1. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, Chair  
   2 minutes

2. **Public Comment** – Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, Chair  
   10 minutes

3. **Approval of minutes – March 8, 2017 meeting**  
   Page 5  
   2 minutes

4. **Chair’s Report** – Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, Chair  
   5 minutes

5. **Executive Director’s Report** – Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director  
   10 minutes

6. **Regional Affordable Housing Task Force Appointments**  
   **ACTION ITEM**  
   Page 31  
   Leanne Guier, PIC Nominating Committee Chair  
   (5 minute committee report and action)  
   5 minutes

7. **Regional Affordable Housing Strategy**  
   **DISCUSSION**  
   Page 33  
   Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst  
   (5 minute staff report, 5 minute discussion)  
   10 minutes

8. **Veterans and Human Services Levy**  
   **DISCUSSION**  
   Page 37  
   Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst  
   (5 minute staff report, 10 minute discussion)  
   15 minutes

9. **Cultural Access Sales Tax**  
   **UPDATE**  
   Page 39  
   Alena Marshak, Policy Analyst  
   (5 minute staff report, 5 minute Q and A)  
   10 minutes
10. **Regional Centers**
   UPDATE
   Page 53
   Brian Parry, Senior Policy Analyst
   (5 minute staff report, 5 minute Q and A)

11. **2017 State Legislative Session**
    UPDATE
    Page 59
    Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst
    (5 minute staff report, 5 minute Q and A)

12. **Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County**
    UPDATE
    Page 73
    Brian Parry, Senior Policy Analyst
    (2 minute staff report, 3 minute discussion)

13. **Potential Upcoming SCA Issues**
    UPDATE
    Page 75
    Deanna Dawson, Executive Director
    (2 minute staff report, 3 minute discussion)

14. **Informational Items**
    a. **Metro Fares Work Program**
       Page 77

15. **Upcoming Events**
    a. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, June 14, 2017 – 7:00 PM (6:00 Pre-PIC Workshop) – Renton City Hall

16. **For the Good of the Order**

17. **Adjourn**

**Did You Know?**

Next year Southcenter Mall will celebrate its 50th anniversary. When Southcenter Mall opened its doors on July 30, 1968, it was the second largest indoor mall in the country (Honolulu had the largest at the time). Southcenter Mall was the third regional mall to open in Western Washington in the 1960s, with Northgate and Tacoma Malls preceding the opening of Southcenter. Southcenter Mall cost $30 million to construct in 1968, which in today’s dollars would cost $215 million. Southcenter Mall was designed by John Graham, who also designed Northgate Mall and Tacoma Mall. Four original tenants, Nordstrom, Macy’s (Bon Marche), JC Penney, and Zales Jeweler are still in their original tenant spaces.
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.
1. Welcome and Roll Call
PIC Chair Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. 27 cities had representation (Attachment A). Guests present included: Lyman Howard, City of Sammamish staff; Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien; Councilmember Mariah Bettise, Issaquah; Councilmember John Stilin, Redmond; Diane Carlson, King County Executive Office staff; Mike Huddleston, King County Council staff; Jack Sorensen, Access for All Communications and Campaign Manager; James Kraft, Cultural Access Washington.

2. Public Comment
Chair Marts asked if any member of the public had any public comment.

Jack Sorensen introduced himself as the campaign manager for Access for All. He said that he was at the meeting to answer any questions about the proposal. He introduced James Kraft, Executive Director of Cultural Access Washington, and spoke to the importance of the proposal for access to cultural activities in Washington State. He said that he was available during or after the meeting to discuss anything of interest about the proposal or answer any questions.

Seeing no others wishing to provide public comment, Chair Marts closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the February 8, 2017 Minutes
Mayor Chris Roberts, Shoreline, moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, to approve the February 8, 2017 PIC minutes.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair’s Report
Chair Marts gave a report on the February 22, 2017 SCA Board meeting. Action taken at the meeting included approval of the financial reports for 2016, and appointment of Councilmember Verna Seal, Tukwila, as an alternate member to the Domestic Violence Initiative Regional Task Force (DVI); Councilmember Marilla Mhoon, Covington, as an alternate member to the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee (KCFCDAC); and Deputy Mayor Davina Duerr, Bothell, as an alternate member to the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Transportation Policy Board (TPB). He also reported that SCA held a training on March 1
led by Ann Macfarlane of Jurassic Parliament. He said attendees had a good conversation about the role of caucus chairs during caucus meetings. He said a fundamental piece of discussion was the importance of communication, whether that is with staff or between members, and working to come to a consensus. He noted that consensus won’t always happen, and sometimes there may not be an adopted SCA position to guide members, but that good communication still leads to more informed participation on regional boards and committees.

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, offered to provide a copy of the PowerPoint presentation from the training for anyone who was interested.

5. Executive Director’s Report
Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, provided information on a March 31 information session on immigrant and refugee issues being convened by King County and SCA. The event will take place from 9:30-Noon on Friday, March 31 at the Renton Community Center Banquet Hall located at 1715 Maple Valley HWY, Renton, WA 98057. A panel of legal experts and community leaders will provide information and guidance on laws and policies affecting immigrants and refugees. SCA President Mayor David Baker will emcee the event.

Dawson also updated members on the Regional Transportation System Initiative, convened by SCA and King County, with staff assistance from the Puget Sound Regional Council. The initiative kicked off Friday, March 3 with a meeting of the effort’s Technical Committee. The overarching goal of the Initiative is to identify a funding solution to address the gap between current revenues and the unmet maintenance and mobility needs of our regional system of roads. While significant investments were recently approved for the larger system of freeways, major highways, and high-capacity transit, there remains a significant funding shortfall to address mobility and maintenance on the system of principal arterials, state routes, and collector arterials that connect communities in King County. The Technical Committee will be meeting monthly and is tasked with defining critical parts of the regional transportation network that connects King County communities; identifying unmet preservation and maintenance needs; and preparing funding options for policy makers to consider. 75 people attended the first meeting – primarily transportation planning staff, but also some elected officials – from 33 cities in King County, WSDOT, Metro, and the King County Roads Division. Subarea groups were encouraged to meet prior to the April meeting in an effort to come to consensus on their definition of needs for their subregion. A meeting of elected officials is being planned for May to review the regional network and unmet needs. Thereafter, the technical group will continue to meet, and at least one additional meeting of elected officials is anticipated to take place later in 2017 to review funding options and prepare a regional package that could be presented to the Legislature in 2018.

Dawson provided a handout to members with information on the upcoming King County Charter Review process (Attachment B). She noted that it may be helpful to work together to ensure that city interests are represented in the process, which may include an SCA appointee on the commission. She thanked Shoreline Mayor Chris Roberts for raising the issue.

Dawson noted that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). She distributed a letter from SCA Board Member Renton Mayor Denis Law, inviting all cities pledge to promote April as
abuse and assault, increase public awareness, and provide valuable resources for victims and their families. What cities pledge to do is up to the individual city and could be as simple as signing a resolution, or cities can plan activities to bring awareness to this issue. The [King County Sexual Assault Resource Center](https://kcsarc.org) (KCSARC) is a valuable source of data and resources. Last year, 25 cities participated. Dawson expressed hope that this year all 37 cities in the Sound Cities Association would take the pledge to promote SAAM. Mayors joining so far include SCA Vice President Mayor Amy Walen of Kirkland, SCA Past President Mayor Nancy Backus of Auburn, Mayor Suzette Cooke of Kent, and SCA President Mayor David Baker of Kenmore.

Dawson noted that March 8, 2017 was International Women’s Day, and thanked the women staff and elected officials for their leadership.

6. **MIDD Advisory Committee and King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee Appointments**

Nominating Committee Chair Leanne Guier gave a report from the March 2, 2017 meeting of the PIC Nominating Committee.

Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, moved, seconded by Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, to recommend the following appointments to the SCA Board of Directors:

- Councilmember Dave Asher, Kirkland, be appointed as a member to the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Advisory Committee;
- Councilmember Brenda Fincher, Kent, be appointed as an alternate member to the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Advisory Committee;
- Councilmember Kathryn Campbell, SeaTac, be appointed as an alternate member to the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee (KCFCDAC)

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, requested clarification as to the number of appointees to MIDD. Dawson clarified that there was an opening for a member and an alternate. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **PSRC Regional Economic Strategy**

Brian Parry, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported on the Regional Economic Strategy (RES), which is in the final drafting stages at the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Economic Development District Board (EDDB). Parry noted that SCA held a roundtable discussion in November 2016 during which PSRC Executive Director Josh Brown presented an early draft of the goals and strategies for input from SCA members. A summary of some of the feedback from that meeting was included in the PIC Packet. The goals and strategies that were reviewed in November have remained largely the same, but significant new work product was released by PSRC in the last week as they work to complete the RES.

Parry provided background on the EDDB. The EDDB governs the federally designated economic development district for King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap counties. As the federally designated district, the EDDB is tasked with convening public and private sector representatives to develop a shared understanding of the region’s economic strengths and weaknesses, identify economic development activities that are ongoing or needed in the region, and integrate those
activities and priorities with regional land use and transportation planning. Those items are encapsulated in the District’s Regional Economic Strategy and updated about every five years.

Parry said that per federal rules, the RES is required to contain several key elements that are outlined in more detail in the PIC Packet. These include:

- A summary background of the economic conditions of the region;
- A SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) of the region’s economy;
- A strategic plan that identifies the stakeholders responsible for implementation of the plan, and integration of economic development activities; and
- An evaluation framework for the plan

Parry described a section of the plan as an example of how the RES is structured. He noted that the RES contains a number of high-level assessments of current needs and actions that incorporate many activities that are being undertaken by organizations other than PSRC and the EDDB. As examples he cited elements of the plan that are implemented by the Economic Development Council, the Workforce Development Council, cities, King County, and others.

Parry provided information from a recent King County economic development presentation for elected officials to provide additional context about the economic development ecosystem in King County and where the EDDB and RES fit into that system (Attachment D).

Parry provided an update on the status and schedule for adoption of the RES. The latest draft of the report was released on March 1 and was revised by the EDDB at their March 8 meeting. The final draft will be released later in March for a 30-day public comment period. It is expected that the RES will be approved by the EDDB at its May 3 meeting.

Parry said that a copy of the full report would be sent to PIC members when it is released so that they could provide feedback. He noted that the EDDB is in particular looking for feedback on whether organizations and jurisdictions feel the RES captures their priorities for economic development in the region. He also offered to coordinate additional briefings for any members who are interested after the release of the final report.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, current President of the EDDB, noted that she was inspired to take on a leadership role at the EDDB after participating in the last update to the RES. She said the previous update was too focused on data and that she wanted the new version to be much more user-friendly and include substantial outreach. She said that unlike a strategic plan that members may have adopted for their cities, the intent of the RES is not that PSRC do all the actions but that it will be implemented by numerous organizations and agencies. She highlighted that she felt a key piece of the RES and a thread that runs throughout is addressing equity and shared prosperity. She noted that the EDDB met for over two hours earlier in the day to review the RES and approve its release for public comment following some additional work by PSRC staff. She said the final draft is expected to be released for public comment on March 22 and that the last remaining pieces to finalize are a section on equity and the executive summary. She encouraged members to review the plan and provide feedback.
Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, asked for clarification as to whether the deadline for comment was the next meeting of the EDDB on May 3 or if it was 30 days following the release expected on March 22. Parry clarified that the formal period for comment would be 30 days from release, which was expected to conclude prior to the May 3 EDDB meeting.

Mayor Dave Hill, Algona, said that he would like to speak with Stanford more about the RES. He said that PSRC has a hard time taking the needs of small cities into consideration and said he was curious to see if there is anything in the plan that will help small cities with economic development. Stanford said that she would be happy to meet and describe some of the rural and small city elements included in the RES.

Chair Marts said PIC in a unique position to talk about the RES and economic development. He said he was struck by how coordinated the region is when concerning managing housing and job growth and referenced the night’s pre-PIC workshop discussion of Regional Growth Centers as an example. He said that oftentimes growth happens in spite of local challenges, education funding, or other needs. He said he was struck by how much time we spend preparing the infrastructure to manage job and population growth compared to the amount of energy devoted to building the conditions to grow the types of jobs we want to see. He noted that decisions about where to grow companies and jobs are based on where a given CEO wants to locate and that many quality of life issues need to be incorporated into economic development. He said he would like to see a focus on how to leverage existing assets like Boeing, Blue Origin, or in the medical field with Children’s Hospital and others. He said the region should be the engine for west coast economic development above and beyond Los Angeles, San Francisco, or others.

Dawson concurred with Marts’s comments, and noted that SCA is part of planning for an upcoming summit on economic development on May 8.

Dawson commented that input on apprenticeship utilization provided at SCA’s workshop on the RES in November by Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, was not included in the latest draft of the RES. Stanford said the EDDB discussed apprenticeship at its meeting earlier in the day and that it would be included.

Deputy Mayor Sheree Wen, Medina, noted that she is the chair of the Seattle chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and that the community suffered big layoffs in 2014 and 2015. She credited leadership in the region for turning that around and noted that in the last two years the field has seen significant job growth.

Councilmember Melissa Musser, Des Moines, commented that quality education and fully funding education in Washington State was a big part of quality of life, and key to attracting CEOs to the region. She asked whether the EDDB looked at how education and economic development are related. Stanford responded that there are a number of strategies in the draft RES that address education at all stages of life. Dawson noted that this feedback on the importance of quality of life, including K-12 education should be provided to PSRC and the EDDB.
8. Cultural Access Sales Tax

Alena Marshak, SCA Policy Analyst, reported that the King County Executive has indicated his intent to transmit a proposal to the County Council to request the Council place a Cultural Access Sales Tax measure on the August ballot. It is SCA staff’s understanding that this Ordinance will be transmitted to the County Council on March 9, 2017. [Note: The Ordinance has since been transmitted to Council and is available here]. If passed, the measure would create a Cultural Access Program in King County which would be funded by a .1 percent increase in the County sales tax – equal to 1 cent for every $10 spent. Authority to create such a Cultural Access Program was granted through 2015 legislation (Engrossed Senate Bill 2263). More information is provided in the PIC Packet.

Marshak reported that Cultural Access Programs, as defined by the statute, are publicly funded and have the purpose of expanding access to cultural, heritage, and scientific organizations. Specifically, this Program’s purpose is to ensure and expand access to cultural organizations by economically and geographically underserved populations. In addition, the Program is intended to expand access at schools and by students, including funding transportation for public school students to access cultural or scientific organizations. King County estimates that this tax could raise $67.4 million in 2018. Funds from this tax would be collected by King County, and the proposed administrator and designated entity for awarding funds is 4Culture, a Public Development Authority and the cultural services agency in King County.

