Service Guidelines as they relate to the alternative services program.

The Service Guidelines Task Force Work Plan can be found [here](#).

Service Guidelines Task Force Membership

Membership of the task force includes 33 executive-level participants representing a variety of interests throughout King County. Membership includes a mix of elected officials, corporate/business leaders, labor, major institutions, human and social services, large employers, environmental groups, transit advisory committee members, mobility advocates, metropolitan planning organizations and unincorporated area representatives. A full list of members on the task force can be found in [here](#).

Timeline

The Service Guidelines Task Force held its first meeting on March 4, 2015 and will continue to meet thru the end of June. The Service Guidelines Task force is expected to have a set of recommendations by early June with final approval of the recommendations in July.

Scheduled meetings are as follows:

1. Wednesday, March 4 – King Street Center, 8th Floor Conference Room
2. Wednesday, April 1 – Bellevue City Hall, Room 1E-108
3. Thursday, April 30 – Bellevue City Hall, Room 1E-108
4. Thursday, May 21 – Bellevue City Hall, Room 1E-108
5. Wednesday, June 3 – Bellevue City Hall, Room 1E-108
6. Tuesday, June 16 – Chinook Building, Conference Room 123

Service Guidelines Task Force Meeting 1

The first meeting of the task force provided an overview of Metro, the Regional Transit Task Force recommendations, and an introduction to the service guidelines.

Metro reviewed their planning process and how the service guidelines are used to plan and manage the Metro transit system. The service guidelines assist Metro evaluate route performance and set target service levels. The evaluation of the transit system is used to prioritize changes to service by adding, reducing or restructuring service.

The Service Guidelines identify an All Day and Peak Network of bus service needs on corridors connecting transit activity centers throughout the county. Corridors receive points based on:

1. Productivity - points are awarded based on the numbers of households, jobs, and students along each corridor, and the actual number of transit users in each corridor;
2. Social equity - points are awarded to corridors based on the percentage of people who board buses in census tracts with greater than average low-income and minority populations compared to the county average; and
3. Geographic value - points are awarded if a corridor is the primary connection between the regional growth centers or manufacturing/industrial centers, or if the corridor is the primary connection between transit activity centers.

Based on points scored, the Guidelines suggest how frequent the service on each transit corridor should be, which in turn identifies a need-based level of transit service for the county. All-Day Corridors are defined as “Very Frequent,” “Frequent,” “Local,” and “Hourly” depending on the frequency of service identified through the scoring process.

Presentation material can be found [here](#).

Service Guidelines Task Force Meeting 2

The second meeting of the task force provided an overview of the performance measurement and geographic value in Metro’s planning process. Metro provided information on how Metro evaluates performance and incorporates geographic value in the service guidelines.

Metro assesses bus route productivity by measuring rides per platform hour and passenger miles per platform mile. Routes are evaluated for three periods, peak (5-9 am and 3-7 pm weekdays), off peak (9 am-3 pm weekdays and 5 am-7 pm weekend days), and night (7 pm-5 am) and whether the route is classified as a Seattle Core or Non-Seattle Core route.

- Rides per platform hour – total ridership divided by the total hours a bus travels from the time it leaves its base until it returns.
- Passenger miles per platform mile – total miles traveled by all passengers divided by the total miles bus operated from its base until it returns.
- Seattle core routes are those routes serving the densest areas in the county from anywhere in King County.
- Non-Seattle core routes are those routes serving all other areas of the county.

The productivity metrics assist Metro in determining which routes are performing in the top 25% or bottom 25%. Routes in the bottom 25% of productivity are the first routes slated for reduction.

During the meeting, Metro asked task force members whether Metro should change its service types, and how it measures performance.

Additionally, Metro reviewed how the service guidelines incorporate geographic value. To determine geographic value, the guidelines identify the primary transit connections between centers on the basis of ridership and travel time. Centers are activity nodes that are the basis of the countywide transit network and include regional growth centers, manufacturing/industrial centers, and transit activity centers. Transit activity centers include major destinations and transit attractions such as large employment sites and health and social service facilities. Metro then asked task force members what geographic value concerns should be addressed and how those concerns should be addressed.

Presentation materials can be found [here](#).

Next Steps

Additional and up-to-date information will be provided at the April 8, 2015 PIC meeting. SCA staff will monitor and attend task force meetings and provide briefings to members of the Public Issues Committee (PIC). More information on the Service Guidelines Task Force can be found [here](#).

Item 9:
Solid Waste Transfer Plan Review – Part 2
Discussion Item

SCA Staff Contact

Doreen Booth, Policy Analyst, doreen@soundcities.org, 206-433-7147

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) SCA Members:

Councilmember Stacia Jenkins, Normandy Park (caucus chair); Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen, Shoreline

Discussion Item:

The King County Solid Waste Division has issued a new [Draft Report](#) on the Transfer Station Plan Review, Part Two. At the April 8, 2015 meeting, PIC Members will have an opportunity to comment on the new Draft Report. The final report is due to the Council on June 30, 2015. SCA staff is currently in the process of reviewing the new report (which was released on April 1, 2015) and additional information will be shared with the PIC as it becomes available. Comments are due no later than April 29, 2015, and a final report will be issued on June 30, 2015.

