



SCA Public Issues Committee INFORMATIONAL PACKET April 2020

Please do not hesitate to contact SCA staff with any questions you might have related to policy issues. Our staff can be reached as follows:

- SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson, 206-495-3265, deanna@soundcities.org
- SCA Administrative Services Manager Leah Willoughby, (206) 433-7168 (number forwarded to cell phone during business hours), leah@soundcities.org
- SCA Policy Director Brian Parry, (206) 499-4159, brian@soundcities.org
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Item 01:
2020 Legislative Session
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org, 206-499-4159

Discussion

The 2020 Washington State Legislature adjourned its 60-day session on Thursday, March 12. Throughout the legislative session, SCA staff with support from the Association of Washington Cities provided updates on bills related to the 2020 SCA Legislative Agenda ([Attachment A](#)) and other city priorities. Final updates on bills discussed at PIC during the February PIC meeting are included below, as well as information on legislation approved on the final day of the session to provide state funding to address the COVID-19 health emergency. Bills are organized in relation to priorities identified in the SCA 2020 Legislative Agenda. This is intended to provide a status update of those bills and does not reflect support or opposition to a particular bill. Additional information can also be found in AWC's [2020 Outcomes Report](#).

COVID-19 Funding

On the final day of the session, the Legislature approved bipartisan legislation ([HB 2965](#)) to appropriate \$200 million from the state's rainy day fund to address the COVID-19 outbreak. Of this, \$175 million is appropriated to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to distribute to state and local agencies to respond to the coronavirus outbreak and \$25 million is allocated to a new COVID-19 unemployment fund. The bill also allows the State Board of Education to establish an emergency waiver program to give flexibility from graduation requirements due to the virus outbreak.

As of April 1, OFM [reports](#) that funds totaling \$105 million have been distributed to state agencies and institutions to use to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. Expenditures include:

- \$60 million to the Washington State Department of Health to pay for costs associated with state and local government response;
- \$10 million to the University of Washington for costs incurred for coronavirus testing;
- \$23 million to the Department of Commerce to address public health needs of individuals experiencing homelessness;
- \$19.5 million to the Department of Social & Health Services to pay for costs associated with moving patients from hospitals to long-term care settings and purchase of a long-term care;
- \$2 million to the Health Care Authority to establish a rural hospital emergency fund.

The \$25 million allocated for the new COVID-19 unemployment fund was approved prior to the issuance of more stringent physical distancing guidelines and stay home orders that have led to an unprecedented spike in unemployment claims in Washington State and across the nation. On April 2, OFM reported that new claims for unemployment benefits for the weeks of March 14 to March 28 totaled nearly 311,000. Last week, nearly seven times as many people filed unemployment claims than did so during the peak week of the recession of 2008/2009.

Address the Affordable Housing and Homelessness Crisis

In addition to the bills listed below, the supplemental budget approved by the Legislature added \$160 million to fund additional shelter beds and expand access to affordable housing.

[HB 2797](#) extending the deadline for jurisdictions to participate and expands allowable uses of funds authorized in 2019 by [HB 1406](#), under which cities and counties receive a portion of state sales taxes collected in the jurisdiction for affordable housing.

Status: Passed the legislature.

[HB 1590](#) providing councilmanic authority for cities and counties to impose a sales tax for affordable housing and related services.

Status: Passed the legislature.

[HB 2497](#) adding the development of permanently affordable housing to the allowable uses for community revitalization financing, local infrastructure financing tool, and local revitalization financing.

Status: Passed the legislature.

[HB 2907](#) / [HB 2948](#) allowing King County to impose a payroll tax for every employee making \$150,000 or more to fund affordable housing and homelessness services.

Status: Did not pass.

[HB 2620](#) / [SB 6411](#) authorizing local governments to extend qualified Multi-Family Tax Exemptions an additional 12 years.

Status: Did not pass.

Invest in Transportation Infrastructure and Mobility

Supplemental Transportation Budget

The supplemental transportation budget approved by the legislature ([HB 2322](#)) avoided significant cuts to roads and transit this biennium by shifting one-time funds to backfill approximately \$450 million in lost revenue created by the passage of I-976. For the next biennium, the impact of I-976 is projected to be over \$680 million if the initiative is upheld by the courts, and lawmakers will not have the same options to fill the gap. This challenge will be further exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 health emergency on fuel taxes and other revenue sources.

Importantly, the supplemental budget does not delay projects that were previously on the Governor's "pause" list, including many projects important to SCA cities. Regional mobility grants were also preserved for the biennium. However, the Transportation Improvement Board

budget was reduced by \$4.6 million based on historical underspending and agency savings, and their Complete Streets grant program was cut by \$4.5 million. In addition, the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board's supplemental allocation was cut by \$14.9 million, including \$7.5 million reduction in capital spending authority and \$7.4 million reduction due to legislative project adjustments.

[HB 2362](#) / [SB 6652](#) creating new local transportation options, including a city utility tax, countywide motor vehicle excise tax, and increased sales tax authority for transportation benefit districts.

Status: Did not pass.

Preserve Local Decision-Making Authority

[HB 2343](#) expanding the list of actions that cities planning fully under the Growth Management Act are encouraged to take in order to increase urban density and housing supply.

Status: Passed the legislature.

[SB 6617](#) requiring cities and counties planning under GMA to adopt regulations that do not require off-street parking for Accessory Dwelling Units within a quarter mile of a major transit stop unless the jurisdiction determines there is a lack of access to street parking or other impediments.