Regarding the allocation and use of the funds that would be collected from this tax, Marshak reported that there are three categories of recipients of the program funds (after administrative expenses and start-up costs) which are: 1) A Public School Cultural Access Program (which must be developed if a cultural access program is created), 2) Regional Cultural Organizations, and 3) Community-Based Cultural Organizations. Allocation and distribution of funding is guided by state statute (RCW 36.160.110).

Marshak reported that the Public School Cultural Access Program would receive 10% of the remaining funds after administrative expenses. The purpose of the Public School Cultural Access Program is to provide student access to cultural, scientific, and heritage organizations in the County as well as subsidization of in-school education through cultural, scientific, and heritage education activities that are aligned with school curriculum. Funds can be used for transportation expenses and must be used to offer access to all public school districts in the County with more frequent access provided to schools with higher enrollment in federal meal programs. The King County Executive’s draft proposal estimates that the Public School Cultural Access program would receive $14.1 million (which includes the $7.5 million from regional organizations, described later).

Marshak reported that Regional Cultural Organizations would receive 70% of the remaining funds (with at least 20% of these funds being used to participate in the programs Public School Cultural Access Program). The King County Executive’s draft proposal is that $30.1 million (after 20% is provided to school access program) would go to Regional Cultural Organizations. These Regional Organizations must have annual revenue that is greater than $1.25 million. Eligible Regional Organizations are ranked based on the size of their annual revenue and their annual attendance (over the three preceding years), with annual attendance given twice as much
weight as revenue. Per the state statute, available funds are distributed proportionately which means that the organization with the largest combined revenues and weighted attendance would receive the most funding and vice versa. However, no Regional Organization can receive funds that exceed 15% of its annual revenue. The Executive’s draft proposal assumes that $4 million shifts from Regional Organizations to Community-Based Organizations due to this restriction. Regional organizations cannot use any of these funds for capital expenditures. In addition, Regional Organizations receiving funds must provide a report to the Program on public benefits provided, as well as a preview of future benefits the organization plans to provide.

Community-Based Cultural Organizations would receive all remaining funds (except up to 8% which would go to 4Culture’s administrative costs). The Executive’s draft proposal states that these organizations would receive $20.1 million. Community-Based Cultural Organizations must have annual revenues that are less than $1.25 million per year. These organizations are allowed a much more flexible use of the funds. They can use the funds for capital expenditures, programs, technology, supplies, and even start-up costs.

Regarding the next steps in the process for the proposed Cultural Access Sales Tax, Marshak reported that if the council wishes to place this measure on the August ballot, it must act by April 17 for regular processing time and no later than May 12, which would require a special meeting and super majority to get the measure on the August ballot. Marshak stated that there is a copy of the Executive’s draft proposal in members’ PIC Packets.

Deputy Mayor Sheree Wen, Medina, referring to the Cultural Access Program, stated that it could provide opportunities for underserved communities and people with low incomes to experience diverse cultural organizations including film festivals, the Pacific Science Center, and the Ballet among other opportunities. Admission to these organizations can be very expensive, making it difficult for disadvantaged populations to have access to cultural activities. Through this program, more people would have access to these activities and learning opportunities. Wen mentioned that she is very supportive of this program and that she is on the Board of multiple cultural organizations and this program would be very beneficial for these organizations and the public.

Mayor Rich Crispo, Newcastle, stated that it was his understanding that 4Culture is currently funded by the Hotel/Motel tax and wondered what would happen to this funding if this levy were successful. Crispo also noted that taxpayers are already providing funding to 4Culture for administrative expenses, and questioned whether the existing funding from the Hotel/Motel tax would still be needed by 4Culture if this measure passed. Marshak stated it was her understanding that this is a new tax which would provide additional funding for cultural organizations and which could be used to fund additional programs as well as to cover administrative costs. Crispo mentioned that the School Access Program was the only new piece, and that everything else is already included in what 4Culture does. Marshak stated that SCA will provide additional information once we have it regarding what the funds would be used for.

Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, asked if Community-Based Organizations are allocated funds based on competitive grants or some percentage, similar to the Regional Organizations.
Marshak noted that the designated entity (4Culture) would be administering these funds and, per statutory guidance, would have to come up with criteria for awarding funds. Dawson noted that more detail will be available once the Ordinance was transmitted to Council. Nixon asked how often Regional versus Community-Based organizations are reclassified. Marshak and Dawson responded that such details were not yet available but that SCA staff will follow up with PIC member after the proposed Ordinance is transmitted.

Councilmember Benson Wong, Mercer Island, asked if there would be a geographic criterion included in the evaluation process used by 4Culture to determine awards of funds. Dawson responded that they had been assured there would be, but that details were not yet available. Wong asked if Regional Organizations that were younger than three years would be eligible for funds. Dawson responded that staff would update members with answers to these questions after the ordinance was transmitted.

Councilmember Melissa Musser, Des Moines, asked if the funds allocated for the Public School Cultural Access Program had been vetted by Washington State’s Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction or the Washington Education Association (WEA). Musser explained that it can be difficult to use this type of funding if field trips are not already included in the curriculum.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, stated that many aspects of the tax are governed by the state statute. When looking at the percent of funding allowed for administration of Community-Based Organizations, the statute states that up to 8% is allowed. Margeson noted that it would be good to reduce administrative expenses through efficiencies and try to spend only 5% on administrative expenses, or some amount that is less than the 8% allowed by statute. He also asked about the public accountability for the program and if there were requirements for the program to inform voters of the amount of funds collected as well as what funds were spent on. In addition, Margeson asked if there would be annual reporting to the King County Council and the Regional Committees. Dawson noted that the question of accountability and reporting also came up at the City Manager’s meeting. Dawson reported that at that meeting Deputy County Executive Sung Yang answered regarding the currently-existing oversight for 4Culture. SCA members may wish to suggest that additional accountability be built into the ballot measure, perhaps with a role for the Regional Policy Committee (RPC). Margeson stated that there needs to be strong oversight.

Wen suggested that the guests attending from Cultural Access Washington respond to members’ questions, and PIC Chair Tola Marts recognized the guests and asked that they address questions offered so far by PIC members.

Cultural Access Washington Executive Director James Kraft noted that Cultural Access Washington is working with superintendents from the Puget Sound Educational Service District. Cultural Access Washington has been advocating for the inclusion of the Public School Cultural Access Program in the strategic plans of schools to ensure that it works in conjunction with their curriculum. Regarding the question on how often Regional versus Community-Based organizations are reclassified, Kraft mentioned they anticipate it will be every two years. Kraft also mentioned that 4Culture is currently receiving about $4 million from the Hotel/Motel tax and they anticipate this will be freed up for Regional Organizations. Regarding accountability,
Kraft stated that there will be annual reports that go to the King County Council and that everyone involved in this effort understands the need for accountability and transparency regarding how the funds are used.

Dawson mentioned that SCA staff will ensure that the SCA members of RPC are provided with a list of the PIC members’ questions to be asked at the next RPC meeting.

Kraft stated that much like the requirement that 20% of a Regional Organization’s funds go to the school program, the proposal for this ballot measure would include an additional requirement that 30% of a Regional Organization’s funds be used for equity outcomes including geographic equity. This would take some of the money out of Seattle and spread it throughout the County.

Mayor Chris Roberts, Shoreline, asked what Community-Based Organizations would not be eligible for funding. He explained that it is his understanding that all arts organizations would be eligible. Marshak responded that staff would follow up with a response to this question.

Chair Marts stated that for any organization to grow from a $4 million budget to a $67 million budget would be a challenge. Marts noted that due to the timing of the anticipated Council action on the levy, there would not be time for SCA to consider action on the proposed levy unless emergency action was taken in April. Dawson and Marts noted that it was not the intent of SCA to consider taking action, unless requested at this time by PIC members. Members did not express interest in taking a position.

9. Regional Committee 2017 Work Plans (RPC, RWQC, RTC)

Ellie Wilson-Jones, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported on the 2017 work plans for the three regional committees referenced in the King County Charter: the Regional Policy Committee (RPC), Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC), and the Regional Transit Committee (RTC). Each committee is charged with developing, reviewing, and recommending countywide plans and polices for a given subject matter area for consideration by the King County Council. The purpose of this briefing is to give the PIC a preview of the work these committees will be engaged in this year and to offer an opportunity for PIC members to identify those topics for which they would like further briefings and to provide input on. The Regional Policy Committee is responsible for those issue areas not covered by the other two regional committees and that have been included on the RPC’s work program. The proposed Cultural Access sales tax, on which the PIC was just briefed, will be on the RPC’s March 15 agenda for a briefing. Another item of focus for the RPC this year will be the development of an implementation plan for the Veterans and Human Services Levy, which is anticipated to be placed on the ballot for renewal this fall.

Doreen Booth, SCA Policy Analyst, noted that the Regional Water Quality Committee work plan can be found on pages 45 and 46 of the PIC Packet. The main work of the RWQC relates to wastewater treatment services in King County. Booth highlighted two recent additions to the work plan. First, at the request of the SCA caucus, RWQC members will have a briefing on the reclaimed water program, also known as the Recycled Water Program. The second addition, one that has been in the news often in recent weeks, is a review of the February 9, 2017 West
Point Treatment Plant failure that resulted in catastrophic damage to the plant – more than $25 million worth of damage – and continues to result in substandard discharges to the Puget Sound. That review will include the causes, impacts, cost, and response to the plant failure and how to ensure such a failure would not occur again.

Alena Marshak, SCA Policy Analyst, reported that the Regional Transit committee (RTC) is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations to the King County Council on countywide plans and policies for public transportation services operated by the County. In 2017 the RTC will be working primarily on follow-up legislation to METRO CONNECTS (Metro’s long range plan) this includes a Work Plan for the Metro Connects Development Program (the implementation program for the long-range plan), as well as a large role in policy guidance and input needed for the effective implementation of METRO CONNECTS, including a policy deliverable and accompanying motion that will be transmitted to the County Council at the end of October.

Marshak reported that in addition to the METRO CONNECTS work, RTC will also be responsible for approving Metro’s 2017 System Evaluation Report at the end of the year. This report is based on Metro’s Service Guidelines and was formerly known as the Service Guidelines Report. The RTC will also receive quarterly briefings on the Alternative Services program as well as current issues that arise throughout the year, such as Metro’s Parking Initiatives, Service Changes, One Center City, Metro’s Fares Work Program, and many other issues. Marshak noted that SCA would like to hear feedback on which issues PIC members would like to hear more about.

Deputy Mayor Sheree Wen, Medina, referring to the RWQC work plan, asked how impacts on the water and surrounding communities from the West Point Treatment Plant failure would be mitigated. Booth said there was a monitoring program put into place immediately after the discharge that will compare current water quality to baseline data to assess the effects of the discharge. Additional information on monitoring and any needed mitigation will be brought back to the PIC. Booth noted that the RWQC was briefed March 1, 2017 on the West Point Treatment Plant Emergency Bypass Discharge Event. King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles will be holding a public meeting on the West Point Treatment Plant repairs on March 18, 2017 [Note: more information about that meeting can be found here].

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, asked for information on the status of the Alternative Services Program projects that were implemented to address cuts to fixed route service. Alena Marshak responded that RTC receives quarterly updates on the status of projects including the performance of specific alternative service pilot programs in different cities, and staff can bring an update back to a future PIC meeting.

Marshak mentioned that SCA staff anticipate bringing the Work Plan for the METRO CONNECTS Development Program to PIC in May. Members agreed they would appreciate this briefing.

Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, inquired as to whether there would be a ballot measure to fund the proposals in the METRO CONNECTS plan. Marshak responded that METRO CONNECTS is King County Metro’s vision for what the transit system will look like in the future
and there is no current plan for Metro Connects funding to go to the ballot. Loudenback questioned how the gap in funding for the plan would be closed without going back to voters. Marshak mentioned that the RTC has a large role in addressing any policy guidance that is missing to effectively implement METRO CONNECTS, including policy guidance around partnerships and funding for the implementation of METRO CONNECTS. Marshak also noted that all aspects of funding for the implementation of METRO CONNECTS are not yet known.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, stated that the One Center City planning process would have a big impact on SCA members. Referring to the RWQC work plan, Margeson noted that reclaimed water was an area of interest for Redmond. Margeson also noted interest in the Executive’s forthcoming Veterans and Human Services Levy renewal proposal and whether the distribution of resources between veterans-focused services and resources for broader human services will be impacted.

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, noted that the RTC will be briefed on One Center City next week and that the discussion at RTC would help guide future direction for SCA on this topic. She also stated that King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci is launching an effort focused on the potential impacts of the One Center City strategies as well as other transportation and transit issues facing the Eastside.

Wen stated that earthquake risk is a top concern for the region. She also noted a risk from mudslides and mentioned that there should be strategies around preventing landslides.

Stanford noted that she has heard concerns from residents in Lake Forest Park about impacts of route restructures. Dawson offered to ask Councilmember Balducci to invite Lake Forest Park to the above references meeting to discuss impacts.

10. Land Conservation and Preservation Work Plan
Doreen Booth, SCA Policy Analyst, reported that on January 19, the Land Conservation Advisory Group, which includes Redmond Council President Hank Margeson and Bothell Councilmember James McNeal, approved a Phase 1 Report, making recommendations on the scope of the Land Conservation and Preservation Work Plan and requesting a second phase of work to occur before a final Advisory Group recommendation on the Work Plan is made to the County Executive and the King County Council. Requested changes from city Advisory Group members can be found in the packet.

King County staff anticipates that the Advisory Group’s recommendations will be included in the work plan and that a phase two effort will be approved. The phase two effort requested by the Advisory Group is proposed to address a series of issues that are listed on page 50 of the PIC Packet.

Booth noted that parks directors from several cities in north and northeast King County are meeting regularly to discuss the request from King County to identify high value conservation lands cities want to acquire. City staff has expressed some uncertainty about what information is needed by King County and about how to collect that information with limited resources. City staff are working with King County staff on a template that can be shared with other cities.
Councilmember Jan Molinaro, Enumclaw, asked if a map showing the location of the 66,000 acres proposed to be preserved is available. Booth will follow up with additional information.

In response to a question if the program was voluntary or not, Booth noted that the use of condemnation is not proposed and that King County will work with willing sellers.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, noted an Enumclaw area farmer was on the Advisory Group. He said Redmond had received a list of Conservation Futures Tax revenue (CFT) funded projects in the city as requested but was waiting for King County to provide a list of projects bonded by CFT revenues.

Councilmember Tom Stowe, Beaux Arts Village, asked if King County Department of Natural Resources (KC DNR) would administer the program in cities. He expressed concern about the possible creation of another layer of bureaucracy. He asked if KC DNR’s current practices would be followed regarding property acquisition. He also asked for confirmation that condemnation was not proposed. Margeson said that King County is taking the long view, waiting until properties come on the market or the opportunity to buy easements arises. Booth noted that King County may pursue high value conservation properties that are threatened by development.

