SCA Public Issues Committee
Minutes
December 11, 2013 – 7:00 PM
Renton City Hall, Council Chambers
1055 S Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057

1. Welcome and Roll Call
PIC Chair Deputy Mayor Mia Gregerson, SeaTac called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. 28 cities had representation (Attachment A). Guests present included: Bob Keller, Sammamish City Councilmember-elect; John Stilin, Redmond City Council; Nancy Backus, Auburn City Council/Mayor-elect; Bill Peloza, Auburn City Council; Diane Carlson, King County Executive’s Office.

Chair Gregerson suggested revising the meeting agenda to add Item 6a - Recommendations from the PIC Nominating Committee for appointments to the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee and the Regional Transit Committee. Members supported the revision by a consensus vote.

2. Public Comment
Chair Gregerson asked if any member of the public had any public comment. Seeing none, Gregerson closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the November 13, 2013 Minutes
Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, to approve the November 13, 2013 meeting minutes.

Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, two amendments to the November 13, 2013 meeting minutes: First, in the paragraph of Item 7, Talmas stated that language should be added to reflect that there was a separate comment letter from Woodinville in addition to the joint letter with the other North End cities. Second, Talmas noted in the paragraph in Item 7, stating his comments on behalf of Woodinville, the second sentence should read “There was general consensus of the SCA RPC caucus to move forward with a Factoria station.”

There was no discussion. The amendment passed unanimously.

Chair Gregerson called for the vote on the main motion, there was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
4.  **Chair’s Report**  
Chair Gregerson thanked the members of the PIC for another great year and requested that attendees gather together for a group photo.

5.  **Executive Director’s Report**  
Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, thanked members for another successful year. Dawson thanked retiring member Mayor Pete Lewis, Auburn for his many years of service. Lewis reflected on the first meeting of the Public Issues Committee. He spoke about the value of having a ‘one city one vote’ policy. Lewis also reflected on how much more effective the organization has become over the years.

ED Dawson presented Chair Gregerson with flowers, thanking her for her service as chair the past two years. Dawson complimented Gregerson on her ability to make the Public Issues Committee more transparent and inclusive.

ED Dawson provided an update from North and Snoqualmie Valley Caucus meeting. For the North caucus: Shoreline Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen, Redmond Mayor John Marchione, and Sammamish Councilmember Don Gerend were all reelected to Board. There was a good discussion regarding items for the upcoming year which included: transportation funding and geographic equity in potential transit cuts; solid waste planning and transfer station siting; and economic development and the importance of Boeing to our regional economy. There was also considerable discussion about how to build public awareness about SCA, and its value to our cities, and the region.

ED Dawson thanked Councilmember John Stilin, Redmond and Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park for their leadership on the SCA Economic Development Subcommittee. SCA held a successful Economic Development Workshop on December 6, 2013. The workshop included examples of successful projects from the cities of Tukwila, Kenmore, and Auburn. The workshop was well attended and well received by members.

ED Dawson highlighted a number of upcoming events. On December 18, 2013 the South and South Valley Caucuses will be meeting at the Kent Senior Center. There will be four elections taking place from the South: Federal Way Councilmember Dini Duclos (incumbent) is up for reelection, and SeaTac Deputy Mayor Mia Gregerson, who has been serving by virtue of being PIC Chair, is running for a south seat. Tukwila Mayor Jim Haggerton, Maple Valley Mayor Bill Allison, and Auburn Mayor-elect Nancy Backus have also declared intention to run.

The next PIC meeting will be held on January 8, 2014 at Renton City Hall. There will be a Pre-PIC “PIC 101” Training at 6:00 PM. This workshop was first discussed at the North and Snoqualmie Valley Caucus. Members were very supportive.

SCA will be hosting a Newly Elected Training and Board and Committee Orientation in January.

ED Dawson spoke about upcoming 2014 Networking Dinners. SCA will be joined by Guest Seattle Mayor-elect Ed Murray on February 5, 2014.
The 2014 SCA Board Retreat has been scheduled for January 31, 2014. Retreat topics will include: Long range planning for the organization, as well as reevaluating the caucus and board structure.

ED Dawson gave a brief update on the possibility of a special session to address transportation funding. Dawson described the situation as cautiously optimistic. Negotiations are ongoing. Dawson reported that while it is unlikely a special session will be called before the end of the year, due to the holidays, it is still possible a special session will be called in early January.