Background

The Transfer Plan Review 'Part 2' was mandated by [King County Council Motion 14145](#) that directs follow-up to the 'Part 1' report that analyzed the [2006 Solid Waste Transfer and Waste Management Plan \(report\)](#). The 'Part 1' report focused on two questions:

1. Are changes to the Transfer Plan needed to ensure that the transfer system is sized and configured appropriately to meet the region's solid waste needs now and for the long term?
2. Could changes be made that could reduce future expenditures while still meeting desired service levels and objectives?

The 'Part 1' report's recommendations include:

- Proceed with a new Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station using current design and permits (with minor modifications to retain flexibility);
- Continue siting evaluations for a South County Recycling and Transfer Station; and
- In collaboration with stakeholders, continue to evaluate implementation of operational approaches that would provide service for the northeast county without building an additional transfer station and compare benefits and tradeoffs to the Base Alternative.

The 'Part 1' report recommended three transfer system alternatives: Alternative A – the base plan in the 2006 plan – includes new Northeast Station, closing Houghton and closing Renton; Alternative E1 – no new Northeast Station, retaining Renton, closing Houghton and capital and operational changes; and Alternative E2 – same as option E1 with different capital and operational changes. All three preferred options include a new South County Recycling and Transfer Station.

Motion 14145 set the stage for the Transfer Plan Review 'Part 2' by requiring the Solid Waste Division (SWD) to review strategies to manage transactions at transfer stations, as well as other operational and capital strategies such as increased use of underutilized transfer stations, to mitigate for not building a Northeast Station and for closing the Houghton Station. Motion 14145 also required the SWD to analyze the effect of the closure of the Renton Transfer Station.

See materials from the [March 11, 2015 PIC](#) packet for additional details.

Next Steps

The draft 'Part 2' report has been released for public comment and can be found [here](#). The final report is due to the King County Council on June 30, 2015 and is anticipated to contain recommended actions from the SWD. SCA staff are in the process of reviewing the Draft Report, and additional analysis will be presented to the PIC on or before the April 8, 2015 PIC meeting.



April 8, 2015
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 10:
2015 Legislative Session Update
DISCUSSION ITEM

SCA Staff Contact

Lyset Cadena, Senior Policy Analyst, lyset@soundcities.org, 206-433-7169

Discussion Item:

SCA staff will provide an update on issues currently before the 2015 legislature, specifically focusing on SCA’s legislative priorities of a comprehensive statewide transportation package, sustainable public health funding and providing cities with adequate tools to provide needed municipal services.

Background:

The Washington State legislature convened for the first day of session on January 12, 2015. In the odd-numbered year, for example, 2015, the regular session is 105 days; in the even-numbered year, for example, 2014, it is 60 days.

2015 Session Cutoff Calendar

January 12, 2015	First Day of Session
February 20, 2015	Last day to read in committee reports in house of origin, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
February 27, 2015	Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.
March 11, 2015	Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).
April 1, 2015	Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
April 7, 2015	Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
April 15, 2015*	Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).
April 26, 2015	Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

* After the 94th day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, matters that affect state revenue, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.

2015 Legislative Session Priorities for the Sound Cities Association

The Legislature has a lot on its plate this session, including funding education and mental health services, and addressing conflicts between the state's recreational and medical marijuana laws. The Sound Cities Association has expressed strong support for three priority issues: a comprehensive statewide transportation package, sustainable public health funding and providing cities with adequate tools to provide needed municipal services.

Transportation Package

The Senate introduced a transportation package ([SB 5987](#), [SB 5988](#), [SB 5989](#)) that raises \$15 billion over 16 years and allocates funding for state and local projects, grant programs, multimodal options and provides authority for local jurisdictions to seek approval for new taxing authority. The Senate transportation package is also contingent on six reform bills moving forward and stipulates multimodal funding will automatically revert to roads funding if the Governor adopts, orders, or otherwise implements any fuel standard or sets carbon reduction requirements, including a low carbon fuel standard. The reform bills are as follows:

- Adds congestion relief and freight mobility to the transportation policy goal of mobility ([SB 5995](#)). A public hearing is scheduled on April 6 in the House Transportation committee;
- Modifies how the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) purchases new ferry vessels ([SB 5992](#)). A public hearing is scheduled on April 6 in the House Transportation committee;
- Directs WSDOT to streamline its permitting process ([SB 5996](#)). A public hearing is scheduled on April 6 in the House Transportation committee;
- Modifies when permits must be issued to WSDOT for transportation projects ([SB 5994](#)). The House Environment committee referred the bill to the House Transportation committee;
- Modifies WSDOT project delivery methods ([SB 5997](#)). A public hearing is scheduled on April 6 in the House Transportation committee;
- Authorizes money in the Environmental Legacy Stewardship Account to be spent on stormwater permit compliance activities and fish passage barrier removal activities ([SB 5991](#)). The bill is currently in the House Capital Budget committee;

The Senate also passed two reforms that are part of the transportation package:

- Modifies the prevailing wage ([SB 5993](#)). The House Labor committee moved the bill on March 19 and it is currently in House Rules; and
- Exempts highway improvement and preservation projects from the sales and use tax ([SB 5990](#)). The bill is currently in the House Appropriations committee.