11. 2017 State Legislative Session

Ellie Wilson-Jones, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported that the cutoff for bills to move out of their house of origin was 5 p.m., just prior to the night’s PIC meeting, with exceptions to the cutoff including for those bills deemed necessary to implement the budget (NTIB). Wilson-Jones provided an overview of the status of bills most closely related to the adopted SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda and distributed an updated bill tracking sheet (Attachment E). Where there are House and Senate versions of a bill, the bolded bill is the one that has advanced further in the legislative process. With regard to replacing the property tax cap, HB 1764—which would implement a new cap that is the greater of one percent or population growth plus inflation, not to exceed 5 percent—remains in the House Finance Committee, but should be considered NTIB and could also be folded into a larger budget deal later in the session. SCA’s second legislative priority is investing in public health services. ESHB 1432, which is the policy legislation that accompanies that funding ask, passed out of the House 86-12 and is now in the Senate Health Care Committee.

Regarding SCA’s third legislative priority, addressing the housing and homelessness crisis, Wilson-Jones reported that most of the key bills remain in their house of origin, but some are likely NTIB and could move later in the session. SHB 1570, which would make the sunsetting Document Recording Fee permanent and allow for an additional optional local surcharge, is in the House Rules Committee. SSB 5182, which would allow a city or county to adopt a property tax exemption program to preserve affordable housing for very low-income household, remains in the Senate. HB 1797, which would allow some flexibility to use REET for affordable housing, allow a one-time sales tax remittance related to public affordable housing development, and make an existing sales tax authority councilmanic for King County, remains in the House Rules Committee. HB 1633 to prohibit source of income discrimination was not brought up for a vote in the House prior to the cutoff despite the advocacy of SCA members, but housing advocates are already working to identify an alternate path forward this session. Wilson-Jones noted that
the City of Tukwila this week joined five other SCA member cities in passing a local source of
income discrimination ban. Returning to the status of housing bills, SSB 5254—Sen. Joe Fain’s
omnibus bill that would create an affordable housing preservation property tax exemption
program, extend the document recording fee sunset date, require additional analysis in
buildable lands reports, and address comprehensive plan approvals, among other things—
remains in Senate Ways and Means. As to addressing the underlying causes of homelessness,
several bills related to the heroin and prescription opiate crisis moved from their house of
origin. ESHB 1427, which would modify the standards for certifying opioid treatment programs,
passed out of the House 82-15, and SHB 1339, which would require the adoption of rules
relating to prescribing opioid drugs, passed out of the House 91-6. Finally, one bill at odds with
recommendations from the King County Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force
has advanced: SSB 5223, Sen. Mark Miloscia’s bill to ban safe-injection sites, passed out of the
Senate 26-23 but is not expected to advance in the House.

Concluding with a broader legislative update, Wilson-Jones noted that the public records bills
supported by the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), ESHB 1594 and EHB 1595, passed out
of the House with bipartisan votes of 79-18 and 75-22 respectively and are now in the Senate
State Government Committee. With the house of origin cutoff now past, legislative committees
will resume work reviewing bills sent over from the opposite chamber. It is also anticipated that
the Senate Majority Coalition Caucus will release an operating budget proposal soon, with
drastic cuts to state revenues distributed to cities expected to be proposed. Shared revenues
are estimated at $210 million for the next biennium, and AWC has produced an online tool that
allows you to see how your city could be impacted by various cuts to shared revenues. AWC is
urging city leaders to reach out to their senators preemptively to talk with them about the city
services supported with these shared revenues and how they’re making a difference in your
community. Additional cutoff dates are also approaching: March 29 is the last day for bills to
make it out of opposite house policy committees, April 4 is the last day for fiscal committees,
and April 12 is the deadline for floor action, all with some exceptions. The final day of the
regular session is April 23, but a special session is anticipated to continue budget work.

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, noted that SCA is working to schedule a networking
dinner featuring a legislative recap by a panel of legislators, but the likelihood that the
Legislature will remain in session well past April is posing scheduling challenges. Dates in late
April, timed shortly after the conclusion of the regular session, and in the late summer or early
fall are being considered.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, requested the link for AWC’s online tool allowing cities to
see their distributions of state shared revenues for the next biennium. The link can be found
here. Dawson emphasized the importance of early advocacy to help shape the Senate budget
proposal before it is released and moves forward.

12. Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County
Brian Parry, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported on the list of potential levies and ballot
measures in the PIC Packet. He said that two measures were voted on in February. A Park Bond
Measure in Maple Valley failed, receiving 52.8% support but falling short of the 60% required. A
Shoreline School District Construction Bond measure was approved with 74.3% support. Parry
noted that King County Elections conducted an experiment with pre-paid postage to see if
ballot returns would be increased. King County Elections reports that the effort was a success as ballot return percentages were expected to be 30% based on past elections, but turned out to be 37% in Maple Valley and 40% in the Shoreline School District.

Parry said one additional item had been added to the tracking list: a proposal by Mayor Ed Murray, Seattle, to go before Seattle voters with a property tax increase to support homelessness services.

If members have updates to the list, they can be provided to SCA at brian@soundcities.org.

13. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues
Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported that this is a recurring monthly agenda item providing a list of potential issues that SCA will track and may bring back at a later time.

Dawson said SCA staff is working to prepare materials about city human services funding for a discussion as early as the May PIC meeting. She also reported that a pre-PIC workshop is being prepared for May to discuss the intersection of property crime and the heroin epidemic.

Dawson asked that members provide her with any updates to the list via email at deanna@soundcities.org.

14. Upcoming Events
The next SCA Networking Dinner will feature Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson. It will be held on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 5:30 PM at the Inglewood Golf Club, Kenmore.

Chair Marts proposed cancelling the April meeting unless there was business that was critical to be addressed at that time. Dawson noted two possible topics for April: One Center City, and the final draft of the Regional Economic Strategy.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, moved seconded by Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, that the April PIC meeting be cancelled. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next PIC meeting will be held May 10, 2017 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Renton City Hall with a pre-PIC workshop at 6:00 PM.

15. For the Good of the Order
Chair Marts requested a volunteer for the May “Did You Know” to be included on the PIC agenda. Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, volunteered.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, announced that Redmond would be hosting an immigration forum on March 22 that would include presentations from local police, immigration attorneys, political leaders and community organizations to address anything immigration related. He also reported that the Redmond City Council appointed Tanika Padhye to fill a vacancy on the Council.
Councilmember Bill Boyce, Kent, reported that a community unity rally to promote tolerance and diversity would be held at Kent Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 11, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in response to recent crimes, including the shooting of a Sikh man on March 3 in Kent.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, reported that the Federal Way City Council voted on Tuesday night to change the city’s official logo.

Councilmember Austin Bell, Burien, reported that Burien also recently voted to approve a new city logo.

Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, reported that the City of Bothell approved funding and a plan for their Main Street enhancement project and that a groundbreaking will be held on March 28 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM on Main Street between the blocks of 101st Ave. NE and 102nd Ave. NE.

Councilmember Fran McGregor Hollums, Covington, reported that the City of Covington also recently approved a logo change for the year to reflect the 25th year of the city’s incorporation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Doreen Booth</td>
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<td>Alena Marshak</td>
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Voting members are highlighted in gray. Cities represented are bolded.
Charter Review Commission, 2017-2018

The King County Charter serves as King County’s “constitution,” the foundation for the county’s governance. The charter contains a provision requiring the appointment of a citizen commission every ten years to review the charter and present a report recommending charter amendments, if any, to the Council. The Council then decides which proposed charter amendments, if any, will be placed on a general election ballot. The last commission did its work in 2007-2008.

The charter review process begins with the appointment of at least 15 commission members by the Executive and their confirmation by the Council. There must be at least one representative from each of the nine King County Council districts.

While it will be up to the commissioners to decide how they will work and on what schedule, we anticipate four phases:

1. Commission organization and input from the public (spring/summer 2017)
2. Initial deliberations and draft recommendations (fall 2017)
3. Public feedback on the draft (winter 2018)
4. Final deliberations and report to Council (spring 2018)

For more information from the County Executive’s office, please contact:
- Jim Chrisinger: 206-263-9682 or jim.chrisinger@kingcounty.gov

For more information from the King County Council, please contact:
- Mac Nicholson: 206-477-7908 or mac.nicholson@kingcounty.gov
- Pat Hamacher: 206-477-0880 or pat.hamacher@kingcounty.gov
March 8, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

Did you know that one out of four girls and one out of six boys are victims of sexual assault before they turn 18? One in five women and one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives. It’s estimated that 60% of these instances of sexual assault go unreported. Every time I hear these staggering statistics, I’m dismayed at the lack of public awareness of this crisis.

What’s really shocking to me is that these statistics mean that I have friends, family, and community members who are victims. Despite the information we have about sexual assault and its prevalence, we still can’t seem to talk about this epidemic problem.

I know we can’t put an end to a problem that we can’t talk about.

That’s why I’m inviting you to join me and other mayors in a pledge to promote April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in your city. Through SAAM, we can provide our citizens some tools to reduce the risk of abuse and assault, increase public awareness, and provide valuable resources for victims and their families.

What you pledge to do is up to you and your city. It could be as simple as signing a resolution to recognize April 2017 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Or you could plan activities in your city for the month of April to bring awareness to this critical issue. The King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) is a valuable source of data and resources; KCSARC can help you to develop tools to bring awareness in your community.

Last year, 25 cities participated. This year I hope all 37 mayors in the Sound Cities Association take the pledge to promote SAAM. Please join me and other mayors including Mayor Amy Walen of Kirkland, Mayor Nancy Backus of Auburn, Mayor Suzette Cooke of Kent, and SCA President Mayor David Baker of Kenmore in making this pledge.

Sincerely,

Denis Law
Mayor

17-052
# King County Economic Development Organizations

## Regional Entities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entities</th>
<th>Planning &amp; Community Development</th>
<th>Retention &amp; Expansion</th>
<th>Recruitment</th>
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- **Be a good place to live**
- **Nurture growth**
- **Attract new businesses**

**Note:**
- ![ ]() indicates Top Priorities
- ![ ]() indicates Provides Support

---

December 11, 2015

Public Sector Economic Development Summit for Elected Officials
Leadership
- Josh Brown, PSRC Executive Director
- Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford of Lake Forest Park, President of EDD Board (In-Coming)
- Mayor John Marchione, City of Redmond, President of PSRC

Board Members 38
Staff Members 3 (EDD only)

Coverage
King, Pierce, Kitsap, and Snohomish Counties

Operating Budget (2015)
$650,000

- Leads development of the Regional Economic Strategy --- renewed in 2016
- The federally designated economic development district for King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties
- Primary role is to identify economic development activities of the region
- PSRC runs the EDD and integrates EDD priorities with transportation and land use planning
The EDC is King County’s designated Associate Development Organization and is a member-based non-profit.

The EDC receives funding from the State and contracts with the Department of Commerce to coordinate services in King County with the DOC.

RCW-designated priorities are retention, expansion and recruitment.

Members of the EDC include King County, municipalities in King County and businesses.

Some members have contracts with the EDC to clarify expectations.
Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle

Leadership
- Sam Kaplan, President (out-going)
- Bill McSherry, Boeing, Board Co-Chair
- Josh Gaul, K&L Gates, Board Co-Chair

Staff Members
6 usually

Coverage
Washington State

Budget (2015)
$600,000
not incl. grants & sponsorships

- Provides Business Recruitment, Marketing, New Business Assistance, Retention Assistance, Export Assistance, and Advocacy activities and services to the greater Seattle area’s trade-oriented businesses
- Leads trips frequently to other countries and hosts foreign business leaders in Washington state to broker business relationships with local businesses
- Works to brand region internationally and manages the Global Trade and Investment Group
- Is called upon by a broad range of public and private sector leaders to promote Washington trade

Public Sector Economic Development Summit for Elected Officials
The leading organization engaged in China-related activity in Washington state
Dedicated to promoting stronger commercial, educational, and cultural relations between the state of Washington and the People's Republic of China
The oldest non-governmental statewide trade association in the United States dealing specifically with China
Its more than 100 members include leading companies, ports, banks, universities, cities and international organizations
Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County

Leadership
- Marlena Sessions, CEO
- Tom Peterson, Hoffman Construction, Board Chair
- Ron Wright, Architect, Vice-Chair

Four focus areas: WorkSource employment centers, Youth, Sector Strategies, Think-Tank

Staff Members 17
Board Members 24 public and private representatives

Coverage
King County

Budget (2015)
15.5 million
Less than 1% admin

WorkSource is a jobseeker and employer system:
- 28 service locations in King County
- 30 partners service providers; 300 employees;
- served 70,000 jobseekers and 2,500 businesses last year

Federal and state designated WDC for King County, serves Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
The Port of Seattle

Leadership
- Ted Fick, CEO
- Dave McFadden, Managing Director Economic Development Division

Commissioners
- 3

Coverage
- King County*

Budget (2015)
- $n/a

- Manage the airport, seaports and industrial properties
- Ports are the only entity in Washington that can levy property taxes and gain a return on invest in real estate all in the name of economic development
- Northwest Seaport Alliance includes joint management of Pierce County seaports
- New strategies and programs for economic development underway
## Bill Tracking for March 8, 2017 PIC Meeting - Updated 3/8/17 at 5 p.m.

### Revenue

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<td>HB 1764</td>
<td>Property tax revenue limit</td>
<td>H Finance / S Local Government</td>
<td>Lytton / Pedersen</td>
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<td>SB 5772</td>
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<td>SHB 1113</td>
<td>Excess liquor revenue dist.</td>
<td>H Rules R</td>
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<td>SB 5240</td>
<td>Excess liquor revenues</td>
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<td>SHB 1099</td>
<td>Marijuana/local moratoria</td>
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### Public Health & Behavioral Health

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<td>ESHB 1427</td>
<td>Opioid treatment programs</td>
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<td>Safe injection sites</td>
<td>H HC/Wellness / H HC/Wellness</td>
<td>Stokesbary / Miloscia</td>
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### Housing & Homelessness

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### GMA, Housing, & Homelessness

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**Item 6:** Regional Affordable Housing Task Force Appointments

**ACTION ITEM**

**Staff Contact**
Deanna Dawson, Executive Director, deanna@soundcities.org, (206) 495-3265

**SCA PIC Nominating Committee Representatives**
Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific (Chair); Mayor Pro Tem Amy Ockerlander, Duvall; Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton; Mayor Chris Roberts, Shoreline.

**Potential Action**
To recommend to the SCA Board of Directors appointments to the newly forming Regional Affordable Housing Task Force

**Background**
The PIC Nominating Committee will meet prior to the May 10 PIC meeting to consider and recommend applicants for four seats on the newly forming Regional Affordable Housing Task Force. PIC Nominating Committee recommendations will be provided to the PIC for consideration during the May 10 PIC meeting.

