



SCA Public Issues Committee

AGENDA

September 9, 2020 – 7:00 PM

Due to the COVID-19 emergency and pursuant to the Governor's Safe Start-Stay Healthy Proclamation, the PIC meeting will be conducted remotely.

Members of the public may view or listen to the meeting using the following methods:

From computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85263868497?pwd=dYt0N0pMYzVZYTUrSmVod01wY0xCQT09>

Passcode: 502505

Or dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782 / Webinar ID: 852 6386 8497 / Password: 502505

1. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Christie Malchow, Sammamish, Chair 5 minutes
2. **Public Comment** – Christie Malchow, Sammamish, Chair 10 minutes
3. [Approval of Minutes – July 8, 2020 Meeting](#) 5 minutes
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4. **Chair's Report** – Christie Malchow, Sammamish, Chair 5 minutes
5. **Executive Director's Report** – Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director 10 minutes
6. [Appointment of 2021 PIC Nominating Committee Members](#) 5 minutes
POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION
Page 18
Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director
7. [2021 SCA Legislative Agenda](#) 20 minutes
POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION
Page 19
Jackie Wheeler, SCA Policy Analyst
8. [Affordable Housing](#) 20 minutes
DISCUSSION
Page 27
Alexis Mercedes Rinck, SCA Policy Analyst
9. [VISION 2050 Plan Update](#) 15 minutes
DISCUSSION
Page 33
Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director

10. [Levies and Ballot Measures in King County](#) 10 minutes
UPDATE
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Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director

11. [Potential Upcoming SCA Issues](#) 5 minutes
UPDATE
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Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director

12. Informational Items

- a. [King County Regional Homelessness Authority](#)
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- b. [King County Charter Amendment Proposals](#)
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- c. [Metro Service Changes](#)
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13. Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Racial Equity and Justice Series #3 (Communities of Opportunity) – Friday, September 11, 2020 – 2:30 to 4:00 PM
- 14.** SCA Board Meeting – Wednesday, September 16, 2020 – 10:00 AM – noon
- c. SCA Racial Equity and Justice Series #4 (Policing) – Friday, October 9, 2020 – 2:30 to 4:00 PM
- 15.** SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, October 14, 2020 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM
- 16.** SCA Board Meeting – Wednesday, October 21, 2020 – 10:00 AM – noon
- 17.** SCA Public Issues Committee – Thursday, November 12, 2020 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM
- g. SCA Racial Equity and Justice Series #5 (Special Challenges of Running for Office and Serving as an Elected Official as a BIPOC) – Friday, November 13, 2020 – 2:30 to 4:00 PM
- h. SCA Board Meeting – Wednesday, November 18, 2020 – 10:00 AM – noon
- i. SCA Networking Event - Legislative Preview – Friday, November 20, 2020 – 2:30 to 4:00 PM
- j. SCA Annual Meeting – Wednesday, December 2, 2020 – 5:30 – 7:30 PM

14. For the Good of the Order

15. Adjourn

Sound Cities Association

Mission

To provide leadership through advocacy, education, mutual support and networking to cities in King County as they act locally and partner regionally to create livable vital communities.

Vision

Capitalizing on the diversity of our cities to lead policy change to make the Puget Sound region the best in the world.

Values

SCA aspires to create an environment that fosters mutual support, respect, trust, fairness and integrity for the greater good of the association and its membership.

SCA operates in a consistent, inclusive, and transparent manner that respects the diversity of our members and encourages open discussion and risk-taking.

Commonly Used Acronyms

ADS Advisory Council	Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services
AFIS Advisory Committee	Automated Fingerprint Identification System Advisory Committee
AWC	Association of Washington Cities
BOH	Board of Health
CYAB	Children and Youth Advisory Board
DVI Task Force	Domestic Violence Initiative Regional Task Force
EDDB	Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board
EMAC	Emergency Management Advisory Committee
EMS Advisory Task Force	Emergency Medical Services Levy Advisory Task Force
ETP	Eastside Transportation Partnership
GMPB	PSRC Growth Management Policy Board
GMPC	King County Growth Management Planning Council
GSP	Greater Seattle Partners
IJT	Interjurisdictional Team – staff support to the GMPC
JRC	Joint Recommendations Committee for Community Development Block Grants
K4C	King County-Cities Climate Collaboration
KCD	King Conservation District
KCDAC	King Conservation District Advisory Committee
KCFCD	King County Flood Control District
KCFCDAC	King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee
KCEC	King County Project Evaluation Committee
LEOFF1 Disability Board	Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Plan 1 Disability Board
LHWMP	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program
LHWMP MCC	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program Management Coordination Committee
MIDD	Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Oversight Committee
MKCC	Metropolitan King County Council
MSWMAC	Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
PIC	Public Issues Committee
PSAP	Public Safety Answering Points
PSCAA	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
PSCAAAC	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Advisory Council
PSERN	Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network
PSRC	Puget Sound Regional Council
RLSJC	Regional Law Safety and Justice Committee
RPC	Regional Policy Committee
RPEC	PSRC Regional Project Evaluation Committee
RTC	Regional Transit Committee
RWQC	Regional Water Quality Committee
SCA	Sound Cities Association
SCAACG	South Central Action Area Caucus Group
SCATBd	South County Area Transportation Board
SeaShore	Seashore Transportation Forum
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
TPB	PSRC Transportation Policy Board



SCA Public Issues Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

July 8, 2020 – 7:00 PM

TELEPHONIC

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Vice Chair Council President Bill Boyce, Kent, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 32 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included Councilmember James Jeyaraj, Auburn (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Ernest Thompson, Normandy Park (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Tom Agnew, Bothell (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Corina Pfeil, Kenmore (PIC Alternate); Deputy Mayor Wendy Weiker, Mercer Island; Councilmember Susan Honda, Federal Way; Councilmember Valerie O'Halloran, Renton; Councilmember Clyde Hill, SeaTac; Councilmember JC Harris, Des Moines; Councilmember Kathy Lambert, King County; Jenny Huston, King County staff; Beth Mountsier, Bellevue staff; Joyce Nichols, Bellevue staff; Kelsey Beck, Seattle staff; Tom Goff, King County staff; Diana Hart, Woodinville staff; Erika Harris, PSRC staff.

Vice Chair Boyce stated that the PIC meeting was being held telephonically and online via Zoom due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and consistent with the Governor's Safe Start-Stay Healthy Proclamation. He noted that the SCA bylaws provide for meetings to be held by telephone or other similar means in the event of an emergency.

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry provided an overview of how the meeting would be facilitated using Zoom Webinar software. He noted that any discussion in the chat logs would be maintained for public records purposes and included in the PIC minutes ([Attachment B](#)).

2. Public Comment

Vice Chair Boyce asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment. Hearing none, Vice Chair Boyce closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the June 10, 2020 PIC Minutes

Vice Chair Boyce asked if there were any amendments to the June 10, 2020 PIC minutes.

Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, moved, seconded by Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, to approve the June 10, 2020 minutes. The motion passed with 31 members voting yes, and one abstention (Lake Forest Park).

4. Chair's Report

Vice Chair Boyce reported that SCA would be hosting a Racial Equity and Social Justice Series for SCA members. The first of the series was to be held on July 10, 2020 ([recording available](#)) and the series will continue monthly on the second Friday of the month from 2:30 to 4:00 PM.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson encouraged PIC members to remember the Guiding Principles that SCA adopted earlier this year as members engage with each other. These include:

- Assume that others are acting with good intent
- No surprises!
- Have each other's backs
- Think about who is not at the table
- Be candid, but kind
- Once a decision is made, work together to make it work
- Show up to meetings prepared
- Extend grace to others – cut them some slack
- Remain open-minded
- Respect differing views

Dawson reported that SCA would be welcoming a new Policy Analyst, Jackie Wheeler, in July. Topics that will be staffed by Wheeler include transit, regional water quality, solid waste, flood control, and emergency management, among others.

Dawson said that SCA continues to focus on assisting cities manage through the COVID-19 public health emergency. She said recent case count trends have been moving in the wrong direction in recent weeks and King County Executive Dow Constantine recently held a meeting with community and business leaders to enlist support for renewing efforts to combat the virus.

6. PIC Meeting Schedule

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that at the February 2020 PIC meeting, members adopted Resolution 2020-1 setting the committee's meeting schedule and typical meeting location for the year. PIC members were asked to consider potential amendments to Resolution 2020-1 to: cancel the August 2020 PIC meeting consistent with past practice and with those of many regional committees and city councils; reschedule the November PIC meeting to November 12, 2020 as the regular meeting date would otherwise fall on Veterans Day; and, to temporarily designate the location of PIC meetings to be virtual due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, said that she supported canceling the August PIC meeting. Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, said he agreed with Backus. Deputy Mayor Krystal Marx, Burien, said she agreed with the proposed amendments. Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, concurred. In response to a question raised by Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, on behalf of his alternate Councilmember Corinna Pfeil, Dawson noted that SCA staff would still be available to member cities if the August meeting was skipped.

Councilmember Semra Riddle, Lake Forest Park, said the Lake Forest Park City Council meets on Thursdays and would not be available for the meeting on November 12, and asked if staff could

attend the meeting. Dawson said that staff are welcome to attend the meeting but would not be able to participate formally or vote on behalf of the city. She said SCA staff will do additional outreach prior to the November meeting with cities that have council conflicts due to the date change.

Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton, moved, seconded by Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, to approve Amended Resolution 2020-1A ([Attachment C](#)), to cancel the August 2020 PIC meeting; reschedule the November PIC meeting to November 12, 2020 and, to temporarily designate the location of PIC meetings to be virtual due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Board of Health Declaration of Racism as a Public Health Emergency

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck reported that on June 18, the King County Board of Health unanimously approved a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis. This action is in line with the declaration made earlier in the month by Executive Dow Constantine and Director Patty Hayes, also declaring racism a public health crisis.

Rinck reported that data collected by Public Health – Seattle & King County shows Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (or, BIPOC) frequently face disproportionate health outcomes, and that recently this has been demonstrated with the higher rates of COVID-19 infection and mortality. She noted that in King County, the rate of death per 100,000 for Latinx and Native Hawaiian/pacific islanders is more than double that of white residents.

In the resolution, the Board of Health identified systemic and structural racism as being directly linked to these disproportionate outcomes. For example, BIPOC communities are at greater risk of mortality from COVID due to the increased prevalence of chronic health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and severe obesity which are all tied to a systematic disproportionate lack of access to affordable and nutritious food; and also asthma, which is tied to poor air quality and other environmental factors.

Further, Rinck explained that many BIPOC folks are overrepresented in jobs considered essential, and thus they experience an increased likelihood of exposure to COVID-19 due to inability to avoid contact with potentially infected individuals.

Rinck reported that through declaring racism a public health crisis, the Board of Health committed to doing the following:

- Revising guiding documents like the Board of Health code and annual workplan;
- Conducting ongoing work around race and equity such as racial equity training;
- Engaging and being responsive to communities and residents impacted by racism; and,
- Establishing an agreed upon understanding of racial equity principles.

In addition to the action by the Board of Health, Rinck described two upcoming events on race and social equity that SCA has been involved in, including a Racial Equity and Justice Series with the first panel discussion scheduled for Friday July 10, 2020, from 2:30 - 4:00 PM; and a session

called Prioritizing and Budgeting for Racial Equity being hosted by Governing for Racial Equity and Inclusion on June 17, 2020, from 1:00-2:30PM.

Rinck concluded by asking members to share what cities are doing to address racism and for suggestions members have for how SCA as an organization can contribute to those efforts.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, reported that the Issaquah City Council developed short, medium, and long-term goals in addressing racial equity. He said they felt like it was important to address certain actions immediately, including reviewing their use of force policy. He referred to the “8 Can’t Wait” police reform framework and said that the council is exploring providing a monthly report for the public on use of force indicators, and that the council will be engaging in equity training.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, suggested that SCA could be a gathering place for compiling and producing a monthly list of what each city is doing regarding race and equity. SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson highlighted that SCA is putting together a resource list on race as part of the July 10 SCA webinar focused on history and perspectives from African American leaders, and that future events will cover topics relating to youth as well as policing.

Deputy Mayor Krystal Marx, Burien, noted that the National League of Cities (NLC) has a Race, Equity, and Leadership initiative and recently published a [report](#) that includes six steps cities can follow to begin improving equity and creating better outcomes for everyone. She said the Burien City Council will be using the report to guide discussion at an upcoming retreat.