The transportation package consists of three bills ([SB 5987](#), [SB 5988](#), [SB 5989](#)) that need to move forward in order for all the pieces of the transportation package to work. [SB 5987](#)

and [SB 5988](#) were passed by the Senate on March 2 and a public hearing in the House Transportation committee was held on March 26.

Infrastructure

Governor Inslee allocated about \$70 million for the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) while the Public Works Board recommended funding for \$170 million in projects. AWC and others are working to protect and enhance the Public Works Trust fund. The 2015-2016 House Capital Budget provides \$69.7 million for the 2016 construction loan list and no funding for pre-construction or emergency loans. More information on the capital budget can be found [here](#).

Two bills related to tax increment financing were introduced: [SB 5624](#) and the accompanying constitutional amendment in [SJR 8204](#) provide a framework to assist small to medium sized jurisdictions access the private debt (bond) market by providing state assistance to go through the process. The House Capital Budget committee held a hearing on these bills on March 17.

Marijuana

Senator Ann Rivers (R-La Center), along with Senator Mark Mullet (D-Issaquah), and a number of other senators introduced a bill, [SB 5417](#), that would share a portion of the marijuana excise tax with local governments. The bill shares 33% of the excise tax revenue collected by the state with cities and counties per a distribution model that provides funding for jurisdictions based in-part on how much marijuana revenue is generated in their community and also in-part on a per-capita basis for criminal justice purposes. The bill only provides revenue to jurisdictions that allow for the siting of marijuana businesses. Additionally, it allows for local authority for a city to modify the 1,000 foot buffer zone around certain uses. The bill is currently in the Senate Ways and Means committee.

Two bills, [SB 5519](#) and [SB 5052](#), were introduced to align medical and recreational marijuana. [SB 5052](#) by Senator Rivers is the bill that appears to be the vehicle and was passed by the House Health Care committee and is now in House Rules. The House Health Care committee amended the bill to:

- Require licensed marijuana retailers to obtain a medical marijuana endorsement to allow them to sell medical marijuana to qualifying patients.
- Allow qualifying patients and designated providers to be entered into the Medical Marijuana Authorization Database and obtain an authorization card to allow them to have additional amounts of marijuana products, tax exemptions, and arrest protection.
- Reduce the amount of marijuana that a qualifying patient may possess depending on whether or not they have an authorization card or authorization from a health care professional for an additional amount.
- Eliminate collective gardens and replaces them with cooperatives which may only have four qualifying patients or designated providers and must be registered with the Liquor and Cannabis Board.

2015-2017 Operating Biennial Budget

Providing cities with adequate tools to provide needed municipal services such as the liquor excise tax, retaining streamlined sales tax mitigation, funding for public health and mental health are part of the budget discussions that are ongoing. In regards to the 1% property tax issue, no bills have been introduced but it is part of the ongoing budget discussions.

The SCA Board of Directors has joined with the City of Seattle and other SCA cities to express support for the King County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) request to increase the reimbursement rates for Medicaid case management. AAA supports a \$28 million increase (\$14 million state; \$14 million federal match) to the case management program. This increase was requested by the Department of Social and Human Services (DSHS) in its decision package for the Governor's consideration. AAA case managers authorize and coordinate in-home care services for frail low-income adults who would otherwise be in nursing homes. Case management is a cost-effective alternative to traditional nursing homes.

House of Representatives 2015-2017 operating budget proposal

The House of Representatives released the 2015-2017 biennial operating budget proposal ([HB 1106](#)) on March 27, more information on the proposal can be found [here](#). The House biennial operating budget totals \$38.8 billion and relies on nearly \$1.5 billion in new revenue.

The budget proposal enacts a capital gains tax, increases taxes on service businesses and ends several tax breaks. The capital gains tax would be a 5% tax on capital gains and would exempt most sales of primary residences and retirement funds beginning January 1, 2016. The proposal also includes a 1.5% to 1.8% increase in the B&O tax on service businesses such as doctors, lawyers and architects. The budget also repeals a sales tax exemption on bottled water, limits sales tax breaks for Oregon residents who purchase small items in Washington, and eliminates tax breaks for travel agents, tour operators and resellers of prescription drugs.

Additionally, the proposal puts \$1.4 billion towards McCleary and adds \$100 million for mental health care, including \$35 million for more beds at community mental health facilities and \$23 million to add beds at state hospitals for court-ordered competency exams and restoration. The proposal funds state revenues shared with cities such as liquor revenue, streamlines sales tax mitigation, city-county assistance, municipal criminal justice, and provides cities and counties with \$6 million annually in marijuana excise tax revenues. Absent from the 2015-2017 biennial operating budget proposal is a 50 cent-per-pack cigarette tax increase and a proposed tax on e-cigarettes.