**Regional Affordable Housing Task Force**
Under [proposed motion 2017-0171](#), currently before the King County Council and anticipated to be finalized in mid or late May, a new Regional Affordable Housing Task Force would be formed to develop a Regional Affordable Housing Strategy by December 2018. The Task Force would also be tasked with the following five objectives:

- Assess the current state of regional housing affordability in King County, including ongoing efforts by jurisdictions;
- Develop a recommended statement of intent to address the regional affordable housing crisis in King County;
- Identify collective tools and actions that can be taken at the regional level to create more affordable options where needed and preserve affordable housing where it exists today, which could include a recommended plan for new partnerships, local strategies, regulatory reform, and funding approaches that could include, but is not limited to, evaluating a countywide sales tax levy under RCW 82.14.530;
- Develop a recommended state legislative strategy to address issues relating to affordable housing and homelessness; and
Develop a dashboard for displaying region-wide progress in meeting the Comprehensive Planning Policies.

In addition to the four SCA representatives, the full Task Force membership would include elected officials or their designees from the King County Council (four seats), the King County Executive (one seat), and the City of Seattle Mayor (one seat). The Task Force will also include one ex officio member from the King County Department of Community and Human Services.

While the King County Council has yet to finalize the legislation forming the Task Force, SCA is acting now to seek nominations and make recommendations to meet a May 30 deadline set under the proposed legislation for the Executive to transmit the Task Force membership for confirmation by the King County Council. The call for nominations was distributed on April 25, with an application deadline of May 8, 2017.

Meeting frequency, dates, times, and locations have yet to be set. The Task Force is anticipated to convene for the first time in June 2017.
Item 7:
Regional Affordable Housing Strategy

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact
Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst, ellie@soundcities.org, 206-495-5238

Discussion
Late in 2016, the King County Council announced a proposal to work with the County Executive, cities, and other partners to convene a regional effort to develop a countywide plan for affordable housing. As a follow up, the Executive transmitted legislation now under consideration by the Council to form a new Regional Affordable Housing Task Force to be charged with developing a Regional Affordable Housing Strategy by the end of 2018. As proposed, SCA representatives would hold four of ten Task Force voting member seats and would work with SCA staff to engage SCA members more broadly in this effort.

Background
As has been discussed extensively by the SCA Public Issues Committee and recognized in the SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda, the region faces a housing affordability crisis. King County’s population has increased rapidly, growing by nearly 300,000 residents (16 percent) since 2000, making for a tight housing market and leading to rapid rises in rents. Between 2016 and 2017, the median home price increased by more than 14 percent, and, as of late 2016, the median monthly rental price in King County had reached $2,250—more than $700 greater than the national average. Many people, including older adults and moderate and low-wage workers of all ages, are struggling to find, affordable, quality housing in the region. King County estimates that nearly 65,000 households are unstably housed, due to a combination of high rents and low household incomes. These individuals could be one adverse event—illness, accident, or reduced work hours—from severe risk of homelessness.

Motion 14574
Noting the significant challenges our region is facing with housing affordability, the King County Council passed Motion 14754 in November 2016. The Motion, prime sponsored by Councilmember Claudia Balducci, announced that the King County Council would be coordinating with the King County Executive in 2017 to convene a regional planning effort with cities, nonprofit agencies, and private partners to develop a plan for affordable housing.

The Motion directed that the effort also include consideration of the optional 0.1 percent local sales tax for affordable housing, mental and behavioral health-related facilities, and associated services. Motion 14754 requested the Executive to report on the status of this effort by March 31, 2017.
Regional Affordable Housing Strategy

In response to Motion 14754, King County Executive Dow Constantine transmitted a Regional Affordable Housing Strategy Status Report (“Status Report”) to the King County Council on March 31. This Status Report together with proposed Motion 2017-0171, transmitted at the same time, set forward a plan for developing a Regional Affordable Housing Strategy by December 2018.

The Executive’s proposal—which was informed by collaboration with King County Councilmembers and input from SCA—is to form a King County Regional Affordable Housing Task Force (“Task Force”) to meet throughout 2017 and into 2018 to develop a recommended strategy. The Task Force membership would consist of ten voting members:

- Four County Councilmembers or designees
- King County Executive or designee
- One representative from North King County (recommended by SCA)
- One representative from East King County (recommended by SCA)
- One representative from South King County (recommended by SCA)
- One representative from a city in the rural area (recommended by SCA)
- Mayor of Seattle or designee

The Director of King County DCHS or designee would also serve as an ex officio member of the Task Force, and the work of the Task Force would be aided by a Standing Advisory Panel consisting of representatives from local housing authorities, housing developers, tenants and landlord organizations, and an affordable housing advocacy group as well as a representative for unincorporated housing issues.

The objectives of the Task Force are identified as follows:

- Assess the current state of regional housing affordability, including ongoing efforts by jurisdictions;
- Develop and recommend a statement of intent to address the regional affordable housing crisis;
- Identify collective tools and actions, such as new partnerships, local strategies, regulatory reform, and funding approaches (including the potential for a countywide sales tax)\(^1\);
- Develop and recommend a state legislative strategy to address issues relating to affordable housing and homelessness; and
- Develop a dashboard to display regional progress in achieving the affordability goals of the Countywide Planning Policies.

**Proposed Motion 2017-0171**—the legislation creating the Task Force and laying out these objectives—is currently moving through the King County Council process. It was approved by the

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\(^1\) The same 2015 state legislation that created the Cultural Access sales tax option (discussed under PIC Agenda Item 9 on this month’s agenda) also allows counties to seek voter approval for a separate sales tax of up to 0.1 percent for affordable housing, mental and behavioral health-related facilities, or associated services (see RCW 82.14.530). County Councilmembers and the County Executive have proposed placing this sales tax measure on the ballot in 2018.
Regional Policy Committee April 19, and is anticipated to be acted upon by King County Council’s Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee May 16 and approved by the full Council as soon as May 22. Because the proposed motion directs the Executive to transmit the Task Force membership by May 30 for council confirmation, SCA distributed a call for nominations April 25 and is seeking PIC recommendations this month (see PIC Agenda Item 6).

Next Steps
Under proposed Motion 2017-0171, anticipated to be finalized by the King County Council later this month, a Regional Affordable Housing Task Force will be formed with plans to begin meeting in June, develop a proposed work plan by October 31, 2017, and deliver a final Regional Affordable Housing Strategy to the Executive and Council no later than December 2018. The Regional Policy Committee would serve as the policy committee for recommendations from the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force for any region-wide policy or plan.

SCA representatives to the newly forming Regional Affordable Housing Task Force and SCA staff will be engaging SCA members more broadly, including the PIC, to provide updates and seek input throughout this process.
Item 8: Veterans and Human Services Levy

**DISCUSSION**

SCA Staff Contact
Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst, ellie@soundcities.org, (206) 495-5238

SCA Regional Policy Committee (RPC) Members
Mayor Suzette Cooke, Kent (Caucus Chair); Councilmember Dan Grausz, Mercer Island; Councilmember Bill Peloza, Auburn; Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville; Mayor Dave Hill, Algona (alternate); Mayor John Stokes, Bellevue (alternate)

Discussion

As has been previously reported to the PIC, the Veterans and Human Services Levy, which was first approved in 2005 and renewed in 2011, will expire at the end of 2017. King County staff launched a community engagement campaign in 2016 to seek input into areas to address with a potentially renewed levy and heard strong feedback that the levy should do more to address housing needs and to serve older adults. Subsequently, the King County Executive transmitted two reports for consideration by the Regional Policy Committee and King County Council outlining the broad scope of need for veterans’ and human services in King County. The Executive is now anticipated, potentially before the May 10, 2017 PIC meeting, to transmit a proposal to the Council to place a measure on the November ballot to renew—and likely expand—the current levy.

Background

The Veterans and Human Services Levy (VHSL) was first approved by King County voters in November 2005 and was renewed in 2011 with an expiration date of December 31, 2017. At a rate of $0.05 per $1,000 in assessed valuation, the current property tax levy costs the average homeowner about $17 per year and generates roughly $18 million in annual levy proceeds, which are split 50-50 across services for veterans, military service members, and their families; and other, more general, human services. The services delivered under the current levy are described in the most recent VHSL annual report, and PIC members were briefed on the overall goals of the levy and current strategies in November 2016 (see the November PIC Packet, page 31).

To inform planning for a potential levy renewal, King County staff launched a community engagement effort in late 2016 that included community conversations and focus groups throughout the county, surveys, and a roundtable meeting with SCA members held October 26, 2016. The PIC was also briefed on early renewal planning activities at the November 9, 2016 PIC meeting for the levy (see the November PIC Packet, page 31).
Subsequently, at the February 8, 2017 PIC meeting, the PIC was briefed on two reports transmitted for the King County Council’s consideration in preparation for later deliberation over whether to seek voter approval for a renewed, and potentially expanded, levy (see the February PIC Packet, page 35). The first report assessed the effectiveness of the current investments and surveyed the scope of need for veterans’ services and general human services in King County. The second report aimed to answer the question of what it would take to house every veteran experiencing homelessness in King County. Together, the reports suggest the scope of need is much too great to be addressed solely through a renewed, or even expanded, levy, but that additional investment in targeted areas, particularly housing and services for older adults, should be strongly considered.

Anticipated VHSL Renewal Transmittal
King County Executive Dow Constantine is expected to transmit to the King County Council a proposed November 7, 2017 ballot measure to renew, and likely expand, the Veterans and Human Services Levy. This transmittal was earlier anticipated to occur May 2, but has been delayed.

Next Steps
SCA staff will provide the PIC with an update May 10 on the Executive’s forthcoming proposal for renewing the VHSL. If a proposed VHSL renewal ordinance is transmitted following the distribution of the May 10 PIC Packet but prior to the PIC meeting, SCA staff will endeavor to provide the PIC with an interim staff report as time allows.

Following the Executive’s forthcoming transmittal, the King County Council is anticipated to deliberate on the levy renewal proposal into the summer. It is anticipated that the Council will act on a levy ordinance by July 17, the date of the last regularly scheduled Council meeting that would allow for minimum processing time. The Council could act as an emergency as late as August 1, if a special Council meeting were called.

Should the Council act to place the renewal on the ballot, the Regional Policy Committee will be charged with helping to shape and with approving an implementation plan or plans for the renewed levy.
Item 9: Cultural Access Sales Tax

UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact
Alena Marshak, Policy Analyst, Alena@SoundCities.org, (206) 495-3020

SCA Regional Policy Committee (RPC) Members
Mayor Suzette Cooke, Kent (Caucus Chair); Councilmember Dan Grausz, Mercer Island; Councilmember Bill Peloza, Auburn; Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville; Mayor Dave Hill, Algona (alternate); Mayor John Stokes, Bellevue (alternate)

Update

In March, the King County Executive announced a proposal to seek voter approval in August for a 0.1 percent sales tax increase to fund a Cultural Access Program that would support arts, science, and heritage institutions in King County. This proposal, called “Access for All”, would utilize a sales tax authority created by a 2015 state law. Several councilmembers, however, raised concerns about oversight of the program, the distribution of benefits throughout the county, and impacts of the sales tax on lower income residents. A new proposal was introduced in April, seeking to allay oversight and geographic equity concerns. The King County Council voted May 1 to adopt the new proposal, with further amendment, placing the Access for All program on the August ballot.

Background

At the March 8, 2017 PIC meeting, members received an overview of the King County Executive’s then anticipated proposal to seek voter approval for an August ballot measure called Access for All (see March PIC Packet, page 33). Subsequently, on March 9, the Executive officially announced his proposal for this 0.1 percent increase in the county sales tax to raise about $67 million each year for seven years for arts, science, and heritage institutions in King County.

As reported at the March 8, 2017 PIC meeting, 2015 state legislation gave local governments this authority to create what is termed a “Cultural Access Program” funded through an up to 0.1 percent sales tax. The Executive’s proposal, as outlined in proposed Ordinance 2017-0104, would give 4Culture, the cultural services agency in King County, responsibility for administering the program and awarding funds. After program start-up costs and additional administrative costs are covered (which cannot exceed 1.25 percent per year), remaining funds would be distributed as follows:

1. Public school cultural access program which would receive 10 percent of the remaining funds,
2. Regional cultural organizations which would receive 70 percent of the remaining funds, and
Community-based cultural organizations which would receive all remaining funds except up to 8 percent for administrative costs. These program types are described in more detail in the proposed Ordinance. The distributions are based on requirements included in the state legislation, codified under RCW 82.14.525 and RCW 36.160.

King County Council Consideration
Councilmembers Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Joe McDermott, and Claudia Balducci sponsored proposed Ordinance 2017-0104, the Executive’s Access for All proposal. This proposed ordinance was referred to the Council’s Budget and Fiscal Management Committee, but was not brought forward for a committee vote due to concerns from Committee Chair Dave Upthegrove about the impact of the proposed sales tax increase on lower income residents. Other councilmembers noted potential taxpayer fatigue, lack of County Council oversight, and the need to also address other county priorities—such as affordable housing and homelessness—and also questioned whether the measure would do enough to benefit smaller organizations and to support arts, science, and heritage outside Seattle.

With the original ordinance proposal stalled in committee, the sponsors introduced a new version, proposed Ordinance 2017-0178, on April 17. The replacement ordinance was intended to address councilmember concerns relating to geographic distribution of funding and to strengthen the County Council’s oversight role and reporting requirements for 4Culture. A comparison between the Executive’s transmitted proposal and the newer Councilmember-introduced proposal is provided in a King County Council staff report available here (see page 6).

On May 1, the County Council approved a striking amendment to the newer proposal and acted to place the Access for All program on the August ballot. At the March PIC meeting, SCA members brought up several concerns similar to those brought forward previously by the County Councilmembers, as discussed above. The ordinance, as adopted, speaks to some of these concerns.

SCA staff analysis of the approved ordinance is ongoing, significant changes noted to date include:

- Expanding grant opportunities for community-based organizations in council districts that may not have received significant funding under the earlier proposals.
- Making funds explicitly available for the preservation of barns, outbuildings, and agricultural-related community spaces in King County.
- Providing seed money to foster the creation of new cultural organizations throughout King County.
- Outlining planning work that will be undertaken to develop four subarea plans (north, suburban east, rural east, and south) for expanding access to cultural opportunities and ensuring levy benefits are distributed throughout the County.
- Increasing County Council oversight of 4Culture and over implementation of the Access for All program.
RPC Briefings and SCA Member Questions
The Regional Policy Committee was briefed on the original legislation at its March meeting. RPC members posed a number of questions about the initial proposal, which together with questions received at the March 8 PIC meeting, were submitted to the Executive’s Office to answer. Attachment A lists these questions and answers received, which were drafted by 4Culture. The answers apply, however, to the older legislation and have not been updated to capture key changes in the newer proposal. RPC was briefed on the newer version, proposed Ordinance 2017-0178, in April.

Next Steps
The Access for All proposal will be placed on the August 1 ballot. If approved by voters, the program, will last for seven years and could be renewed through voter approval.