Status: Passed the legislature.

[HB 2230](#) making permanent a property tax exemption for tribal properties being used for economic development purposes, which was established in 2014 and set to expire in 2022. The bill also expands the tribal properties eligible for the exemption by removing a provision that allowed it only to be applied to properties acquired prior to March 1, 2014. Allows cities to participate along with counties in payment-in-lieu-of-tax negotiations with tribes.

Status: Passed the legislature.

[HB 2780](#)/[SB 6536](#) requiring allowance of the development of duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, townhouses, and courtyard apartments in areas zoned for detached single-family residences.

Status: Did not pass.

[HB 2570](#) requiring cities to adopt development regulations allowing at least one Accessory Dwelling Unit on all single-family lots.

Status: Did not pass.

Provide the Tools for Cities to Address Local Priorities and Infrastructure Needs

[HB 1948](#) providing mitigation payments for the support of manufacturing and job centers in manufacturing and warehousing communities negatively impacted by the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.

Status: Passed the legislature.

[HB 2804](#) expanding Local Revitalization Financing projects by providing new funding, increasing the state's annual contribution supporting projects, and revise the application process.

Status: Did not pass.

[HB 2145](#) eliminating the 1% limit on increases to local property taxes.

Status: Did not pass.

[HB 2778](#) authorizing Tax Increment Financing (TIF), and its companion legislation, and [HR 4212](#) to amend the Washington State Constitution to allow the implementation of TIF in Washington State have not been voted out of committee.

Status: Did not pass.

Other

Supplemental Operating and Capital Budget Impacts on Cities

The final supplemental operating budget added \$1 billion in new spending for the biennium. Earlier in the session it was expected that spending would see a greater increase; however, fears about the economic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak led to a slimmed down final budget with more funds being held in reserve. AWC has updated their matrix of changes made in the state supplemental operating and capital budgets that impact cities, which can be found [here](#).

[HB 1390](#) providing a one-time increase to the Public Employees' Retirement System and Teachers' Retirement System Plan monthly benefits of three percent, not to exceed \$62.50.

Status: Passed the legislature.

[HB 2342](#) aligning deadlines for updates to comprehensive plans and shoreline master plans and extends the deadline for the next update to local comprehensive plans in King County to June 30, 2024 (previous deadline was June 30, 2023).

Status: Passed the legislature.

Next Steps

Please share this information with your city. Questions may be directed to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.

Attachments

- A. [SCA 2020 Legislative Agenda](#)

SCA 2020 Legislative Agenda

Address the Affordable Housing and Homelessness Crisis

The state and cities must partner to preserve and increase the supply of affordable housing as, well as address behavioral health needs and other root causes of homelessness. Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to:

- *Allow cities to create and preserve affordable housing through optional local tools, including extending the timeline to approve a “qualifying local tax” provided under HB 1406 adopted in the 2019 legislative session*
- *Continue to expand investment in the Housing Trust Fund*
- *Address other underlying causes of homelessness by providing support to cities to implement innovative local solutions and increasing investments in our state’s behavioral health system*

Invest in Transportation Infrastructure and Mobility

The economic vitality of our state demands that we invest in our existing transportation infrastructure and prioritize new investments that improve the movement of people and goods. Cities have increased investments in local transportation systems, but still face an annual funding gap for maintenance and operation of those systems of \$1 billion statewide. Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to:

- *Partner with cities to develop a comprehensive transportation bill that provides new resources and options for local government to address transportation and mobility needs*

Fully Fund the Public Works Trust Fund and Provide Options for Local Infrastructure Needs

Today’s cities are building the infrastructure necessary to accommodate a growing population and economy. Investments in infrastructure keep communities vibrant, protect the environment, and attract economic development. Cities need tools to lower the cost of providing local infrastructure and to avoid further exacerbating the housing affordability crisis. Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to:

- *Fully fund the Public Works Trust Fund*
- *Support economic development tools that help maintain and expand local infrastructure, such as Tax Increment Financing and similar tools*

Preserve Local Decision-Making Authority

Cities possess strong local knowledge and authority to keep communities safe, healthy, and improve quality of life. It is critical cities maintain the authority to provide the necessary services and retain local control over land use planning that will help communities thrive.

Provide the Tools for Cities to Address Local Priorities

City revenue streams are limited and are not structured to sustainably keep-up with rising costs. Cities need flexible local funding tools, fewer unfunded mandates, and continued support from the state for shared responsibilities. Sound Cities Association urges the Legislature to:

- *Replace the arbitrary 1% cap on annual property tax increases with a limit tied to inflation plus population growth*
- *Meet the state’s commitment to revenues intended to be shared with cities to serve our shared constituents*
- *Continue streamlined sales tax mitigation to affected cities*

Item 02:
Regional Transit Funding Measure
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org, (206) 499-4159

SCA Regional Transit Committee Members

Councilmember Kathy Hougardy, Tukwila (Caucus Chair); Councilmember Susan Chang, Shoreline (Caucus Vice Chair); Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific; Mayor Kim Lisk, Carnation; Councilmember Ryan McIrvine, Renton; Councilmember Jon Pascal, Kirkland; Councilmember Jennifer Robertson, Bellevue; Councilmember Jeralee Anderson, Redmond (alternate); Mayor Dave Hill, Algona (alternate); Mayor Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah (alternate); Councilmember Toni Troutner, Kent (alternate)

Update

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the King County Council (in their capacity as the King County Transportation District) decided not to proceed with a countywide transit measure that was being contemplated for August 2020.

