



SCA Public Issues Committee

MINUTES

May 13, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Renton City Hall

1055 S Grady Way, Renton WA 98057

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. 26 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included: Bill Peloza, Auburn Council; Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen, Shoreline; John Stilin, Redmond Council; Shelley Kloba, Kirkland Council; Dawn Dofelmire, Algona Council; Paula Waters, Woodinville Council; Chris Searcy, City of Enumclaw; Michael Hursh, City of Auburn; Kamuron Gurol, City of Burien; Diane Carlson, King County Executive's Office; Mark Putnam, King County Committee to End Homelessness; Maria Wood, Board of Health.

Chair Talmas welcomed Katie Kuciemba, SCA's new senior policy analyst.

2. Public Comment

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

3. Approval of the April 8, 2015 Minutes

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, seconded by Council President Ed Prince, Renton, to approve the April 8, 2015 meeting minutes.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Talmas reported that the SCA Executive Committee met with Seattle Council President Tim Burgess, who is anxious to work with SCA on regional issues. Chair Talmas reported that the SCA Executive Committee also met with Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, who is looking forward to continued work with SCA and increase the relationship. SCA leadership will be meeting quarterly with both the Mayor and Council President of Seattle.

5. Executive Director's Report

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported that SCA is now fully staffed. She reintroduced new Senior Policy Analyst Katie Kuciemba and Policy Analyst Ellie Wilson-Jones, who join Policy Analyst Doreen Booth and Administrative Services Manager Kristy Cole-Burwell on SCA's staff. Kuciemba will focus largely on transportation, Wilson-Jones on human services and law & justice, Booth on land use, while Dawson will staff economic development issues.

Dawson reminded the PIC that the SCA Board had identified economic development, human services, and transportation as top areas of concern for the organization in 2015. On economic development, Dawson noted that she is beginning to plan a public sector economic development summit that SCA will co-sponsor with the County. More details will come back to PIC as they become available. She also noted that several SCA members will be joining the Seattle Chamber on their upcoming intercity mission to Chicago, due to SCA's new partnership with the Chamber. SCA is also on the steering committee to plan the Chamber's 2015 Leadership Conference. On human services, Dawson noted that the PIC will be hearing about efforts on the Committee to End Homelessness strategic plan and the proposed Best Starts for Kids levy later in the agenda, and referred members to the MIDD update in the packet as an informational item. On transportation, the PIC will be hearing about efforts on the Service Guidelines Task Force and efforts in Olympia to pass a transportation package later in the agenda. Dawson reminded the PIC that Metro was starting their Long Range Planning effort. Metro held a "visioning workshop" in Seattle and Dawson noted that the SCA Board had sent a letter to Metro urging them to hold workshops in the South and North/East as well. In response, Metro will now be holding two additional events: at the Federal Way Council Chambers on May 18, 2015, 6:00-8:00 p.m., and at Bellevue College on May 19, 2015, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Additionally, Metro and Sound Transit announced four additional public meetings to discuss changes to the bus system when two new light rail stations open in early 2016. Specifically, these meetings will focus on proposed changes to Eastside bus routes on the SR 520 corridor to increase capacity and provide connections to stations. Staff will be sending details to members.

Dawson noted that another 2015 SCA Board priority was developing better relationships with Seattle. To that end, SCA Board leadership met last week with the Mayor and Council President of Seattle. Topics of discussion included transportation, the Committee to End Homelessness strategic plan, and the value of regionalism. They agreed to meet on a quarterly basis moving forward.

Another SCA Board priority is breaking down partisanship in Olympia. SCA members have been doing outreach to leaders with local government background from both parties to discuss SCA priorities, especially passing a transportation package. She noted that SCA's next networking dinner will be on July 1 in Snoqualmie, and we have invited leaders from both parties to come and give a recap of the session. She encouraged cities to submit proposals for RISE presentations for the dinner.

Dawson reported that the SCA Board met last month in Sammamish and had an informative tour. Their May meeting will be held in Tukwila. She and SCA President Matt Larson also toured Newcastle, and are finalizing their visits to all 36 SCA cities.