Attachments
A. PIC and RPC Questions and Responses
SCA Public Issues Committee and SCA Regional Policy Committee Member Questions

*Updated 4/13/2017 – RESPONSES ARE FROM 4CULTURE*

1. Funds generated by the levy would be administered by 4Culture. Under the proposed ordinance, King County and 4Culture would receive up to 1.25 percent of annual proceeds (after start-up funding) for program administration and additional administrative funding under the provisions relating to Community-Based Cultural Organizations. SCA members have asked the following questions about the purpose and scale of these administrative allocations:

   a. How would administrative funds received under Section 7, subsections B and E be spent? **Answered in conjunction with 1.b. below.**

   b. Section 7, subsection E of the proposed ordinances states that after proceeds are distributed for the purposes specified in subsections A, B, C, and D, remaining proceeds “not more than eight percent shall be distributed to 4Culture for administrative costs of the Access for All Program”. During the March 15 RPC briefing, Jim Kelly stated that these would be utilized to cover the cost of administration for Community-Based Cultural Organizations allocations and that the 1.25 percent for administration specified under Section 7, subsection B of the proposed ordinance would cover 4Culture and the county for administrative costs related to the Public School Access Program and Regional Cultural Organizations, but the distinction between the usage of these administrative funds is not apparent from the proposed ordinance. Are, and, if so, how are the purposes of the administration funds referenced in Section 7 under subsections B and E distinguishable?

**4Culture Access for All Program Administration - Anticipated Costs:**

4Culture currently supports over 400 arts, heritage and preservation non-profit groups throughout King County. The agency emphasizes putting every dollar possible into the field, and its funding for staff and technical assistance have not kept pace.

**OVERALL PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:** State legislation provides that **up to 1.25% of the program’s revenue be available for general administration costs. (Revenue estimate $837,000).** 4Culture will:

A. Rent additional general space: The existing 4culture facility is not adequate to allow the increased operations necessary for overall program administration.

B. Add up to (3) compliance personnel for annual Regional Organization grant evaluation, contract monitoring and data reporting.

C. Add (1) equity program staff coordinator focused on assisting regional organizations in meeting the requirements of the Access for All program to make measurable
improvements in access and engagement in King County’s Communities of Opportunity and rural areas and in internal staffing and board composition.

D. Support increased costs of annual state financial and compliance audits, additional 4Culture legal services, overall program evaluation and communication service contractors:

**TOTAL COSTS ANTICIPATED FOR OVERALL ADMIN:** $760,000 annually

**PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCESS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:** Significant costs of program staff who will be hired to implement the public school access program portion of Access for All will be supported by the 10% allocated to the education program. The CAWA statute explicitly calls out transportation and the creation of a “centralized service” with the school funding percentage. (see Sec. 502 (2)(c)).

**COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:** State legislation provides that up to 8% of the program’s revenue be available for administering the programs and initiatives for the community based organizations (currently 350 organizations). (Revenue estimate $1,750,000).

4Culture has a 20 year track record of effective stewardship of public grant and contracting processes. CBO funds will be granted using programs that parallel current 4Culture annual processes, and will provide operating support, special projects support and capital support.

The basic infrastructure necessary for these processes, including database, online services and grant administration/reporting systems are all in place, and can accommodate growth to scale for the Access for All program.

A. Lease space/office presence in north, east and south King County from cultural organizations as part of “boots on ground” presence for program coordinators/equity personnel

B. Support increased costs of annual state and compliance 4Culture audit, additional database capacity, website development, panel processes, communications and overhead for community based awards.

**Funds available for the Community-based organization administration are expected to fluctuate considerably, since they are subject to change every year depending upon sales tax**
total, PLUS the amount of money in any year that flows from the regional organization pool after calculation of those awards is made.

4Culture will reserve $250,000 each year for the first 3 years from this 8% pool to help address the inevitable yearly change in the amount available and protect fixed costs until the program establishes a track record.

**TOTAL COSTS ANTICIPATED FOR CBO ADMIN:** $1,400,000 annually

c. How much funding is reasonably needed to administer the grants? What would the impact be should the County Council amend the proposal such that less than the allowable 1.25 percent and eight percent go to administration?

The combined availability of administration of funds for Regional Organizations, CBOs, and Public School Access is 3.4% of all revenues, a very modest amount. The program is complex and requires a number of reports to council that will require extensive contract monitoring. It is anticipated that the program will result in thirty-five contracts with Regional organizations, almost four hundred contracts with community-based organizations and another hundred contracts for projects and capital for CBOs. We believe reducing the percentages for administration would be deleterious to the efficient and effective management of the program.

d. 4Culture currently receives the majority of its funding through the hotel/motel tax. If 4Culture received this large infusion of funds for administrative support, could funds from the hotel/motel tax be redirected?

Lodging taxes will be managed by 4Culture in concert with AfA funds. For example, Access for All and the state statute the program is based on, do not allow funds to go to local governments, including Local Arts Agencies, which produce programs for local audiences in suburban cities. 4Culture annually funds twenty-two Local Arts Agencies with lodging taxes. The AfA funds will give us the opportunity to increase our investment in suburban and rural cities. Individual artists and internet based organizations (HistoryLink) cannot be funded by AfA. Preservation activities are not eligible for AfA support, but are funded with lodging taxes. Lodging taxes will be used to support activities, organizations and projects that cannot be funded by AfA. Any effort to “redirect” lodging taxes for purposes other than arts, heritage and culture, which by definition are considered tourism-related activities, would have to be made in the state legislature.

e. RCW 36.160.050 speaks to non-supplantation of county funding to cultural organizations but may not prohibit supplantation of county funding to the designated entity (in this case, 4Culture). The proposed ordinance, however, includes broader non-supplantation language. Is this broader supplantation restriction necessary?
While the broader supplantation language is not strictly necessary, it does clarify the intent and address the concern related to supplantation that so often arises related to levies.

f. What organizational changes are anticipated at 4Culture to take on this dramatically large increase in responsibility?

See answer to 1. A. and b.

2. What accountability is built into the proposal?

   a. What are the respective roles of the Access for All program advisory board (made up of the 4Culture board of directors) and 4Culture advisory committee referenced in the proposed ordinance? How will the membership be determined for the 4Culture advisory committee?

   The 4Culture Board of Directors will appoint members of the Advisory Committee which will be focused on ensuring for the equitable outcomes and goals of the County’s Access for All program. Including representatives who do work in this field, members will also include representatives from arts, culture, heritage organizations, and consider geography, ethnicity and discipline (arts, heritage, science).

   b. What will the role of RPC be with respect to implementation and oversight over the Access for All program? How and when will the RPC be engaged in developing the implementation plan for the program?

   The ordinance requires 4Culture to submit an implementation plan to the County Council within 90 days of the public vote approving the measure. We anticipate the implementation plan will be briefed at RPC so that the Council can be aware of concerns and input from that committee.

   c. What reports will be provided to the County Council? Will these be provided to the RPC under the proposed ordinance?

   A list of required reports is attached (Attachment 1). All reports to the County Council are publicly available and could be provided to the RPC on request.

3. How will funds to Community-Based Cultural Organizations be granted?

   a. Will there be a competitive process? Will this competitive process apply to all funding that is distributed to Community-Based Cultural Organizations?

   Yes, CBO’s will apply for funds through a competitive, application process. CBOs may apply for multiyear funding commitments and can use those funds for operating or capital.
b. What organizations will be eligible for funding allocated for Community-Based Cultural Organizations?

All King County based arts, heritage and science organizations that are not eligible to be Regional Organizations based on revenue and attendance. Applicants must be 501c3s or sponsored by a 501c3 fiscal agent. Social service organizations may be eligible for project support if a portion of their annual budgets are arts, heritage or science related (i.e., an afterschool computer class offered by a non-arts, heritage or science non-profit.)

c. What organizations will not be eligible for funding?

Nonprofit organizations that are not engaged in arts, heritage of science; radio base or internet based cultural organizations, organizations that distribute funds to other non-profit organizations and municipal governments.

d. Is there a geographic criterion included in 4Culture’s evaluation criteria for awarding funds to Community-Based Cultural Organizations?

It is likely that the ordinance will be amended to ensure a more equitable distribution of funds outside the city of Seattle. 4Culture currently prioritizes organizations serving audiences outside the city of Seattle.

4. To be eligible as a “Regional Cultural Organization,” an organization must either, 1) have annual revenue that is at least $3 million or 2) have an average annual revenue that is at least $1.25 million and annual attendance of at least 50,000.

   a. What organizations are currently known to meet this definition of Regional Cultural Organization and where are they located?

   A list of Regional Organizations is attached. (Attachment 2)

   b. How often will Regional Cultural Organizations be evaluated to determine eligibility for funding?

   Annually.

   c. Eligible Regional Cultural Organizations are ranked based on the size of their annual revenue and their annual attendance (over the three preceding years), with annual attendance given twice as much weight as revenue. Will organizations that have been in existence for less than three years be eligible for funding as a Regional Cultural Organization?
It is possible for an organization with less than a three-year operating history to be eligible for consideration as Regional if it is located outside the city of Seattle and meets the other financial and attendance criteria that determines RO eligibility. For example, when Federal Way opens its new Events and Performing Arts Center, it could be eligible for Regional funding with a fewer than three year operating history if it hits Regional revenue and attendance goals.

5. How will areas of the county not currently home to a Regional Cultural Organization or comparatively under-served by Community-Based Cultural Organizations, including small cities and rural areas without cultural programs, be served through the Access for All Program?

Regional Organizations will be required to use AFA funds to take programs to areas of the county not served by a Regional organization. For example, several years ago, as part of the King County Performance Network, Seattle Symphony played a concert the high school in Duvall. While Regional Organizations will also provide free and reduced price tickets at their own venues, they will also commit to taking programs to communities throughout the county so residents can experience arts, heritage and science programs at schools, libraries, and community centers in their neighborhoods.

6. During the March 15 RPC briefing, Jim Kelly stated that Community-Based Cultural Organizations would receive 15 percent of their operating budget as an initial allocation and “equity incentive” of an additional 15 percent if they serve Communities of Opportunity, as defined elsewhere by King County. How are each of these allocations built into the proposed ordinance?

Mr. Kelly stated that there were sufficient funds in the CBO pool for each eligible CBO to receive 15% of their annual revenues, but actual awards will be based on the applicant pool and the availability of funds, which are expected to fluctuate yearly. The additional funding for organizations serving communities of opportunity is described in the ordinance.

7. What involvement and engagement has there been with schools to ensure that the funds in the Public School Access Program will be able to be well-utilized by school districts?

a. How will the program account for differing needs and differing existing resources of school districts?

In designing the program, 4Culture engaged school district superintendents, principals, teachers and arts education directors from arts organizations. From these convenings, we’ve learned that only a few school districts have arts, science and heritage plans. Only a few have district arts coordinators. AFA funds will be used to help districts develop cultural education plans and hire arts coordinators. 4Culture recognizes that not all school districts are beginning at the same place and is willing and eager to work with each district to develop a program that works for it.
8. How is student transportation anticipated to be provided under the Public School Access Program? Is this funding anticipated to be utilized solely for Metro service or will funding also be available for district-provided transportation?

Based on current research, 4Culture believes there are several possible options to procure transportation. For example, Metro, yellow school buses and charters or some combination thereof are possible options. AfA will pay the costs of transportation. If the measure is adopted, the proposed Implementation Plan will provide for a specific recommendation. The method of transportation may vary from school to school.

9. How are ORCA LIFT passes proposed to be used for gaining access to discounted or free admission to cultural activities? Have impacts to those people/geographic areas not well served by Metro, and with lower participation in the ORCA LIFT program, been considered?

The ORCA LIFT passes are only one component of a broader access program. Using this existing identification document is simple to administer and easily tracked and will provide LIFT holders with a benefit of significantly reduced/free admission to many cultural activities. It does NOT serve communities with limited access to transportation and will not be the sole strategy deployed to ensure access across the entire county.

10. How does the proposed Cultural Access sales tax relate to other community priorities and anticipated upcoming ballot measures, such as the Veterans and Human Services Levy renewal and a potential affordable housing sales tax? Can the community prioritize funding for cultural programs at a time when housing and other basic needs are not being met?

Our county has a great many priorities and does not have the luxury of prioritizing just one. King County is committed to expanding the current work being done to address housing and other basic needs and Access for All will address equity and social justice issues in a variety of ways. It will provide opportunities for the 285,000 schoolchildren of the county – particularly those who are low income – to access arts, science and heritage through the Public School Access Program. Access will also ensure no one should be precluded from participating in arts, science and heritage because of geography or income and this measure ensures those barriers will be overcome. Access will also direct funds to community based organizations that have been historically underfunded and will help to build more arts, science and heritage programs in areas that traditionally lack these programs and to make the kinds of investment in our communities and neighborhoods that improve overall quality of life.
ATTACHMENT 1: Access for All Oversight Provisions

RCW 36.160.100 - Public school cultural access program.
(2) To the extent practicable consistent with available resources, the public school cultural access element of a program of a county described in RCW 36.160.110(2) must include the following attributes: ...  
2 (e) Preparation of an annual public school cultural access plan for review and adoption prior to implementation; and  
2 (f) Compilation of an annual report documenting the reach and evaluating the effectiveness of program-funded public school cultural access efforts, including information about the numbers and types of students who participated in the program and recommendations to the county for improvements.

RCW 36.160.110 - Use of funds—Allocation.
2 (g) Prior to December 31st of each year, each regional cultural organization receiving funds authorized under this chapter pursuant to a program allocation formula must provide a report to the program, including:  
2 (i) A preview of the public benefits the organization plans to provide or continue to provide in the following year;  
2 (ii) A preview of the organization's public school cultural access program participation in the following year; and  
2 (iii) A report on public benefits it provided, and its participation in the public school cultural access program, during the current year;

RCW 36.160.060 - Cultural access program—Advisory councils.
Each county creating a program under this chapter may establish an advisory council, the membership of which must include citizen representatives of constituencies and organizations with interests relevant to the work of the program including, but not limited to, leaders in the business, educational, and cultural communities. ...

2017-0104, Version 1, Section 3 (B)(3)  
4Culture shall develop and maintain guidelines and eligibility and reporting requirements for all organizations that are provided moneys through the program consistent with chapter 36.160 RCW and this ordinance that govern the administration of the program. The guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, guidelines to help ensure that the organizations provide or continue to provide discernible public benefits. Program grant agreements shall require, among other things, that no person in the county shall, on the basis of basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, gender, parental status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, use of service or assistive animal, language, economic status, or geography, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Access for All financial support.

2017-0104, Version 1, Section 3 (B)(5)  
4Culture shall report the status of the program to the county executive annually. By March 31, 2018, and for each subsequent year that the program is funded, the executive must file the report in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff to the budget and fiscal management committee or its successor.
2017-0104, Version 1, Section 3 (B)(6)
The 4Culture board of directors shall serve as the Access for All program advisory board.