The county had previously been considering seeking voter approval for countywide 0.2% countywide sales tax that would generate \$160 million per year for the next ten years to fund increased regional transit service, speed and reliability investments, improved access, and expanded fare reduction programs.

In a message to SCA members announcing the decision on March 16, King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci said that in light of the outbreak and its emerging economic impacts, the county would instead “shift our attention to supporting our current transit system and building the momentum to re-regionalizing transit for a future ballot measure.”

In the last two weeks, the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak physical distancing guidelines and the Governor’s Stay Home order have brought about an estimated 72% drop in bus ridership as people limit trips to “essential travel.” Metro has temporarily discontinued fare collection and implemented service reductions across its network, including the temporary elimination of some routes. Metro is continuing to monitor passenger counts and adjust routes to accommodate demand for service while allowing space for physical distancing. The latest news and information can be found on the [Metro Matters blog](#).

Background

Information on the history of the King County Transportation District, regional transit funding, and the ideas previously under consideration for an August ballot measure can be found in the [February 12](#) and [March 11, 2020 PIC packets](#).

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the King County Council (in their capacity as the King County Transportation District) decided not to proceed with a countywide transit measure in 2020.

King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci provided the following message to SCA members on March 16 (one week before the Governor's Stay Home order):

Due to the growing outbreak of COVID-19 and after consulting with my King County Transportation District (KCTD) colleagues, we have decided not to proceed with a countywide transit measure in August. We remain fully committed to build out our planned bus network as envisioned in Metro Connects and expand bus service that serves as a lifeline to so many King County residents. Unfortunately, the extraordinary events related to the spread of COVID-19 make a countywide August ballot measure unrealistic at this time. As our community mobilizes to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and the early signs of the economic impact of the epidemic are starting to be seen, we must shift our attention to supporting our current transit system and building the momentum to re-regionalizing transit for a future ballot measure.

I've been impressed by the excitement from partners and cities for more transit countywide. As our region grows, more people need fast, frequent and reliable transit. I've heard the need to:

- *increase transit service in areas with unmet need - a key recommendation contained in the recently-adopted Metro Mobility Framework,*
- *connect to the expanding high capacity transit network of light rail and bus rapid transit that will open across our region in 2021, 2023 and 2024,*
- *provide a low income transit subsidy so those most in need can access our growing transit system,*
- *electrify our transit system to address climate change and improve environmental health, and*
- *build new capital projects to speed up transit countywide.*

There are many steps for us to take as we continue forward to re-regionalize transit even without a ballot measure in August. At an appropriate time, I look forward to engaging stakeholders, as well as our city, state and federal partners to find new ways to meet the demand in King County. We will begin to discuss how to build new funding tools at the state level to expand progressive funding sources, we will talk with our federal partners about opportunities for new investments in capital projects that will expand our system's capacity, and we will continue to engage our partners across the county to ensure the need for these critical services more transit is met.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with questions about the suspension of planning for the King County transit funding measure in 2020. I'm happy to schedule times to discuss and to collaborate with you moving forward as we build toward realizing the vision of a transit system for everyone in King County.

Next Steps

SCA will continue to monitor discussions related to future transit service funding and update PIC when more information is available. Questions can be directed to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry, brian@soundcities.org, 206-499-4159.



Item 03:

King County Regional Homelessness Authority

UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, SCA Policy Analyst, alexis@soundcities.org , (206) 495-5238; or, Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, deanna@soundcities.org.

King County Regional Homelessness Authority Governing Committee Members

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Council President Ed Prince, Renton

Update

The first meeting of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority Governing Committee (KCRHAGC) was cancelled and will not take place until sometime in late May. This is due to the fact that the three seats on the Governing Committee have not yet been filled by All Home. The All Home Coordinating Board voted at the April 1 meeting to restart the appointment process. All Home will convene next on April 15 to work on this issue.

Important items on the agenda for this first meeting of the Governing Committee include the process for hiring a CEO to manage the Authority, and discussion about appointment for the Implementation Board.

SCA will appoint two members to the Implementation Board and is in the process of collecting names of potential nominees that could be put forward. Cities are encouraged to provide names for potential appointees.

Cities are also asked to provide information on homeless crisis response in respective cities to help guide the work of SCA representatives to the Governing Committee.

Background

The Regional Homelessness Authority, established by [Interlocal Agreement \(ILA\)](#) between King County and the City of Seattle in December 2019, is focused on homelessness crisis response and is charged with managing procurement for organizations that provide services to people experiencing homelessness or about to experience homelessness, including shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing.

It WILL:

- Manage grant allocations to the non-profits and other organizations that are service providers for people experiencing homelessness.
- Collect data from those recipients of public dollars
- Evaluate performance of those recipients of public dollars
- Oversee the Homelessness Management Information System
- Oversee Coordinated Entry for All, which is the county's front door service for people experiencing homelessness in the County, it is a mechanism in which they prioritize clients

It WILL NOT:

- Conduct direct services. It is not managing shelters or conducting its own programs.
- Address affordable housing. It will not concern construction of affordable housing, nor the create affordable housing policy.
- Address "upstream interventions" or behavioral health

The Authority will be managed by a CEO and select staff from Seattle and King County's homelessness divisions will be moved into the new entity. Until the CEO is hired, the co-located staff from the County and the City of Seattle will maintain their reporting structure (i.e. that person continues to report to the supervisor they currently have now).

