



SCA Public Issues Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

January 10, 2018 – 7:00 PM

Renton City Hall

1055 S Grady Way, Renton WA 98057

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Council President Ed Prince, Renton, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 29 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included Mike Huddleston, King County Council staff; Councilmember John Holman, Auburn (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Robert Back, Des Moines (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Pam Stuart, Sammamish; Lyman Howard, City Manager, Sammamish; Council President Angela Birney, Redmond (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Chris Ross, Sammamish; Councilmember Linda Johnson, Maple Valley (PIC Alternate); and Diane Carlson, King County Executive Office staff. Chair Prince welcomed members and guests, and requested that PIC Members and guests introduce themselves for the benefit of new attendees.

2. Public Comment

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

3. Approval of the December 13, 2017 Minutes

Chair Prince noted that there was a fragmented sentence in the draft minutes that were originally distributed, and that this has since been corrected. Director Dawson noted that there was an error on the list of 2018 Regional Board and Committee appointments that has been corrected, replacing Councilmember Semra Riddle, Lake Forest Park, with Council President Vic Kave, Pacific, on the EMS Advisory Task Force.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Councilmember Janie Edelman, Black Diamond, to approve the December 13, 2017 PIC minutes as amended. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Prince provided his first report as PIC Chair and described his goal of serving as a liaison between the SCA Board of Directors and members of PIC. He also asked that members provide feedback on how to improve PIC meetings moving forward. Chair Prince noted that they had met with King County Executive Dow Constantine earlier in the day to discuss the AFIS levy, which has been transmitted to the King County Council and is expected to be on the ballot countywide in April 2018.

5. Executive Director's Report

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, provided a report. Dawson noted an SCA Orientation for newly elected officials will be held on January 31, 2018 in conjunction with PSRC. There will also be an orientation for all SCA appointees to Regional Boards and Committees on February 7, 2018 at SeaTac City Hall. Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkin will be the guest speaker at the SCA Networking Event on February 28, 2018.

6. Introduction to PIC

Chair Prince provided an overview of PIC and how it functions, noting the handout of operating procedures and acronyms for new PIC members included in the meeting packet.

7. 2018 PIC Meeting Schedule

Chair Prince presented the proposed 2018 PIC Meeting Schedule. Chair Prince highlighted potential conflicts with the scheduled March 14 and May 9 PIC meetings, as there are National League of Cities conferences.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, to approve the 2018 PIC Meeting Schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Regional Transportation Systems Initiative

Brian Parry, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported on the Regional Transportation Systems Initiative (RTSI). He said RTSI is the extension of numerous efforts over the years to target long-term funding needs of local roads. Most directly, RTSI was launched based on interest expressed at a meeting of numerous cities, transit providers, the county, and the WSDOT in Issaquah in the fall of 2016. At that meeting, representatives of numerous cities and the county expressed interest in participating in a coordinated process where funding would be identified to address several specific traffic related issues where there was a sense that the responsibility for mobility improvements and maintenance should be shared across multiple jurisdictions. Examples include addressing cut through traffic, roadways with shared ownership, and state routes that pass through multiple jurisdictions.

In 2017, a technical team composed of staff from cities, King County, SCA, and PSRC met to identify long-term needs on the local road network in King County. Their work shows that capacity and maintenance needs on the identified road network will exceed revenues by \$7 to \$8 billion between now and 2040.

Parry said that SCA is looking for input from members on next steps to help shape the agenda for the next scheduled meeting of RTSI with elected officials on February 2, 2018. He noted that cities have expressed growing concern about traffic congestion, but that many are also concerned raising additional taxes, competing service priorities, and whether RTSI is targeting the right area of need.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, asked whether the RTSI was expected to include discussion of legislation that could reduce funding for Sound Transit projects. He said that the extension of light rail is the most important transportation issue in Issaquah. Parry responded

that RTSI was intended to focus on the roadway network that connects residents to major regional infrastructure like Sound Transit stations and Interstates and that Sound Transit funding was not included in the estimate of need.

Mayor Bernie Talmas, Woodinville, noted that the full city council of Woodinville had not discussed RTSI, but that informally members identified that transit would need to be a part of the effort to gain their support. He also noted that questions have been raised about whether the intent of RTSI is to generate funding from cities to address needs in unincorporated areas and how that would be received by residents.

Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, said that the city council of Kirkland recently discussed RTSI and its scope. He said they understood RTSI was initially intended to address needs on roadways in unincorporated King County and that the scope has since been broadened and become too complicated. He noted that recent legislation provided a portion of the state's share of sales tax collections to cities to help absorb the cost of large annexations, but that counties were not provided funding to address the loss of road funding that would result from those annexations. He said an effort focused more narrowly on resolving funding needs resulting from annexations was more likely to be successful than attempting to tackle every county and city transportation funding need.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, said that it is important to look at funding options that can provide a long-term solution. He said that RTSI should be more focused on road usage charges and not options such as indexing the gas tax because electrification and fuel efficiency will continue to reduce the revenue generated. He added that staff expressed concern that the technical team was being asked to give policy direction about funding options and that policies need to be set by elected officials.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, said that traffic generated in Pierce County has a significant impact on Federal Way and asked whether other counties have been involved in the RTSI process. Parry responded that RTSI was focused on King County, but that PSRC staff have expressed interest in duplicating the process in the other counties in the region.

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson said that similar feedback has been provided by Woodinville, Duvall, and other north end cities that any traffic solutions will need to involve coordination with other counties. She said that one of the goals some expressed for RTSI is to help state legislators understand transportation needs beyond state highways and that there are not enough resources for cities and counties. She said that the February 2 meeting was expected to be the beginning of a policy discussion about long-term solutions

Margeson said that other counties have not seen the rate of annexations experienced in King County and that addressing the funding implications of annexations may encourage those counties and cities to support further transition of populations into cities as envisioned in the Growth Management Act.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, noted that jurisdictions were caught off guard by the funding match requirements of the most recent legislative funding package and the burden this placed on city budgets.

9. 2018 State Legislative Session

Ellie Wilson-Jones, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported that the Washington State Legislature convened January 8, 2018 for an up to 60-day regular session. Following the conclusion of the 2017 regular session and three special sessions, the state remains without a capital budget for the ongoing biennium. In addition to the swift passage of a capital budget, a response to water resource court rulings, school funding, and proposals to create a Washington Voting Rights Act remain key issues. Governor Jay Inslee gave his State of the State address January 9, 2018 and will be advocating for the passage of a carbon tax this session.

Wilson-Jones reported that 20 SCA member cities have submitted their city legislative agendas, which have been compiled on the SCA [website](#). There were significant areas of commonality, as in 2017, with key themes summarized in the PIC Packet beginning on page 35.

Wilson-Jones reported that condominium construction liability is an issue that a few cities noted in their legislative agendas and that has increasingly been mentioned by SCA members in discussions. Wilson-Jones noted that SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson would be speaking next on that issue to provide additional background and to seek member feedback on pursuing that issue this legislative session.

Wilson-Jones provided updates on the priorities contained in SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda, which were recommended by the PIC and adopted by the SCA Board in late 2017. As in 2017, SCA's three priorities for 2018 are adjusting the property tax cap, investing in public health services, and addressing the housing and homelessness crisis. Since the time the PIC and SCA Board acted to adopt the agenda, stakeholders leading the advocacy on two issues have refined their legislative requests. Wilson-Jones referred to page 38 of the PIC packet, the legislative agenda one-pager that includes the previously adopted SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda policy position together with additional narrative. Wilson-Jones noted that, with regard to investment in public health services, some adjustments will need to be made to language referring to the public health funding gap in order to ensure a coordinated message to lawmakers. King County staff indicate that the funding gap is now thought to be larger than what is stated in the one-pager (\$400 million statewide and \$7 million for King County), but that they will be focusing on an up to \$5 million ask of the Legislature when they advocate on this issue. The changes are to the narrative portion of the one-pager, which is not part of the formally adopted policy position.

Wilson-Jones noted that one formal change to the adopted policy position is recommended for the priority related to addressing the housing and homelessness crisis. For the 2017 session, SCA and others requested a \$200 million investment in the Housing Trust Fund. Early indications were that advocates would carry forward that request to 2018, but lead stakeholders are now framing this as a request for at least \$106 million, or numbers close to that figure depending on rounding. This request is reflective of the amount in the most recently negotiated capital budget proposal.

Wilson-Jones requested member input on whether to take emergency action to recommend to the SCA Board that the adopted SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda be amended to support an investment of “at least \$106 million” in the Housing Trust Fund, rather than \$200 million, in order to better coordinate SCA’s messaging with other stakeholders.

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, clarified that the normal process by which the PIC recommends policy positions to the SCA Board is to take up an issue over two meetings. Under emergency action, the PIC may take up and vote on an issue in the same meeting with 85 percent of those present. She noted that the potential adjustment to the legislative agenda is being brought forward for potential emergency action because the legislative session would otherwise be nearing a close before formal action could be completed.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, to recommend that the SCA Board of Directors change the previously adopted policy position setting the SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda to reframe the request for the Housing Trust Fund as “at least \$106 million,” or as otherwise necessary to ensure a coordinated message. Kruller stated that SCA staff should determine the language necessary to be consistent with other stakeholders on this issue.

Discussion on the motion ensued.

Stanford, who serves on the SCA Legislative Committee, noted that her preference would be for an even larger Housing Trust Fund investment, but that it is more important to ensure a consistent message to lawmakers on this issue.