Mayor Benson Wong, Mercer Island commented that he met with residents and students interested in reviewing use of force policy, and that the Mercer Island City Council will be holding a study session with the Chief of Police to inform the community about policies currently in place regarding use of force. On August 4, the city will be holding an event to have a broader discussion about possible next steps including councilmembers and boards having bias training, community outreach, and ongoing dialogue with community. He also noted that funding for these initiatives has been an obstacle.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, suggested cities also review another report from NLC on addressing racial tensions ([Responding to Racial Tension in Your City: A Municipal Action Guide](#)). She said that the Director of Race, Equity and Leadership for the National League of Cities, Leon Andrews, recently presented at the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) annual conference and encouraged members to reach out to AWC for a recording of the presentation. Zahn noted that she is an SCA alternate representative on the Board of Health, and that they are convening a subcommittee to look at racism as a public health crisis. She said if any SCA members have any interest in providing feedback to direct the caucus to please send it to Mercedes Rinck. Zahn also stated that she recognizes this is a broader issue than just policing and use of force.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, reported that the city created a new racial equity manager position and was in the process of finalizing hiring. She also reported that she and directors at

City of Auburn recently participated in a 48-hour training with a racial equity consultant, and the City Council will be holding the same training in August. She said the city is engaged in community conversations about community policing and to identify barriers to equity built into current programs and laws. She noted one city grant program that reimburses expenses up to \$5,000 as an example of a program they are considering changes to, recognizing that organizations have differing capacity to pay costs upfront and wait to be reimbursed.

Councilmember Semra Riddle, Lake Forest Park, reported that she is bringing the equity guidelines developed by Healthier Here for her council to review with the hope that the city council can adopt something similar.

Mayor Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, noted that the Board of Health resolution uses a lot of specific terms or jargon regarding race, identity, and structural power that could lead to confusion about what these terms mean and undermine the effort of having people from different worldviews agree on steps to take to meet the broader goal of having every person capable of thriving.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, reported that Kirkland City Council held a study session on use of force and the viability of school resource officers in schools. She said the council also held a two-hour meeting focused on hearing Black voices that was very powerful. At upcoming meetings, the council will engage in work focused on transparency, followed by a city-wide equity assessment, and more community engagement. She said the city is also working on identifying funding to hire an equity and inclusion manager.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, reported that two weeks ago the Federal Way City Council voted to eliminate the use of neck restraints by policy. She said the council is considering several opportunities for training and asked if SCA could provide training or other workshops and asked about pooling resources. She emphasized the importance of having common language, understanding history, and leaders working toward understanding the impact of racism on the region's BIPOC population. SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported on the race and equity series. She said SCA is also looking at opportunities to extend training opportunities to the membership. She said an obstacle has been finding experts who are willing to provide training virtually during the pandemic, but that SCA staff would continue to work on this.

8. Budget Outlook

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on budget challenges facing all levels of government due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and asked PIC members to provide updates on how their cities are approaching their budgets, actions taken to date, and expectations moving forward.

In the most recent economic forecast released in June, the state forecast a \$4.5 billion shortfall in the current biennium and \$4.4 billion in the next biennium. Over half of the decrease in forecasted funding is due to declining sales tax collections. While there was initially some expectation of a special legislative session being called in July or August, it now appears more

likely that a special session will not occur until later in the year and possibly as late as November or December.

At the county level, the county Office of Economic and Financial Analysis is projecting significant sales tax declines for the next several years over what had been projected in March. They are projecting a nearly 31% decline in sales tax collections this year and are not expecting collections to return to 2019 levels until 2024. Impacts to the county general fund are mitigated to an extent by the county having much of its funding from property taxes, which are much less affected by the current recession. But, services such as Metro Transit and programs supported by the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) levy – both of which are heavily dependent on sales tax – are facing large shortfalls.

Metro is projecting a loss in revenue from sales taxes and fares of over \$1.5 billion in the next ten years and a total shortfall of \$2.2 billion between now and 2028. Metro was already looking at a \$1 billion shortfall in the next ten years without new funding, and this shortfall doubled due to drop in funding from sales tax and fares for service. Altogether, Metro is now looking at a 20-30% reduction in the bus service network, which will have major implications on how people commute as well as long-range plans for growth that depend on transit.

Metro has made some immediate, temporary changes to service under the county's emergency declaration authority. More service changes are expected in September and again in March as part of their regular service change schedule. SCA representatives on the Regional Transit Committee were briefed recently and have asked Metro to provide a detailed plan on how the agency will be working with cities prior to making long-term system changes.

The county is similarly looking at options to cut costs to address a nearly 30% shortfall in 2020 for services funded by the MIDD sales tax levy. Some of the programs currently being considered for significant cuts include support for therapeutic court services; crisis intervention and de-escalation programs; and funding set aside for system improvements and innovation.

Parry said that all these cuts at the county and state level will of course add further strain on residents and make the challenges many cities are facing all that much harder to deal with. Parry asked PIC members to share with how they are beginning to tackle these difficult challenges.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, expressed concern that many of the proposed cuts stemming from declining MIDD levy revenue are to the types of services many communities have been calling for more of, such as de-escalation training or therapeutic drug courts. She said more discussion should be had about whether these services can be funded from another source.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, said the Regional Policy Committee was briefed by the Superior Court on proposed cuts and that SCA members expressed concerns about cutting programs that help divert people out of jail and that have shown to save money while reducing recidivism. She noted that it is a very difficult time budgetarily for all cities, and that Redmond

has instituted a hiring freeze and eliminated vacant positions but have so far been able to avoid layoffs.

Deputy Mayor Krystal Marx, Burien, said the city of Burien has instituted furloughs for management staff and are facing a 12% revenue shortfall. She said she does not support the cuts proposed to MIDD funded programs and that it is the wrong time to cut services that address systemic racism when county leadership and the Board of Health recently declared racism a public health crisis.

Councilmember Semra Riddle, Lake Forest Park, said she was very concerned about the proposal being considered by the county to essentially eliminate the Risk Awareness, De-escalation and Referral (RADAR) program. She said their police force relies on the RADAR program to connect residents with social workers who can work with them on long-term solutions to issues while allowing the police to focus on policing.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said the city is facing a 20% general fund shortfall and are projecting a long-lasting economic challenge. He said the city has already taken steps to reduce staffing, implement furloughs, and implement pay reductions. The city was recently able to distribute grants to businesses and community organizations from federal CARES Act funds, but these funds are limited.

Mayor Benson Wong, Mercer Island, said that he would like more information about what local school districts are planning with regard to operations in the fall. He said the city is working hard to prioritize expenditures, and that the services that have suffered the greatest impacts are parks and recreation, and youth and family services. The city is projecting long-term economic impacts from the current recession.

9. King County Regional Homelessness Authority

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck reported that the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCHRA) Governing Committee held their second meeting on June 18. During this meeting, the Governing Committee was briefed on efforts to provide staffing for members of the Governing Committee with lived experience of homelessness; discussed the process for hiring a CEO, and voted to select a hiring firm to conduct the CEO recruitment process; voted to hold a special Governing Committee meeting with the Implementation Board and staff to undergo racial equity and anti-oppression training; and affirmed the Governing Committee workplan.

Rinck reported that at the next Governing Committee meeting, the committee is anticipated to vote on co-chairs, review draft bylaws for the committee, review a racial equity assessment, and confirm the Implementation Board nominees. The Implementation Board will be comprised of individuals with expertise in a variety of subject matters associated with homelessness response. SCA has authority to appoint two members (of 13 total) to the Implementation Board. Currently, staff from all appointing entities are working through a nominating committee to develop and recommended slate of candidates.

Rinck said that All Home has begun the process of putting together the third tier of the Authority, which is the Advisory Board. Rinck reminded members that this Advisory Board will perform two main functions: advise the implementation board, and function as the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) required Continuum of Care body. The board will have a maximum membership of 19 people and all board members must have experience or skill in the following areas: implementation of policies and practices that promote racial-ethnic equity; provision of services for persons experiencing homelessness or related social services with an emphasis on serving populations that are disproportionately represented; and physical and/or behavioral healthcare or another intersecting system of care.

Geographic representation is being factored into the seating of the board in addition to including subpopulation representation such as youth, families, chronically homeless, single adults, domestic violence survivors, veterans, and immigrant and refugee communities; in addition to representatives of the faith communities, the funders and service providers, Black and African American community, American Indian and Alaskan Native Community, and people with lived experience of homelessness. The application opened July 7 and all applications are due by Sunday July 26.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, thanked SCA staff for their work supporting SCA members throughout the work to establish the KCRHA, specifically recognizing the work of SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson and SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes-Rinck.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, echoed appreciation of SCA staff and also added that Joyce Nichols, Bellevue staff, and Nina Rivkin, Redmond staff, have committed a lot of time to working on the KCRHA.

Executive Director Deanna Dawson said that SCA has put forward nominees for the Implementation Board: Dr. Damien Pattenau, Superintendent of Renton School District, and Nate Caminos, Director of Government Affairs at the Port of Seattle.

10. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on upcoming levies and ballot measures in King County. The county council took action in early July to place a bond measure on the ballot in November to support expansions and upgrades at Harborview Medical Center. The \$1.7 billion measure, if approved by voters, will pay for building a new medical tower, a new behavioral health building, renovation and seismic upgrades, and a host of other capital projects over the next 20 years.

Parry reported that Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan recently released a proposal to renew the city's Transportation Benefit District (TBD) at approximately half of the current funding level. The city's TBD is currently funded by a mix of motor vehicle excise tax and sales tax. The proposed renewal would be funded solely by a one tenth of one percent sales tax that would generate between \$20 and \$30 million per year over six years. Durkan said in announcing the proposal that her intent is to leave the door open for potentially re-regionalizing transit funding

if a countywide transit funding measure is pursued in future years. If approved by the Seattle City Council, the measure will be on the November ballot.

King County is moving forward with planning to develop a renewal proposal for the Best Starts for Kids (BSK) Levy. The levy currently raises about \$65 million per year and funds a wide range of programs throughout King County in support of families and children. The county council recently adopted a motion requesting the county executive to provide an assessment report by September 30, 2020. The assessment is expected to include analysis of investments by strategy, geographic area, and of the impacts on families and communities. In addition, the executive has been asked to provide recommendations on whether to revise the goals of the levy, and whether to increase or expand the levy to incorporate new or revised goals such as childcare.

The last day for jurisdictions to file a measure to be placed on the November ballot is August 4, 2020, the date of the primary.

11. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson said that she is working with the SCA Events Committee to plan for more virtual events, trainings, and social events and encouraged PIC members to provide suggestions for topics and format. Recent and upcoming events include the first meeting of the SCA Racial Equity and Justice on July 10 ([recording available](#)); a training session on troubleshooting online meetings with Ann Macfarlane of Jurassic Parliament; and SCA staff are working with external partners on a training focusing on improving cooperation and communication in this time of COVID-19. SCA members are encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions for future events to SCA staff or Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, who is chair of SCA's Events Committee.

12. Informational Items

Vice Chair Boyce highlighted informational items in the packet on the following topics: SCA letter concerning rates and fees, and legislative priorities for a potential special session in 2020.

13. Upcoming Events

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

14. For the Good of the Order

Vice Chair Boyce asked if any members had any items for the good of the order. Boyce thanked SCA staff for their work in preparation for the PIC meeting.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Public Issues Committee Meeting
July 8, 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.

SCA Public Issues Committee – July 8, 2020
Attachment B – Zoom Chat Log

From Krystal Marx, Burien to All panelists : Hello, all!

From Ed Prince, Renton to All panelists : Hi Krystal!

From Marianne Klaas, Clyde Hill to All panelists : I'm going to listen on my phone and watch on the big screen.

From Krystal Marx, Burien to All panelists : I volunteer for using the private jet!

From Sound Cities Association to All panelists : Remember that this chat is being kept as a public record! ;)

From David Baker, Kenmore to All panelists : form Corina. No they should not take a break - due to the pressures of COVID

From David Baker, Kenmore to All panelists : SCA has been instrumental for supporting cities at the state level & federal level

From Sound Cities Association to All panelists :

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/05/us/coronavirus-latino-african-americans-cdc-data.html>

From Sound Cities Association to All panelists : This is the article that Alexis referenced

From Sound Cities Association to All panelists : Here's a link to register for the GREI forum on 7/17:
<https://grei.eventzilla.net/web/event?eventid=2138799274>

From Elaine Cook, Woodinville to All panelists : Council Member James McNeal and myself are convening a group of 5th, 6th, and 7th graders in the Northshore School District area for a series of 6 virtual conversations about Diversity and Racism, facilitated by James McNeal.

From Krystal Marx, Burien to All panelists : Resource from the National League of Cities:
<https://www.nlc.org/sites/default/files/users/user125/NLC%20MAG%20on%20Racial%20Equity.pdf>

From Lydia Assefa-Dawson to All panelists : Thank you all for the resources.

From Janice Zahn, Bellevue : <https://www.nlc.org/resource/responding-to-racial-tension-in-your-city-a-municipal-action-guide>

From Sound Cities Association to All panelists : Thanks Krystal - Adding that to our resource list

From Sound Cities Association to All panelists : Thanks Janice! I will add that as well!