The Governing Committee serves as the primary oversight body and is responsible for evaluating and approving all plans for the authority. SCA is represented on the Governing Committee by Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; and Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton. Other members of the Committee include King County Councilmembers Joe McDermott and Reagan Dunn; Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan; Seattle City Councilmembers Lorena González and Andrew Lewis; and by three members representing lived experience.

The Homelessness Authority's structure also includes an Implementation Board that is responsible for developing and recommending organizational goals, policies and plans to the Governing Committee. The Implementation Board is comprised of individuals with expertise in a variety of subject matters associated with homelessness response. SCA has authority to appoint two individuals to the Implementation Board and is seeking recommendations from member cities.

For additional information on the KCRHA and its authority structure, please refer to the [March 11, 2020 PIC memo](#).

Changes to Timeline

The Governing Board was scheduled to hold its first meeting on March 12. This meeting could not be held due to the fact that the three seats on the Governing Committee have not yet been

filled by All Home. The All Home Coordinating Board voted at the April 1 meeting to restart the appointment process.

The first meeting of the Governing Committee is now expected to take place in late May. At this first meeting, the Governing Committee will select a Chair, discuss the CEO hiring process, and the appointment of implementation board members. In the meantime, a staff group consisting of representatives from Seattle, King County, and SCA are meeting to support this work of the Governing Committee.

For the Lived Experience seats to the Governing Committee, All Home staff is putting together a new process for appointments in consultation with King County Boards and Commissions staff. All Home Coordinating Board members will weigh in on that process before proceeding with applications. The Coordinating Board meets next on April 15.

Feedback sought from PIC

Homeless Crisis Response

To prepare SCA representatives to the Governing Committee, SCA staff are asking SCA cities to send answers to the following questions discussed at the March PIC meeting:

- What is your city's philosophy when it comes to homelessness crisis response?
- What is your city doing to provide homelessness crisis response services currently?
- What are the gaps in crisis response in your city? Where are additional resources needed?
- What suggestions do you have for potential SCA appointees to the Implementation Board?

Responses to these questions will help guide SCA representatives in discussion and decision-making in their role on the Governing Committee.

Implementation Board Nominees

SCA has authority to appoint two members to the Regional Homelessness Authority's Implementation Board, the body of subject matter experts and individuals with lived experience tasked making recommendations related to policies and budget. SCA member cities are encouraged to forward the names of individuals to nominate to serve on the Implementation Board.

Qualified individuals to serve on the Implementation Board include those possessing expertise in the following areas:

- Criminal justice
- Fiscal oversight
- Physical or behavioral health
- Academic research or data performance evaluation

- Affordable housing finance or development
- Business operations or strategy
- Equity implementation
- Homelessness Service Provision
- Federal Continuum of Care Service Provision
- Labor Unions/Workforce
- Youth Service
- Child Welfare

Implementation Board members are expected to be individuals who have connections to and experience with a broad range of stakeholders and communities. The majority of the Board is also required to be persons who are able to represent marginalized populations that are disproportionately represented among people experiencing homelessness.

Per the ILA forming the Authority, the Implementation Board “shall neither include elected officials nor employees of Seattle, the County or the Authority, nor employees, officials, agents or representatives of current Contract Holders or any entity that is likely to directly benefit from the actions of the Authority.”

Next Steps

All Home Coordinating Board meets next on April 15 to discuss the appointment of people for lived experience to the Governing Committee. The Governing Committee will have their first meeting in late May.

SCA staff request that cities send responses to questions about homelessness crisis response and names of individuals who meet the above qualifications for the Implementation Board to SCA Executive Director, Deanna Dawson.

For more information contact Alexis Mercedes Rinck, SCA Policy Analyst, alexis@soundcities.org, (206) 495-5238; or, Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, deanna@soundcities.org, (206) 495-3265.

Item 04:
VISION 2050
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

Brian Parry, Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org, (206) 499-4159

SCA Members of the PSRC Executive Board

Mayor Amy Ockerlander, Duvall; Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline; Mayor Allan Ekberg, Tukwila; Mayor David Baker, Kenmore (alternate); Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell (alternate); Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien (alternate); Mayor Jeff Wagner, Covington (2nd alternate)

SCA Cities with Seats on the PSRC Executive Board

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor Lynne Robinson, Bellevue; Mayor Jim Ferrell, Federal Way; Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent; Mayor Penny Sweet, Kirkland, Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton

Update

The proposed update to the regional plan for growth, VISION 2050, has been placed on hold until further notice as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency.

The PSRC Executive Board was previously scheduled to approve the update to VISION in March, with final adoption by the PSRC General Assembly slated for in May 2020. Further action by the Executive Board is now on hold and there is currently no revised schedule. PSRC staff has said that delayed adoption of VISION 2050 will not affect the schedule of upcoming local planning efforts (e.g. updates to local comprehensive plans).

Some relief to planning schedules was provided by the legislature's adoption of [HB 2342](#) during the 2020 session, which extends the deadline for the next update to local comprehensive plans in King County by one year to June 30, 2024. More information will be provided when it becomes available.

Cities are encouraged to provide any feedback on the draft VISION 2050 plan to SCA staff to be shared with SCA members on the PSRC Executive Board when they resume work toward a final recommendation.