Dawson noted that it was filing week, and that several active members of SCA have announced that they will not be seeking reelection. She asked that members let SCA know of retirements on their councils, so that SCA could begin transition planning. She noted that due to retirements and term limits, there would be several seats open on the SCA Board in 2016, including at least 1 vacancy in each of the 4 caucuses.

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

Chair Talmas explained that the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) draft Strategic Plan (the plan) is before the PIC as a potential future action item and, with PIC action tonight, would come back to the PIC June 10, 2015. He noted that the PIC had reviewed earlier drafts of the plan and requested that the deadline for revision be extended. That extension was granted and has allowed for extensive changes.

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported that CEH staff have been very receptive to comments from SCA member cities and the plan has been heavily edited as a result. Dawson recognized CEH Director Mark Putnam, in attendance this evening, and recounted that SCA appointees to the CEH Governing Board and Interagency Advisory Council (IAC), as well as Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, and staff from member cities have been engaged in reviewing and redrafting the plan. Dawson thanked the PIC for bringing on new staff and noted that SCA Policy Analyst Ellie Wilson-Jones has devoted substantial time to ensuring city feedback is incorporated.

Ellie Wilson-Jones, SCA Policy Analyst, reported that all feedback received from member cities has been provided to CEH staff and is largely incorporated into the draft before the PIC. Wilson-Jones noted that the SCA appointees to the CEH Governing Board (Councilmember Doreen Marchione, Kirkland, and Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way) and IAC (Colleen Kelly of Redmond, Michael Hursh of Auburn, and Jennifer Henning of Renton) as well as other SCA member city staff have been engaged throughout the process, reviewing several drafts of the plan, proposing edits, and vetting revisions that were then provided to CEH staff.

Wilson-Jones summarized feedback received from member cities and explained how those comments had been incorporated into the draft before the PIC:

First, there were concerns that earlier drafts lacked details regarding the costs of implementation, funding sources, and lead partners for various strategies. Overall, earlier drafts had a mismatch between extreme prescriptiveness in places and vagueness in others. The plan now explains the funding and housing resources available for implementation and identifies lead partners for action steps for the coming year. In response to feedback about the over prescriptiveness, the plan has moved up a level. With that, there is also acknowledgement in the plan that more work will be necessary going forward to implement the plan. This underlies the importance of having an effective governance structure that includes SCA representation.

Second, on the issue of governance structure, SCA staff has also heard questions and concerns. Previous drafts suggested that the governance structure should be changed but did not clearly state what the new structure would look like or who would be represented. The draft before the PIC now more clearly explains that the existing Governing Board and IAC would be condensed into one body called the Coordinating Board. SCA would have two representatives on the Coordinating Board. While the draft before the PIC now provides more detail about the future Coordinating Board, it also acknowledges that the transition to a new governance structure will require further work including changes to the CEH Charter. Those efforts will continue under the leadership of the existing Executive Committee. SCA does not currently

have a seat on that committee but, thanks to extensive SCA engagement, the plan now calls for creation of a new SCA seat.

Third, there were questions about what the plan means for cities and why it's being created. Seattle and King County are designated to provide fiduciary oversight of a federal funding program for homelessness and therefore must have a community plan under the federal HEARTH act. Other King County cities are not required to create or adopt a plan, but the endorsement and engagement of all cities is sought by CEH so that efforts can be aligned and a greater impact can be achieved. There are also action steps that name local governments or SCA as a lead partner. They are Strategy 1.3, which relates to criminal justice system involvement, and Strategy 2.2, which relates to collaboration between first responders and human services providers. The plan does not require any code changes or any funding commitments from cities.

Finally, member cities objected to references to the "criminalization of homelessness" contained in earlier drafts. There was strong sentiment that this language mischaracterized the efforts and objectives of cities and ignored the broad responsibilities that cities have to their residents, both those housed and unhoused. That language has been removed. Instead, the plan now contains a two-pronged approach to reducing criminal justice system involvement while ensuring public safety. These strategies are 1.3 and 2.2. The IAC has formed a subgroup to continue work on this language. The subgroup was created after advocates of the homeless called for reinserting the original "criminalization of homelessness" language. That group met May 12, 2015 and made progress toward developing additional narrative describing the way laws and policies can impact the homeless. The subgroup is likely to recommend a new strategy be included in the plan that entails partnering with local governments to examine the impacts of existing and proposed laws and policies on people experiencing homelessness and what impact they have on helping people to become housed.

