



SCA Public Issues Committee

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

7:00 to 9:00 PM

Online Meeting

Members of the public may view and listen to the meeting by using the following link from a computer, tablet, or smartphone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88207020800?pwd=KmRrK6TjsbeQtXiAnYEHpRgSbfbe8O.1>

Or dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782 / 882 0702 0800 / Passcode: 745221

1. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 5 minutes
2. **Public Comment** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 5 minutes
3. [Approval of Minutes – September 11, 2024 Meeting](#) 5 minutes
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4. **Chair’s Report** – Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Chair 5 minutes
5. **SCA Update** – SCA President Mary Lou Pauly 20 minutes
6. [Youth Action Plan](#) 15 minutes
DISCUSSION
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Aj Foltz, SCA Policy Analyst
7. [RapidRide Prioritization Plan](#) 15 minutes
DISCUSSION
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Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst
8. [Public Health Environmental Services Division Rates](#) 20 minutes
UPDATE
Page 17
Aj Foltz, SCA Policy Analyst
9. [Hazardous Waste Management Program](#) 20 minutes
UPDATE
Page 19
Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst

10. [2025 SCA Legislative Agenda](#)

10 minutes

UPDATE

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SCA Staff

11. [Levies and Ballot Measures](#)

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

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12. For the Good of the Order

13. Adjourn

Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Networking Event: Insights from Political Adversaries, In Collaboration with The William D. Ruckelshaus Center and Civic Genius – October 16, 2024 – 5:30 – 8:00 PM – Renton Pavilion Events Center
- b. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Thursday, October 17, 2024 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Renton City Hall
- c. SCA Lunch & Learn: MIDD 3 Renewal – Friday, October 18, 2024, 12:00 – 1:00 PM – Virtual
- d. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, November 13, 2024

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. SCA acknowledges the systemic racism and inequalities in our society and continues its commitment to the work needed to address them.

Commonly Used Acronyms

ADS Advisory Council	Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services
AHC	Affordable Housing Committee
AFIS Advisory Committee	Automated Fingerprint Identification System Advisory Committee
AWC	Association of Washington Cities
BOH	Board of Health
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflows
CYAB	Children and Youth Advisory Board
DCHS	King County Department of Community and Human Services
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
KCPEC	King County Project Evaluation Committee
KCRHA	King County Regional Homelessness Authority
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
MRSC	Municipal Research Services Center
MSWMAC	Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
MWPAAC	Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement 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
SKHHP	South King Housing and Homelessness Partners
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
TPB	PSRC Transportation Policy Board
WTD	King County Wastewater Treatment Division

2024 Public Issues Committee Roster

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Troy Linnell	David White
Auburn	Nancy Backus	Larry Brown
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	
Bellevue	Jared Nieuwenhuis	Dave Hamilton
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	Kristiana de Leon
Bothell	Rami Al-Kabra	Carston Curd
Burien	Kevin Schilling	
Carnation		
Clyde Hill	Steve Friedman	
Covington	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Harry Steinmetz	Yoshiko Grace Matsui
Duvall	Amy McHenry	Rick Shaffer
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Corrie Koopman-Frazier
Federal Way	Susan Honda	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Victoria Hunt
Kenmore	Nigel Herbig	Melanie O'Cain
Kent	Bill Boyce	
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	John Tymczyszyn
Lake Forest Park	Tom French	Lorri Bodi
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Dana Parnello
Medina	Michael Luis	
Mercer Island	Dave Rosenbaum	Ted Weinberg
Milton	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Tim Ceder
Newcastle	Paul Charbonneau	Ariana Sherlock
Normandy Park	Eric Zimmerman	Sue-Ann Hohimer
North Bend	Errol Tremolada	Brenden Elwood
Pacific	Vic Cave	
Redmond	Melissa Stuart	Osman Salahuddin
Renton	Ruth Perez	Valerie O'Halloran
Sammamish	Amy Lam	Sid Gupta
SeaTac	Jake Simpson	Iris Guzmán
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	John Ramsdell
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Cara Christensen	Louis Washington
Tukwila	Tosh Sharp	Jovita McConnell
Woodinville	David Edwards	James Randolph
Yarrow Point	Katy Kinney Harris	



SCA Public Issues Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

September 11, 2024 – 7:00 PM

Mercer Island Community Center

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Public Issues Committee (PIC) Chair Chris Roberts, Shoreline, called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. 21 cities were represented ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included: Katie Halse, Bellevue staff; Jared Hill, Woodinville staff; Eric Perry, Renton staff; Joanna Nelson de Flores, Urban Forestry; John Sheller, King County Library Systems; and Tania Mondaca, King County staff.