Background

On December 5, 2019, the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) recommended adoption of the [draft VISION 2050 plan](#) to the PSRC Executive Board. Their recommendation culminated two years of review, public comment, and discussion among PSRC's member

jurisdictions in King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap counties to update regional planning policies and extend the region's long-range plan for growth from 2040 out to 2050.

The update builds-off of the existing framework for growth in the region, VISION 2040, by continuing to emphasize growth within the urban growth area and centers while adding new emphasis to health and equity; climate change; and implementation of recent plans and initiatives such as the Regional Economic Strategy, Regional Open Space Conservation Plan, Regional Centers Framework, and Growing Transit Communities.

Briefings on the update to VISION were held at PIC throughout the development of the draft plan. SCA representatives on the GMPB were actively engaged in the development of the draft plan, and joined other members of the GMPB in unanimously supporting its approval. Additional background can be found in the [February 12](#) and [March 11, 2020 PIC packets](#).

The GMPB's draft plan reflects many of the comments previously provided by SCA members to:

- Set ambitious goals for accommodating region's growth in proximity to high-capacity transit;
- Include emphasis on reducing climate change impacts, addressing the region's need for affordable housing, and promoting community health;
- Provide a framework for cities to address the region's challenges with growth through their local plans and avoid some of the "top-down mandates" related to zoning that have been considered by the legislature.
- Promoting consistency across the region to focus growth in centers and high- capacity transit areas while recognizing that for the setting of growth targets, "different approaches may be appropriate based on local circumstances" and recognition that the Growth Management Act requires counties and cities to provide capacity to accommodate 20-year projected growth targets "at a minimum."

Once adopted, work to implement the plan – including updating of the Countywide Planning Policies and growth targets that guide development of local comprehensive plans – will take place over the next year through the work of the King County Growth Management Planning Council. Cities in King County are required to update their comprehensive plans by June 30, 2024 following the adoption of [HB 2342](#) during the 2020 legislative session.

Next Steps

SCA members are encouraged to provide feedback or questions related to the proposed VISION update. Information about a revised adoption schedule will be provided when it becomes available. For more information, contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.



Item 05:
Levies and Ballot Measures in King County
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

Brian Parry, Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org, (206) 499-4159

Discussion

This is a monthly item on the PIC agenda to share information on recent and upcoming local levies and ballot measures in King County jurisdictions. Items identified as “potential future ballot measures” are under consideration or reflect potential renewal of an existing levy but have not been approved to be placed on the ballot and may not ultimately move forward.

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the King County Council has determined not to move forward with a countywide transit levy in 2020. It is unclear how the health emergency may impact 2020 levies being considered for the King County Library System, Harborview Medical Center, Seattle Transportation Benefit District (transit funding), and unincorporated King County roads.

Please send information on any upcoming measures affecting your city to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.

Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities (none reported)

Potential Future Ballot Measures – Other Jurisdictions and Special Purpose Districts

Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2020	August	King County	Regional Transit Measure
2020	August	King County Library System	Operations levy of 50-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, up from the current rate of 32-cents per \$1,000.
2020	November	Harborview Medical Center	\$1.7 billion capital construction bond measure at a rate of 15 to 18-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value*
2020		Seattle	Transportation Benefit District Renewal
2020		King County	Road Levy Lid Lift (unincorporated King County)
2021		King County	Best Starts for Kids Renewal

*Requires 60% yes vote for approval with a minimum of turnout of no less than 40% of voters voting in the district at the last general election

Potential Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities

Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2020	November	Kirkland	Fire and Emergency Services Levy

Next Steps

Please share this information with your city and provide information on upcoming elections in your city to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.

Item 06:
Potential Upcoming SCA Issues
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

Brian Parry, Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org, (206) 499-4159

Update

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

Potential Issues

Throughout the year, issues brought forward by SCA members are tracked in this ongoing, monthly agenda item and may be taken up by the PIC through workshops, briefings and discussion items, and as action items. Potential issues were discussed by the PIC in December 2019 and by the SCA board on an ongoing basis.

- Transportation and mobility, including Metro transit service and funding
- Homelessness and governance of the region's response system
- Local infrastructure needs and tools for funding local needs
- Addressing the need for sustainable sources of funding for cities, and addressing budgetary challenges
- Strengthening civic discourse
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion, including planning for the 2020 Governing for Racial Equity Conference
- Apprenticeships and workforce development
- Addressing public safety concerns
- Behavioral Health
- Best Starts for Kids Levy renewal
- Education and training for newly elected officials
- The 2020 census, and work of the King County Regional Census Committee
- Solid waste and the future of recycling and disposal, including review of the new Waste to Energy study
- Affordable housing
- Managing growth and addressing its impacts, including implementation of VISION 2050
- Clean water plan and capital investments
- Environmental sustainability
- Economic development and expanding opportunity for prosperity

If you or your city has additional items to be added to the list of potential upcoming SCA issues, or items to suggest for future trainings or workshops, please contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry, brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.