Wilson-Jones said CEH and SCA staff remain available to present to City Councils. Presentations have been given to the Federal Way and Black Diamond city councils and are scheduled for Auburn, SeaTac, Snoqualmie, and Renton.

Wilson-Jones concluded by explaining the recommended action before the PIC is vote to bring the plan back for an endorsement in June, with three caveats explained further in the packet. Chair Talmas asked whether MIDD (Mental Illness and Drug Dependency) sales tax funds that are spent on homelessness are included in among the funding sources detailed in the plan. Dawson answered that MIDD funding dedicated to homelessness is included in the county funding referenced by the plan.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, moved, seconded by Councilmember Dini Duclos, Federal Way, to bring the following potential policy position back to the next meeting of the PIC:

The Sound Cities Association (SCA) shares the vision of the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH), which is that homelessness is rare in King County, racial disparities are eliminated, and if one becomes homeless, it is brief and only a one-time occurrence. SCA endorses the 2015-2019 CEH Strategic Plan, and its goals of making homelessness

rare, making homelessness brief and one-time, and creating a community to end homelessness.

SCA's endorsement of the CEH strategic plan is conditioned on review and approval of the final language of the plan. Specifically, SCA members support continued inclusion of language in the plan that recognizes that local governments are responsible for ensuring public amenities remain safe and accessible to all, while at the same time acknowledging that addressing behaviors associated with experiencing homelessness solely with a law enforcement response is resource-intensive and may leave underlying causes of homelessness, such as behavioral health crises or lack of shelter, unaddressed. SCA members recognize that approaches that foster collaboration between service providers and first responders, such as law enforcement, can do more to reduce homelessness. SCA objects to language being introduced into that plan that would mischaracterize the efforts of cities as "criminalizing homelessness."

Additionally, SCA's endorsement of the CEH strategic plan is conditioned on review and approval of the governance structure of the CEH. SCA supports clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the subcommittees and their relationship to the Coordinating Board. SCA supports having adequate representation for SCA members on the Coordinating Board, and on the Executive Committee. SCA also supports a role for local government within the governance structure that will connect CEH decision makers with public sector staff to generate ideas for regional and cross-departmental collaboration to ensure CEH strategies are evaluated from a variety of perspectives, including human services, planning, and public safety, among others.

Discussion on the motion ensued.

Backus thanked Wilson-Jones and Dawson for their work on the CEH Strategic Plan and stated that in the past SCA may not have been as involved, but homelessness has since become a greater issue in each city. She stated that while early work on the plan felt like an "us against them" situation, with cities going one way and the CEH going the other, there is now alignment. She thanked Mark Putnam and his staff for listening and responding to difficult feedback. She noted that no city is going to be able to end homelessness on its own and that it will take a regional approach that retains flexibility for each city. She said the latest draft addresses all of the concerns put forward by cities, without pointing fingers, and will allow all to work together.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, stated that it has been a collaborative process, in which the city of Issaquah has been involved. He said Issaquah has a long-standing commitment to ending homelessness and has served as the home to tent cities and continues work on a human services campus. Marts noted that cities can achieve better outcomes and act compassionately when they have the full range of options before them, including ordinances that protect public safety. Issaquah was supportive of removing language that mischaracterizes efforts of cities as "criminalization" of homelessness.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Sanford, Lake Forest Park, stated that homelessness is a regional challenge and that the only way to move forward is together. Stanford asked for a clarification

on the motion. Chair Talmas stated that the motion, also contained in the packet, is to bring back the plan for an endorsement next month and that the motion contains conditions on that endorsement because the plan is not yet final. Dawson added that the CEH Governing Board is scheduled to adopt the plan in June.

Councilmember Barry Ladenburg, SeaTac, echoed the need for regional collaboration, noting that the challenges would not be solved by simply pushing the problem from one jurisdiction to another. Ladenburg asked whether the new Coordinating Board would oversee funding decisions. Dawson said that while the Board could make recommendations, it was not envisioned that the County or other funders would delegate their role in making funding decisions to the Board.