[Note: Members of the 4Culture Board of Directors are nominated by the King County Executive and confirmed by the King County Council; the 4Culture Board is composed of citizen representatives as described in the statute.]

2017-0104, Version 1, Section 9
... The implementation plan shall include the following:

(A)(3) The regional cultural organization access program description shall include: ...

(d) a description of the process and reports for determining the baseline standard of continuous performance of public benefits provided, a description of guidelines for establishing the minimum level of equity and inclusion public benefits a regional cultural organization must provide to be eligible for funding under the program and descriptions of the discernible equity and inclusion public benefits and general public benefits consistent with RCW 36.160.090;

(e) a public benefit reporting framework for regional organizations that includes standards for reports describing the organization's success in providing discernable equity and inclusion public benefits that resulted in progress towards achievement of equity and inclusion outcomes and general public benefits as anticipated in the organization's prior report and a preview of the equity and inclusion public benefits, expected equity and inclusion outcomes and general public benefits the organization plans to provide in the coming year;

(f) a public school access reporting framework for regional cultural organizations to use in describing their participation in the public school educational activities as anticipated in the organization's prior report and a preview of the public school educational programs they intend to provide in the coming year;

(h) a description of procedures to distribute funds annually and contracting and payment process and procedures for assuring transparency, accountability, and compliance in administering the funds, all consistent with chapter 36.160 RCW.

(A)(4) The community-based organization access program description shall include: ...

(c) procedures for conducting competitive processes for supporting community-based organizations' operations, projects, capital and equipment programs and initiatives, and procedures for assuring transparency, accountability and compliance, all consistent with chapter 36.160 RCW;

(d) a description of the community-based organization access program's countywide technical assistance and communications plan to promote broad participation by community-based cultural organizations;
(e) descriptions of the community-based organization access annual application, panel and approval process for awarding annual or multiyear grants; the program will design the process to minimize the burden it places on applicant community-based organizations and will work to improve that process continuously from year to year;

(f) description of contract and payment process for community-based cultural organization grants;

(D) The establishment of a 4Culture advisory committee whose purpose is to advise, monitor, and provide oversights for achieving the equity and inclusion outcomes associated with the program; and

(E) A proposed annual reporting framework between 4Culture and the county that includes:

- a fiscal report of the distribution of funds, a performance report on each funded regional cultural organization's success in providing discernable public benefits as anticipated in the organization's prior annual report,
- a report on the preview of the public benefits each funded regional cultural organization's plan to provide in the coming year,
- a performance report of each funded regional cultural organization's participation in the public school cultural access program as anticipated in the organization's prior annual report and a preview of each funded regional cultural organization's planned participation in the public school cultural access program in the coming year,
- a performance report on each funded community-based cultural organization's discernable public benefits,
- and a management report identifying any proposed changes to the program panel process, eligibility guidelines, or reporting requirements.
ATTACHMENT 2: Known Regional Cultural Organizations

- Woodland Park Zoo
- Pacific Science Center
- Seattle Theatre Group
- Seattle Art Museum
- MoPOP (EMP Museum)
- Seattle Aquarium Society
- Seattle Symphony Orchestra
- Museum of Flight
- 5th Avenue Theatre Association
- Pacific Northwest Ballet
- Seattle Center Foundation
- Seattle International Film Festival
- Village Theatre
- Seattle Opera
- Northwest Folklife
- KidsQuest Children’s Museum
- Seattle Repertory Theatre
- A Contemporary Theatre (ACT)
- Museum of History and Industry
- Taproot Theatre Company
- Seattle Children’s Museum
- Seattle Children’s Theatre
- Northwest Railway Museum
- Frye Art Museum
- Town Hall Association
- Friends of KEXP
- Bellevue Arts Museum
- Book-It Repertory Theatre
- Studio East Training for the Performing Arts
- Nordic Heritage Museum
- Henry Art Gallery Association
- Seattle Shakespeare Company
- Historic Seattle
Item 10: Regional Centers

DISCUSSION

Staff Contact
Brian Parry, Senior Policy Analyst, 206-499-4159, brian@soundcities.org

SCA Appointees to PSRC Growth Management Policy Board
Chair Hank Margeson, Redmond Councilmember; Vice-chair John Holman, Auburn Councilmember; Jay Arnold, Kirkland Deputy Mayor; Allan Ekberg, Tukwila Mayor; Ken Hearing, North Bend Mayor; Paul Winterstein, Issaquah Councilmember

Additional SCA Member City Appointments to PSRC Growth Management Policy Board
Deputy Mayor John Chelminiak, Bellevue

Discussion

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) is in the process of considering options to update the region’s approach to planning for growth in designated centers. These potential policy changes are important to SCA members as they define criteria for designating population and job growth centers at the regional and countywide level, which guides how PSRC-managed transportation investments are prioritized.

Members of the SCA GMPB caucus would like feedback on the options under consideration and assistance identifying questions important to SCA member cities that should be resolved before any final recommendations are made.

A stakeholder working group final report was issued in February and outlines several options that will guide policy discussions by the GMPB. The GMPB is expected to finalize its recommendation in November. That recommendation will then go to the PSRC Executive Board for final approval.

Background
PSRC is considering changes to the designation criteria for both regional and countywide centers that will help define expectations for current and future urban growth, and guide how regional transportation investments are prioritized.¹

¹ Vision 2040 defines “centers” as “A defined focal area within a city or community that has a mix of housing, employment, retail and entertainment uses. It is pedestrian-oriented, which allows people to walk to different...
As a part of this effort, a stakeholder working group was formed to develop a series of policy options that were released in a final report in February. The working group report offers several alternatives that would: update the requirements for designating Regional Growth Centers and Regional Manufacturing/Industrial Centers; recognize military installations in regional planning and funding competitions; and, establish consistent criteria throughout the region for local designation of countywide centers.

PIC was briefed on the centers update process on February 8, and a centers pre-PIC workshop was held on March 8. Additional information can be found in the Regional Centers staff report in the February 8, 2017 PIC Packet.

These potential policy changes are important to SCA members as they affect planning expectations across the region, may require updates to centers plans at the local level, and are expected to guide how PSRC-managed transportation investments are prioritized.

Vision 2040 expects that all local jurisdictions will plan for mixed-use centers of different sizes and scales throughout the region. Since 2002, the adopted policy focus for PSRC’s federal funds has been to support the development of these centers and the corridors that connect them. This is accomplished through the distribution of funds managed by PSRC through the Regional Competition and countywide competitions in each of the four member counties. As a result, the centers framework serves as a principle tool for the region to collectively plan for efficient use of transportation resources and to leverage those funds to encourage desired growth outcomes in centers throughout the region.

PSRC first designated Regional Growth Centers in 1995 and designated Manufacturing/Industrial centers in 2002, prior to establishing formal, consistent criteria. Designation procedures for new regional centers were first adopted in 2003 and updated in 2011. At the countywide level, criteria for designating local centers vary significantly across the four-county region, which may result in inconsistent access to PSRC funds.

Recent center designation proposals have raised several big picture questions about environmental impacts, transit access, how many centers the region needs, overall distribution of centers in the region, and the goals of Vision 2040. The update project offers an opportunity to review how centers are functioning now, and provide guidance on these larger questions moving forward.

destinations or attractions. Regional centers are formally designated by the Puget Sound Regional Council.” Countywide or subregional centers refer to central places not currently designated at the regional level. These include countywide centers identified in countywide planning processes, local centers identified in local comprehensive plans, and other central places that have been the subject of planning and investment and/or have experienced significant population and/or employment growth. (PSRC Regional Centers Framework Update Project, Background and Findings, 2016)
**Working Group Options**

Options under consideration to update the centers policies can be separated into four primary categories:

I. Regional Growth Centers  
II. Countywide Growth Centers  
III. Manufacturing/Industrial Centers  
IV. Military Installations

**I. Regional Growth Centers**

The working group report recommends two alternatives (below) to update criteria affecting Regional Growth Centers. Both of these alternatives clarify minimum criteria for designation as a regional center and establish “tiers” for centers based on existing and planned population and economic activity.

The current centers framework only formally recognizes one scale of Regional Growth Center. The working group was tasked with exploring alternatives to recognize Regional Growth Centers that serve different geographic scales to provide a framework for regional transportation investments that address the different needs of these different types of centers.

SCA members have raised several policy questions about the working group proposal, including:

- How should any changes impact existing centers that do not meet the new minimum criteria for regional center designation? When the current designation criteria for new centers were adopted in 2011, existing centers were not required to update their plans or otherwise come into consistency with the new criteria. The working group recommends that all centers be re-evaluated in 2018-2020 as part of the update to Vision 2040, and that some flexibility be given when evaluating existing centers that are close to meeting the existing conditions criteria. In addition, they recommend that a grace period be granted for existing centers to come into compliance with the new criteria.

- Will having tiers focus regional investment at the top, or will the tiers provide the region with a framework to better support the unique needs of different scales of centers? The working group recommends updating the Policy Framework for Federal Funds to reflect updated tiers in the centers framework, but provides no specific guidance as to how this should occur. The PSRC Transportation Policy Board is scheduled to review the funding framework and regional support for centers in 2018-2019.

**Regional Growth Center Alternatives**

The working group recommendations include updated minimum criteria for all regional centers, and two alternative methods to recognize different scales of centers.

**Minimum Eligibility:**

- Documentation of local commitment to center growth, including local infrastructure investments, completion of a center plan, and environmental review
Located within a city with limited exceptions for planned annexation or incorporation
Existing conditions include sufficient infrastructure, a mix of uses, and support walkability
Evidence of market potential to support planning target

**Alternative A:**
Would establish two tiers based primarily on employment, population, size, and transit service. In general, this approach builds off of the existing minimum criteria for center designation and adds another tier for centers with especially dense existing jobs and housing that serve a primarily regional role. This Alternative is presented as a checklist requiring each of the criteria to be met in order to qualify as a Regional Growth Center.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier 1</th>
<th>Tier 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New tier with higher population and employment than the current criteria</td>
<td>Population and employment consistent with current criteria for regional center designation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing or planned light rail, commuter rail, ferry, or other high capacity transit (defined as frequent all day service OR high-capacity, which includes ferry, commuter rail, regional bus, or BRT)</td>
<td>Existing or planned fixed route bus, regional bus, BRT, other frequent all day service, or high-capacity transit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size: 320-640 acres unless internally served by high capacity transit</td>
<td>Size: 200-640 acres unless internally served by high capacity transit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Alternative B:**
Would establish three tiers of Regional Growth Centers based first on levels of transit service. Those tiers are further defined through a “menu” approach that applies a numerical score based on employment, population, location, and market conditions. The primary difference from Alternative A is that an area need not meet all of the criteria if enough of them are met to accumulate the required “score” to qualify. As such, Alternative B is more open-ended than Alternative A, and could lead to a larger number of areas eligible to qualify as centers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier 1</th>
<th>Tier 2</th>
<th>Tier 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Served by high-capacity transit</td>
<td>Served or planning to be served by high-capacity transit</td>
<td>Served by local or express bus transit and likely have more modest existing or planned growth potential that may fall below the levels required in the current criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher existing and planned population and employment than the current criteria</td>
<td>Existing and planned population and employment consistent with current criteria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. Countywide Growth Centers

Vision 2040 calls for the development of a common framework for local and countywide processes to designate subregional centers to ensure compatibility in the region.

The working group report proposal would establish minimum criteria for each county to designate a variety of types of centers that do not meet the criteria for designation as a Regional Growth Center. These centers would be a priority for countywide investment. King County does not currently have criteria for establishing subregional or countywide centers in its Countywide Planning Policies, though local centers are expected to be identified in local comprehensive plans as locations for future growth. Kitsap and Pierce Counties have narrative descriptions of the role of local centers and a formal designation process. Snohomish County has no specified criteria or process to designate local centers.

**Minimum Eligibility:**

- Identification of the center in local planning and investment in supporting infrastructure
- A mix of uses and minimum of 10 activity units per acre (combined jobs and housing)
- Support for multi-modal transportation

III. Manufacturing/Industrial Centers

Vision 2040 calls for maintaining and supporting Regional Manufacturing/Industrial Centers (MIC’s) to accommodate manufacturing, industrial, or advanced technology uses. Under the current designation process, among other criteria, a proposed MIC must have minimum existing employment of 10,000 jobs and a target of 20,000 jobs before regional designation can be pursued. The working group options include a proposal to create a higher tier for regional designation as well as options to reduce required job totals to encourage protection of industrial lands for future employment.

The working group report recommends three alternatives to update criteria affecting MIC’s. Similar to Regional Growth Centers, the three alternatives provide for “tiers” of MIC’s, all sharing the same minimum criteria.

**Minimum Eligibility:**

- Local prioritization, including infrastructure investment, identification as a MIC in local comprehensive plans and countywide planning policies, and completion of a center plan
- Location within cities with few exceptions
- Environmental review
- Transportation and utilities infrastructure to support growth
- Documentation of economic impact
Alternative A
Creates two regional tiers:
Tier 1 requires 20,000 existing jobs and 50,000 planned.
Tier 2 requires 10,000 existing jobs and 20,000 planned.
Also creates a third county-level tier that requires either 7,000 jobs or a minimum of 2,000 acres.

Alternative B
Creates two regional tiers:
Tier 1 requires 10,000 existing jobs and 20,000 planned.
Tier 2 requires a minimum of 2,000 acres preserved for industrial use.

Alternative B2
Creates two options:
Regional Employment Centers require 10,000 existing jobs and 20,000 planned.
Regional Industrial Lands requires a minimum of 2,000 acres.

The working group produced several alternatives to recognize military installations within the framework of regional centers. Under these proposals, military installation jobs and housing could be used in conjunction with an adjacent jurisdiction to meet regional center thresholds. No King County facilities are directly affected by the recommendations, but the addition of military installations in the Regional Competition for funding could have downstream impacts on project selection at the regional level.

Next Steps
The GMPB will be holding in-depth work sessions over the next several months to review centers criteria within the regional policy framework. The current schedule is for the GMPB to present a final recommendation to the Executive Board for final approval in November 2017.

Members of the SCA GMPB caucus would like feedback on the options under consideration and assistance identifying questions important to SCA member cities that should be resolved before any final recommendations are made.

SCA staff will continue to update PIC on a regular basis. Members with questions or comments about the centers policy framework update are encouraged to contact SCA Senior Policy Analyst Brian Parry at 206-499-4159 or brian@soundcities.org.
Item 11: 2017 State Legislative Session

UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact
Ellie Wilson-Jones, Senior Policy Analyst, ellie@soundcities.org, (206) 495-5238

SCA Legislative Committee Members
SCA President and Kenmore Mayor David Baker (Chair); Councilmember Bill Allison, Maple Valley; Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific; Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall; Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park

Update
The regular 105-day legislative session ended April 23. Before adjourning, legislators passed an $8.5 billion 2017-19 transportation budget, reforms to the Public Records Act, and several public safety bills, among other legislation. But, with legislators yet to agree on two-year operating and capital budgets and a deal to fund K-12 education, the Governor called lawmakers back for a 30-day special session on April 24.