Senate 2015-2017 operating budget proposal

The Senate released the 2015-2017 biennial operating budget proposal ([SB 5077](#)) on March 31, more information on the proposal can be found [here](#). The Senate biennial operating budget totals \$38 billion with no new revenue. The Senate proposal makes \$381 million in transfers and some of the largest transfers include: (1) \$200 million from the Public Works Assistance Account; (2) \$67 million from the Life Sciences Discovery Fund; (3) \$29 million from redirecting health premium resources back to the general fund from the Health Benefit Exchange; (4) \$24

million from maintaining liquor excise tax distributions to local governments at current levels; (5) \$20 million from the Treasurer's Service Account; and (6) \$300 million in tax revenue from legal sales of marijuana. Additionally, the Senate proposal rejects the labor contracts negotiated by Governor Inslee with state workers. The contracts apply to about 50,000 state employees and about 40,000 other union employees that are paid by the state to provide services such as home health care and child care.

The proposal includes \$1.3 billion for McCleary; \$115 million for homecare worker increases and energy parity; \$90 million for mental health related programs; and \$36 million for the adult family home and child care collective bargaining agreements.

Other Areas of Interest

Oil Train Safety

Senator Doug Ericksen (R-Ferndale) sponsored [SB 5057](#) relating to the safe transport of hazardous materials. This bill requires the Department of Ecology to develop a grant program for emergency first responders to meet the needs for oil and hazardous materials spill prevention and response plans. It also imposes an oil spill response tax and the oil spill administration tax on bulk oil terminals receiving crude oil shipments by rail tank car. The bill was moved by the House Environment committee and is now in the House Appropriations committee. The Governor's oil safety bill [HB 1449](#) was moved by the Senate Energy, Environment and Telecommunications committee and is now in the Senate Ways and Means committee.

Flood Control Zone Districts

[SB 5799](#) and [HB 1940](#) would protect the King County Flood Control District's levy from suppression. [HB 1940](#) was amended by the Senate Ways and Means committee to include flood control districts within the Chehalis River basin and the protection from suppression would expire on January 1, 2023 and is currently in Senate Rules. [SB 5799](#) was scheduled for a hearing in the House Finance committee on March 17.

Affordable Housing Bonds

[SB 5208](#) and [HB 1223](#) would allow King County to bond against future King County lodging tax revenues to acquire land and build workforce housing. [SB 5208](#) was not passed out of the Senate before the March 11 deadline. [HB 1223](#) was moved by the Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Housing and is now in Senate Rules.

Paint Stewardship

[HB 1571](#) would create a paint recycling program under the Department of Ecology and was scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Energy, Environment and Telecommunications committee on March 17. The SCA Board of Directors sent a letter ([Attachment A](#)) on March 30 to the Senate Energy, Environment and Telecommunications committee to express support for a product stewardship program that will allow residents to return unused paint for reuse,

recycling, or proper disposal. [HB 1571](#) was not passed out of Senate committee before the April 1 deadline.

Next Steps

Additional and up-to-date information, including opportunities for testimony on pertinent bills, will be provided at the April 8, 2015 PIC meeting.

Attachment

- A. [SCA Letter on paint recycling program](#)



SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION

36 Cities. A Million People. One Voice.

2015 Board of Directors

March 30, 2015

President
Matt Larson
Mayor
City of Snoqualmie

The Honorable Sen. Doug Ericksen
Chair, EET Committee
414 Legislative Building, PO Box 40442
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Sen. John McCoy
Ranking Minority Member, EET Committee
241 John A. Cherberg Building, PO Box 40438
Olympia, WA 98504

Vice President
Nancy Backus
Mayor
City of Auburn

Treasurer
Don Gerend
Councilmember
City of Sammamish

RE: Sound Cities Association Support for HB 1571

Dear Members of the Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee (EET):

Member-at-Large
Dave Hill
Mayor
City of Algona

On behalf of the Sound Cities Association, we write to you today to urge your support of House Bill 1571, which would require paint producers to participate in a stewardship program approved by the Department of Ecology to manage the end-of-life disposition of leftover paint.

Past President
John Marchione
Mayor
City of Redmond

The Sound Cities Association was founded in the 1970s to help cities in King County act locally and partner regionally to create vital, livable communities through advocacy, education, leadership, mutual support, and networking. Collectively, our 36 member cities represent nearly one million constituents in King County.

Members
Bill Allison
Mayor
City of Maple Valley

David Baker
Mayor
City of Kenmore

Product stewardship has long been a priority for our member cities. We support approaches that enhance our existing reuse, recycling and waste management systems by requiring product manufacturers to be responsible for their products that contain toxic and hazardous materials. With a product stewardship program in place, residents will be able to return unused paint for reuse, recycling, or proper disposal. Preventing unused paint from ending up in our landfills saves local jurisdictions money, and is reduces the risk of soil and groundwater contamination. We know that these types of programs work - in its inaugural year, a similar program saved the Portland Metropolitan area about \$1 million as paint manufacturers took over management of latex and oil-based paint.

Chris Eggen
Deputy Mayor
City of Shoreline

Jim Haggerton
Mayor
City of Tukwila

We urge you to support this common sense, fiscally responsible, environmentally sound bill.