Dawson clarified that the SCA bylaws specify that an emergency be declared and noted that it would be appropriate to take up the proposed action in two parts, first with the declaration of an emergency and then on the change to the SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda.

Kruller amended her initial motion, seconded by Stanford, to first declare the issue of the SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda an emergency.

There was no further discussion.

The motion passed 28-0-1. The cities/towns of Auburn, Black Diamond, Bothell, Burien, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Covington, Des Moines, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Issaquah, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Newcastle, Normandy Park, North Bend, Pacific, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, SeaTac, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Tukwila and Woodinville voted yes. The Town of Beaux Arts Village abstained from the vote.

An emergency having been declared, Kruller moved seconded by Stanford to recommend that the SCA Board of Directors change the previously adopted policy position setting the SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda to reframe the request for the Housing Trust Fund as “at least \$106 million,” or as otherwise necessary to ensure a coordinated message. Kruller again stated

that SCA staff should determine the language necessary to be consistent with other stakeholders on this issue. The motion passed unanimously.

Dawson stated that PIC feedback is also sought on the issue of condominium liability laws. Existing laws have impacted the supply of condominiums available, with developers hesitant to construct condominiums under the current statutory framework. Dawson noted that there has been discussion among SCA members recently on the issue and that several bills are anticipated to be offered this legislative session. Sen. Tana Senn is expected to sponsor a bill requiring majority approval by unit owners before litigation may be brought on behalf of a condominium owners association.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, noted that enabling the construction of condominiums is an issue touched on in several member city legislative agendas including the City of Issaquah's and stated that he is supportive of adding this issue to the SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda. Issaquah has a moratorium related to housing, and condominium construction would address one area of the gap in the supply of housing options. People employed in professions such as law enforcement, firefighting, and teaching are often unable to afford to live in Issaquah, where a condominium has not been constructed for two decades.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, stated that she would be supportive of adding the issue to the SCA Legislative Agenda, and noted that condominiums provide an opportunity for owners to build equity in their investment. Stanford suggested adding general language to the SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda that would also encompass other opportunities to create a variety of housing options.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, stated that she supports adding language that speaks to a broad range of tools, including condominiums. Backus noted that Realtors have been working on this issue and that while condominiums may not be an affordable option for all residents, they do provide one entry-level option for home ownership that can allow people to build equity. Backus suggested broadening the language of the SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda to make clear that the specific asks identified are not the exclusive list of options that SCA supports.

Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, stated that he agrees with Backus that the SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda should be broadened with a general statement in support of housing solutions, allowing for greater agility during the legislative session. He stated that SCA's priorities should be broad to empower representatives to respond quickly to newly emerging legislation.

Dawson requested further feedback on whether members would prefer inclusion of language directly referencing condominium legislation, referring to tools for homeownership, or more broadly speaking to enabling the creation of a range of affordable housing options.

Kruller stated she supports broader language referencing the creation of a broad spectrum of housing, noting there may be new options not previously considered that emerge during the legislative session.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, noted that the SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda includes the language “in the following ways” under first housing bullet and that it is too limiting. He suggested broadening this preamble language to better prepare SCA to respond to emerging issues and also adding an additional sub-bullet speaking to the creation of a range of affordable housing options.

Councilmember Benson Wong, Mercer Island, stated that he supports broadening the language. Condominiums have not been developed in Mercer Island for many years. Condominiums could address a gap in the market for those residents who wish to sell their houses to downsize and want to stay in the community.

Marts stated that he supports addition of broad language referencing a range of housing options or homeownership more specifically, with a preference for the latter.

Councilmember Anthony Wright, Enumclaw, stated he supports a language change and that there is currently a mismatch in Enumclaw between the price of housing and the median income and needs of senior residents. He noted that more options are needed to ensure that people who work in the city have affordable options for living there.

Stanford noted that the SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda speaks generally to affordable housing, rather than homeownership. She suggested that language referencing a range of affordable housing options would be inclusive of homeownership and would be more in line with the intent of the existing language.

Dawson summarized the feedback received from the PIC, noting that she had heard support for recommending to the SCA Board the inclusion of broad language supporting options for creating a range of more affordable housing.

Margeson noted that the prior emergency declared by the PIC applied generally to the SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda and would apply to further revisions proposed by the PIC.

Margeson moved, seconded by Backus, to recommend that the SCA Board of Directors change the previously adopted policy position setting the SCA 2018 Legislative Agenda to broaden the language under the priority related to addressing the housing and affordability crisis. The motion passed unanimously.

Dawson reported on legislation under development that would impact the way emergency medical services levies are placed on the ballot. Currently, cities with a population over 50,000 must affirmatively agree to place a levy on the ballot. There has been discussion about whether state law should be amended to adjust this. Lobbyists report that firefighters are working on a bill that would reduce the threshold required to place a levy on the ballot to 60 percent of fire service providers, including non-cities. Dawson suggested cities continue to monitor this issue.

10. Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

Brian Parry, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported on upcoming levies and ballot measures in King County. He noted that many local school districts are seeking approval of levies in the February 2018 special election.

Councilmember Janie Edelman, Black Diamond, said that residents would be voting on a recall election in Black Diamond during the February 13, 2018 special election.

Councilmember Ross Loudonback, North Bend, asked if it was known when the county was planning to move forward with a tax proposal as part of the Land Conservation Initiative. He also encouraged cities to review the potential impact of the Land Conservation Initiative on their buildable land supply. Parry said that the Land Conservation Initiative Advisory Group's final report was completed in December, but that a decision about when or whether to move forward with a tax proposal has not been made. He said the Advisory Group's preferred option is to fund land conservation through an increase of the Conservation Futures property tax to 6.25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value from its current rate of just over four cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. He noted that the Advisory Group report included some information on the impact of the proposal on buildable land supply at a very high level.

Councilmember Hank Margeson encouraged cities to contact the county directly for more information about properties prioritized for conservation under the initiative.

11. 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. The Voting Rights Act was discussed at the pre-PIC workshop. Dawson mentioned that additional topics of interest for pre-PIC workshops include social media policies and practices and juvenile justice. She also noted that SCA will be hosting a training with Ann Macfarlane of Jurassic Parliament in 2018, and sought feedback on areas of focus. Members agreed that a focus on training for newly elected officials would be appreciated in 2018.

Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, said that Kirkland is discussing autonomous vehicles and suggested this as a potential pre-PIC workshop topic. Councilmember Anthony Wright, Enumclaw, suggested a topic on cities' ability to maintain pools and other facilities. Other cities noted similar challenges, particularly with "Forward Thrust" facilities transferred from the County to cities. Some cities reported success in creating park districts to maintain facilities. Councilmember Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, asked that metropolitan park districts be added to the list of potential issues for workshops in 2018.

12. Upcoming Events

Chair Prince reported that the next PIC meeting will be held on February 14, 2018 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Renton City Hall with a pre-PIC workshop at 6:00 PM.

The SCA Networking Dinner will be held on January 17, 2018 at 5:30 PM at the Renton Pavilion Event Center, featuring King County Executive Dow Constantine as the guest speaker.

There will be an orientation for all SCA committee appointments on February 7, 2018 at SeaTac City Hall.

Dawson added that the SCA orientation for newly elected officials will immediately follow the training being held by PSRC on January 31, 2018.

Chair Prince asked for volunteers for the February Did You Know. Councilmember Benson Wong, Mercer Island, volunteered.

13. For the Good of the Order

Chair Prince asked if any member wished to offer further comments.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, thanked surrounding jurisdictions for their response during a recent fire in Auburn. She also thanked the call receivers and dispatchers for all of their assistance.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, asked for additional volunteers for the annual Count Us In event on January 26 in the early morning hours. Wilson-Jones noted that additional volunteers are still needed outside the City of Seattle ([link to volunteer](#)).

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
January 10, 2018**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	Bill Thomas
Auburn	Nancy Backus	John Holman
Beaux Arts Village	Tom Stowe	
Bellevue	John Stokes	
Black Diamond	Janie Edelman	Tamie Deady
Bothell	James McNeal	
Burien	Austin Bell	Nancy Tosta
Carnation	Dustin Green	
Clyde Hill	Barre Seibert	George Martin
Covington	Fran Hollums	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.
Des Moines	Traci Buxton	Rob Back
Duvall	Amy Ockerlander	
Enumclaw	Anthony Wright	Mike Sando
Federal Way	Lydia Assefa-Dawson	
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Mariah Bettise
Kenmore	David Baker	Nigel Herbig
Kent	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
Kirkland	Toby Nixon	Jay Arnold
Lake Forest Park	Catherine Stanford	Tom French
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Linda Johnson
Medina	Sheree Wen	Alex Morcos
Mercer Island	Benson Wong	Wendy Weiker
Milton	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Mary Tompkins
Newcastle	Rich Crispo	Carol Simpson
Normandy Park	Michelle Sipes-Marvin	Jonathan Chicquette
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Jonathan Rosen
Pacific	Leanne Guier	David Storaasli
Redmond	Hank Margeson	Angela Birney
Renton	Ed Prince	Armondo Pavone
Sammamish	Christie Malchow	
SeaTac	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Keith Scully
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Katherine Ross	Matt Larson
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Thomas McLeod
Woodinville	Bernie Talmas	Susan Boundy-Sanders
Yarrow Point	Dicker Cahill	
SCA	Deanna Dawson Cynthia Foley Caitlin Magee	Brian Parry Ella Williams Ellie Wilson-Jones

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