6. **Election of 2014 PIC Chair and Vice Chair**

Redmond Councilmember Hank Margeson, Chair of the 2014 PIC Nominating Committee, reported that the PIC Nominating Committee met on December 6, 2013 to discuss nominees for 2014 PIC Chair and Vice Chair. Chair Margeson reported that there was only one name submitted for consideration for 2014 PIC Chair, Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, who currently serves as Vice Chair, and has done an excellent job.

Chair Hank Margeson, Redmond moved, seconded by Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall to elect Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, as the 2014 PIC Chair as recommended by the PIC Nominating Committee.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Margeson reported that the PIC Nominating committee discussed recommendations for the 2014 PIC Vice Chair. Two names were submitted for consideration: Mayor Dave Hill, Algona, and Councilmember Marlla Mhoon, Covington. Margeson reported that this was a tough decision and that the committee extensively discussed both excellent candidates. The PIC Nominating Committee recommended that Councilmember Marlla Mhoon, Covington, be elected 2014 PIC Vice Chair.

Chair Hank Margeson, Redmond moved, seconded by Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall to elect Councilmember Marlla Mhoon, Covington, as the 2014 PIC Vice Chair as recommended by the PIC Nominating Committee.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

6a. **2014 SCA Committee & Board Recommendations for King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee and Regional Transit Committee**

Redmond Councilmember Hank Margeson, Chair of the 2014 PIC Nominating Committee, reported that the during the PIC Nominating Committee teleconference held on December 6, 2013, members discussed and provided recommendations for two recent vacancies: an opening on the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee, and an opening on the Regional Transit Committee.
Mayor Will Ibershof, Duvall, notified SCA that he would not be able to serve on the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee due to other time commitments. Additionally, Councilmember Bill Thomas, Algona (who is a current member of the Flood Control Advisory District), recently contacted SCA staff indicating his interest in serving another term.

Chair Margeson, Redmond moved, seconded by Mayor Dave Hill, Algona, to recommend to the SCA Board of Directors that Councilmember Bill Thomas, Algona, be appointed to the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee in place of Mayor Will Ibershof, Duvall.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Margeson reported that Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, notified SCA that he doesn’t feel he can represent SCA on the King County Regional Transit Committee. Due to the fact that the Snoqualmie Valley may be facing extensive cuts to service in 2014, the PIC Nominating Committee’s preference was to fill the vacancy with another member from the Snoqualmie area. Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie, volunteered to serve.

Chair Margeson, Redmond moved, seconded by Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, to recommend to the SCA Board of Directors that Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie, be appointed to the Regional Transit Committee in place of Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Margeson reported that the committee also discussed an upcoming vacancy on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). SCA will be sending out a call for nominations to fill the vacancy. This seat should be filled by a member from the South or South Valley Caucus. The PIC Nominating Committee will likely propose a recommendation for this seat at the January 8, 2014 meeting of the PIC.

7. International Diplomacy Funds Account

Monica Whitman, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported that this item is being brought forward from the November 13, 2013 meeting of the PIC. SCA staff followed up with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC). At this time, to AWC’s knowledge there isn’t a bill sponsor or any draft legislation.

Mayor Pete Lewis, Auburn, moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen, Shoreline, to recommend the following policy position to the SCA Board of Directors:

*The Sound Cities Association supports legislation that would allow cities to open and maintain a bank account for which it may accept or request nonpublic gifts, grants, and donations from citizens and other private sources for use in defraying the costs of appropriate hosting of foreign dignitaries, including appropriate gift-giving and reciprocal gift-giving, and international trade hosting, international relations and international mission activities.*
A number of members spoke to the motion. Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond recommended that a sponsor be identified prior to SCA moving forward. Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland noted that Kirkland would not be supporting the motion. Nixon indicated that this type of fund would best be handled by a non-profit or association.

Mayor Pete Lewis, Auburn stated that he would support the motion if cities were looking for additional tools. He noted that while this may not be a tool that all cities would utilize, if an SCA member city was seeking support and it would not harm other member cities, other members should agree to support the position.

Margeson added that last month Redmond did not support moving the proposed position forward, arguing that there were other groups such as Chambers of Commerce or Sister City Commissions that could do this type of work rather than the city. Redmond’s decision still stands. He noted that without a sponsor, this isn’t an appropriate position for SCA to be spending staff resources on. Margeson suggested that if an individual city were to go to the legislature and find a sponsor, SCA could reconsider taking a position at that time.

Councilmember Kingston Wall, Snoqualmie spoke to the motion. Wall spoke about the need for an additional tool to facilitate hosting foreign delegations. Mayor Tom Odell, Sammamish cautioned that this type of fund could be a slippery slope. SCA should be cautious if this matter isn’t on AWC’s radar. Odell suggested that a Chamber of Commerce is a more appropriate entity. Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park also noted her concern. She indicated that Lake Forest Park would not be in support of the position. She would like to have legislation in place first. Stanford also suggested that cities could utilize rotary clubs for these types of functions.