Bob Harrison
City Administrator
City of Issaquah

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director Deanna Dawson at (206) 433-7170 or Deanna@soundcities.org.

Dennis Higgins
Councilmember
City of Kent

Sincerely,

Matt Larson

David Baker

Bernie Talmas
Mayor
City of Woodinville

Amy Walen
Mayor
City of Kirkland

Mayor, City of Snoqualmie
President, Sound Cities Association

Mayor, City of Kenmore
Chair, King County Local Hazardous Waste
Management Program Management
Coordination Committee

Executive Director
Deanna Dawson

Sound Cities Association
6300 Southcenter Boulevard
Suite 206
Tukwila, WA 98188
(206) 433-7168
SCA@SoundCities.org
www.SoundCities.org

cc: Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee
SCA Board of Directors



April 8, 2015
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 11:
Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County
Discussion Item

SCA Staff Contact

Lyset Cadena, Senior Policy Analyst, lyset@soundcities.org, 206-433-7169

Discussion Item:

Members will have an opportunity to update the PIC in regards to upcoming ballot measures.

Background:

The purpose of this item is to provide information for SCA member cities on upcoming ballot measures. This item will be an ongoing, monthly item on the PIC agenda.

Potential Future Ballot Measures as reported by SCA Cities

Year	Month	Measure
2015	April	Covington Transportation Benefit District
2015	April	Sammamish Advisory Ballot Measure to adopt an initiative and referendum ordinance
2015	April	South King Fire District – capital and replacement equipment
2015	April	Enumclaw School District Capital Levy
2015	April	Klahanie Potential Annexation with the potential to join Sammamish
2015	August	City of Redmond Levy – parks and public safety
2015	November	Bothell Parks Levy
2016	Spring	Kent Fire Department Regional Fire Authority – Fire Benefit Charge
2016	Spring	Renton Regional Fire Authority
2016	April	Tukwila Regional Fire Authority
2016	Spring	Highline School District
2018		Shoreline School District Operations Levy
2018		Shoreline School District Capital Levy

Potential Future Ballot Measures as reported by King County

Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2015	April 28	King County	Public Safety Radio Replacement (for police, fire, and other first responders)
2015	November	King County	Best Start for Kids Initiative
2015	November	Seattle	Bridging the Gap transportation levy (renewal)
2016		Seattle Schools	District operations and capital levies (renewal)
2016		Seattle	Low-income housing (renewal)
2017		King County	Veterans and Human Services Levy (renewal)
2018		King County	AFIS Levy (renewal)
2018		Seattle	Families and Education Levy (renewal)

Next Steps

SCA staff is committed to continuing to update this document as more information becomes available. Please share this information with your city and provide additional feedback to Deanna Dawson at Deanna@soundcities.org.

Item 12:

SCA Issues for 2015

DISCUSSION ITEM

SCA Staff Contact

Deanna Dawson, Executive Director, office 206-433-7170, deanna@soundcities.org

Discussion Item:

SCA staff is seeking feedback on issues members would like the PIC to consider in 2015.

Background

At the January 14, 2015 Public Issues Committee (PIC) meeting, SCA Executive Director asked members to note any issues PIC should consider in 2015. Following is a list of issues members noted at that meeting. SCA staff is seeking feedback on this list and if other issues should be added for consideration. SCA staff will keep this list updated throughout the year.

Issues for 2015:

- Homelessness
 - Identified at 1/14/2015 PIC
 - On agenda for 2/11/2015, 3/11/2015, 4/8/2015
- Best Starts for Kids Levy, Early Learning
 - Identified at 1/14/2015 PIC
 - Will be a Pre-PIC item for 4/8/2015
- Jail Management Plan
 - Identified at 1/14/2015 PIC
 - SCA Leadership continue to discuss with Executive
- Regional Food Policy Action Plan
 - Identified at 1/14/2015 PIC
 - On agenda for 2/11/2015 as an informational item
 - SCA staff will discuss with PSRC staff
- Sound Transit 3
 - Identified at 1/14/2015 PIC
 - Will come to PIC as an informational or discussion item as more details emerge
- Medical Marijuana Edibles Regulation
 - Identified at 1/14/2015 PIC
 - Will come to PIC if potential regulations come to the Board of Health
- Service Guidelines Task Force
 - Pre-PIC item 3/11/2015
 - SCA staff will monitor and provide updates

- Metro Long Range Plan
 - Pre-PIC item on 3/11/2015
 - SCA staff will monitor and provide updates
- Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan
 - Will be a Pre-PIC item on 5/13/2015
 - SCA staff will monitor and provide updates



April 8, 2015
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 13a:

Alternative Transit Service

Informational Item

SCA Staff Contact

Lyset Cadena, Senior Policy Analyst, lyset@soundcities.org, 206-433-7169

SCA Regional Transit Committee (RTC) Representatives

Councilmember Kimberly Allen (caucus chair), Redmond; Councilmember Dave Asher, Kirkland; Mayor Bruce Basset, Mercer Island; Councilmember Dennis Higgins, Kent; Mayor Dave Hill (caucus vice-chair), Algona; Councilmember Kathy Hougardy, Tukwila; Councilmember Wayne Osborne, Auburn; Councilmember John Wright, Lake Forest Park; Mayor Bill Allison, Maple Valley (alternate); Deputy Mayor Kathy Huckabay, Sammamish (alternate); Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie (alternate); Council President Ed Prince, Renton (alternate).