2. Public Comment

This item was moved to later on the agenda, after the Executive Director Report. Chair Roberts asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment. Seeing none, Chair Roberts closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the July 10, 2024 PIC Meeting Minutes

This meeting was moved to later on the agenda, after Public Comment. Chair Roberts asked for any questions or amendments to the minutes of the July 10, 2024 PIC meeting.

Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw moved, seconded by, Councilmember Melissa Stuart, Redmond to approve the July 10, 2024 PIC minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

PIC Chair Roberts welcomed members to the first in-person meeting of the year, and gave a brief overview of the PIC meeting.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director David Hoffman summarized upcoming networking event; asked members to share city legislative agendas as they become available; and announced vacancy for North representative on the PIC Nominating Committee.

SCA Senior Policy Analyst recapped recent Domestic Violence Initiative (DVI) networking breakfast and Task Force meeting, and reported good attendance and conversation; announced upcoming CCC Lunch & Learn What Jurisdictions Need to Know presentation; summarized recent developments and timeline for the Washington Supreme Court public hearing for indigent defense proposal; and encouraged members to attend upcoming Open House sessions for the King County Solid Waste Division's Long-Term Disposal Study.

6. New Guide to Enhance Urban Tree Protection in King County

Joanna Nelson de Flores, Urban Forestry Program Manager, gave a presentation regarding the King County Urban Forestry Program and the new guide to enhance tree protection in the County. This guide provides multiple tools for cities to refer to, along with guidance to update tree codes for cities and the County at large. After disseminating the guide to all 39 municipalities, WLRD is utilizing the results and guidance from the Urban Forestry Forum to develop a “Tree Code Toolkit.”

7. PIC Operating Policies

SCA Executive Director David Hoffman asked for any questions or concerns regarding the draft PIC Operating Policies. The PIC Operating Policies Review sub-committee will meet again, and this item will be brought back to a future meeting of the PIC.

8. Crisis Care Center Proposal Review Panel

SCA Senior Policy Analyst Andie Parnell updated the PIC members on the Crisis Care Center Proposal Review Panel. As outlined in the CCC Implementation Plan, the SCA has appointing authority for four subject matter experts on the Panel, including a representative from the north, east, and south crisis response zones and a youth subject matter expert jointly appointed with Seattle. The SCA staff released several calls for nominations for subject matter experts to the panel to review procurements for new crisis care centers throughout the region. At the August special Board meeting, the Board appointed these representatives who will begin reviewing RFPs in mid-September.

Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle clarified cities’ role in the process, said cities need to show interest and engage, and Councilmember Charbonneau would love to help and offered his contact information for any follow-up.

9. 2024 Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) Survey

SCA Policy Analyst Aj Foltz updated the PIC members on the annual SPR Survey deadline. This annual assessment, required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and administered by the King County Office of Emergency Management (KCOEM), is intended to collect information necessary to assess disaster and emergency response capabilities within the Seattle UASI region. Survey information will be utilized to secure federal emergency response grants to increase the region’s responses to all potential hazards, such as natural disasters and countering acts of terrorism. The deadline for the survey is September 30th, 2024.

10. Regional Boards and Committee Appointments

SCA Chief Operating Officer Leah Willoughby gave a brief overview of the process and expected timeline for 2025 Regional Board and Committee appointments.

Members were encouraged to attend the online Q&A session on Friday, September 20 at noon.

11. Levies and Ballot Measures

SCA Executive Director David Hoffman asked for updates regarding any levies or ballot measures.