From Traci Buxton, Des Moines to All panelists : Thank you, Krystal and Janice!

From Krystal Marx, Burien to All panelists : Burien is drafting an ordinance for Council consideration re: creating a limited-duration Public Safety Community Task Force much like the one implemented in Ithaca, NY. (<https://ithacavoice.com/2020/06/city-of-ithaca-creates-task-force-to-reform-ipd/>)

From Krystal Marx, Burien to All panelists : For KCSO contract cities, the Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO) can also pull data on actual police response, misconduct allegations, types of crimes reported, etc. if PIC members are interested in addressing public safety funding.

From Janice Zahn, Bellevue : I will ask NLC Racial Equity and Leadership Director about offering virtual training.

From Sound Cities Association to All panelists : Thanks Janice!

From Nancy Backus, Auburn : Erin Jones recently held an online cohort for white leaders. It was 4 2 hour sessions. She is holding online classes.

From Nancy Backus, Auburn : In racial equity work

From Sound Cities Association to All panelists : Thanks Nancy - we will add that to our list of potential resources.

From Krystal Marx, Burien to All panelists : Also concerned re: 22% reduction in the LEAD program

From Ed Prince, Renton to All panelists : Renton School District is having K-3 go five days a week in person. 4-12 will go two days in person either M,W or T, Th

From Sound Cities Association to All panelists : Thanks Ed!

From Nancy Backus, Auburn : Renton SD sounds very similar to the plan that Auburn has in place.

From Krystal Marx, Burien to All panelists : Highline School District (18,000 students in Burien, Des Moines, Normandy Park, SeaTac and White Center, spread over 33 schools with over 2,000 staff members) is still deciding between a hybrid model (50% in-person Monday & Tuesday, 50% in-person Thursday & Friday, with online learning when not in the classroom), and a virtual academy (following a typical school day schedule).

From Sound Cities Association to All panelists : Thanks Krystal

From Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park to All panelists : Highline School District is also deciding tonight whether or not to have a Tech Levy on the November Ballot.

From Krystal Marx, Burien to All panelists : Are all Councilmembers of SCA member cities able to attend the Jurassic Parliament presentation?

From Sound Cities Association to All panelists : All SCA members can attend the Jurassic Parliament training!

From Angela Birney, Redmond : <https://www.redmond.gov/1138/Derby-Days>

Sound Cities Association
Resolution 2020-1-A
2020 Public Issues Committee Schedule

WHEREAS, the Public Issues Committee (PIC) of the Sound Cities Association meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM to conduct the regular business of the Committee, unless otherwise stated; and

WHEREAS, the Public Issues Committee holds a Pre-PIC workshop monthly at 6:00 PM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month for informational, educational or other PIC-related purposes, unless otherwise stated; and

~~**WHEREAS**, the Public Issues Committee holds the majority of its meetings at Renton City Hall;~~

WHEREAS, the Sound Cities Association Board of Directors adopted Resolution 2020-12 on June 17, 2020 temporarily designating the location for PIC meetings to be a virtual location due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency;

NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUBLIC ISSUES COMMITTEE OF THE SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1:

The Public Issues Committee sets the following schedule for 2020 PIC meetings:

February 12
March 11
April 8
May 13
June 10
July 8
~~August 12~~
September 9
October 14
November ~~11~~12
December 9

SECTION 2:

Public Issues Committee meetings will typically be held at Renton City Hall. Alternate meeting locations may be determined by the membership. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the location of PIC meetings is designated to be a virtual location.

PASSED BY THE PUBLIC ISSUES COMMITTEE OF THE SOUND CITIES ASSOCIATION AT ITS REGULAR MEETING ON THE 12th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020- AND AMENDED ON THE 8th DAY OF JULY, 2020.

Bill Boyce, 2020 PIC Vice Chair

Date

Attest:

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director

Date



September 9, 2020
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 6:

Appointment of 2021 PIC Nominating Committee Members

ACTION

SCA Staff Contact

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

2020 PIC Nominating Committee

Councilmember Ross Loudanback, North Bend (chair); Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton; Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline; Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw

Potential Future Action

Per the SCA bylaws, the Public Issues Committee (PIC) Chair is to appoint a Nominating Committee of the Public Issues Committee consisting of one representative of each SCA Regional Caucus by October of each year. PIC Chair Christie Malchow, Sammamish, may appoint members of the Nominating Committee in September to provide additional time for the Committee to begin working on appointments for 2021.

PIC Chair Christie Malchow has indicated her intent to reappoint three current members of the SCA PIC Nominating Committee for an additional year as follows: Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw (South Valley Caucus); Councilmember Ross Loudanback, North Bend (Snoqualmie Valley Caucus); and Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline (North Caucus). There will be a vacancy in 2021 for a South Caucus member of the PIC due to Councilmember Ed Prince stepping away from the committee after many excellent years of service.

Background

The PIC Nominating Committee makes recommendations to the PIC on who should be appointed to various regional boards and committees, who in turn makes a recommendation to the Board. The boards and committees that SCA appoints to can be found [here](#).

The PIC Nominating Committee generally meets several times in the fall to recommend appointments, and thereafter as needed throughout the year to recommend appointments as vacancies occur.

Next Steps

For additional information, contact SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson at deanna@soundcities.org or (206) 495-3265.



September 9, 2020
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 7:

SCA 2021 Legislative Agenda

POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION

SCA Staff Contact

Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org, 206-499-4159; or Jackie Wheeler, SCA Policy Analyst, jackie@soundcities.org, 206-495-3020

SCA Legislative Committee Members

Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent (Chair); Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific; Mayor Amy Ockerlander, Duvall; Mayor Mary Lou Pauley, Issaquah; Deputy Mayor Wendy Weiker

Discussion

At the September PIC meeting, members will review SCA priorities from the 2020 legislative session, initial priorities being developed by the Association of Washington Cities, and initial legislative priorities for 2021 being discussed by the SCA Legislative Committee in order to provide input on priorities for consideration by the SCA Legislative Committee. PIC members are encouraged to provide information on any work that has already begun in your city to identify priorities for 2021 and to provide input for the SCA Legislative Committee to consider as it develops recommendations.

Background

The SCA 2020 Legislative Agenda ([Attachment A](#)) focused on legislative requests in five priority issue areas: (1) Address the Affordable Housing and Homelessness Crisis; (2) Invest in Transportation Infrastructure and Mobility; (3) Fully Fund the Public Works Trust Fund and Provide Options for Local Infrastructure Needs; (4) Preserve Local Decision-Making Authority; and, (5) Provide Tools for Cities to Address Other Critical Local Priorities.

As noted in the final SCA Legislative Report following the end of the 2020 session ([Attachment B](#)), the legislature did not significantly increase revenue tools to address local transportation needs. Legislation was approved reflecting SCA priorities for affordable housing, state-shared revenues, and other priorities. However, in anticipation of state revenue impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor ultimately vetoed a bill related to sales and use tax for affordable housing and another on streamlined sales tax mitigation payments.

In June 2020, following the recommendation of PIC, the SCA Board also adopted legislative priorities related to the COVID-19 public health emergency in preparation of a possible special session ([Attachment C](#)). As of this time, a special session of the state legislature has not been convened, and one is not anticipated until after the November elections, if at all.

In prior years, PIC has sought to develop a legislative agenda that is largely consistent with that of the Association of Washington Cities, but with a focus on issues that are unique or particularly important to SCA cities. On September 3, AWC's Legislative Priorities Committee voted to recommend five policy issues as priorities for AWC Board consideration:

- State Shared Revenue: Maintain existing shared revenues and oppose further cuts.
- Transportation: Support a new transportation revenue package
- Statewide Policing Reform: Support a statewide policing reform that may include a standard use of force, a database to track officers who have been fired from employment for misconduct, requiring psychological evaluation regularly and after fatal use of force, and establishing duty to intervene and report misconduct/illegal activity of another officer, etc.
- Fiscal Flexibility: Provide greater fiscal flexibility on existing revenue sources to help cities manage the impacts of the economic crisis
- Housing Instability Assistance: Work in coalition to address housing instability created by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including rent assistance and foreclosure-prevention assistance

Other issue areas considered by AWC's Legislative Priorities Committee as possible areas of support include:

- Revise property tax cap to tie it to inflation and population growth factors
- Engage in Growth Management Act reform conversation
- Support efforts to fully fund the Public Works Trust Fund
- Support efforts to increase access to childcare and additional investment of CARES money to support childcare facilities at risk of closure
- Support permanent policy to allow greater flexibility for local governments to hold virtual meetings without a physical location during an emergency

The SCA Legislative Committee met on August 12 to begin developing the SCA 2021 Legislative Agenda to recommend to PIC. At their first meeting, the Committee began discussing potential "buckets" of issue areas to focus the 2021 SCA legislative priorities, with a goal of approaching each through a lens of racial equity and social justice:

- Invest in Economic Recovery
- Address the Fiscal Needs of Cities to Provide Local Services
- Address Housing Instability
- Invest in Transportation and Other Infrastructure
- Limit State Interference in Local Democracy
- Enact Law Enforcement Reform

These priorities are consistent with the priorities adopted by the SCA Board at their 2020 retreat.

Next Steps

The SCA Legislative Committee will continue to meet over the upcoming months to refine the list of priority issue areas and make recommendations for the SCA 2021 Legislative Agenda. At

future meetings, PIC will review the recommendations of the Legislative Committee and recommend the proposed Legislative Agenda to the SCA Board, by whom it may be formally adopted. Questions or feedback can be provided to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159; or, Jackie Wheeler, SCA Policy Analyst, jackie@soundcities.org, 206-495-3020.

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*

Final 2020 State Legislative Update March 13, 2020

The following update on bills considered during the 2020 Washington State legislative session is ordered in relation to priorities identified in the SCA 2020 Legislative Agenda. In addition, we have added an update on what the legislature approved in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. This is intended to provide a status update of those bills and does not reflect support or opposition to a particular bill.

The Association of Washington Cities will be hosting a free legislative wrap-up webinar on Thursday, March 19, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM. [Register here.](#)

For more information contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@souncities.org or 206-499-4159.

COVID-19 Funding

On the final day of the session, the Legislature approved bipartisan legislation ([HB 2965](#)) to expend \$200 million from the state's rainy day fund to address the COVID-19 outbreak. Of this, \$175 is million dedicated to public health and \$25 million 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.

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. **Governor vetoed on April 3.**

[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

[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. **Governor vetoed on April 3.**

[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

[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.



SCA 2020 Legislative Priorities Related to COVID-19 Response and Relief

As the Legislature considers necessary actions to address the impacts of COVID-19 on our state, SCA asks that priority be given to support for cities and towns in the following areas:

Financial support

- Maintain critical state shared revenues that provide funding for essential public services.
- Provide fiscal relief to cities hard hit with costs for emergency response and loss of tax revenue.

Fiscal flexibility

- Provide flexibility within existing restricted revenues to allow cities to use funds where they are most needed right now.

Regulatory relief

- Continue the emergency action taken by the Governor to provide flexibility on deadlines for permitting and land use timelines. Cities hard hit by this emergency may still be experiencing staffing shortages and back-logs that will impact their ability to comply with typical statutory deadlines.

City-owned utility support

- Allow city-owned utilities that have waived late fees and shut-offs and extension of their ability to collect outstanding debt so that they can work with rate payers to extend payment plans without impacting the financial viability of the utility or raising rates on other customers.
- Provide funding to help offset losses related to forgiving late fees and delinquent accounts for those customers hard-hit by the emergency.

Economic stimulus

- Investing in public infrastructure projects is one of the best ways to support economic stimulus as infrastructure investments have a positive economic multiplier with the creation of family-wage jobs and support increased economic activity.

Cities also support efforts to help the most vulnerable residents and our small businesses

- Cities support programs to provide emergency rental assistance and emergency housing.
- Cities support programs to provide emergency assistance to small businesses.

Item 8:
Affordable Housing Committee
DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Policy Analyst, alexis@soundcities.org, (206) 495-5238

SCA Members of the King County Affordable Housing Committee

Councilmember Claude DaCorsi, Auburn; Mayor Lynne Robinson, Bellevue; Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien; Councilmember Ryan McIrvine, Renton; Councilmember Marli Larimer, Kent (alternate); Council President Tanika Padhye, Redmond (alternate); Councilmember Zach Hall, Issaquah (alternate); Mayor Rob McFarland, North Bend (alternate)

Discussion

The Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) is a committee of the King County Growth Management Policy Committee that is tasked with overseeing implementation of the [Five-Year Action Plan](#) adopted in December 2018 by the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force.

As part of its 2019-2020 work plan, the AHC committed to making recommendations to update the Housing Chapter of the Countywide Planning Policies (CPP's) and also evaluating potential revenue sources to support affordable housing development and preservation. As part of the discussion of revenue options, cities may wish to provide feedback on the new authority granted by [HB 1590](#), approved by the Legislature in 2020, to adopt a one-tenth of one percent sales tax for affordable housing by councilmanic authority either countywide or at the city level should the county not exercise its option to implement the tax by September 30, 2020.