Councilmember Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah expressed support for an additional tool, if there isn’t strong Chamber support and a city doesn’t have any other options. Issaquah is in favor of the motion, if it will help smaller cities. Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila encouraged cities to take advantage of the tools available to them since international relations are so critical to our economy. Kruller suggested finding a sponsor before moving forward.

Councilmember Jerry Robison, Burien reminded members that legislation would not require a city to utilize this new tool. Chair Gregerson recalled that this issue was raised by Seattle at an AWC Flexible Government Subcommittee meeting. Gregerson recognizes that Seattle would like SCA’s support; however, she expressed concern that there needs to be more in place before taking a position. Members discussed the merits of postponing the position to a date certain versus postponing the position indefinitely.

Councilmember Kingston Wall, Snoqualmie, moved, seconded by Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, to postpone indefinitely.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Guiding Principles to inform King County Metro Cuts.
Monica Whitman, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported that this item is being brought forward from the November 13, 2013 meeting of the PIC. Whitman noted that, in response to
feedback from the November PIC, an amended position was transmitted to members on
November 18, 2013. Members expressed concern regarding greater transparency and
visibility regarding Metro’s current financial situation, geographic equity concerns, and
partnerships.

Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Catherine
Stanford, Lake Forest Park, to recommend the following policy position to the SCA Board of
Directors:

SCA supports the following guiding principles to inform Metro’s Transit Service Cut Proposal:

1. Public Process Highlighted by Public Education and Engagement:
   a. Clear and transparent process.
   b. Public engagement, including major transit stakeholders, that seeks input on specific
      impacts resulting from Metro’s proposed service cuts and ideas to lessen these
      impacts, while still reducing service hours in these areas and routes.
   c. Robust public communications, including but not limited to: (1) Explanation of
      Metro’s current financial situation and the circumstances that led thereto in a way
      that is clearly understandable to stakeholders, including the average commuter; (2)
      explaining the need for service cuts and the methodology used to develop service
      cuts so that the public can understand why specific cuts are being proposed, (3)
      reporting on public engagement, including the effect of public input on proposed
      service cuts and (4) the effective use of technology to inform and involve the public
      on the service reduction process and proposed service changes and cuts.
   d. Timing that makes sense given the speed of the decision-making process.

2. Service Cut Proposal and Sequencing/Phasing of Service Cuts:
   a. Implement the Service Guidelines to the fullest extent practicable.
   b. Transmit one service cut package to the King County Council for the for the full
      amount of service cuts that are necessary, recognizing that service cuts may be
      implemented in 2014 and 2015 (during service changes in September 2014 and
      February, June and September 2015). The County’s development, review and
      adoption of one service cut package will promote public awareness of the magnitude
      of upcoming service cuts.
   c. Service Cuts should be done in a manner that is directly tied to changing revenue
      conditions. The amount of service hours cut should only be the amount necessary to
      balance revenues and costs.
   d. Ensure that service cuts throughout the county are done in a fair manner, and clearly
      demonstrated, recognizing the Service Guidelines’ direction related to geographic
      and social equity needs throughout the entire county. Considerations of geographic
      equity are of particular importance to cities.
   e. Make service changes by restructuring service within and across jurisdictions, not
      solely by cutting existing routes. Service changes across large geographies or that
      cross multiple jurisdictions should provide for an interconnected transit network.
f. Consider partnerships with regional organizations, tribes, local jurisdictions, and the private sector that are willing to fully or partially fund transit service to lessen the impacts of cuts, including alternatives to traditional service.

Councilmember Kate Krueller, Tukwila, expressed support for the position, but highlighted that routes that may be considered underutilized are in fact the sole method for citizens to travel to and from destinations, such as work.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, to amend sections 1c and 2d of the main motion as follows:

SCA supports the following guiding principles to inform Metro’s Transit Service Cut Proposal:

1. Public Process Highlighted by Public Education and Engagement:
   
   a. Clear and transparent process.
   
   b. Public engagement, including major transit stakeholders, that seeks input on specific impacts resulting from Metro’s proposed service cuts and ideas to lessen these impacts, while still reducing service hours in these areas and routes.
   
   c. Robust public communications, including but not limited to: (1) Explanation of Metro’s current financial situation and the circumstances that led thereto, including the latest revenue estimate, revenue shortfall, and the number of service hour cuts that would be required to balance updated costs and revenue, in a way that is clearly understandable to stakeholders, including the average commuter; (2) explaining the need for service cuts and the methodology used to develop service cuts so that the public can understand why specific cuts are being proposed, (3) reporting on public engagement, including the effect of public input on proposed service cuts and (4) the effective use of technology to inform and involve the public on the service reduction process and proposed service changes and cuts.
   
   d. Timing that makes sense given the speed of the decision-making process.