SCA’s 2017 legislative priorities—adjusting the property tax cap, investing in public health services, and addressing the housing and homelessness crisis—remain unresolved, with key asks tied up in broader budget negotiations that some anticipate will last into June. The Legislature must have a new operating budget in place by July 1, 2017 to avert a government shutdown.

Background
At the recommendation of the SCA Legislative Committee and the PIC, the SCA Board of Directors adopted an SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda in October 2016 (Attachment A). The Legislature convened its 105-day budget-writing session January 9, 2017. PIC members were briefed at the January, February, and March PIC meetings on the Legislature’s progress toward completing budgets for the next biennium and related to SCA’s three legislative priorities—adjusting the property tax cap, investing in public health services, and addressing the housing and homelessness crisis. Members also discussed other individual member city priorities, such as updating the public records act (see January PIC Packet, page 39, and January Meeting Minutes, page 4; February PIC Packet, page 45, and February Meeting Minutes, page 10; and March PIC Packet, page 59, and draft March Meeting Minutes, page 12).

2017 Regular Legislative Session Recap and Special Session Outlook
The Legislature closed its 105-day regular legislative session April 23 having approved a 2017-19 transportation budget, public records act reforms, and several significant public safety bills. The Legislature adjourned, however, without passing operating and capital budgets for the biennium that begins July 1, 2017 or reaching a deal on K-12 education funding, as is needed to
comply with the state Supreme Court’s *McCleary* decision. Work to address SCA’s legislative priorities—the property tax cap, public health funding, and housing affordability and homelessness—also remained unfinished, with negotiations on each of these areas anticipated to be tied to final budget negotiations. Resolution has also not yet been reached as to whether and how legislators will seek to address concerns raised regarding the formula used for Sound Transit motor vehicle excise tax (MVET) calculations.

Governor Inslee called a 30-day special session on April 24 for legislators to complete their work, and additional special sessions are likely to be necessary. A new operating budget must be in place by July 1 to avert a government shutdown. A summary of relevant work completed by the Legislature and work remaining follows.

**Work Completed**

*Public Records Act Updates*

AWC’s priority public records bills, [HB 1594](#) and [HB 1595](#), have passed out of the Legislature and have been delivered to the Governor for signature. An AWC summary of each bill follows.

HB 1595 was modified slightly in the Senate, but remains mostly unchanged from the version that originally passed the House. The bill does the following:

- Amends the Public Records Act to allow cities to charge a small fee for providing copies of electronic records. A city may establish different fees by conducting its own cost study but the default charges in the bill are as follows:
  - 10 cents per scanned page
  - 5 cents per four files or attachments
  - 10 cents per gigabyte
  - These charges may be applied cumulatively
  - Allows an agency to charge a flat fee of $2 for providing copies when the estimated costs are expected to be $2 or more
- Creates the ability for cities to deny overwhelming computer generated “bot” requests
- Prohibits overly broad requests for all of a city’s records
- Creates a way for cities to apply a service charge to exceptionally complex requests

HB 1594 was amended more significantly by the Senate and includes the following:

- Requires training for records officers to address issues of retention, production, and disclosure of electronic records
- Creates a grant program within the Office of the Secretary of State for local governments to improve their public record management systems
- Establishes a program within the Office of the Attorney General and the State Archives to consult with local governments on public records best practices
- Provides for a $1 document recording fee to fund the consultation and grant programs
- The funding and the programs will sunset in 2020
- Updates the process for asking a requestor to clarify a request
- Requires agencies to maintain a log of each records request
• Requires agencies with actual budgeted public records costs over $100,000 to report certain performance measurements to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee

Transportation Budget
As noted above, the Legislature passed SB 5096, the 2017-19 transportation budget during regular session. The $8.5 billion transportation budget, which now awaits the Governor’s signature, focuses largely on projects previously agreed to under the 2015 Connecting Washington package, with a handful of additional smaller scale projects. Local investments include funding to expedite work at the I-90 and SR 18 interchange, at SR 520 and 148th Avenue NE, and for the SR 167 and SR 509 Gateway project. Also included is $60 million for the Alaskan Way Viaduct tunnel project and $12.5 for related transit mitigation. For I-405, the budget includes $2 million for northbound shoulder improvements between SR 527 and I-5, $1.5 million for preliminary engineering and planning for other improvements between SR 522 and I-5, and funding for a study to evaluate toll lane data. Additional details about the transportation budget are available from AWC here.

Public Safety
Distracted Driving: SB 5289, which awaits the Governor’s signature, updates and replaces current laws prohibiting the use of hand-held cell phones and texting while driving with stricter regulations on the use of personal electronic devices.

Felony DUI: Under SB 5037, which awaits the Governor’s signature, a person may be charged with felony DUI after three prior offenses rather than four within the last 10 years.

Human Trafficking: The Governor is scheduled to sign three bills related to trafficking May 5. SHB 1079 establishes a special no-contact order for trafficking victims. SB 5030 extends the statute of limitations for prosecuting trafficking crimes. SHB 1184 provides local agencies better tools to prosecute patronizing a prostitute crimes. A fourth bill, SSB 5272, has already been signed by the Governor and will enable people to vacate previous offenses demonstrated to be a result of being a trafficking victim.

Work Remaining
Budget Negotiations
The Democratic-controlled House and Republican-controlled Senate passed competing operating budget proposals in late March, but budget negotiations are yet to move forward in earnest. The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) has analyzed the impact of the House and Senate budget proposals on key city priorities and developed a detailed comparison matrix and has also produced a one-pager summarizing AWC positions on various aspects of the two budget proposals.

Adjusting the Property Tax Cap
The House budget assumes passage of HB 1764, which would change the state and local property tax levy limit from one percent to a new limit based on inflation and population, as is called for under the SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda. HB 1764 was passed out of the House Finance Committee May 10, 2017
Committee but remains in the House. Negotiations on HB 1764 will be tied to a broader budget deal.

**Investing in Public Health Services**

**Budget:** Public health advocates entered the session seeking a $60 million increase in public health funding, with—as echoed in the SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda—$54 million going to support local public health jurisdictions. The House budget proposed a $40 million increase (including about $10 million for King County). The Senate budget would provide no increase and would eliminate all public health funding for any county within which a supervised consumption site (aka Community Health Engagement Location, or CHEL) is located.

**Policy Bill:** HB 1432 is the policy legislation that accompanies the public health funding ask. The bill passed out of the House 86-12, but failed to advance from the Senate Ways and Means Committee during the regular session.

**Addressing the Housing and Homelessness Crisis**

**Document Recording Fee:** SB 1570 would expand and make permanent the Document Recording Fee, the most significant source of state funding for homelessness programs. The Washington Low Income Housing Alliance has organized a community statement of support for the legislation (Attachment B), which remains in the House. Among the 270 organizations that have signed on so far are SCA, AWC, and the cities of Auburn, Bellevue, Black Diamond, Burien, Federal Way, Issaquah, Kenmore, Mercer Island, Milton, Redmond, Shoreline, and Tukwila. Sen. Joe Fain’s omnibus bill SB 5254, which would make changes to buildable lands, zoning in urban growth areas, affordable housing, and homelessness would extend but not expand or make permanent the document recording fee. Negotiations on these competing House and Senate proposals are ongoing and will likely be tied to any final budget compromise.

**Housing Trust Fund:** SCA and others entered the legislative session advocating for a $200 million investment in the Housing Trust Fund. The Senate Capital Budget included nearly $99 million, and the House included $106.4 million. Housing advocates will be pushing for funding at the House level in the final negotiated budget.

**Local Options:** HB 1797 is Rep. Joan McBride’s bill to provide a suite of new local revenue options to address affordable housing and homelessness at the local level. The bill remains in the House and negotiations are anticipated to proceed into the special session.

**Sound Transit**

The House and Senate each passed bills during the regular session responding to concerns about the formula used for Sound Transit motor vehicle excise tax (MVET) calculations. The Senate passed SB 5893, which would tie a vehicle’s value to the lower of the Kelly Bluebook or National Automobile Dealers Associations formula for the purpose of calculating MVET, not the higher value currently used by Sound Transit, and would cap MVET at 0.5 percent of a vehicle’s value (down from 1.1 percent).

The House passed HB 2201, which would change the applicable valuation formula and require credits to vehicle owners. The bill requires that that cuts necessitated by the changes be first
made to parking facility projects, then commuter rail projects, then transit-bus related projects, and finally, light rail projects.

Negotiations related to the MVET issue are anticipated to continue into the special session, but the Senate’s proposed cut in the MVET rate is not expected to receive House support. Additional Sound Transit related bills introduced during the regular session are summarized by AWC [here](#).

**Next Steps**

With operating and capital budgets yet to move forward and a school funding fix still to be negotiated, there is speculation that the Legislature could continue budget negotiations into late June. A new operating budget must be in place by July 1 to avert a government shutdown. SCA staff will continue to provide updates to the PIC and alert members about advocacy opportunities in support of the SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda.

**Attachments**

A. [SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda](#)
B. [SHB 1570 Community Statement of Support](#)
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.

**SCA 2017 Legislative Agenda**

**Adjust the Property Tax Cap**
Property tax is the largest revenue source for Washington’s cities, supporting critical services such as justice, health, and safety. Property taxes are capped at a level that creates an ever-widening gap between the cost of providing public services to a growing population and the revenue available to pay for them. A new property tax limit should correspond to what it actually costs local governments to continue providing services, and keep up with increased public demand.

- The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to give local governments the option to replace the arbitrary annual 1% cap on property tax revenues with a growth limit whose maximum is inflation plus the rate of population growth.

**Invest in Public Health Services**
Protect our communities by investing in core public health services. The 40% per capita decrease in public health funding since 1999 is reaching crisis levels across the state. The funding shortfall has left Public Health—Seattle & King County unable to fully investigate disease outbreaks. The Washington State Department of Health is requesting $54 million for local public health jurisdictions to fill critical gaps in disease prevention and response, and to pilot shared services to improve the efficiency of the overall system.

- The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to fund basic public health by investing $54 million in core public health services.

**Address the Housing and Homelessness Crisis**
Our communities face an affordable housing and homelessness crisis. Over 4,500 people are surviving unsheltered on any given night in King County, and others, including older adults and moderate and low-wage workers of all ages, are struggling to find affordable, quality housing in our region. Partnerships between state and local governments are critical to create new units of affordable housing. Renewed state commitments to help Washingtonians transition out of homelessness are necessary, as are expanded investments to address behavioral health needs and other root causes of homelessness.

- The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to partner with us to address homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing in the following ways:
  - Expand and make permanent the Document Recording Fee
  - Invest $200 million in the Housing Trust Fund
  - Allow local governments to create and preserve affordable housing through a Preservation Tax Exemption and other optional local tools
- The Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to address other underlying causes of homelessness by making investments in our state’s behavioral health system and enacting legislation to prohibit Source of Income Discrimination.
SHB 1570 Community Statement of Support

April 2017

We, the undersigned organizations representing a broad range of homelessness, housing, real estate, landlord, local government, community, business, social service, legal, faith, social justice, labor, and health care interests, have come together in strong support of SHB 1570.

Homelessness is an emergency in rural, urban, and suburban communities across Washington. Nearly 21,000 people were counted as homeless during the 2016 point in time count, and people of color, people with disabilities, people fleeing domestic violence, people who are LGBTQ, and youth who are exiting public systems are experiencing homelessness at disproportionate rates.

Washington’s investments in homelessness are working. Homelessness has decreased in Washington by 17.7% since 2005 despite the impact of the Great Recession, and despite recent increases in the drivers of homelessness, such as rapidly increasing rental rates, persistent high rates of poverty, and a significant shortage of affordable housing.

SHB 1570 proposes effective solutions that are responsive to the need in our state while also ensuring accountability. SHB 1570 prevents the elimination of over 60% of our state’s homelessness resources, which would cause 34,000 additional people to experience homelessness between 2019 and 2021 alone. SHB 1570 also allows counties to increase the Homelessness and Housing Assistance surcharge by up to $50, increasing local resources needed to bring effective services and housing assistance to scale in order to move more people inside, more quickly.

All people in Washington deserve access to a safe, healthy, and affordable home. We urge the legislature to prioritize our state’s homelessness emergency by passing SHB 1570 this year.