At PIC, members are encouraged to provide feedback on these issue areas to help inform SCA representatives on the AHC.

Background

The Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) of the King County Growth Management Planning Council serves as a regional advisory body to recommend action and assess progress on affordable housing efforts across King County. Specifically, the AHC is tasked with monitoring implementation of the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force [Five-Year Action Plan](#), which was adopted in December of 2018.

The AHC is currently engaged in work on two priorities identified in the Five-Year Action Plan: to recommend amendments to the Growth Management Planning Council for updates to the Housing Chapter of the Countywide Planning Policies (CPP's) and to identify and prioritize new resources to build, preserve, or subsidize affordable units.

2020-2021 CPP Update

The King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPP's) are a series of policies that address growth management issues in King County. The CPP's are developed and approved by the King County Growth Management Planning Council, and must also be approved by the King County Council and ratified by cities and towns representing at least 70% of the county population and 30% of those jurisdictions.

The role of the CPP's is to implement the Growth Management Act by creating a shared policy framework that guides the development of local comprehensive plans. The CPP's provide consistent expectations and direction for issues that extend beyond the boundaries of a single jurisdiction and ensure that the comprehensive plans of King County and each city work together toward a common purpose.

As part of the current CPP update, the AHC will be providing recommendations to the Growth Management Planning Council on updates to the Housing Chapter of the CPP's, which includes policies intended to help all jurisdictions plan for and promote a range of affordable, accessible, and healthy housing choices for current and future residents. The policies focus on households earning 80% or less of Area Median Income and provide special emphasis on low and very-low income households earning 50% or less of Area Median Income.

The current Housing Chapter of the CPP's were first established in 1992 and were substantially revised as part of the most recent update in 2012.

The original CPP's adopted in 1992 estimated the countywide need for affordable housing as a percentage of new growth and used these percentages to set affordable housing *targets* for each jurisdiction. By 2010, it was clear that this method for setting affordability goals did not result in an equal distribution of affordable housing across all geographic areas of the county. The southern portion of the county already contained a large proportion of units affordable to low- or moderate- income households (at or below 80% of Area Median Income), and the CPP's were creating imbalances in their existing housing stock. These cities felt unduly penalized by targets which only took into account new construction, rather than overall housing stock. At the same time, even with robust efforts to plan for and fund affordable housing units, exponentially rising land and construction costs made it near impossible for some eastside cities to achieve the targets established for them in the earlier CPP's.

To address these issues, in 2012 the CPP's were updated to define need as a percentage of total housing stock rather than as a percentage of anticipated new growth. Under the current policy framework, countywide need is identified by percent of Area Median Income as:

- 12% of total housing supply should be for 30% and below AMI (very-low)
- 12% of total housing supply should be for 30%-50% of AMI (low)
- 16% of total housing supply should be for 50-80% of AMI (moderate)

The new policies required each jurisdiction to develop housing policies or strategies suitable for their communities to meet their share of the countywide need. Rather than a quantified unit goal as in the 1992 policies, implementation strategies may vary and should be informed by a jurisdiction's own analysis of need. Furthermore, the 2012 policies outlined a four-step iterative process that each city and the County would follow:

1. Conduct an inventory and analysis of existing and projected housing needs and conditions;
2. Implement a range of strategies and policies within a local jurisdiction to address unmet housing needs;
3. Measure results; and
4. Respond to measurement with reassessment and adjustment of strategies.

The intent of the current policies is to recognize that conditions affecting housing supply are different throughout the county and will require different solutions. For instance, in some communities, efforts focused on preservation of existing affordable housing stock may be the most effective. In others, the more effective approach may be to capitalize on new development and tools to incentivize or require the inclusion of affordable units.

Most cities adopted updates to their comprehensive plans in 2015, which included new policies consistent with the Housing Chapter of the CPP's. However, while many local plans and policies have been adopted, a regional monitoring structure was not established, making it challenging to assess the effectiveness of individual housing strategies. Without a data reporting structure, the region lacks accurate information on whether the county is meeting its overall goal to ensure that the housing needs of all economic and demographic groups are met within all jurisdictions. In addition, many jurisdictions lack the resources to track these housing metrics and jurisdictional-level monitoring has generally not occurred.

The AHC has identified several priority areas of focus for the update to the CPP's, including reconsidering how overall need is defined; opportunities to increase jurisdictional accountability toward meeting housing need; and, address equity and social justice in regional planning. Potential areas of improvement identified by the AHC include policies to:

To help guide the SCA caucus of the AHC as they engage in the current update to the CPP's, it is important to have SCA city feedback on the current policy framework and how it can be improved. Some questions for SCA cities to consider include:

1. How can the region improve accountability to ensure we are making progress toward meeting the need for affordable housing? Is the current framework sufficient if implemented fully, or are changes needed?
2. Are any changes needed to the current framework for assessing countywide affordable housing need?

3. Should responsibility to meet the regional affordable housing need be distributed evenly across the county or should need be weighted by certain criteria, such as proximity to high-capacity transit, proximity to jobs, or projected future growth?
4. Should jurisdictions be required to adopt policies requiring a defined share of new growth to meet affordability goals?
5. What are the biggest obstacles to the creation of affordable housing in your city?
6. What is missing from the current policy framework?
7. How can regional plans and policies better promote equity in land use planning?
Opportunities for policy updates identified by the AHC include policies aimed toward: mitigating physical, economic, and cultural displacement of communities of color and low-income communities that may result from redevelopment and market pressure; improve housing quality; increasing housing stability; inclusively engaging local communities in policy decisions; increasing homeownership opportunities for low-income communities; and supporting efforts to develop a regional equity strategy.

Funding to Support Affordable Housing Development and Preservation

In addition to reviewing affordable housing policies, the AHC is also engaged in an effort to analyze and identify unused and new revenue sources to support affordable housing development and preservation. Between 2012 and 2017, an average of \$306.5 million per year was invested in affordable housing in King County with nearly 75% of this funding coming in the form of federal tax credits. These investments led to the preservation or construction of between 1,000 and 2,500 per year, but the need has continued to grow.

As provided for in the Five-Year Action Plan, the AHC is tasked with working with cities and the county to identify affordable housing revenue sources that could be implemented at the city or countywide level, and to collectively advocate for increased state and federal resources.

The AHC has been asked to provide input on a series of questions related to potential revenue sources, including:

1. Should the AHC recommend new funding sources?
2. If so, are there any particular revenue tools that you want the AHC to consider/prioritize and why?
3. What criteria should the AHC use to evaluate new sources?
4. What are the most important considerations in your community when it comes to revenue for affordable housing?

The SCA caucus to the AHC met recently and the consensus from that discussion is that given the fiscal realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on cities' budgets, members do not feel this is an appropriate time to be advocating for new taxing options at the local level. However, there remains an opportunity to provide input on priorities related to affordable housing funding in the short and long term.

A current example of where cities may wish to provide feedback is the new authority granted by [HB 1590](#), approved by the Legislature in 2020, to adopt a one-tenth of one percent sales tax for affordable housing by councilmanic authority either countywide or at the city level should the county not exercise its option to implement the tax by September 30, 2020.

HB 1590 – Councilmanic Authority for Affordable Housing

[HB 1590](#) was approved by the Washington State Legislature in 2020 and councilmanic authority to implement a sales tax-based affordable housing levy. The legislation provides that King County may councilmanically impose a sales tax of up to one-tenth of one percent countywide, with the authority to implement the tax extended to cities if the county does not take action by September 30, 2020.

A minimum of 60% of the money collected from the tax must be used for construction of affordable housing, construction of mental and behavioral health facilities, funding the operations and maintenance costs of new units of affordable housing and facilities where housing-related programs are provided, or newly constructed evaluation and treatment centers. The affordable facilities and programs funded through the levy must serve individuals whose income is below 60% AMI of the county imposing the tax. The remainder of the funds collected must be used for the operation, delivery or evaluation of mental and behavioral health treatment programs and services.

If King County does not impose the full tax rate by September 30, 2020 then any city legislative authority within King County may either:

- a. Submit an authorizing proposition to city voters at a special or general election and if the proposition is approved by the majority of voters, impose the whole or remainder of the sales and use tax rate.
- b. Impose councilmanically, without a proposition approved by a majority of voters, the whole or remainder of the sales and use tax rate.

If King County does impose the full tax rate but it is after a city has imposed the tax (which they would be able to after Sept 30), then the county must provide a credit against its tax for the full amount of tax imposed by a city.

PIC members are encouraged to provide feedback on any ongoing discussions regarding the taxing authority granted under HB 1590 within your city as well as on the potential for a countywide levy.

SCA staff are looking for feedback on the following:

1. Is your city considering imposing some or all of the levy amount authorized under HB 1590 should King County not impose the full tax rate by September 30?
2. What feedback should be provided to the County by AHC members concerning the potential for the County to move forward with a countywide levy?

Next Steps

Feedback from PIC will be brought to the SCA caucus for consideration ahead of the September AHC meeting. The recommended changes to the Housing Chapter of the CPP's and the revenue guiding principles are expected to be approved at the November AHC meeting. For more information, contact SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck at alexis@soundcities.org or (206) 495-5238; or, SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at biran@soundcities.org or (206) 499-4159.

Item 9:
VISION 2050
DISCUSSION

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, is being considered for action at the September 24, 2020 meeting of the PSRC Executive Board. If approved by the Executive Board, the draft plan will then go before the PSRC General Assembly made up of all PSRC member jurisdictions for final approval potentially in October.

The draft VISION 2050 plan sets the framework for how the four-county PSRC region will manage growth of an additional 1.8 million people and 1.2 million jobs in the next 30 years. The plan sets important expectations that will guide the development of countywide growth targets, city comprehensive plans, and sets the stage for regional collaboration on a host of important issues such as affordable housing and local infrastructure funding.

A limited set of amendments were reviewed by Executive Board at their July meeting that are expected to be voted upon this month 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.

Cities are encouraged to provide any additional feedback on the draft VISION 2050 plan to SCA staff to be shared with SCA members on the PSRC Executive Board as they 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.

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;
- Promote 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 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. Most cities in King County are required to update their comprehensive plans by June 30, 2024, which will be required to incorporate the Multicounty Planning Policies included in VISION 2050.

Ongoing Issue – Snohomish County Rural Growth Amendment Proposal

Snohomish County has proposed an amendment to the Executive Board to reconsider an issue related to distribution of growth in that county that was considered previously by the GMPB. The proposed amendment would change the portion of VISION that provides a numeric guidance on where growth will occur, called the Regional Growth Strategy. The Regional Growth Strategy guides growth by assigning shares of expected population and job growth into

“Regional Geographies,” which are defined by the idea that different types of cities and unincorporated areas will play distinct roles in the region’s future growth based on regional centers, access to high-capacity transit, and future planning. There are six Regional Geographies in the draft VISION 2050 plan among which population and job growth are distributed: Metropolitan Cities, Core Cities, High Capacity Transit Communities, Cities and Towns, Urban Unincorporated, and Rural. A map of the distribution of Regional Geographies can be found in [Attachment A](#).

Prior to the GMPB taking action to recommend the proposed update to VISION, a closely split vote was held on projected population growth in Snohomish County’s Rural Regional Geography (growth occurring outside of the urban growth boundary). The recommendation in the draft plan calls for rural development in Snohomish County to be limited to 3% of projected population and employment growth through 2050 (13,000 people). Snohomish County has requested this be amended to a 6% rural growth share (25,000 people), noting that 6% would represent a lower share of rural growth than current trends and the limited ability for jurisdictions to prevent development on vested lots (Figure 1). In total, the amendment would shift planning expectations for 12,000 people in Snohomish County by increasing anticipated rural growth while lowering the growth that must be planned for in "Core Cities" (Bothell, Lynnwood) and "Cities and Towns" (Brier, Darrington, Gold Bar, Granite Falls, Index, Lake Stevens, Snohomish, Stanwood, Sultan, Woodway).

Figure 1 – Snohomish County Proposed Population Growth Amendment:

	Metropolitan Cities	Core Cities	High Capacity Transit Communities	Cities & Towns	Urban Unincorp.	Rural	Total
	20%	12% 11%	50%	11% 9%	4%	3% 6%	100%
Snohomish County	87,000	51,000 47,000	210,000	45,000 37,000	18,000	13,000 25,000	424,000

Amendment would revise Snohomish County growth allocations to reflect the July 19, 2019, VISION 2050 Draft Plan

At prior meetings of the Executive Board, some members raised concerns about indirect impacts to a potentially more dispersed growth pattern and whether it would lead to negative environmental and transportation impacts in the region (such as increased passthrough traffic). At the July Executive Board meeting, members were provided with two letters in support of maintaining the 3% rural growth share adopted by the GMPB. The first is from Forterra ([Attachment B](#)), and the second is signed by Futurewise, Pilchuck Audubon, Livable Snohomish County, Washington Environmental Council, Transportation Choices, and the League of Women Voters of Snohomish County ([Attachment C](#)).