At the January 14, 2015 Public Issues Committee (PIC) meeting, SCA Executive Director asked members to note any issues PIC should consider in 2015. SCA staff created a list of potential issues and sought feedback from PIC at the [February 11, 2015 PIC](#) meeting. During the discussion, members expressed interest in an update on Metro's work with cities on Alternative Transit Service.

Background

In 2010, the King County Council and Executive formed the Regional Transit Taskforce (RTTF) to consider a policy framework for the potential future growth and, if necessary, contraction of King County's transit system. The RTTF recommended a new policy framework and service allocation methodology. The new concepts were adopted in the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2011-2021 and the King County Metro Service Guidelines. The Strategic Plan called for and expanded the role for alternative service delivery in achieving a cost-effective, equitable public transportation system.

Strategies 2.1.1 and 2.1.3 in the strategic plan encourage Metro to design and offer a variety of products and services, including non-fixed-route transit, that meet different mobility needs and provide value to all parts of King County. Strategy 6.2.3 calls for Metro to "Develop and implement alternative public transportation services and delivery strategies." The plan also notes that "Fixed-route transit service is not cost-effective in some areas of King County because of the land uses, infrastructure, or density. However, people in these areas still have mobility needs and by circumstance or choice, require public transportation services..."

The adoption of the Strategic Plan by the King County Council also required the Executive to transmit a five-year implementation plan for alternative service. The five-year implementation plan required:

1. A review of alternative service delivery best practices in the transit industry.
2. Consideration of local service needs.
3. Stakeholder involvement.
4. Costs and benefits of all evaluated alternative service delivery options.
5. A summary of constraints to implementation and methods to reduce barriers for change.
6. Strategies to build ridership (i.e., through marketing), where resources are available.
7. Recommendations for alternative service delivery.
8. A timeline for implementation.

The five-year implementation plan was based on Metro's strategic planning policies and was shaped by public feedback. After the County Council accepted the plan on September 17, 2013, Metro worked with community stakeholders and the public on the first demonstration project in the Snoqualmie Valley. Two additional areas were identified as candidates for potential reinvestment/restructure of fixed routes services to better meet the needs of the community: SE King county and Vashon Island.

King County 2015-2016 biennial budget

In October 2014, the King County Executive released the King County biennial budget and it included \$6 million for alternative transit service. The SCA Board of Directors submitted a letter to the King County Council and meet with councilmembers to ask that the \$6 million for alternative transit service be considered as a starting point and to provide sufficient funding to restore service to the communities and routes hit hardest by the 2014 cuts.

During the King County biennial budget discussion, the King County Council allocated \$12 million for alternative transit services in the 2015-2016 biennium. The Council also provided a set of priorities for how Metro will provide alternative services over the next two years:

- Priority 1: Reduce the impact of service reductions.
- Priority 2: Complete planning for areas identified in the five-year plan – SE King County and Vashon Island
- Priority 3: Complement fixed-route or DART service when Metro revenues are growing.

After the passage of the 2015-2016 biennial budget and increased funding for alternative transit service, SCA leadership played an instrumental role in connecting communities hit hardest by the 2014 cuts with King County Metro.

Alternative Transit Service

Metro's alternative services program brings service to parts of King County that do not have the infrastructure, density, or land use to support traditional fixed-route bus service. In such areas, alternative transportation services may be a better match for community transportation needs.

They may also be more cost-effective. Partnerships with local jurisdictions and community organizations are key to making alternative services successful.

Collaborative Community Planning Process

Metro uses a collaborative process to identify needs and opportunities for alternative services. In potential reinvestment/restructure areas such as those identified in the five-year plan, Metro uses the service guidelines to identify potential routes that would be good candidates for replacement with alternative services. Other candidate areas are identified through a combination of interest expressed by local jurisdictions, a willingness by those jurisdictions to partner with Metro on alternative service delivery, and a market analysis. Metro then meets with community stakeholders, such as bus riders, local jurisdictions, schools, churches, and employers, to identify existing transportation providers, service gaps, and mobility needs.

Metro or partnering jurisdictions ask current and potential users of the service how and why they use the service, what other transportation options might be available to the community, and what connections to the public transit network they need to maintain. Metro then proposes two or three alternative service options for each candidate route, based on the following criteria:

- The ability to expand travel options for residents in the community;
- How well the option maintains the public's access to "important trips" —for example, to critical medical services;
- How well the option addresses Metro's service guidelines related to social equity and geographic value; and
- Cost-effectiveness.

Metro invites the community to propose other alternative service options or modify the ones Metro is proposing. This is an opportunity to bring in other community partners to help provide service. Metro will then choose one or more alternative products for implementation and recommend them for approval. Once an alternative service has been started in an area, Metro will evaluate it annually for future funding.