A Bridge Forward
A Way Home Washington
A&B Advocates
Affordable Housing Advisory Board (AHAB)
Alchemy Skateboarding
All Home
All Saints Community Services
Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition
APOYO Food Bank
Arc of King County
Arc of Snohomish County
Arc of Washington State
ARNPs United of Washington
Associated Ministries of Tacoma-Pierce County
Association of Washington Cities
Association of Washington Housing Authorities
Awareness and Prevention Through Art
Beacon Development Group
Bellwether Housing
Bremerton Housing Authority
Building Changes
Campion Advocacy Fund
Capitol Hill Community Council
Capitol Hill Housing
Capitol Hill Housing Foundation
Catherine Place
Catholic Charities Housing Services
Catholic Charities Spokane
Catholic Community Services of Western Washington
Catholic Community Services of Western Washington - NW
Center for Justice
Chief Seattle Club
Children's Alliance
Church Council of Greater Seattle
City of Auburn
City of Bellevue
City of Black Diamond
City of Burien
City of Everett
City of Federal Way
City of Fife
City of Issaquah
City of Kenmore
City of Lake Stevens
City of Mercer Island
City of Milton
City of Puyallup
City of Redmond
City of Seattle
City of Shoreline
City of Tukwila
City of Walla Walla
Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program
Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence
Cocoon House
Columbia Legal Services
Commonwealth Agency
Community Action Center, Whitman County
Community Action of Skagit County
Community Frameworks
Community Housing Resource Center
Community Psychiatric Clinic
Community Youth Services
Compass Health
Compass Housing Alliance
Compassion House
Congregation Beth Shalom, Seattle
Congregations for the Homeless
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council for the Homeless, Clark County
Council on American-Islamic Relations of Washington State
Crossroads Housing (formerly Mason County Shelter)
CUE Services, LLC
DESC (Downtown Emergency Service Center)
Disability Rights Washington
Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County
Eastside Human Services Forum
Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council
Edmonds Housing Instability Coalition
Edmonds Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Emergency Support Shelter
Enterprise Community Partners
Faith Action Network
Faith Lutheran Church
Fauntleroy United Church of Christ
Ferndale Food Bank - Board Member and Volunteer
Foothills Food Bank
Foundation for Healthy Generations
Friends of Youth
Futurewise
Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare
Haller Lake United Methodist Church
Healthy Living Collaborative of Southwest Washington
Hilltop Artists
Homeless Rights Advocacy Project (HRAP)
Homes First
HomeSight
Homestead Community Land Trust
Hope On the Street
Hopelink
Housing Authority of Island County
Housing Authority of Snohomish County
Housing Authority of Thurston County
Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County
Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County
Housing Hope
Housing Hope Properties
Housing Opportunities of SW Washington
Imagine Housing
Impact Capital
Impact NW
Interfaith Association of Northwest Washington
Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness
Issaquah Sammamish Interfaith Coalition
Janus Youth Programs
Jewish Family Service
Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle
Key Property Services, Inc.
King County
King County Housing Authority
Korean Women's Association
Lake City Christian Church
Lake City Taskforce on Homelessness
LASA
League of Women Voters
League of Women Voters of Whidbey Island
Legal Voice
Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children
Lopez Community Land Trust
Low Income Housing Institute
Mason County Democrats
Mercy Housing Northwest
Multi-Service Center
NAMI Pierce County
National Alliance on Mental Illness, NAMI Washington
National Association of Social Workers, Washington Chapter
NAWDIM (Native American Women’s Dialog on Infant Mortality)
NeighborWorks of Grays Harbor County
New Connections
Nexus Youth and Families (formerly Auburn Youth Resources)
North Whidbey Help House
Northwest Harvest
Northwest Health Law Advocates
Ocean Park Food Bank
Okanogan County Community Action Council
Olympic Community Action Programs
OneAmerica
OPAL Community Land Trust
Opportunity Council
Outsiders Inn
Partner Cafe: Bridging the Gap Across Sectors
Partners for Our Children
Partnerships for Action, Voices for Empowerment (PAVE)
Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets
Peace Lutheran Church, Seattle
Phoenix Recovery Services, LLC
Pierce County Human Services Coalition
Pierce County Labor Community Services Agency
Plymouth Housing Group
Pride Foundation
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA)
Puget Sound Labor Agency
REACH Community Development
REACH Program, Evergreen Treatment Services
Real Change
Ryan's House For Youth
SafePlace
San Juan Community Home Trust
Sand Point United Methodist Church
SeaChange Psychotherapy Services
Seattle Housing Authority
Seattle Human Services Coalition
Seattle Indian Health Board
Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
Seattle/King County Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Second Step Housing
SEIU Healthcare 1199NW
Self Advocates in Leadership (SAIL)
Senior Center of West Seattle
Senior Services Shared Housing Program
Shalom Ministries
Share, Vancouver
Shared Housing Services
Shelter Resources Inc.
SideWalk Homeless Advocacy Center
Skagit County
Skagit Valley Hospitality House Association and Friendship House
Snohomish County
Solid Ground
Somali Youth and Family Club
Sound Cities Association
South Sound 2-1-1
SPIN Cafe
Spokane Housing Ventures
Spokane Indian Housing Authority
Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium
Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners
Sravasti Abbey
Statewide Poverty Action Network
Sunrise Outreach Center
Tacoma Housing Authority
Tacoma Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
TeamChild
Tenants Union of Washington
The Arc of King County
The CoHo Team of Windermere Agents
The Leadership Group of the Ballard Community Taskforce on Homelessness and Hunger
The Mockingbird Society
The REACH Center
The Salvation Army, Tacoma/Pierce County
Toppenish Community Chest
Transform Yakima Together
Transitions
Triumph Treatment Services
United Good Neighbors of Jefferson County
United Way of Island County
United Way of King County
United Way of Kitsap County
United Way of Skagit County
United Way of Snohomish County
United Way of Thurston County
United Ways of the Pacific Northwest
Vadis
Walla Walla Housing Authority
Washington State Council of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
Washington Association for Children and Families
Washington Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy
Washington Community Action Partnership
Washington Community Reinvestment Association
Washington Council for Behavioral Health
Washington Food Coalition
Washington Gorge Action Programs
Washington Home Of Your Own
Washington Housing Alliance Action Fund
Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
Washington State Association of Counties
Washington State Budget and Policy Center
Washington State Catholic Conference
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Washington State Community Action Partnership
Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council
Washington State Housing Finance Commission
Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Washington State Parent Ally Committee
Washington State Psychological Association
Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby
Washington Student Association
Wellspring Family Services
West Seattle Helpline
Westside Interfaith Network, Seattle
Whatcom County Coalition to End Homelessness
Whidbey Homeless Coalition
WIN
Women's Resource Center of North Central Washington
WORLDBRIDGERS
Yakima Housing Authority
Yakima Neighborhood Health Services
YMCA Oasis Teen Shelter and Daylight Center
YMCA of Greater Seattle
Youth Development Executives of King County
YouthCare
YWCA Seattle|King|Snohomish
YWCA, Clark County
YWCA, Olympia
YWCA, Pierce County
YWCA, Spokane
YWCA, Walla Walla
Item 12: Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact
Brian Parry, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, brian@soundcities.org, 206-499-4159

Update
This is a monthly item on the PIC agenda to share information on upcoming local levies and ballot measures in King County.

Recent Levy Proposal Developments
Since the last Future Levies and Ballot Measures report, there have been significant new developments with several measures under consideration in King County:

Access for All (Cultural Access Sales Tax)
On May 1, the King County Council approved placing the Access for All 0.1 percent sales tax increase on the August 2017 ballot. The proposed measure would raise about $67 million per year for seven years to fund arts, science, and heritage institutions in King County (see PIC Agenda Item 9).

Veterans and Human Services Levy
King County Executive Dow Constantine is anticipated, potentially before the May 10, 2017 PIC meeting, to transmit a proposal to the County Council to place a measure on the November 2017 ballot to renew—and likely expand—the current Veterans and Human Services Levy. The current property tax levy is $0.05 per $1,000 of assessed value and generates roughly $18 million annually (see PIC Agenda Item 8).

Seattle Homeless Services Property Tax
On April 3, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray announced the city would no longer pursue a previously proposed $275 million property tax levy for homeless services. Instead, Mayor Murray announced that he would be supporting a countywide 0.1 percent sales tax for affordable housing and related services. Executive Constantine and members of the King County Council are considering adding the sales tax measure to the ballot for a vote sometime in 2018.

Potential Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities
None formally proposed at this time.
### Potential Future Ballot Measures – Other Cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>Homelessness Services Property Tax*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>Families and Education Levy (renewal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>Library Levy (renewal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>Transportation Levy (renewal)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*withdrawn since last report

### Potential Future Ballot Measures – Countywide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>King County</td>
<td>Access for All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>King County</td>
<td>Veterans and Human Services Levy (renewal/expansion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td>King County</td>
<td>Affordable Housing and Related Services Sales Tax</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td>King County</td>
<td>AFIS Levy (renewal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>King County</td>
<td>Medic One (renewal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>King County</td>
<td>Regional Parks Levy (renewal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td></td>
<td>King County</td>
<td>Land Conservation</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Potential Future Ballot Measures – School & Special Purpose Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shoreline School District Operations Levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shoreline School District Capital Levy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Next Steps:

Deadlines to file a resolution placing a measure on the ballot in 2017:

- **Primary Election:** August 1
- **General Election:** November 7

Please share this information with your city, and provide information on upcoming elections in your city to Brian Parry, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, at brian@soundcities.org.
Item 13:
Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact
Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, deanna@soundcities.org, (206) 495-3265

Update
This is an ongoing, monthly PIC item noting issues that SCA members have asked to be brought to PIC.

Potential Issues

- City Human Services Funding
  - SCA staff is working with the King County Alliance for Human Services and city staff to collect data and will return to PIC for discussion
  - An upcoming pre-PIC workshop is also anticipated on this topic

- Regional response to property crime
  - Identified at SCA Caucus meetings in December
  - Members also discussed correlation with heroin epidemic, which is included in an item on the January 2017 PIC agenda
    - SCA staff are planning a pre-PIC workshop on this topic

- Addressing the impact of growth on the region
  - This topic was raised at the SCA caucus meetings in December

If you or your city has additional items to be added to this list, please contact Deanna Dawson, deanna@soundcities.org.
Item 14a: 
Metro Fares Work Program

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

SCA Staff Contact
Alena Marshak, Policy Analyst, alena@soundcities.org, 206-495-3020

SCA Regional Transit Committee (RTC) Members
Councilmember Kathy Huckabay, Sammamish (Caucus Chair); Councilmember Dave Asher, Kirkland; Mayor Bruce Bassett, Mercer Island; Councilmember Claude DaCorsi, Auburn; Councilmember Dennis Higgins, Kent; Councilmember Kathy Hougardy, Tukwila; Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall; Councilmember John Wright, Lake Forest Park; Deputy Mayor John Chelminiak, Bellevue (alternate); Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific (alternate); Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond (alternate); Councilmember Bill Ramos, Issaquah (alternate)

Summary
Metro has launched a two-year process to assess ways to improve its fare structure. One of the main goals is to simplify fares and prepare for modernizing and replacing the ORCA technology prior to a 2021 contract expiration date. Metro is considering two options for simplifying the adult fare: (1) a flat fare of $2.75 with no zone or peak categories, or (2) an off-peak fare of $2.50 and peak fare of $3.00, both without zones. Metro has conducted outreach regarding these fare options to get feedback from the public and regional boards and committees. A fare change ordinance to simplify the adult fare may be proposed to the County Council as early as June 2017 (no changes are being considered for youth, senior, disabled, ORCA Lift, or Access fares).

Background
King County Metro’s (Metro) fares are adopted by the King County Council and established in King County Code. Currently, there are multiple fare types with pricing varying by the time of day and number of zones traveled (customers taking trips during peak hours pay a two-zone fare if their trip crosses Seattle city limits). The table below, created by Metro, provides details on current fare types and pricing.
Metro’s fare structure is guided by Metro’s existing fund management and fare policies. Metro’s fare policy from the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation includes Objective 6.3 to: “Seek to establish a sustainable funding structure to support short- and long-term public transportation needs.” Additionally, Strategy 6.3.2 is to: “Establish fare structures and fare levels that are simple to understand, aligned with other service providers, and meet revenue targets established by Metro’s fund management policies.” Metro’s Fund Management Policies, approved through Ordinance 18321, call for a farebox recovery ratio of at least 25 percent, with a target of 30 percent —meaning Metro must recover at least 25 to 30 percent of the passenger related operating expenses from fares.

Metro Fares Work Program
Metro is in the process of a two-year (2017-2018) review of its current fare system, referred to as the Metro Fares Work Program (“work program”). One of the main goals of this process is to simplify the fare structure and prepare for modernizing and replacing the One Regional Card for All (ORCA) technology, a smart card technology for which Metro partnered with six other agencies. The current ORCA contract expires in 2021. In addition to the review of Metro’s fare structure and preparations for ORCA replacement, the work program will build off the work of the previously convened Regional Fare Forum.

Regional Fare Forum
A Regional Fare Forum, which included representatives1 from the governing bodies of each of the seven2 ORCA agencies, was convened in fall 2016 to:

- Reaffirm a commitment to regional fare coordination
- Provide guiding principles for the Next Generation ORCA system’s fare structure design
- Discuss strategies to further integrate and simplify fares for seamless regional travel

After holding three forum meetings, a Regional Fare Forum Summary Report was released March 9, 2017. This report included recommendations to eliminate zones and trip-based peak fares. King County Executive Dow Constantine has transmitted the Regional Fare Forum Summary Report to the King County Council with a proposed motion accepting the report and

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1 King County’s representatives at the forum were Councilmembers Rod Dembowski and Claudia Balducci.
2 The ORCA system includes King County Metro, Community Transit, Everett Transit, Kitsap Transit, Washington State Ferries, Sound Transit, and Pierce Transit.
committing to consider the recommendations as well a forthcoming fare change proposal from the Executive. This motion has been referred to the Regional Transit Committee.

Work Program Objectives
Building off these recommendations from the Regional Fare Forum, Metro’s key objectives with the ongoing fares work program are to:

- Make fares easier to understand and pay
- Coordinate with regional partners
- Improve safety
- Speed operations by making fare payment faster
- Increase transit ridership and address affordability barriers

Outreach and Fare Options Under Consideration
Currently, work being engaged in by Metro as part of this effort includes broad public outreach as well as engagement of key stakeholders. Metro is seeking feedback about Metro’s fares generally as well as on two specific proposals under consideration for simplifying the current fare structure.

Metro began outreach activities in March, including forming an advisory group, briefing transportation boards and committees, and conducting online surveys. The advisory group, which has met twice and will have a final meeting in May, was convened to help Metro think through the impacts of various fare options and advise Metro on ways to increase access to transit and the ORCA system. Details on the make-up of the advisory group can be found on Metro’s fare review website.

Stakeholder outreach included briefings to the subarea transportation boards (SeaShore Transportation Forum, Eastside Transportation Partnership, and South County Area Transportation Board) on the fare program in March and April and the Regional Transit Committee on April 19. Survey work has included two online surveys. About 4,500 people took the first survey in March. According to Metro’s website, respondents support changing Metro’s fare structure to make fares easier to use and understand, to speed up boarding and travel time, to help keep drivers and passengers safe by reducing fare disputes, and to consider the increasing number of people living in suburban areas outside the Seattle zone boundary. A second survey and open houses were conducted in April to get feedback on the potential fare options under consideration.

Based on feedback from the advisory group, Metro is considering revising the adult fare structure. No changes are being considered for youth, senior, disabled, ORCA LIFT, or Access fares. The fare options under consideration are outlined in the table that follows.
Options to Simplify Adult Fares

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 1: $2.75 flat fare</th>
<th>Option 2: $3.00 Peak/$2.50 off-peak fare (no zones)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• No zone and peak category</td>
<td>• No zone category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Easy for customers to understand</td>
<td>• Metro would be the only ORCA agency with peak pricing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Speeds boarding and operations</td>
<td>• Reflects cost of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Minimizes interactions with operators</td>
<td>• Impacts:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Impacts:</td>
<td>o Off-Peak: No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Off-peak: $0.25 fare increase</td>
<td>o 1-Zone Peak: $0.25 fare increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o 1-Zone Peak: no change</td>
<td>o 2-Zone Peak: $0.25 fare decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o 2-Zone Peak: $0.50 fare decrease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both options would simplify the fare structure substantially. Under both options, customers commuting to and from Seattle from other jurisdictions during peak hours would see a decrease in the cost of their trip due to removing the zone fee and, in the case of Option 1, the peak fee. Under Option 1, customers that would see a higher trip cost would be those riders using the system during off peak hours in one zone. Under Option 2, customers that ride during peak hours within one zone would see an increase in their fare and customers riding during peak periods across two zones would see a fare decrease, compared to the current fare structure.

**Next Steps**

Efforts to seek public feedback regarding these initial fare change proposals will end in May, but continued outreach will take place should any fare changes be approved. Metro intends to transmit a proposed fare change ordinance to the King County Council in June. It is anticipated that any fare changes would not occur until 2018 or later.