SCA Public Issues Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

March 11, 2020 – 7:00 PM

TELEPHONIC

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Deputy Mayor Christie Malchow, Sammamish, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 29 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included Councilmember James Jeyaraj, Auburn (PIC alternate); Councilmember Jeremy Barksdale, Bellevue (PIC alternate); Councilmember Semra Riddle, Lake Forest Park (PIC alternate); Councilmember Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond (PIC alternate); Councilmember Thomas McLeod, Tukwila (PIC alternate); Councilmember Barbara de Michelle, Issaquah (PIC alternate); Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland (PIC alternate); Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent; Councilmember Kristina Soltys, Covington; Councilmember Susan Honda, Federal Way; Candace Bock, AWC staff; Carl Schroeder, AWC staff; Joyce Nichols, Bellevue staff; Kelsey Beck, Seattle staff; Hannah Smith, Seattle staff; Diana Hart, Woodinville staff; Stephanie Pure, King County Metro staff; Tom Goff, King County Council staff; Lauren Craig, King County Metro staff; Doug Levy, Renton consultant; Mary Joe de Beck, Issaquah staff; Kellye Mazzoli, Bothell staff; Jeff Brauns, Newcastle staff; Susan Oxholm, King County staff.

Chair Malchow suggested moving discussion of Public Health and COVID-19 to earlier on the agenda to ensure there was adequate time for discussion. **Vice Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, moved, seconded by Mayor Linda Newing, Newcastle, to move agenda Item 10, Discussion of Public Health and COVID-19 to Item 7b. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

2. Public Comment

Chair Malchow asked if any member of the public would like to provide public comment. SCA President Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent, said that SCA is committed to ensuring everyone is informed regarding the COVID-19 health crisis. She expressed her appreciation for the work SCA staff is doing to provide cities with information about the virus outbreak and actions being taken to respond to the health crisis. She encouraged member cities to continue providing information about actions they are taking to SCA staff so that it can be shared among other members and cities can learn from each other.

Chair Malchow asked if there was anyone else who would like to provide public comment. Hearing none, Chair Malchow closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the February 12, 2020 PIC Minutes

Chair Malchow asked if there were any amendments to the February 12, 2020 PIC minutes. **Vice Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, moved, seconded by Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, to approve the February 12, 2020 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Chair's Report

Chair Malchow stated that the PIC meeting was being held telephonically and online due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. She noted that the SCA bylaws provide for meetings to be held by telephone in the event of an emergency situation.

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry provided an overview of how the meeting would be facilitated using GoToMeeting software. He noted that any discussion in the chat logs would be maintained for public records purposes.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that Policy Analyst Cynthia Foley departed SCA and wished her well in her future endeavors. She said that SCA is allowing staff to telecommute due to the COVID-19 outbreak and would be exploring options for moving more meetings telephonically during the crisis. She thanked members for joining PIC telephonically during the ongoing emergency, and said that meetings would return to being in-person as soon as it was prudent to do so.

6. Potential Change to November 2020 PIC Meeting Date

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that at the February 12, 2020 Public Issues Committee meeting, members adopted Resolution 2020-1 setting the PIC's 2020 Meeting Schedule. The usual date for meeting in November falls on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2020. Members were asked to provide feedback on potential alternate dates for the November meeting – potential options include Wednesday, November 4 or Thursday, November 12. Based on member feedback a revised meeting schedule resolution will be brought back to PIC for action at a future meeting.

7. 2020 Legislative Session

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry introduced Candice Bock, Director of Government Relations and Carl Schroeder, Government Relations Advocate for the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) who provided an update on the 2020 Washington State Legislative Session.

Schroeder reported on several bills related to affordable housing and funding to address homelessness being considered in the supplemental budget. The legislature approved \$160 million to fund additional shelter beds and expand access to affordable housing. [HB 2797](#) extending the deadline for jurisdictions to participate and expands allowable uses of funds authorized in 2019 by [HB 1406](#), under which cities and counties receive a portion of state sales taxes collected in the jurisdiction for affordable housing passed the legislature. [HB 1590](#) providing councilmanic authority for cities and counties to impose a sales tax for affordable housing and related services passed the legislature. [HB 2497](#) adding the development of permanently affordable housing to the allowable uses for community revitalization financing, local infrastructure financing tool, and local revitalization financing. [SB 6617](#) requiring cities and counties planning under GMA to adopt regulations related to accessory dwelling units passed the legislature with fewer mandates for cities than were being considered earlier in the session. Schroeder said that [HB 2342](#), extending the deadline for the next update to local comprehensive

plans in King County to June 30, 2024 (previous deadline was June 30, 2023) also passed the legislature.

Bock reported that the supplemental transportation budget provides \$10.3 billion in transportation funding and does not delay projects that were previously on the “pause” list provided by the Governor for the current biennium. She said [HB 2804](#), expanding Local Revitalization Financing projects by providing new funding and increasing the state’s annual contribution supporting projects was still being considered (*the bill did not pass*).

Councilmember Kate Kruller asked what level of reduction was expected for freight mobility. Bock said it was in the range of approximately \$7 million.

7b. Public Health and COVID-19

Executive Director Deanna Dawson provided an update on the latest guidance from the Governor’s office and from Public Health Seattle-King County related to COVID-19. SCA is providing daily emails to member cities with the latest information and recommendations as well as actions that cities are taking in response to the public health emergency. Dawson noted that the situation is very fluid and recommendations related to actions that should be taken to reduce the spread of the virus are being updated daily. SCA is facilitating communication among member cities, state, and county leadership. SCA has also partnered with MRSC on a [webpage](#) with COVID-19 resources for local governments. Dawson encouraged members to send any questions they may have to SCA to facilitate getting answers on their behalf. PIC members were asked to provide any updates related to their city’s response to COVID-19 that had not already been shared in SCA’s daily email to members.