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

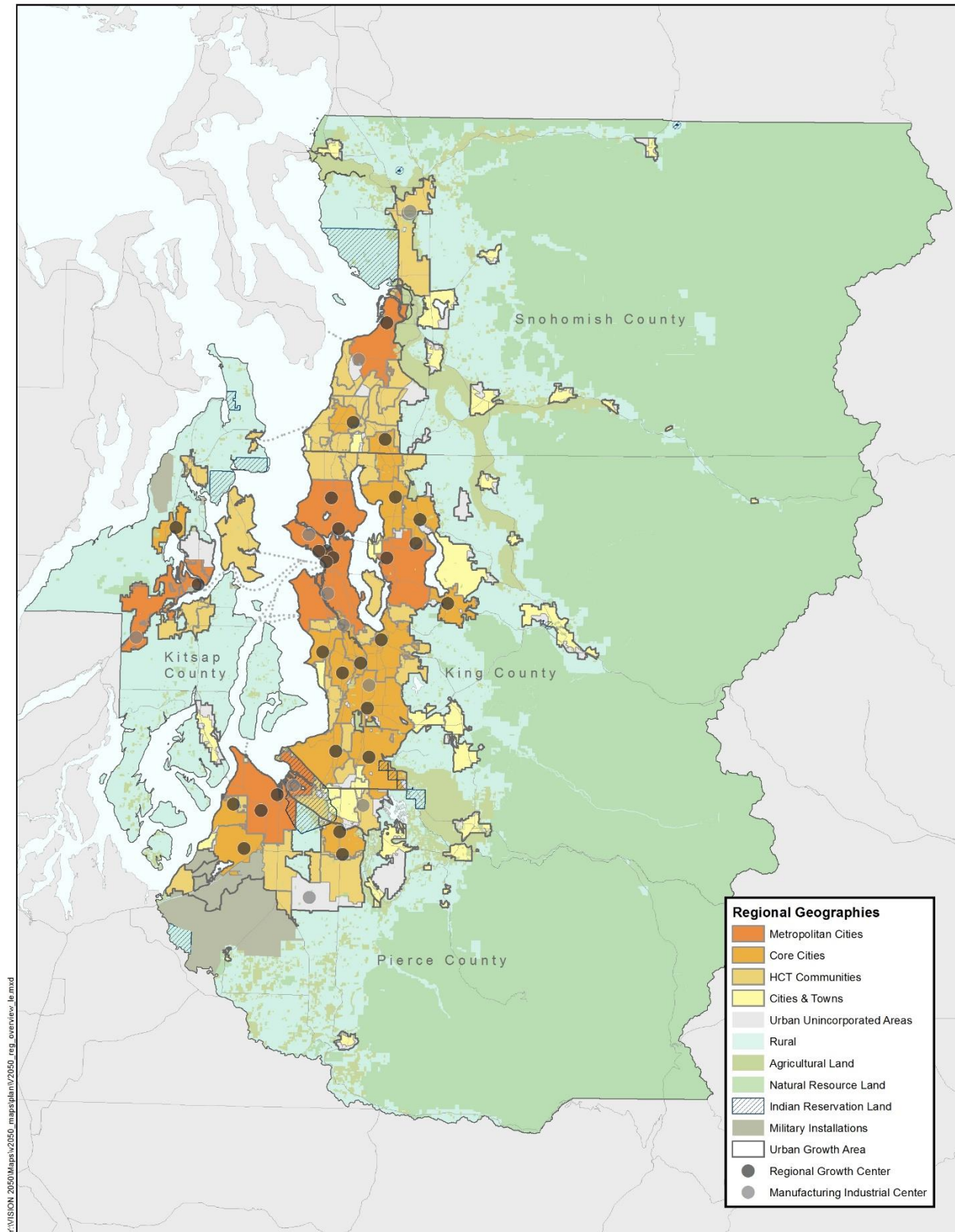
also noted that they have programs in place to transfer development rights from the rural area to urban parts of the county.

The SCA caucus to the Executive Board did not reach a consensus position prior to the July Executive Board 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 September 24 Executive Board meeting. SCA members are encouraged to provide feedback on the proposed amendment – and any other issues related to the VISION 2050 update – to inform the work of SCA Executive Board members.

Next Steps

For more information, contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.

Figure 5 – Regional Geographies



FORTERRA

July 23, 2020

Puget Sound Regional Council
Executive Board
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Amendment Ex-1 proposal to VISION2050

Dear Executive Dammeier and Members of the Executive Board:

I write to express Forterra's support for the regional rural growth proposal submitted by the Growth Management Policy Board. The GMPB arrived at its proposal after many months of discussion, community input, and negotiation. Amendment Ex-1 circumvents these efforts, justifying rural growth in Snohomish County that does not align with key growth management and Puget Sound recovery goals.

Planned rural growth should not be a material element of VISION2050. While rural development capacity exists and Forterra respects and supports existing property rights, we believe the rural growth strategy should aim to minimize versus endorse future rural development. The reasons for this are myriad, but notably:

- Continued rural development worsens the *Conversion of Ecologically Important Lands*. This Puget Sound Partnership indicator tracks the state of ecologically important rural lands under high pressure from development. These represent 13% of the Puget Sound land area—most of which “lies around the urban fringe, outside of urban growth areas in the Puget Sound lowlands”. While improving in recent years, conversion rates are not yet meeting 2020 targets basinwide.
- Planning for rural growth promotes the conversion of land identified as at-risk and in need of conservation by PSRC. According to data presented in its *Regional Open Space Conservation Plan (2018)*:
 - Since 1950, the region has lost 60% of its farmland. Of that remaining, 36% is unprotected by resource designation or conservation measures. Of the remaining working forest lands, 19% are unprotected by resource designation or conservation measures.
 - The region's open spaces provide ecosystem services estimated at \$11.4 to \$25.2 billion each year.
- Habitat loss and degradation from rural development negatively impacts salmon and orca recovery efforts. The draft EIS recognized that important habitat has declined since the adoption of VISION2040, in part a result of rural development.
- Rural development increases the distance between housing and jobs, exacerbates traffic, increases the carbon footprint of regional growth, and is not a cost-effective development pattern for providing supportive infrastructure or services to a growing population.

We understand that growth targets will not change individual decisions about where to live or existing rural capacity. However, despite significant population growth in the last 40 years, Snohomish County has successfully reduced its percentage of rural growth decade over decade. This accomplishment suggests that further improvements are possible. By expanding its commitment to making its cities

and urban areas welcoming, affordable, and attractive places to live, Snohomish County can further reduce pressure to convert rural lands to residential uses and build upon its noteworthy progress in encouraging growth within its existing urban landscape.

For these reasons and more, we urge the Executive Board to reject Amendment Ex-1.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We recognize and appreciate the dedication of PSRC's leadership and staff to planning for a sustainable and equitable future, and these comments are respectfully submitted in this knowledge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Skip Swenson", with a stylized, flowing script.

Skip Swenson
Vice President, Policy and Programming



Livable
Snohomish
County



July 20, 2020

The Honorable Bruce Dammeier, President
Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear President Dammeier and Members of the Executive Board:

Subject: We oppose Amendment Ex-1 to Vision 2050 to reduce the Core Cities and Cities and Towns Population Allocations and increase the Rural Snohomish County population allocation from three to six percent.

Sent via email to srogers@psrc.org

The members of the Puget Sound Regional Council and the organizations signing this letter share the common goal of recovering the Chinook salmon and the Southern resident orcas. We also share the common goal of addressing the current climate crisis. Vision 2050 has the potential to be an important tool in achieving these common goals.

The Southern Resident Orca Task Force's *Final Report and Recommendations* calls for Washington to "increase affordable housing and reduce urban sprawl by growing 'up instead of out.'" The Task Force also recommends promoting "'live where you work' to reduce commutes while improving public transportation infrastructure."¹ Unfortunately, Amendment Ex-1 does the opposite. Ex-1 promotes growing out by shifting growth from cities and towns into the rural area and increasing commute lengths by requiring the larger rural population to drive into cities and

¹ Southern Resident Orca Task Force's *Final Report and Recommendations* p. 107 (Nov. 2019) last accessed on July 16, 2020 at: <https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/energy-environment/southern-resident-orca-recovery/task-force>.

towns where the jobs are located. Amendment Ex-1 will continue the destruction of Chinook habitat, make Chinook recovery more difficult and costly because of increased restoration needs, and hinder the recovery of the Southern resident orcas.

More rural commuters will also generate more greenhouse gases and more traffic. This will require more roads and highways and will make it difficult if not impossible to meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals while increasing burdens on taxpayers who fund the wider roads.

Less than half of the farmland in Snohomish County is agricultural zones, much of the remainder is in the rural area. Increasing the growth target for rural Snohomish County and then planning for that growth will increase pressure for rural residential development on rural farmland. This will reduce the production of food and other agricultural products and harm Snohomish County's agricultural industry. With our regional population growth expected to increase dramatically, we need to ensure the region has productive agricultural land.

Some argue the amendment is necessary to address existing rural lots. However, as the Growth Management Hearings Board held "the County cannot base its future planning for new growth on its past development practices if those past practices, as here, do not comply with the GMA. What was once permissible is no longer so. The GMA was passed to stop repeating past mistakes in the future."² Given the harm to the Southern resident orcas and the greenhouse gas pollution from growing out, there are better solutions to the existing pre-GMA lots in rural areas and on natural resource lands.

Vision 2050 should be a plan for our future, not our past. But it will only be a plan for a future that achieves our shared goals if Amendment Ex-1 is rejected.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Very Truly Yours

Alex Brennan, Executive Director

Futurewise

alex@futurewise.org

Kate Lunceford, President

League of Women Voters of Snohomish County

Kate Lunceford, President

Livable Snohomish County

Cindy Easterson, President

Pilchuck Audubon Society

² *Bremerton, et al. v. Kitsap County*, Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board Case No. 95-3-0039, Final Decision and Order (with underlining corrections) (Oct. 6, 1995), at *60 last accessed on July 16, 2020 at: <http://www.gmhb.wa.gov/Global/RenderPDF?source=casedocument&id=1889>.

The Honorable Bruce Dammeier, President Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board
July 20, 2020
Page 3

Alex Hudson, Executive Director
Transportation Choices Coalition
alex@transportationchoices.org

Rein Attemann, Puget Sound Campaign Manager
Washington Environmental Council
rein@wecprotects.org



September 9, 2020
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 10:

Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

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

Update

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.

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

Ballot Measures Results – August 4, 2020 Election				
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure	Result
2020	August	Snoqualmie Pass Fire & Rescue	Authorization for continuation of benefit charges	Yes: 93.02% No: 6.98%
2020	August	Mountain View Fire & Rescue	Operations levy at a rate of 30-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value	Yes: 61.80% No: 38.20%
2020	August	South King Fire & Rescue	Maintenance and Operations levy at a rate of 19-cents per \$1,000 of assessed value	Yes: 64.33% No: 35.67%

Future Ballot Measures – Other Jurisdictions and Special Purpose Districts				
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure	
2020	November	King County/ Harborview Medical Center	Harborview Health and Safety Improvement Bonds.* This proposition would authorize King County to make public health, safety and seismic improvements to Harborview Medical Center facilities, including construction of new buildings, renovation and upgrading of existing facilities and demolition of existing buildings, and to issue \$1,740,000,000 of general obligation bonds.	
2020	November	Seattle	Funding for Transportation and Related Needs. If approved, this proposition authorizes up to 0.15% sales and use tax expiring April 1, 2027, to replace the current voter-approved 0.1% sales tax, expiring December 31, 2020. Revenues are dedicated to: transit	

			services benefitting Seattle residents, including frequent transit network maintenance and associated capital improvements; low-income fare programs for Seattle seniors, students, workers, and residents; and transportation needs related to COVID-19 recovery and the West Seattle Bridge closure.
2020	November	King County	Charter Amendment No. 1 Concerning Law Enforcement Inquests
2020	November	King County	Charter Amendment No. 2 Concerning Disposition of Real Property for Affordable Housing
2020	November	King County	Charter Amendment No. 3 Concerning References to Citizens in the Charter
2020	November	King County	Charter Amendment No. 4 Concerning Subpoena Authority for the King County Office of Law Enforcement Oversight
2020	November	King County	Charter Amendment No. 5 Concerning Making the County Sheriff and Appointed Position
2020	November	King County	Charter Amendment No. 6 Concerning the Structure and Duties of the Department of Public Safety (a.k.a. the King County Sheriff's Office)
2020	November	King County	Charter Amendment No. 7 Concerning Prohibiting Discrimination on the Basis of Family Caregiver, Military, or Veteran Status

*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

Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities			
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2020	November	Kirkland	Fire and Emergency Services Levy. This proposition would fund public safety, including stockpiling pandemic personal protective equipment, constructing a new fire station, seismically renovating existing stations, and hiring additional firefighters/EMTs to improve response times by increasing the City's regular property tax by approximately \$0.23513/\$1,000 to a maximum rate of \$1.22951/\$1,000 assessed valuation for collection in 2021.
2020	November	Newcastle	Utility Tax. This proposition would levy a 3% utility tax on the total gross income of utility businesses providing telephone, cellular phone, gas distribution, light and power, cable television, sewer, solid waste, and water in the City to fund public safety services (police, fire).