2. Service Cut Proposal and Sequencing/Phasing of Service Cuts:

   a. Implement the Service Guidelines to the fullest extent practicable.
   
   b. Transmit one service cut package to the King County Council for the for the full amount of service cuts that are necessary, recognizing that service cuts may be implemented in 2014 and 2015 (during service changes in September 2014 and February, June and September 2015). The County’s development, review and adoption of one service cut package will promote public awareness of the magnitude of upcoming service cuts.
   
   c. Service Cuts should be done in a manner that is directly tied to changing revenue conditions. The amount of service hours cut should only be the amount necessary to balance revenues and costs.
   
   d. Ensure that service cuts throughout the county are done in a fair manner, and clearly demonstrated, recognizing the Service Guidelines’ direction related to geographic and social equity needs throughout the entire county. Considerations of geographic
equity are of particular importance to cities and we request that Metro provide data on the distribution of transit service hours and proposed service hour cuts by sub-area.

e. Make service changes by restructuring service within and across jurisdictions, not solely by cutting existing routes. Service changes across large geographies or that cross multiple jurisdictions should provide for an interconnected transit network.

f. Consider partnerships with regional organizations, tribes, local jurisdictions, and the private sector that are willing to fully or partially fund transit service to lessen the impacts of cuts, including alternatives to traditional service.

Margeson spoke to the amendment. He reiterated that the original language was well written, the intent of the amendment is to further strengthen SCA’s position. Before hours are cut, cities need current financial data. Margeson also spoke about geographic equity. King County currently has three subarea boards. These boards have not been provided with data regarding the percentage of cuts that will be taken in their area. Monica Whitman, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, clarified that members would like that data to be supplied by subarea, as defined by the existing subarea boards not the formula that been used prior to adoption of the new strategic plan and guidelines. Members agreed.

Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall expressed concern that Metro doesn’t seem to know what the actual data is. The literature they produced indicated a 12% cut in Duvall; but staff has stated that the cuts would only be 5%.

Mayor Dave Hill, Algona expressed concern that the route 917 in Algona would be reduced to as few as two buses in the morning and two buses in the evening. Hill emphasized that geographic equity needs to be honored. Hill indicated that he has tried to have conversations with Metro to mitigate the impact on his community. He noted that for many families in Algona, the bus is the equivalent of the family car. It is critical that the needs of small cities be taken into consideration.

Mayor Tom Odell, Sammamish expressed his support for the amendment.

Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen, Shoreline spoke about the Regional Transit Task Force (RTTF), which led to the current methodology for reducing service. Eggen stated that the RTTF emphasized that geographic equity across the county be preserved. The reductions have been reduced to a formula, with results that are not geographically equitable. Shoreline is supportive of the amendment.

Councilmember Jeanne Burbidge, Federal Way spoke in support of the amendment reminding members that the devil is in the details.

Councilmember Kingston Wall, Snoqualmimie also spoke in favor of the amendment, thanking the City of Redmond for bringing this forward.

The amendment passed unanimously.
Chair Gregerson called for the vote on the main motion. There was no further discussion. The amended motion passed unanimously.

Whitman requested that members share challenges they’re facing regarding the proposed cuts with SCA staff. ED Dawson requested that member cities share any communications they are having with Metro on this matter with SCA to aid in communications.

10. **T2040 Balancing the Financial Strategy**
Monica Whitman, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported that this item was brought forward from the November 13, 2013 meeting of the PIC. Whitman noted that at the last meeting of the Transportation Policy Board (TPB), a vote on the policy was delayed. Whitman stated that SCA taking a position at this time would still be timely, and helpful.

Whitman reviewed the two hybrid scenarios currently being considered to balance the T2040 Financial Strategy. Scenario 1: Move lowest quartile of prioritization scorecard results from the constrained to the unprogrammed portion of the Transportation 2040 Plan. Scenario 2: WSDOT, with input from local stakeholders, will revise the highway project list to reflect recent developments regarding phasing and “right-sizing” of projects. Whitman also highlighted that there are 592 projects in the financially constrained portion of the plan. Of those projects, 18 city and county projects were retained with justifications, including a $151 million Bus Corridor project in Seattle, a high priority for the City of Seattle. 9 state routes are under consideration. WSDOT has requested the ability to “right-size” their projects. Whitman noted that a “right-sizing” approach allows the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to examine their planned network of improvements collectively as a system.