8. Regional Transit Funding Measure

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that a pre-PIC workshop that was scheduled for the evening was canceled. The King County Transportation District, made up of the members of the King County Council, was scheduled to meet earlier in the day but that meeting was canceled as the County Council reevaluates options in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Dawson said it appears likely that a transit funding measure will not be moving forward in 2020. *(Note: SCA staff were informed on March 16 that the county council has decided not to proceed with a countywide transit measure in 2020 due to the ongoing focus on response to COVID-19).*

9. King County Regional Homelessness Authority

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck explained that the Regional Homelessness Authority is formed through an interlocal agreement between Seattle and King County. It is primarily charged with managing contracts and procurement for organizations that provide services to people experiencing homelessness, in addition to collecting data from those recipients of public dollars. The new authority will also oversee the homelessness management information system (HMIS), and Coordinated Entry for All. This Authority will not be conducting direct services. It is not managing shelters, addressing “upstream interventions,” or managing behavioral health services.

Rinck said there are four tiers of authority within the Regional Homelessness Authority:

- The Governing Committee
- The CEO
- The Implementation Board
- The Advisory Committee

Rinck said the Governing Committee is the tier where SCA has direct representation, and that it will be made up of elected officials as well as people with lived experience. The implementation board is also referred to as the expert board and includes 13 members who possess a balance of skills and expertise. She referred members to [page 48 of the PIC packet](#) for more information about the expertise sought for the Implementation Board.

Rinck said the last tier within authority is the Advisory Committees. The interlocal agreement requires that there be at least one advisory committee to perform the functions of the mandatory Federal Continuum of Care Board. (This is the work done currently by All Home, which will be phased out.)

Rinck reported that the first meeting of the Governing Committee was supposed to be on March 12; however, this meeting will be rescheduled to April due to the COVID-19 outbreak. At the first Governing Committee meeting, members will select a Chair for the committee, decide on a process for selecting a search firm to recruit the CEO, and decide on a plan for appointing the Implementation Board. SCA will appoint two members to the Implementation Board and is beginning the process of collecting names of potential nominees that could be put forward. Rinck encouraged members to send along names of potential nominees to the implementation board to Executive Director Deanna Dawson.

On March 2, SCA hosted a briefing and discussion for SCA members on the Regional Homelessness Authority. Members were asked at the meeting to answer the following questions about their cities and homelessness to inform SCA representatives on the Governing Board:

- What is your city's philosophy when it comes to homelessness crisis response?
- What is your city doing to provide homelessness crisis response services currently?
- What are the gaps in crisis response in your city? Where are additional resources needed?
- What suggestions do you have for potential SCA appointees to the Implementation Board?

Rinck reported that that SCA has received answers from about 10 cities and asked cities that have not sent in responses to email them to Executive Director Deanna Dawson.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, reported that the All Home Coordinating Board in the process of identifying those with lived experienced to serve on the new Governing Committee.

10. Affordable Housing and Countywide Planning Policies

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck reported that the Affordable Housing Committee began meeting in June of 2019 and has since adopted its 2020 workplan and now it working on one of its chartered responsibilities: recommending changes on the housing chapter of the Countywide Planning Policies (CPP's), to the Growth Management Planning Council. The CPPs are updated every five years and provide consistent expectations for what must be included in cities' comprehensive plans. The committee is expected to recommend changes to the Housing Chapter of the CPP's to provide new guidance on housing given the changes in the county since the last update. Rinck highlighted that information on how the countywide planning policies are approved, updated and how they affect cities' comprehensive plans can be found on [page 61 of the PIC packet](#).

Rinck said that in January the committee discussed options of recommendations to the current housing chapter of the CPP's and that areas of discussion included methods for measuring regional accountability; geographic distribution and siting of affordable housing; policies to address affordability for very low-income households; and, metrics measuring affordable housing goals and need

SCA caucus members of the AHC provided feedback on each of these issue areas, using the SCA caucus guiding principles approved from the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force. The feedback SCA members gave regarding the CPPs can be seen on page 64.

Rinck said the passage of HB 2342 would push the deadline for city updates to comprehensive plans back one year to June 30, 2024, and that this would provide additional time for the committee to consider potential CPP updates.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, asked about the Committee's work plan for 2020 and where the proposed updates to the CPPs are shown on their plan. SCA Policy Director Brian Parry clarified the summary of the work plan doesn't show topic areas for updating the CPP's, but that it is part of the Committee's work to review and recommend land use actions to increase and diversify housing choices and maximize affordability.

11. VISION 2050

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the draft update to the region's plan for growth, VISION 2050. VISION is the plan that sets expectations for the four-county region that makes up the Puget Sound Regional Council: King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap Counties. The role of VISION is to provide a framework for managing that growth in the region with a consistent set of goals to provide for a sustainable region and high quality of life. The policies and growth pattern included in VISION will ultimately directly influence the type of planning that has to be included in local comprehensive plans on a range of topics.

In February, the PSRC Executive Board reviewed the draft plan as recommended by the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board. The current schedule calls for the Executive Board make their final recommendation at their meeting on March 26; however, it is unclear whether that meeting will take place in light of the COVID-19 outbreak and action may be deferred to April. The final recommendation will then go before the PSRC General Assembly at their annual meeting on May 28, 2020.

Parry said a limited set of amendments were proposed to the plan during the February Executive Board meeting that are expected to be voted upon at the next Executive Board meeting along with the full plan. Notably the Executive Board will be asked to decide an issue that received significant debate earlier in the process related to the distribution of population in Snohomish County in the plan.