Potential Future Ballot Measures – Other Jurisdictions and Special Purpose Districts			
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2021		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.
2021		King County	Best Starts for Kids Renewal

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 11:

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

The current COVID-19 crisis will have a substantial impact on SCA's ability to host educational and networking events.

Prior to the crisis, the SCA Board identified as policy priorities:

- Transportation
- Budget Challenges/Infrastructure Needs
- Homelessness
- Diversity/Equity/Inclusion

Upcoming SCA Webinars

SCA is hosting a monthly Racial Equity and Justice (REJ) Series on the second Friday of the month from 2:30 to 4:00 PM. The third panel discussion focused on Communities of Opportunity is scheduled for September 11, 2020.

SCA will be hosting a panel discussion with legislators to preview the 2021 Washington State legislative session, which is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, November 20.

Webinar Recordings

Recordings of several previous SCA webinars can be found [on the SCA website](#). Recordings available include:

- SCA Racial Equity and Justice Series, Session 1: How we got here – a panel discussion with SCA members reflecting on history and personal experience (recorded July 10, 2020)
- SCA Racial Equity and Justice Series, Session 2: From a Youth's Perspective – A panel discussion with Black and African American youth from SCA cities (recorded August 14, 2020)
- How Cities can Help Neighborhood Businesses Survive and Thrive in Phase 1 and Phase 2 (recorded June 15, 2020)

Next Steps

SCA staff and Board would appreciate feedback from all our member cities on priorities, and on ideas for how to engage during the public health crisis when meetings must be held virtually.

If you or your city has feedback, please contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry, brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.

Item 12a:

King County Regional Homelessness Authority

INFORMATION

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; Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton

King County Regional Homelessness Authority Implementation Board Members

Dr. Damien Pattenau, Superintendent of Renton School District; Nate Caminos, Director of Government Relations at the Port of Seattle

Update

The King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCHRA) Governing Committee has continued to meet monthly. During their August meeting, the Governing Committee was updated on the planning for racial equity and anti-oppression training; confirmed the final Implementation Board appointee which effectively fully seats the Board; received an update from staff on the CEO hiring process; approved an interim staffing plan allowing the CEO to hire key positions upon starting their job; and deliberated on bylaws.

The Implementation Board has met twice and has been focused on getting members oriented to the structure and work of the Authority, and reviewing start-up decisions for the Authority such as health benefits, social security, pension plans, insurance, and payroll.

In terms of next stages, it is expected that the CEO will be hired in November or December, and the Authority becoming initially operational in January 2021.

Background

The King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA), 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. The Governing Committee of the KCRHA serves as the primary oversight body and is responsible for evaluating and approving all plans for the Authority. The Implementation Board is tasked with providing expertise to develop and inform strategic plans for the Authority.

Update

At the August KCRHA Governing Committee meeting, members were briefed on plans to undergo racial equity and anti-oppression training in October alongside the Implementation Board. Following this, members confirmed the last appointee to the Implementation Board effectively fully seating the body. Members were updated on the CEO hiring process and discussed draft bylaws for the Governing Committee. Several amendments to the draft proposed bylaws were approved, but the full bylaws were not voted upon and the Governing Committee is set to vote on them in September.

For additional information on the KCRHA and its authority structure, please refer to the [May 13, 2020 PIC Packet](#).

Key Milestones Progress

January through August 2020

- Convened Governing Committee and set regular meeting schedule
- CEO recruitment firm selected
- Implementation Board seated and met

September 2020

- Governing Committee confirms bylaws
- Implementation Board votes on administrative decisions regarding healthcare, pensions, and insurance for the Authority
- Advisory Committee members are selected by All Home Coordinating Board

October through December 2020

- CEO is selected and hired by Governing Committee and Implementation Board
- CEO hires core leadership positions
- KCRHA assumes regional continuum of care lead agency functions
- Advisory Committee convenes

Next Steps

The Governing Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis on the third Thursday of the month from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The Implementation Board does not have a set meeting schedule yet. It is expected that these two bodies jointly meet to undergo racial equity and anti-oppression training and deliberate selecting a CEO in late October.

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.



September 9, 2020
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 12b:

King County Charter Amendment Proposals

INFORMATION

SCA Staff Contact

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

Update

In the November 2020 General Election, voters in King County will be asked to consider seven potential amendments to the King County Charter put forward by the King County Council. The proposed amendments concern a variety of topics, including the police use of force inquest process; sale of county property for affordable housing purposes; changing references to “citizens”; subpoena authority for the King County Office of Law Enforcement Oversight; whether the Sheriff should be changed to an appointed position; prohibiting discrimination by the county on the basis of family caregiver, military, or veteran status; and the authority of the county council to change the structure and duties of the Sheriff’s Office (a.k.a. the “Department of Public Safety”).

This update is provided for neutral, informational purposes only. The Sound Cities Association (SCA) has not previously taken positions for or against any ballot measure, and it is not clear under state law that an organization structured such as SCA has the authority under state law to do so.

Washington State law ([RCW 42.17A.555](#)) broadly prohibits the use of any public facility or resources from being used in support or opposition to a ballot proposition with three limited exceptions:

1. Local elected bodies, including city councils, may vote on a motion or resolution supporting or opposing a ballot proposition if the meeting is properly noticed and both sides are given equal opportunity to express their position.
2. Elected officials may make a statement at an open press conference in support or opposition to a ballot proposition.
3. Local offices or agencies may engage in activities that are part of their normal and regular conduct, which may include preparation of objective and neutral presentation of facts concerning a ballot proposition.

Background

The [King County Charter](#) defines the powers of the executive and legislative branches of King County government, establishes financial procedures, sets qualifications and procedures for elections, defines the role of regional committees, and other important policies that provide for the governance of King County and regional policymaking.

The Charter provides that at least every ten years the County Executive appoint a citizen commission (the “Charter Review Commission”) to review the Charter and present to the county a council a report recommending amendments, if any. The County Council is required by the Charter to consider the recommendations of the Charter Review Commission and determine whether to place proposed amendments before the voters of King County at the next general election. In addition to considering the recommendations of the Charter Review Commission, the County Council may initiate its own proposed charter amendments to be considered by voters. Ordinances proposing amendments to the Charter are not subject to the veto power of the County Executive.

The Charter Review Commission met throughout 2018 and 2019, including numerous town hall public meetings prior to issuing a [final report](#) of their recommendations. Seven proposed changes to the King County Charter were placed on the November 2020 General Election ballot by vote of the County Council. Of these, six were recommended by the Charter Review Commission and one was initiated by the County Council.

Charter Review Commission Proposed Charter Amendments

- [Charter Amendment No. 1: Inquests.](#) Amendment would specify that inquests are to be performed “where an action, decision or possible failure to offer the appropriate care by a member of any law enforcement agency might have contributed to an individual’s death,” and further that the county shall provide the family of the deceased with legal representation.
- [Charter Amendment No. 2: Disposition of Real Property for Affordable Housing.](#) Amendment would remove a charter restriction on the county’s authority to transfer, lease, or sell real property for less than fair market value when the property will be used for affordable housing. Washington State law was changed in 2018 to allow local governments greater ability to sell publicly-owned land for less than fair market value for affordable housing purposes. The proposed amendment would bring the Charter in alignment with state law.
- [Charter Amendment No. 3: References to Citizens.](#) Amendment would replace the word “citizen” with “public,” “member of the public,” or “resident” as applicable throughout the Charter. The Commission found that there are many instances in the Charter where “citizen” is used to generally mean “person who lives in King County” and that the proposed terms would be more appropriate in those instances. If approved, one reference to citizenship will remain in the Charter reflecting a requirement under state law that elective office holders must be a United States citizen.
- [Charter Amendment No. 4: Office of Law Enforcement Oversight – Subpoena Authority.](#) Amendment would establish in the Charter the authority for the King County Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO) to subpoena witnesses, documents, and other evidence to its investigations. The change would mirror county code, where subpoena

authority for the OLEO was established in 2017. Subpoena authority is subject to collective bargaining between the county and the King County Police Officers Guild and has not to date been implemented. The passage of the Charter amendment would not affect the need to collectively bargain the change.

- [Charter Amendment No. 5: Making the King County Sheriff an Appointed Position.](#) Amendment would establish the Office of the County Sheriff as an Executive-appointed position. The Sheriff was previously an appointed position in King County from 1968-1996 when voters approved a charter amendment to make it an elected position. If approved, the change would take effect following the expiration of the current elected term of office for the King County Sheriff.
- [Charter Amendment No. 7: Prohibiting Discrimination on the Basis of Family Caregiver, Military, or Veteran Status.](#) Amendment would prohibit discrimination in county employment and in county contracting on the basis of status as a family caregiver, military status or status as a veteran who was honorably discharged or was discharged solely as a result of the person's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

County Council Initiated Proposed Charter Amendment

- [Charter Amendment No. 6: Structure and Duties of the Department of Public Safety.](#) Amendment would allow the duties of the County Sheriff and the structure of the office to be established by county ordinance. The amendment would further remove a prohibition against combining the duties with another executive department or decreasing the duties of the office, but maintains current language that prohibits abolishing the office.

Next Steps

The proposed Charter amendments will go before King County voters at the November 3, 2020 General Election. For more information, contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.

Item 12c:**Metro Service Changes****INFORMATION**

SCA Staff Contact

Jackie Wheeler, SCA Policy Analyst, jackie@soundcities.org, 206-495-3020

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

In September, King County Metro Transit (Metro) will begin their regular September service change while also continuing to operate under [reduced schedules](#) in response to COVID-19. As part of Metro's [regular service changes](#), bus routes will be added, revised, or removed in the cities of Algona, Auburn, Burien, Covington, Kent, Maple Valley, Pacific, Renton, SeaTac, and Tukwila. In response to the safety concerns and budget impacts of COVID-19, Metro plans to operate at 85% of pre-COVID service levels in September with [many routes](#) being reduced or suspended.

Metro is also well underway in planning for their 2021 service changes that will likely continue service reductions in response to the health crisis impacting ridership and loss of revenue. Metro plans to engage with stakeholders in the upcoming months on those changes and SCA members are encouraged to reach out and provide feedback, ask questions, or request presentations in their jurisdictions.

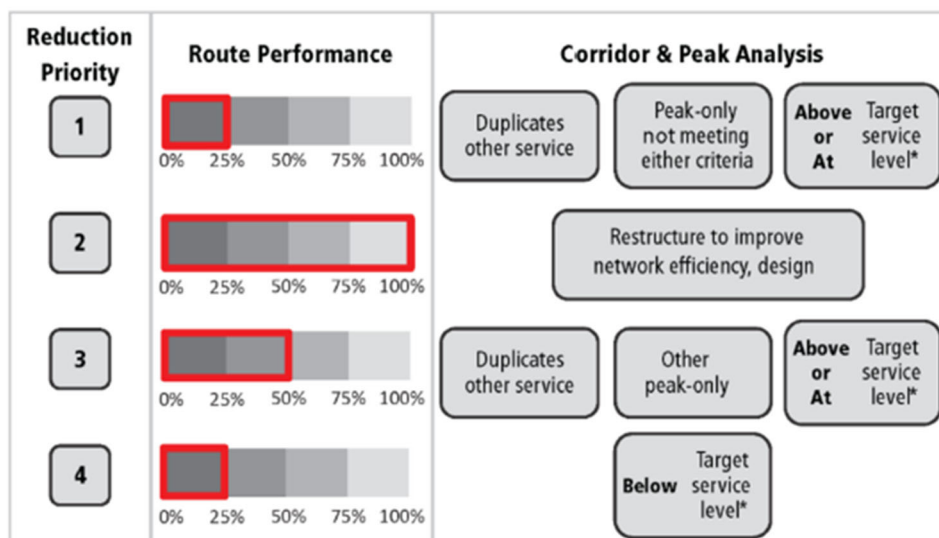
Background

King County Metro initiates regular service changes twice per year during the months of March and September. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Metro has also made several temporary adjustments to their services in 2020 to respond to changes in ridership, increased safety protocols, and budget concerns. The policy framework that directs service changes, including service reductions, is established in the [King County Metro Service Guidelines](#) and the [Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2011-2021](#), adopted by the Regional Transit Committee (RTC) and the King County Council in 2011 and updated in 2016. Both policy documents, in addition to the long-range plan, METRO CONNECTS, are being reviewed by the RTC for updates in 2020-2021.