King County Metro and SCA cities

Metro is working with several SCA cities on providing alternative transit service due to the first round of Metro service reductions in September 2014. Many of the cities below were adversely impacted during the September 2014 reductions and Metro is working on addressing the service gaps. The alternative transit service options Metro and cities are working on are as follows:

Burien

- Addresses mobility gap resulting from the discontinuation of route 139.
- Timeline: New community shuttle begins operation June 8, 2015. Burien community shuttle (Route 631) will serve the Burien Transit Center, Highline Medical Center,

Gregory Heights and Seahurst neighborhoods. This service was developed through a partnership with the City of Burien and Metro.

Mercer Island

- Addresses mobility gap resulting from the discontinuation of routes 202, 203, 205 and 213 and modifications to route 204.
- Timeline: New community shuttle begins operation June 8, 2015. Additional leased lot spaces may be available for residents. Shorewood Heights apartments assessing community van and TripPool options for residents, with potential implementation summer 2015.

Snoqualmie

- Addresses mobility gap resulting from the discontinuation of routes 209, 211 and 215 and modifications to route 208.
- Timeline: Service implemented February 16, 2015. Route 628 will provide commuters with shuttle service between North Bend and the Issaquah Highlands Park-and-Ride. This service was developed through a partnership with the cities of Snoqualmie, North Bend, and Issaquah and with Snoqualmie Valley Transportation.

Duvall

- Continuations of initial Snoqualmie Valley restructure. Addresses additional needs.
- Timeline: Explore options for enhancing use of current service by increasing visibility of parking area, assessing potential for community hub and increasing vanpools; stakeholder outreach beginning in March.

Redmond

- Address gaps in transit service for the Southeast Redmond and Willows Road employment areas.
- Timeline: Coordinating implementation of “iCarpool”, a new innovative smart phone app that allows commuters who drive to connect with commuters who need a ride, on a trip by trip basis. Launch targeted for Spring/Summer 2015.

SE King County

- Five-year plan potential planning area. Includes Enumclaw, Black Diamond, Maple Valley, Auburn and Renton.
- Addresses mobility gap resulting from the discontinuation of routes 152 and DART 919.
- Timeline: Stakeholder outreach will begin in March. Planning process to be complete by fall and service would be implemented in March 2016.

Metro is currently beginning the process to identify additional locations affected by service reductions where alternative service planning may be initiated in spring/summer 2015.



April 8, 2015
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 13b:

Military Centers in Vision 2040 - Update

Informational Item

SCA Staff Contact

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Lyset Cadena, Senior Policy Analyst, Lyset@soundcities.org, 206-433-7169

SCA Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Executive Board

Mayor Dave Hill, Algona (caucus chair); Mayor John Marchione, Redmond; Councilmember Marlla Mhoon, Covington; Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn (alternate); Mayor Fred Butler, Issaquah (alternate); Councilmember Don Gerend, Sammamish (alternate); Mayor Bruce Basset, Mercer Island (alternate).

SCA member cities with Individual Seats on the PSRC Executive Board

Mayor Suzette Cooke, Kent; Mayor Jim Ferrell, Federal Way; Mayor Dennis Law, Renton; Mayor Amy Walen, Kirkland.

SCA Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB)

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond (caucus chair); Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville; Councilmember John Holman, Auburn; Councilmember Jay Arnold, Kirkland (alternate); Councilmember Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah (alternate); Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline (alternate).

Summary

The Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) was asked to consider designating military facilities as regional centers in late 2014. The GMPB reviewed and discussed the request for several months and concluded that military centers should be considered as part of the tiered centers framework study being conducted at PSRC. Additionally, the GMPB instructed the project selection task force to consider reflecting military bases as locally defined centers to compete in the county-wide funding competitions for the 2016 project selection process.

The GMPB position on military centers was forwarded to the PSRC Executive Board for consideration and approval on March 26, 2015. During the PSRC Executive Board discussion, Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy proposed an amendment to the GMPB position that *instructed the project selection task force to consider reflecting military bases as equivalent to regional centers for the 2016 project selection process*. The PSRC Executive Board did not adopt the proposed language from Pierce County Executive McCarthy and instead approved the policy position from the GMPB.

Background

The Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) was asked to consider designating military facilities as regional centers. More information about the request can be found in the [October 8, 2014 PIC packet](#), Military Bases and Regional Centers Designation staff report. SCA adopted a position on that request, as follows:

Sound Cities Association (SCA) supports deferring the consideration of designating military facilities as regional centers to the Vision 2040 update scheduled for 2018. This would allow the region the opportunity to consider the questions around designating military facilities within a larger planning context. SCA recognizes that military facilities are regional economic drivers and that the facilities have impacts on the communities adjacent to them, however, more work needs to be done prior to considering such regional center designations, including greater public outreach efforts and the implementation of PSRC's Regional Centers Report.