At the Executive Board meeting in February, some Board members raised concerns about indirect impacts to a potentially more dispersed growth pattern in Snohomish County and whether it would lead to negative environmental and transportation impacts (such as increased passthrough traffic) in the region. Snohomish County and others supporting their proposed growth pattern have questioned the role of PSRC in requiring changes to what was negotiated and approved by Snohomish County and its cities' countywide planning body, Snohomish County Tomorrow. Snohomish County has also noted that they have programs in place to transfer development rights from the rural area to urban parts of the county and that their projections for growth are based on pre-existing development rights and not new lots.

The SCA caucus to the Executive Board did not reach a consensus position at their February meeting. PSRC staff are continuing to work with Snohomish County and other stakeholders on the Executive Board to resolve the issue, but it is very likely to remain in play at the next Executive Board meeting.

Parry said that SCA representatives on the Growth Board supported the draft plan and felt that it reflected guiding principles adopted by SCA in 2019. He asked members to discuss VISION within their cities and share any concerns or to contact SCA if they need any additional information.

12. Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that Cedar Hills Landfill, the last remaining landfill in King County and primary destination for solid waste in the county, is expected to reach capacity sometime between 2035 and 2041. The 2019 King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan directs King County to invest in extending the life of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill by expanding the area for landfilling while also beginning work to identify the next disposal option before a required five-year plan update.

During the 2019/2020 biennial budget process, the King County Council funded a study to analyze two disposal options: siting and development of a waste to energy incineration plant, and exporting solid waste out of the county by rail. The Waste-to-Energy and Waste Export by Rail Feasibility Study, conducted by Arcadis U.S., Inc., was released on October 4, 2019.

The Arcadis Team recommends waste-to-energy as the preferred disposal option, as compared to waste export by rail. The study found long-term cost savings, improved recycling rates, and potential for net negative greenhouse gas emissions with the inclusion of carbon capture technology. The Arcadis Team recommends that King County pursue additional evaluation, analysis of permitting and siting considerations, and other steps necessary to move forward with waste-to-energy disposal.

Parry reported that the Solid Waste Division is also developing a Zero Waste of Resources Plan. He said the Division would like to use this planning process consider actions that could diminish the quantity of waste being disposed, which in turn would impact the type and scale of future disposal options under consideration.

The 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan requires the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget to engage regional partners to develop a plan for long-term disposal. A status report on this plan is required to be delivered to the King County Council by December 31, 2021.

Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, said that he appreciated seeing the county seriously considering waste to energy as a disposal option.

Councilmember Ernest Thompson, Normandy Park, said that he agreed the county should be considering waste to energy and that shipping by rail is outdated.

13. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that the King County Library System is planning to seek voter approval for an operations levy that would bring their rate to 50-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, up from a current rate of 32-cents, in August. There is also expected to be a capital construction levy in November of 15 to 18u-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value for Harborview Medical Center. Parry asked members to provide updates on any ballot measures under consideration in their cities or impacting their communities, in particular any efforts to backfill transportation funding lost due to I-976.

14. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry highlighted potential upcoming issues on [page 74 of the PIC packet](#). He asked members to provide feedback on issues they would like to be the focus of future PIC discussion, pre-PIC workshops, or training opportunities.

15. Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, April 8, 2020 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM

16. For the Good of the Order

Chair Malchow asked if any members had any items for the good of the order. Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, thanked staff and PIC members for making the meeting a success despite having to be held telephonically due to the public health emergency. Other members echoed their support.

17. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Public Issues Committee Meeting
March 11, 2020

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	
Auburn	Nancy Backus	James Jeyaraj
Beaux Arts Village	Tom Stowe	Aletha Howes
Bellevue	Janice Zahn	Jeremy Barksdale
Black Diamond	Erin Stout	Tamie Deady
Bothell	James McNeal	Tom Agnew
Burien	Krystal Marx	Nancy Tosta
Carnation	Dustin Green	Kim Lisk
Clyde Hill	Marianne Klaas	Kim Muromoto
Covington	Fran Hollums	Joseph Cimaomo
Des Moines	Traci Buxton	
Duvall	Michelle Hogg	Jennifer Knaplund
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Tony Binion
Federal Way	Martin Moore	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	N/A
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Barbara de Michele
Kenmore	David Baker	Corina Pfeil
Kent	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	Toby Nixon
Lake Forest Park	Tom French	Semra Riddle
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Les Burberry
Medina	Jennifer Garone	Jessica Rossman
Mercer Island	Benson Wong	David Rosembaum
Milton	Jim Gillespie	Shanna Styron Sherrell
Newcastle	Linda Newing	Tony Ventrella
Normandy Park	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Ernest Thompson
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Heather Koellen
Pacific	Leanne Guier	David Sporaasli
Redmond	Angela Birney	Vanessa Kritzer
Renton	Ed Prince	Armondo Pavone
Sammamish	Christie Malchow	Kent Treen
SeaTac	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Will Hall
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Katherine Ross	Matt Larson
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Thomas McLeod
Woodinville	Elaine Cook	Gary Harris
Yarrow Point	Dicker Cahill	
SCA	Deanna Dawson Brian Parry	Alexis Mercedes Rinck Leah Willoughby

Cities present at the meeting are **bolded**. Voting representatives present are highlighted.