When reducing services under the current Service Guidelines, Metro considers ways to mitigate significant impacts in any one area, minimize impacts through the types of reduction, maintain target level of service on corridors in the All-Day and Peak-Only Network levels as much as possible, preserve last connections, and apply alternative services.

The current Service Guidelines include a list of priorities that direct service reduction decisions. Priority 1 (routes with low productivity) would be considered first while routes that fall under Priority 4 (routes in underserved service areas) would be considered last under the current structure. Those service reduction priorities are as follows:

1. Reduce service on routes with low productivity (rides/service hour)
2. Restructure service to improve efficiency
3. Reduce higher-productivity services
4. Reduce low-productivity services in areas identified as underserved



*Target service level is based on demographics and demand between connections served by transit

September 2020 Service Changes

Metro is in the process of implementing their regular September service change, scheduled to take affect September 19, 2020. The planned service changes were approved by the King County Council on April 28, 2020 and will impact routes in the cities of Algona, Auburn, Burien, Covington, Kent, Maple Valley, Pacific, Renton, SeaTac, and Tukwila ([Attachment A](#)). These service changes will establish five new routes, revise the alignment or service hours on seven routes, and delete eleven routes. A full list of new, revised, or removed routes can be viewed at www.KingCounty.gov/getready.

These service changes come as Metro continues to operate under reduced schedules ([Attachment B](#)) in response to the safety and budget impacts of COVID-19. Metro plans to be operating at 85% of pre-COVID levels in September with 55 routes operating at full-service levels, 70 routes operating with reduced services, 55 routes suspended/not operating, and 13 routes permanently deleted. They continue to monitor ridership data and community needs to

make adjustments in the form of added trips on busy routes or return of some peak period commuter routes when possible. A full list of routes and services impacted by the reduced schedule can be viewed at www.KingCounty.gov/reducedschedule.

2021 Service Changes

Metro is currently underway in planning for their 2021 service changes. Based on the county's June economic forecast, Metro anticipates a revenue loss from sales tax and farebox collection of \$615 million in 2020-2022 and a \$2.2 billion revenue loss for 2020-2028. The most recent forecasts show a quicker rebound to sales tax collections than were forecast in June, which will improve the revenue outlook for Metro somewhat, but the department still faces significant shortfalls from what was budgeted. At the July RTC meeting, outgoing General Manager Rob Gannon stated that this forecast will require Metro to begin service reductions for at least the next three service changes. These projections are also based with the assumption that the Seattle Transportation Benefit District (STBD) will not be renewed when it expires at the end of 2020. At the November General Election, Seattle voters will decide on a partial renewal that would increase the current sales tax rate from 0.1% to 0.15%, generating roughly \$39 million annually over the next 6 years ([Attachment C](#)). Approval of the STBD restore approximately half of the service reductions currently projected by Metro.

As Metro develops their 2021 service changes, they plan to engage with key stakeholders over the coming months, including with impacted jurisdictions.

Service Reductions Timeline

	Phase I			Phase II			Ordinance	
	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Strategy development								
Public engagement								
Incorporating public feedback								
Ordinance drafting/review								



Feb. 19: Transmit to Executive's Office
Mar. 12: Transmit to Council
End of Apr.: Council decision needed

Phase 1 Deliverable	March 2021 changes (inform) + September 2021 concepts (consult)
Phase 2 Deliverable	Incorporate public feedback into final September 2021 network changes

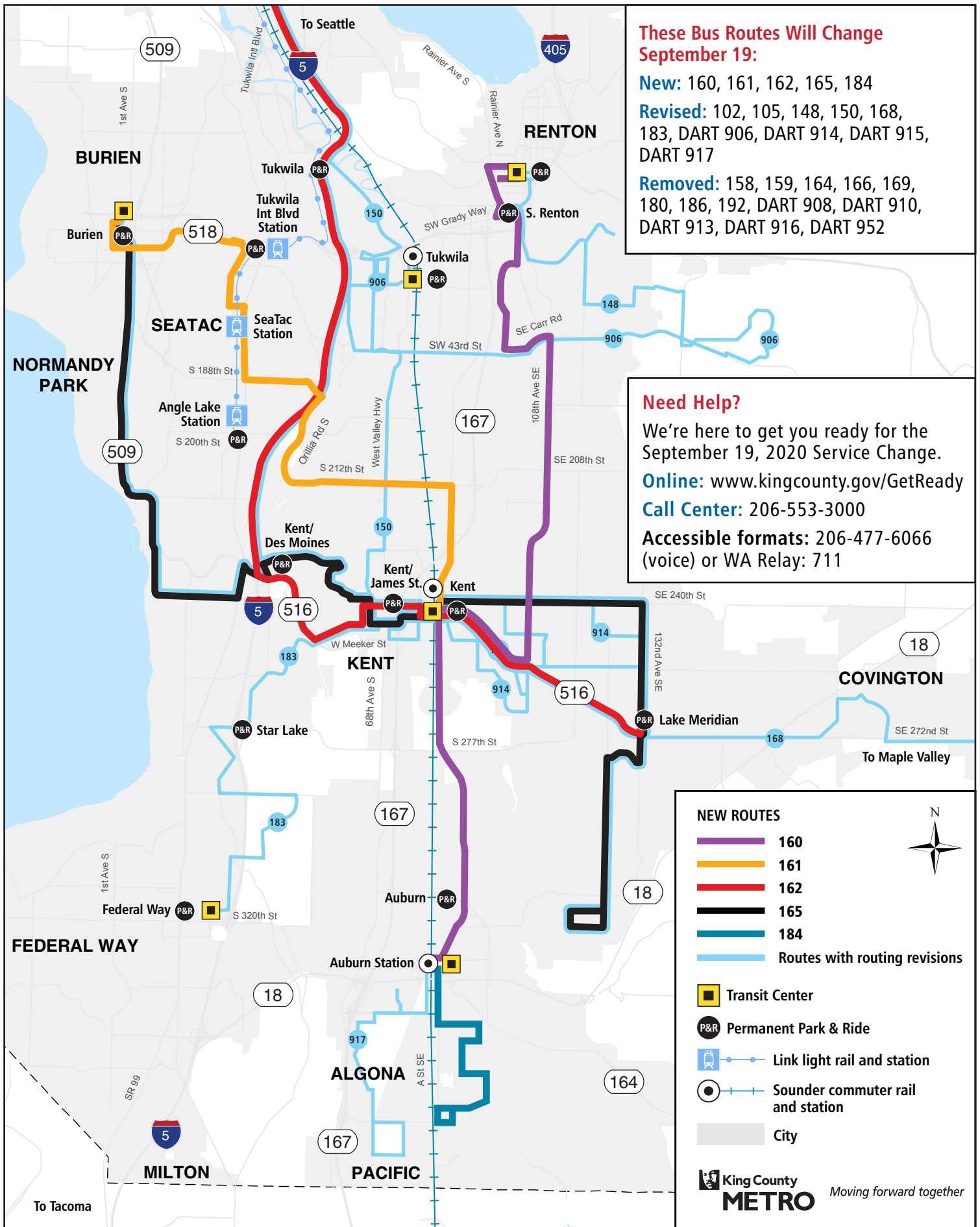
Next Steps

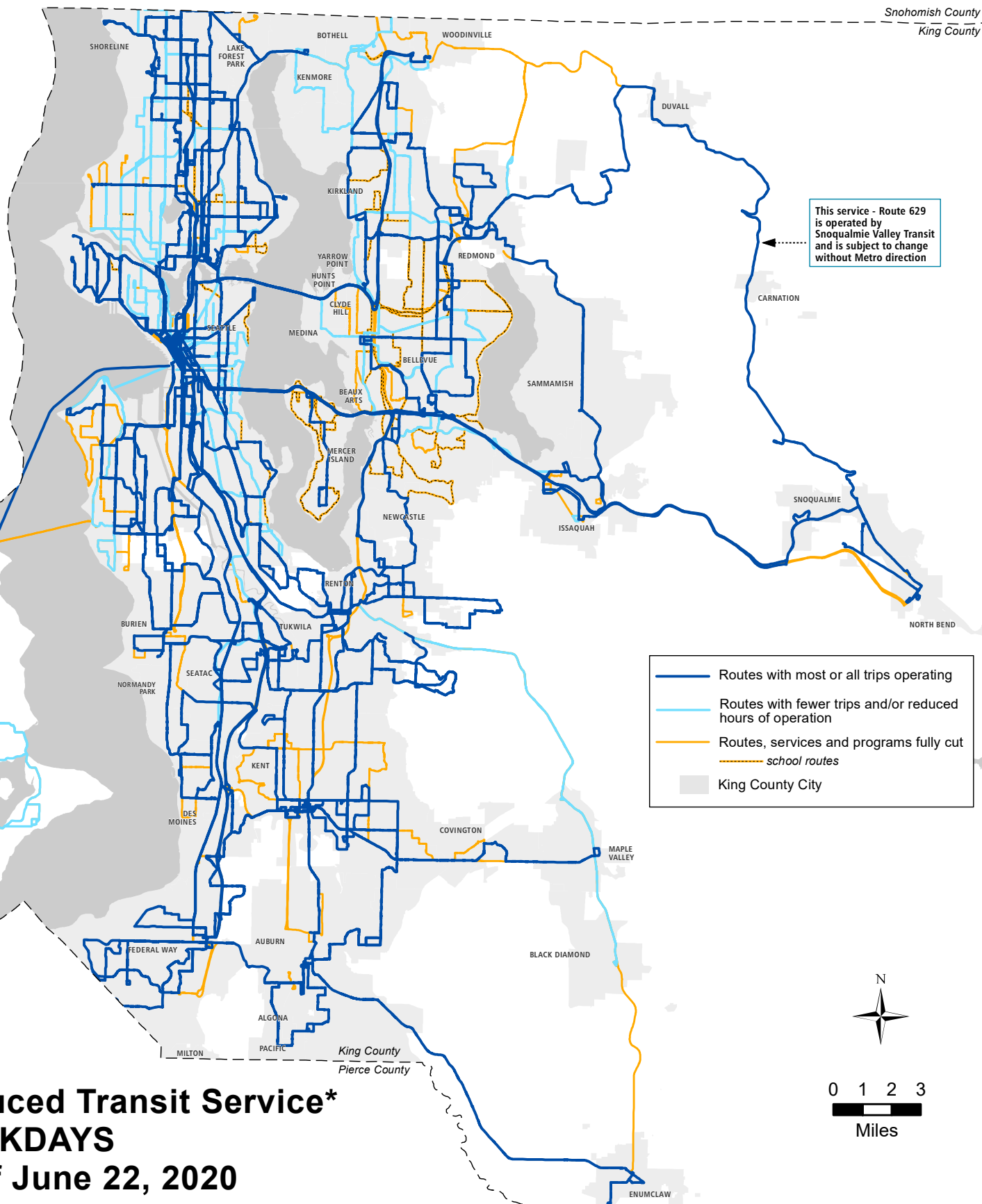
Metro plans to conduct community engagement on 2021 service changes this fall and encourages cities to reach out to ask questions and provide feedback on how potential service changes will impact your communities. Cities can contact SCA staff (jackie@soundcities.org) or work through Metro's Local Government Relations and Partnership Lead Lauren Craig at lauren.craig@kingcounty.gov.

SCA will continue to monitor this service change process and will share opportunities and outlets for members to engage and provide feedback on future changes. Additionally, members are encouraged to provide SCA staff and SCA representatives to the RTC with feedback on the upcoming updates to the Service Guidelines and Strategic Plan which inform these service reduction decisions.

Questions and comments can be directed to SCA Policy Analyst Jackie Wheeler at jackie@soundcities.org or 206-495-3020.