Mayor Dave Hill, Algona, asked for clarification regarding the draft that would be before the PIC in June. Dawson stated that the plan would come back to PIC with final language on criminal justice involvement, and on the governance structure.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, stated that local elected officials need to have a full array of options to deal with issues in their communities. He stated that the governance structure needs more specificity, with clarification about the relationship between the Coordinating Board and other CEH committees.

Councilmember Ross Loudonback, North Bend, asked what language was likely to come out of the IAC subgroup. Wilson-Jones stated that the group has discussed adding language stating that some laws and policies disproportionately impact people who are homeless and recommending the creation of a toolkit to assist governments in evaluating whether their policies impact people who are homeless. Dawson stated that SCA staff have made clear that member cities oppose language that mischaracterizes city policies as criminalizing homelessness.

Chair Talmas stated that the packet references a new action step to Strategy 1.2 related to comprehensive plan housing element policies. He said that some of the options listed, including impact fee and multi-family tax exemptions, may not have the support of his City Council. Wilson-Jones thanked Chair Talmas for highlighting this new action step.

The motion passed unanimously.

7. Best Starts for Kids Levy

Chair Talmas introduced the item, noting that this item came to the PIC at the request of the SCA Board Executive Committee.

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, gave the staff report. As noted in the staff memo in the packet, On April 28, 2015, King County Executive Dow Constantine released details of a proposed "Best Starts for Kids" levy. On April 29, 2015, the Executive transmitted an ordinance to the County Council to place the levy on the November 2015 ballot.

As proposed by the Executive, this would be a six-year levy lid-lift at a rate of 14 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, which would raise approximately \$392.3 over the life of the levy (an estimated \$58 million in the first year, and an average of \$65.4 million through 2021). The cost to the average King County homeowner would be approximately \$56 per year.

The exact programs that will be funded through the levy are not known at this time. Rather, the majority of funding will be “competitively bid in outcomes-focused contracts to community-based organizations ... the county will refine outcomes and indicators through development of a detailed implementation plan with input and consultation from the community.”

The ordinance transmitted by the Executive proposes that levy proceeds be allocated as follows:

- Fifty percent of the revenue generated by the levy would be invested in strategies that focus on children under the age of five, and on pregnant women. This would include funding for Public Health Centers;
- Thirty-five percent of the levy would be invested in strategies focused on youth ages five through twenty-four;
- Nine percent of the levy would be invested in expanding the Communities of Opportunity partnership between King County and the Seattle Foundation;
- Six percent of the levy would be devoted to “evaluation, data collection and improving the delivery of services and programs for children, youth and their communities.”

11% of the levy (\$43 million) would be devoted to sustaining Public Health services serving women and children. These include maternity support, family planning services, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and the Nurse Family Partnership. This funding would be sufficient to sustain current operations of these programs through 2021. It should be noted that the Best Starts for Kids funding would not entirely close the projected public health funding gap. Passage of the levy would, however, keep the public health services in Auburn, Federal Way, Northshore, and Greenbridge open through 2021.

Dawson noted that Best Starts for Kids is not a preschool levy. However, the County has indicated that the levy could “complement” existing Pre-K programs by having more children coming to school “strong, healthy, and ready to learn.”

Some, including the City of Kirkland, had hoped that the levy might include funding for affordable housing. The levy does not contain capital dollars for housing. Toby Nixon, Kirkland Councilmember, noted that Kirkland would be seeking an amendment to add a housing component to the levy. Dawson distributed a handout, [Attachment B](#), prepared by the County to address this issue. In response to questions raised by the City of Kirkland, the County has noted that while the proposal from the Executive does not contain capital dollars for affordable housing, there is a proposal within the levy to use a portion of initial levy collections (\$16 million) to create a family and youth homelessness prevention initiative modeled on the Housing First pilot project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Executive’s office has also pointed out that while this levy does not include capital dollars for affordable

housing, the County will soon have a new resource for affordable workforce housing in coordination with transit investments thanks to the passage of HB 1223 (supported by SCA), which will allow King County to bond against future King County lodging tax revenues to acquire land and build workforce housing and will allow an estimated \$45 million in new housing funds to be released over the next six years. Nixon indicated that Kirkland may ask for a penny of the levy (either an additional penny, or a portion of the funds proposed) go to affordable housing. The proposal may include having dollars distributed back to cities based on a proportional share of revenues raised. Dawson noted that County staff had indicated that this would raise approximately \$4 million. Nixon pointed out that while that amount alone would not be much to help add to affordable housing stock, if bonded against, the impact could be greater.