Subsequently, PSRC staff, in an effort to include military facilities in regional planning, proposed a policy statement to the GMPB at their February meeting, detailing how PSRC might reflect military facilities in regional planning. There was general agreement on the GMPB with five of the six suggested efforts as follows:

- consider the role and inclusion of military facilities as part of the tiered centers framework;
- improve coordination and use of data related to military facilities in regional planning work;
- continue to include the military employment cluster in the 2017 RES update and support military employment in the region through the Washington Military Alliance;
- ensure that transportation projects needed to improve access to military facilities are identified and considered in the plan; and
- continue to include military facilities on regional planning maps and in plan elements.

There was not agreement on one of the suggested items: "The PSRC Project Selection Task Force should ensure that military communities have a voice at the Task Force. As part of this process, the Task Force is asked to consider whether the 2015 PSRC project selection criteria should be amended so that projects terminating at military facilities that have over 10,000 total jobs are scored equivalently to projects terminating or originating in designated regional centers in regional competitions. Additionally, the Task Force is asked to consider whether projects terminating at smaller military facilities should be scored as equivalent to locally defined centers in countywide funding competitions. Per federal statutes, military facilities will be able to partner with eligible applicants but not be the sole applicant."

Some GMPB members, including SCA members, raised concerns with how, and if, military facilities should be included in PSRC's transportation project selection funding process. There were two parts to this concern: (a) amending the project selection criteria in advance of resolving this policy issue in the centers framework or VISION 2040, and (b)

whether this is an appropriate use of funds that are designated under VISION 2040 for supporting regional, countywide and local centers for accommodating future residential and employment growth. Potentially allowing military centers equivalent access to funding at the regional level would give military centers de facto center designation benefits (access to funding) without meeting the requirements of a regional center.

In response to GMPB member feedback, PSRC staff provided three options for members to consider at the March 5 meeting:

Option A – Instruct the project selection task force to consider reflecting military bases as equivalent to regional centers for the 2016 project selection process;

Option B – Instruct the project selection task force to consider reflecting military bases as locally defined centers to compete in the county-wide funding competitions for the 2016 project selection process; or

Option C – Remove project selection from this position statement – it may be revisited in the future.

Option A was the same option as originally proposed. Option B would allow counties to consider reflecting military bases as locally defined centers in the county-wide funding competition. Option C was the no action alternative. Option B, allowing counties to consider military bases as locally defined centers, is in fact, already permitted; counties can determine for themselves what are locally defined centers that would compete for county-wide funding. SCA's GMPB members participated in a caucus conference call on February 24 and agreed at that time to support the position statement with Option B, an option consistent with SCA's adopted position.

The GMPB approved Option B – Instruct the project selection task force to consider reflecting military bases as locally defined centers to compete in the county-wide funding competitions for the 2016 project selection process. The entire position statement approved on March 5 is as follows:

Position Statement

In recognition of their importance in the central Puget Sound region, the Puget Sound Regional Council recognizes military facilities as regionally significant employment areas. PSRC will reflect military facilities in regional planning as follows:

- **Centers** – Consider the role and inclusion of military facilities as part of the tiered centers framework.
- **Data** – Improve coordination and use of data related to military facilities in regional planning work.
- **Regional Economic Strategy** – Continue to include the military employment cluster in the 2017 RES update, and support military employment in the region through the Washington Military Alliance
- **Transportation 2040** – Ensure that transportation projects needed to improve access to military facilities are identified and considered in the plan.

- **Maps** – Continue to include military facilities on regional planning maps and in plan elements.
- **Funding** – Instruct the project selection task force to consider reflecting military bases as locally defined centers to compete in the county-wide funding competitions for the 2016 project selection process.

The GMPB position above was forwarded to the PSRC Executive Board for consideration and approval on March 26, 2015. During the PSRC Executive Board discussion, Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy proposed an amendment to the GMPB position that would have instructed the project selection task force to consider reflecting military bases as equivalent to regional centers for the 2016 project selection process. The PSRC Executive Board voted against adopting the proposed language from Pierce County Executive McCarthy. The City of Federal Way, Kitsap County, Bremerton, Port Orchard¹, Pierce County, other cities and towns in Pierce County, Port of Tacoma, and the Washington Transportation Commission voted to adopt the language proposed by Pierce County Executive McCarthy. King County, Seattle, Bellevue, Kent, Renton, Kirkland, other cities and towns in King County, Bainbridge, Poulsbo, Tacoma, Snohomish County, other cities and towns in Snohomish County, and WSDOT voted against the language proposed by the Pierce County Executive. After the motion from Pierce County Executive McCarthy failed, the PSRC Executive Board unanimously adopted the GMPB policy position.

Next Steps

The Project Selection Committee will consider the Executive Board’s action when defining criteria for the 2016-17 funding cycle. SCA members on the Project Selection Committee (members of PSRC boards volunteered) are Councilmember Dana Ralph, Kent; Councilmember John Stilin, Redmond; Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen, Shoreline; and Councilmember Jay Arnold, Kirkland.

¹ Port Orchard does not have an individual seat on the PSRC Executive Board. Port Orchard, Bainbridge and Poulsbo represent one seat on the Executive Board as other cities and towns in Kitsap County. The three cities split their weighted vote into 3rds with Bainbridge and Poulsbo voting against Pierce County Executive McCarthy proposed language.