South King County Service Change Highlights



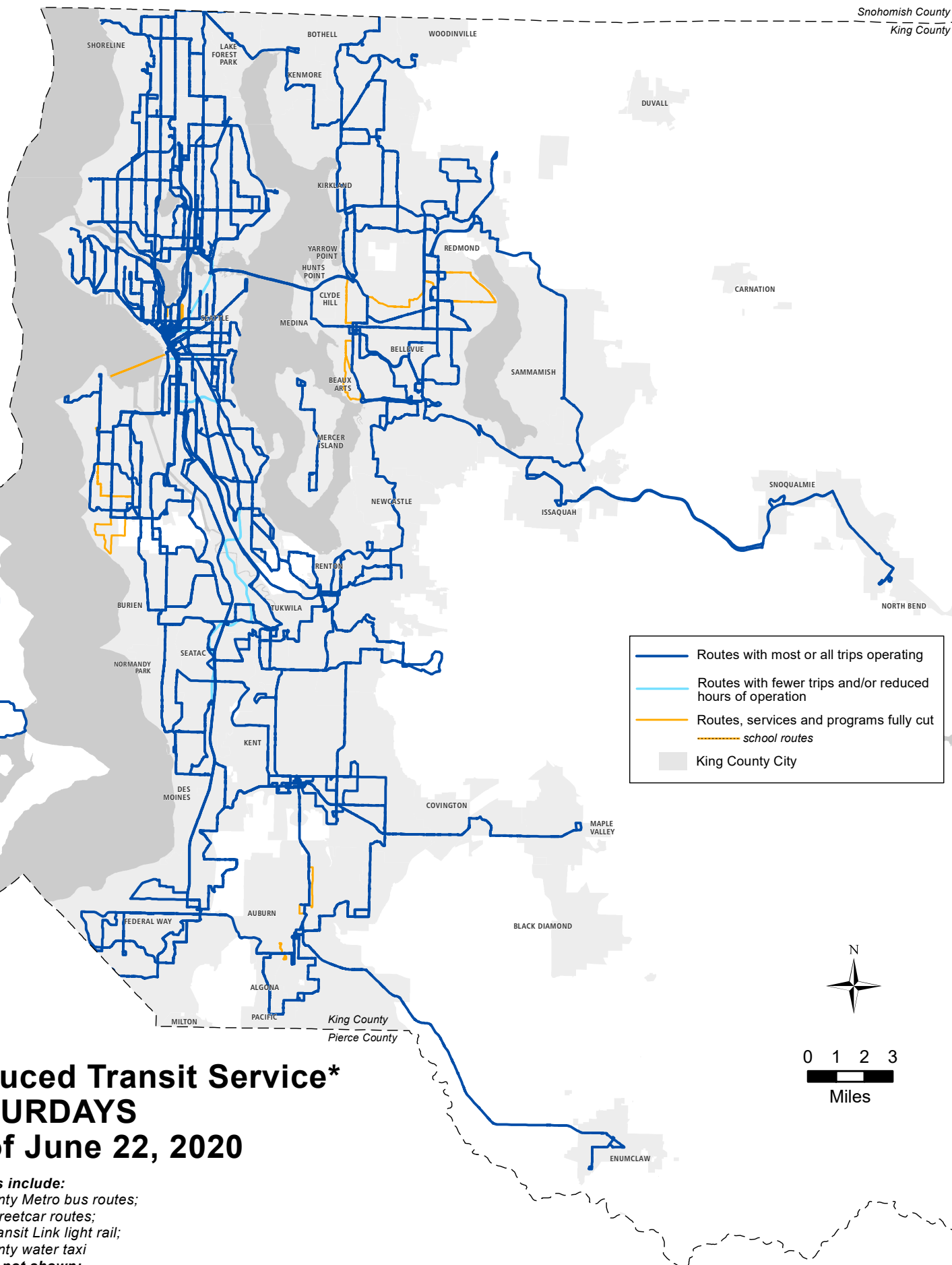


Reduced Transit Service* WEEKDAYS as of June 22, 2020

***Services include:**
King County Metro bus routes;
Seattle streetcar routes;
Sound Transit Link light rail;
King County water taxi and ferry service

Services not shown:
King County Metro operated Sound Transit bus routes;
Community Ride service areas
Via to Transit

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Reduced Transit Service* SATURDAYS as of June 22, 2020

*Services include:

King County Metro bus routes;
Seattle streetcar routes;
Sound Transit Link light rail;
King County water taxi

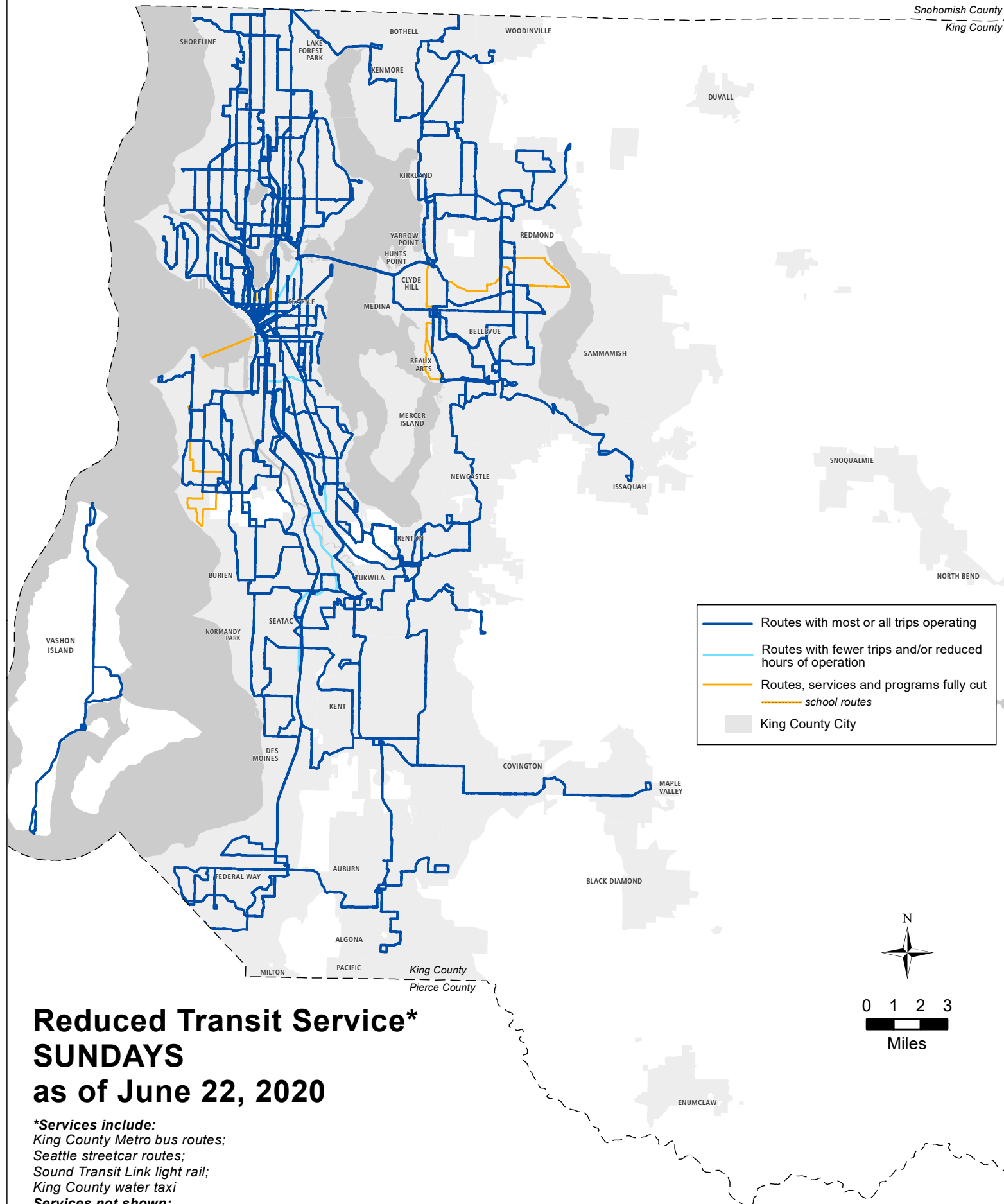
Services not shown:

King County Metro operated Sound Transit bus routes;
Community Ride service areas
Via Transit

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June 17, 2020



- Routes with most or all trips operating
- Routes with fewer trips and/or reduced hours of operation
- Routes, services and programs fully cut
- school routes
- King County City



0 1 2 3
Miles

Reduced Transit Service* **SUNDAYS** **as of June 22, 2020**

***Services include:**
King County Metro bus routes;
Seattle streetcar routes;
Sound Transit Link light rail;
King County water taxi
Services not shown:
King County Metro operated Sound Transit bus routes;
Community Ride service areas
Via to Transit

SEATTLE TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT

Fall 2020

In 2014, Seattle voters approved Proposition 1 to fund the purchase of increased King County Metro service and additional transit programs for Seattle residents. This voter-approved funding measure includes a \$60 vehicle license fee and 0.1% sales tax increase to generate about \$50 million annually to improve transit availability and access for 6 years (2014-2020).

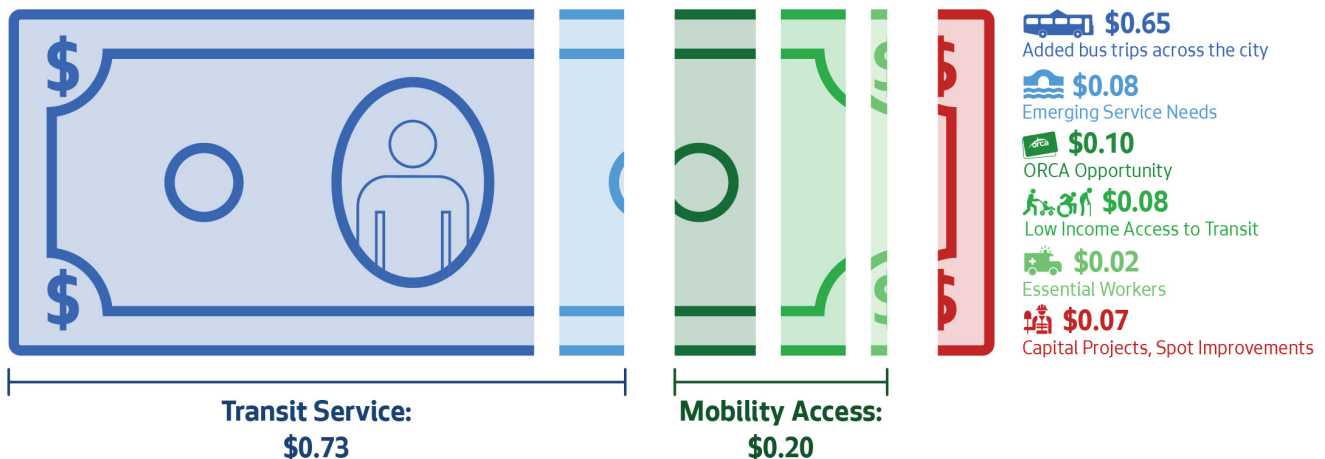
On July 31, 2020 Mayor Jenny Durkan signed Council Bill 119833, creating a replacement Seattle Transportation Benefit District (STBD) proposal that would increase the current 0.1% sales tax to 0.15% (i.e. the equivalent of 15 cents on a \$100 purchase), but would not contain a vehicle license fee. The proposal is anticipated to generate roughly \$39 million annually over the next six years to fund essential transit service, capital projects, and transit access programs like ORCA Opportunity.

The new measure would fund critical elements of the citywide transit network to maintain access for people reliant on transit, prioritize equitable access for low-income households and communities of color, and allow the City and King County Metro to scale up service as Seattle's transit ridership recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The STBD renewal proposal has five key goals:

1. Provide frequent and efficient transit for all Seattleites, particularly our essential workers, communities of color, and low-income households.
2. Preserve an interconnected transit system in Seattle that ensures access no matter the time of day or where you live
3. Make transit investments in underserved areas and address acute mobility needs in areas like West Seattle
4. Invest in ORCA Opportunity for students and Low Income Access programs for our vulnerable neighbors
5. Ensure continuity of transit services and transportation investments despite financial restrictions caused by I-976 and COVID-19

STBD Proposed Spending Breakdown in a Typical Year, per Dollar 2021 - 2026



PROJECT INFORMATION & CONTACT

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www.seattle.gov/transit/about-seattle-transportation-benefit-district



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

The current voter-approved STBD that expires at the end of 2020 has contributed to an expansion of access to frequent transit service for Seattle residents, including:

- Adding over 8,000 weekly transit trips on [King County Metro](#) routes and investing in 350,000 service hours across weekdays, nights and weekends
- [Expanded access to frequent, reliable transit by growing](#) the portion of households within a 10-minute walk of transit service arriving every 10 minutes or less from 25 percent in 2015 to 70 percent in 2019
- Launched the ORCA Opportunity program, providing free access to transit for students and low-income Seattle residents
- Revised the [Night Owl](#) service network to improve 24/7 service, supporting those who work late or rise early
- Improved transit connections and reliability to meet emerging needs, ensuring that there is a bus every 15 minutes or better during peak times on routes throughout the city
- Piloted a program and partnership with [Seattle Housing Authority](#) (SHA) to distribute approximately 1,600 free 12-month ORCA cards to low-income SHA residents

Today's STBD proposal ensures access to our transit network is maintained, equity continues to be a top priority, and we are poised to scale up service as our pace of economic recovery continues to grow.