Dawson opened up the conversation to the PIC for feedback. She asked the PIC what questions they still had about the levy that weren't answered by materials in the PIC packet, and whether the PIC was interested in having the item brought back at the June and July meetings to consider taking a position urging the County Council to place the levy on the November ballot and what, if any, changes to the proposal SCA members would like the County Council to adopt prior to placing the levy on the ballot.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, was very supportive of bringing the item back for SCA to consider a position of support, noting the importance of investing in prevention. Investing in kids now will result in far fewer dollars needing to be put into the criminal justice system later. While it will take years to see the results, if we don't start investing now the costs will be exponentially larger in the future. Backus was supportive of the Executive's proposal to make the funded programs be results based, and focused on outcomes not just number of clients served. Auburn has also started requiring the programs they fund be based on outcomes.

Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, noted that she has not yet had a discussion with her council about this item, but she has been briefed by the Executive's office. She was supportive of bringing this item back, noting the importance of making investments now.

Councilmember Dini Duclos, Federal Way, was also supportive of bringing this item back. She referred to the threatened closure of the health clinic in Federal Way, which her council and mayor stepped in to fill the funding gap to keep the clinic open. She noted that cities do not have the resources to fund public health from their budgets. She also pointed to the great need for additional human services funding in South King County.

Councilmember Bob Keller, Sammamish, was also supportive of bringing the item back, although he had not yet discussed with his council. He noted that studies showed that for every \$1 invested in programs geared at youth, there was a \$17 return on investment.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, was also supportive of bringing the item back. She noted that it was important to tackle these issues regionally.

Councilmember Barry Ladenburg, SeaTac, commented on the importance of the public health aspect of the proposed levy, and the need to prevent clinics from closing. But he also noted that the County had a number of other levies, including the PSERN levy that just passed.

Eventually voters will face levy fatigue. Ladenburg questioned whether the County was looking at other options to keep the clinics open other than the levy. Dawson responded that although the County and SCA had supported additional funding from the state legislature for public funding, none appeared to be forthcoming. The County had indicated that clinics would likely close unless this levy were approved. Dawson reiterated that the levy would not entirely close the public health funding gap.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, noted that Redmond is supportive of investing in the future of children in King County. However, he was concerned about the many questions remaining about how funds would be allocated, and the governance structure.

Councilmember Bill Boyce, Kent, was supportive of bringing the item back, but questioned the name of the levy, and wondered if there was time to change that.

Chair Talmas noted that the Woodinville Council had discussed and raised questions about what exactly would be funded through the levy.

In response to these questions, Dawson reiterated that other than the funding for the clinics, programs would be funded through a competitive grant application process. SCA members may wish to ask for more clarification on how those decisions would be made. She indicated that the name of the levy appeared to be set at this time. Dawson reviewed the proposed governance structure. The ordinance recommends that the body proposed by the Youth Action Plan report (“an advisory body be created that can assist the Executive and Council as they consider outcomes, policies, and investments for children and families and youth and young adults”) be established, and that this body be the advisory committee for Best Starts for Kids with the exception that the existing governance group for Communities of Opportunity act as the advisory board for the portion of the levy focused on Communities of Opportunity. Dawson noted that SCA has a seat on the Communities of Opportunity governance group. The PIC may wish to recommend that the Council specifically include a seat on any new advisory group for SCA. The PIC may also want to weigh in further on allocation of dollars, and whether there be any detail laid out on whether the dollars be spread throughout the county. Dawson noted that Seattle already has a families and education levy, and questions have been raised about whether the countywide levy should be focused outside of Seattle, where services are needed due to the growing suburbanization of poverty in King County. She noted that as pointed out by many cities, all communities have needs.

Mayor Dave Hill, Algona, asked for more detail on oversight of the levy. He wanted to see more on how the oversight committee would be structured. He also wanted to ensure that cities would not lose their autonomy and ability to decide how city funds are spent. Dawson clarified that the oversight committee proposed by the Youth Action Plan would not have the ability to tell cities how to spend their funds.

Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, stated that there is some benefit in having some flexibility in what programs are funded through the levy. Different communities have different needs and face different issues. For example, the City of Duvall has research to show that youth in their community have a high risk for a school shooting incident, and the city is looking at

instituting a program to address this risk. Even affluent communities have issues with drug use by youth. Allowing flexibility in the levy will enable communities to tailor solutions to their needs.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, concurred. He noted that while some cities have a higher proportional need, even in the city of Issaquah 30% of children are on the free or reduced lunch program. Even relatively affluent areas of the county have needs for programs geared to youth.

Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie, indicated that he was comfortable with the governance structure proposed, and was supportive of not setting up a new governance structure for the levy. He was also comfortable with the proposal to have a competitive grant process, as it enables funds to be given to proven and promising strategies. He used Encompass Health in the Snoqualmie Valley of an organization that was getting results tailored to that community. He noted that while there were many issues facing youth in Snoqualmie Valley, based on his visits to communities throughout the County there are many other cities that have needs that are far greater. He stated that in his 14 years in government, he cannot think of another area where there would be more return on investment than by investing in youth.

Chair Talmas indicated that the consensus of the PIC was to bring the item back for initial consideration of a position in support in June. Dawson asked that if cities have specific questions they would like answered, or specific changes they would like the PIC to adopt, please let SCA staff know in advance of the June PIC meeting so that information can be included in the PIC packet.

8. Service Guidelines Task Force

Katie Kuciemba, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, gave an update on the work of the Service Guidelines Task Force.

By way of background, Kuciemba reminded members the task force is being asked to review the Metro's service guidelines and recommend potential changes regarding service types, social equity, geographic value, alternative services, and community mobility contracts. The task force has met three times and is anticipated to meet four more before submitting a report with its recommendations for changes to Metro's service guidelines to the King County Executive and Council in July, 2015.

Staff members at King County Metro, the County Executive's Office, and the County Council will work over the summer to translate the recommendations into proposed policy changes. The task force is then expected to meet in the September/October timeframe to discuss the changes that were developed since the last task force meeting and to review draft changes to the Strategic Plan and Service Guideline. Updates to Metro's strategic plan and service guidelines are expected to be transmitted to the County Council in December, 2015.

At the third task force meeting on April 30, 2015, ideas began to emerge regarding the current social equity gaps in transit services. Gaps in the service guidelines include explicitly addressing youth, disabled and elderly populations. An additional gap is ensuring that low-income workers are getting to job centers throughout the county, including travel between suburban centers.

Also discussed at the third task force meeting were possible changes to the service guidelines methodology, which could include placing a stronger emphasis on whether corridors serve low-income areas. Task force members suggested creating a point system that allows for scaling of points for boardings in low income areas and boardings in minority areas.

Finally, the task force made suggestions regarding the service planning and community engagement process used by Metro when considering transit services changes, such as a database of key destinations that could be used to better engage communities.

At the conclusion of the meeting on April 30, 2015, Metro announced plans to invest up to \$89 million for 69,000 additional hours of annual bus service in corridors that have been hit by recent service reductions.

Kuciemba concluded her report by announcing that the fourth meeting of the task force will be held on May 21, 2015. The agenda is expected to include review of suggestions made during the social equity discussion, a discussion on how geographic value is incorporated into Metro's planning process, and beginning a conversation about the role of park & rides. The agenda may also include an overview by Metro of how the service guidelines shaped the previous service reductions.

Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie, expressed some frustration with the task force because Metro has taken several meetings to give background information without significant opportunities for members to discuss the issues. At the April 30, 2015 meeting, the task force debated the definition of social equity. Mayor Larson read the Regional Transit Task Force (RTTF) definition of social equity, "using transit service to address gaps in mobility, and to avoid or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse social, economic or human health impacts for populations that have limited transportation options, including youth, students, elderly, disabled, people of color, those with limited English proficiency, and economically disadvantaged communities. In addition to considering trip origins for people with limited transportation options, consideration should be given to destinations for employment, education, healthcare, social services and other civic engagement activities." Larson noted that the current set of metrics that Metro uses does not adequately address all the components of this definition. For example, the current measure does not look at getting people to where they need to go and creating connections to employment centers and educational centers. Larson observed that there seems to be resistance from Metro to change their service guidelines. Service types are more complex than just "Seattle-core" and "non-Seattle-core" distinctions. At the very least, Metro needs to look at urban, suburban, and rural areas differently.

Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen, Shoreline, stated that he was contacted by Seattle Councilmember Tom Rasmussen to discuss common interests between local jurisdictions. Larson responded that he had spoken to Rasmussen about a series of questions that Larson had identified for the task force to address. Opportunities for partnership with the City of Seattle were discussed.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, stated that she is cautiously optimistic with the task force but questioned whether they would complete their work with only four meetings remaining. She noted that at the last meeting there had been discussion about the need for additional

meetings. Backus stated that there are common goals shared by all task force members; however, there is defensiveness by Metro. She shared a sense of frustration that the task force meetings spent too much time on Metro presenting information with too little time for task force members to discuss issues. Backus stated that she would continue representing SCA interests, which need to be taken into consideration by Metro.

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, stated that she has met with other task force members who also agreed that Metro seems to not want to see changes coming out of the task force, but other members agreed that the process has identified the need for changes.

Councilmember Barry Ladenburg, SeaTac, stated that bus routes disappeared when light rail service began. One transit service should not necessarily supplant the other. Riders are now forced to make transfers rather than having one-seat rides. Ladenburg questioned why it costs so much to run bus service in King County versus other counties and how to better determine ridership numbers.

Mayor Dave Hill, Algona, stated that he understood the difficulty of destination being used as a factor in determining social equity.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, was pleased to know that discussion of park and rides is included in the work of the task force. At the SCA-hosted transportation forum, there was support for more park and ride funding. Stanford would be happy to provide information on the need for greater park and ride access for residents of her community.

Council President Hank Margeson, Redmond, appreciates SCA representation on the task force and thanked Larson, Backus and Eggen. Margeson expressed concerns that the current service guidelines do not match up with the direction given by the Regional Transit Task Force (RTTF). Margeson also stated that Metro should work to understand how communities are developing, particularly through city's comprehensive planning efforts, as more communities are "building up" (becoming more dense in a downtown core) and residents need to have transit options. Margeson would like to see task force members have a robust discussion of the issues rather than having Metro staff dominate the meeting with background information.

Larson concurred with Margeson about the value of allowing task force members to have more time for discussion rather than listening to staff reports, and noted that at the Regional Transit Committee, they had recently had several good discussions in a more informal setting.

9. 2015 Legislative Session Update

Katie Kuciemba, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported that the 105 day session concluded on April 24, 2015. The final bill that passed during the regular session was ESHB 1449, which established requirements for the transport of crude oil.

Legislators have since been called back for a special session to last no more than 30 day, which began on April 29, 2015. During the special session, the Legislature is focused on adopting the 2015-2017 biennial operating, capital, and transportations budgets and any bills needed to

implement those budgets. To date, negotiations on the operating budget have seen limited progress in Olympia with 14 days remaining in the first special session.

If the Legislature has not completed its work within 30-days, the Governor can call a subsequent special session. Lawmakers need to have a budget in place by July 1, 2015 to avoid a government shutdown.

Kuciemba stated there is optimism that the Legislature will pass a transportation package this year, a priority for Sound Cities Association. Transportation leaders from both chambers have been meeting regularly but passage of a package is unlikely until the operating budget is settled.

A critical policy bill that has yet to be resolved is the sharing of marijuana excise tax revenue, House Bill 2136. Key issues that staff is watching are the removal of the sunset provision, the removal of the artificial cap on revenue sharing, ensuring that the distribution formula is inclusive even if businesses are not located with the jurisdiction, and no revenue-sharing for jurisdictions with marijuana businesses bans.

Kuciemba reported that House Bill 2156 is a cities and counties omnibus bill that contains provisions for restoration of liquor profit revenue sharing to historic levels, cost recovery for nuisance abatement, cost recovery for commercial public records requests, authorization for the Cultural Access Fund, mental health tax, and several county-specific tax authorizations. It is anticipated that providing counties with utility tax authority will be removed for the bill.

Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie, asked if there has been any progress on the transportation package. Kuciemba answered that the Association of Washington Cities has a comparison of the differences in the transportation package which can be found [here](#). Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, stated that an operating budget will be passed prior to the passage of a transportation package. SCA staff will continue to monitor negotiations and will keep SCA members apprised of opportunities to engage legislators.

10. Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

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

- **King County Public Safety Radio Emergency Network (PSERN) Radio Replacement**
 - Passed (65% approval)
- **City of Covington Transportation Benefit District**
 - Failed by 103 votes (48% yes, 52% no)
- **City of Sammamish Advisory Vote re Adoption of Initiative and Referendum**
 - 55% approval
- **Klahanie Annexation – City of Sammamish**
 - Passed (86% in favor of annexation)

- **South King Fire District – capital and equipment replacement**
 - Failed (57% approval, needed 60% to pass)
- **Enumclaw School District Capital Levy**
 - Passed (60.03% approval – needed 60% to pass)

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, reported that the Shoreline Fire Department will be proposing two ballot measures in August 2015: a fire benefit charge and a capital bond.

11. SCA Issues for 2015

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, stated that at the January 14, 2015 PIC meeting, members were asked to provide issues the PIC should consider this year. She invited members to provide feedback on whether other items should be added to the list. This will be a recurring item on the PIC agenda. Dawson noted that the Best Starts for Kids levy will be added to list. Members can also bring items directly to Dawson, deanna@soundcities.org.

Vice Chair Marlla Mhoon asked that the 70% recycling goal be added to the list of issues.

Vice Chair Mhoon asked for an update on the governing bylaws regarding the seats on the Board of Directors and if any changes will be proposed to allow more than one member from a city to serve at the same time. Dawson responded that the Board did discuss this issue and decided not to pursue a change at this time. Dawson reported that there are many members interested in serving in leadership roles.

12. Informational Items

Chair Talmas reported that there is one informational item: an update on the work of the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Oversight Committee (MIDD).

13. Upcoming Events

The next Pre-PIC Workshop will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at 6:00 PM at Renton City Hall. King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg will give a presentation on the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program.

The next Public Issues Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at 7:00 PM at Renton City Hall.

14. For the Good of the Order

Doreen Booth, SCA Policy Analyst, stated that there are copies of the pre-PIC presentation on the Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan and recycling targets available and that cities have the opportunity to invite staff to attend council meetings, provide more detail and answer questions. Booth also stated that each city has the ability to have a seat on the Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee (MSWAC); currently there are only 28 of the 36 SCA member cities participating.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, announced that former mayor Ava Frisinger was recently given the Ruth Kees Environmental Award, the community's highest honor for environmental advocates. Frisinger was a long time participant in SCA and advocate for cities.

Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, announced that Sergeant DeBock on the Duvall Police Department was given the Medal of Valor by Governor Inslee.

Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie, congratulated the City of Duvall for its efforts to re-establish a city administrator position.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

2015 Roll Call – Public Issues Committee Meeting May 13, 2015

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

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

Affordable Housing funding in King County

Best Starts for Kids represents a new approach to funding by investing in prevention strategies to improve outcomes in kids, families and communities. The majority of King County Human Services funding is currently spent on people who are in crisis, including the County's housing funding. That is, the majority of housing resources serve people who are homeless versus preventing the crisis of homelessness from occurring in the first place. In 2014 King County awarded \$56 million for homeless housing, shelter, rapid rehousing rental assistance and housing related services, affordable housing and home repair. The County's housing investment exceeds what the total Best Starts for Kids entire annual amount would be.

Very few resources are now being directed towards prevention strategies as Best Starts would do. The Best Starts for Kids proposal does not include funding for creating affordable housing, rather it includes \$16 million to prevent youth and families from becoming homeless to begin with. In 2014 64% percent of the youth who were homeless were homeless for the first time and nearly half of the families were homeless for the first time. Studies show that preventing homelessness is more cost effective than helping people once they are homeless.

With Best Starts for Kids, King County is seeking to prevent homelessness, while housing people who are homeless with other funding sources includes a newly available affordable housing resource. House Bill 1223, which allows the County to bond against future lodging tax revenues will generate an additional \$45 million of revenue in the bonding period and is expected to leverage an additional \$180 million in other resources (federal and state funding, philanthropic contributions, 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits, etc.). This new source should substantially increase the amount of affordable housing that can be created throughout King County.