Mayor Dave Hill, Algona, moved, seconded by Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, to recommend the following policy position to the SCA Board of Directors:

*In order to balance the PSRC T2040 financial strategy, SCA supports adopting a hybrid approach rather than basing decisions solely on the PSRC prioritization scorecard. While this scorecard is a valuable source of information, it was not designed for or intended to be used as the sole tool for evaluating projects.*

Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen, Shoreline expressed concern that prioritization is a relatively new tool; the prioritization process is still ongoing. As the prioritization scorecard was being created, cities were continually assured that it would not be the sole tool used. He therefore supported the position.

Mayor Dave Hill, Algona stated he support for the position, echoing Eggen’s comments.

The motion passed unanimously.

11. **Informational Items**
Chair Gregerson noted there is one information item this month: 2014 SCA Appointments. ED Dawson added that SCA will send out a revised list of appointments the week of December
15, 2013 since the Board will be acting on the PIC’s recommended appointments for the recent vacancies on the King County Flood Control District and the Regional Transit Committee. ED Dawson asked that members please share the revised list with their councils.

12. **Upcoming Events**
   a) SCA South & South Valley Regional Caucus Meeting – Wednesday, December 18, 2013 6:30 PM – Kent Senior Center, room 9.
   b) Next SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, January 8, 2014 7 PM – Renton City Hall, Council Chambers
   c) Next SCA Woman’s Leadership Breakfast – Thursday, January 16, 2014 7:30 AM – Puget Sound Skills Center - Burien

13. **For the Good of the Order**
Mayor Pete Lewis, Auburn, distributed a list of priorities and potential mandatory referrals of legislation for 2014 (Attachment B) developed by the SCA Regional Policy Committee Caucus. Lewis encouraged cities to share this with their councils.

Mayor Lewis referenced that in past years, a subcommittee or task force has been formed to address issues raised at PIC to reduce SCA staff time. Lewis reminded cities that every city has an opportunity to bring issues forward and encouraged members to support those positions, if they do not harm individual cities.

Mayor David Baker, Kenmore as SCA’s representative on the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) Recommendations Committee, urged members to share any concerns they have. Baker reiterated that the process is moving quickly.

Councilmember Andy Rheame, Bothell, provided an update on a recent meeting of the PIC Watershed Investment District (WID) subcommittee. Rheame notified the committee that the results of a study regarding watershed investment authorities is not on the state legislative agenda for 2014. Rheame spoke about a lack of salmon recovery implementation and the need to fund projects that have multiple benefits including stormwater and salmon recovery. Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland stated that Kirkland added support for Watershed Investment Authorities to their legislative agenda. Nixon also spoke about a potential model similar to ARCH that cities could implement to fund projects within the Watershed Resource Investment Areas (WRIA’s) through an Interlocal Agreement. Councilmember Marla Mhoon, Covington pointed out the success that WRIA 9 has had implementing multi-benefit projects. Mayor Tom Odell, Sammamish spoke about the success of the Kokanee workgroup in restoring the salmon population within Lake Sammamish.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, thanked Chair Gregerson for her service to the PIC in 2013 and 2014. Members showed appreciation by applause.

14. **Adjourn**
The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.
## 2013 Roll Call – Public Issues Committee Meeting
### December 11, 2013

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Electeds present are highlighted in gray. Cities represented are **bolded**.
SOUND CITIES PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUBJECT MATTERS IN 2014 -- 12/11/13

Priorities and potential mandatory referrals of legislation:

Solid Waste Transfer and Management Plan Update
Solid Waste Comprehensive Management Plan
Emergency Radio Replacement
NPDES Stormwater Planning
Jails
Public Safe Answering Points (PSAP) Plan and possible consolidation
Reports from Ad-hoc Committees and Task Forces such as KCD
Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness
Homeless Youth ages 18 – 24 – Countywide Strategy
King Conservation District
Flood Control District
MIDD

Briefings:

Siting of Marijuana Growing/Processing Operations
Overlapping Taxing Districts -- possible consolidations, levy suppression issues
Animal Control
Water Quality Projects, including CSOs
Growth Management -- Comprehensive Plan Updates (data), GM Boundaries
Gang Intervention Work
Tourism
Countywide Economic Development -- strategies, what’s being worked on