12. Upcoming Events

SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, September 18, 2024 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Tukwila Community Center

SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, October 9, 2024 – Virtual

13. For the Good of the Order

There were no items for the good of the order.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
September 11, 2024**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Troy Linnell	David White
Auburn	Nancy Backus	Tracy Taylor
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	
Bellevue	Jared Nieuwenhuis	Dave Hamilton
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	Kristiana de Leon
Bothell	Carston Curd	Rami Al-Kabra
Burien	Kevin Schilling	
Carnation		
Clyde Hill	Steve Friedman	
Covington	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Harry Steinmetz	Yoshiko Grace Matsui
Duvall	Amy McHenry	Rick Shaffer
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Corrie Koopman-Frazier
Federal Way	Susan Honda	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Victoria Hunt
Kenmore	Nigel Herbig	Melanie O'Cain
Kent	Bill Boyce	
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	John Tymczyszyn
Lake Forest Park	Tom French	Lorri Bodi
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Dana Parnello
Medina	Michael Luis	none
Mercer Island	Dave Rosenbaum	Ted Weinberg
Milton	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Tim Ceder
Newcastle	Paul Charbonneau	Ariana Sherlock
Normandy Park	Eric Zimmerman	Sue-Ann Hohimer
North Bend	Errol Tremolada	Suzan Torguson
Pacific	Vic Kave	
Redmond	Melissa Stuart	Osman Salahuddin
Renton	Ruth Perez	Valerie O'Halloran
Sammamish	Amy Lam	Sid Gupta
SeaTac	Jake Simpson	Iris Guzmán
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	John Ramsdell
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Cara Christensen	Louis Washington
Tukwila	Tosh Sharp	Armen Papyan
Woodinville	David Edwards	James Randolph
Yarrow Point	Katy Kinney Harris	

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

Item 6:

King County Youth Action Plan Update 2025-2035

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

Aj Foltz, SCA Policy Analyst, aj@soundcities.org, (206) 849-3056

SCA CYAB Committee Members

Councilmember Yolanda Trout-Manuel, Auburn; Councilmember Ariana Sherlock, Newcastle

Discussion

At the October PIC meeting, King County Department of Community & Human Services and consulting staff will present on the King County Youth Action Plan (YAP) 2025-2035 update process. Updates to the YAP were requested by the Children and Youth Advisory Board to inform the County’s policy direction.

Background

In 2014, King County approved Ordinance 17738 calling for the development of a [Youth Action Plan](#) (YAP) to set King County’s priorities for serving infants through young adults. The YAP was developed by a Task Force of 25 community leaders, and with input from youth and families, community members, leaders, and experts in early childhood, youth development, and education. The YAP is the County's explicit commitment to healthy & thriving children, youth & families.

Youth Action Plan Update

In Spring 2023, the Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB), the accountable body for the County’s efforts towards supporting children, youth and families requested an update to the YAP. The updated YAP will provide the policy frame for the County's support of children, youth and families for the next decade. As a policy document, the YAP should inform funding methodology and priorities as levies are renewed, general fund dollars are allocated, and PSTAA funds are under consideration. The YAP can leverage, complement or amplify other strategic planning processes underway for issue areas or across the region.

Emergent Themes

The YAP renewal provides an opportunity to gain clarity about where gaps in support remain, and where newer emergent needs have developed. Emergent themes that have become clear through recent community-wide task forces and processes that should be further explored in the YAP renewal include:

Stabilizing Resources & Basic Needs	With continued and growing income disparity in the County, exasperated by ongoing Pandemic recovery, ensuring the basic needs of
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	people are being met is paramount. Ensuring safe and stable housing, food security, and living wage jobs are accessible to all.
Maternal Wellness	Prenatal care including family and relational wellbeing is a growing need for African American mothers and children in King County. Ensuring a healthy pregnancy from inception to delivery and after is essential to addressing the bleak Infant mortality rates for Black women and babies.
Child Care	The essential nature of child care for the healthy development of our littlest residents, as well as for our economy to function is clearer than ever. Consider including the framework and recommendations (with updates) for “Equitable and Accessible Child Care in King County” from the Children and Families Strategy Task Force.
Behavioral Health	The support for mental health needs and substance use prevention (including the ongoing opioid and fentanyl crisis) is ongoing and needs increased attention to ensure young people receive culturally relevant and community appropriate support.
Strengthening Community Based Organizations (CBOs)	The rising costs of doing business for nonprofits (including the need for improved and equitable wages) is coming into conflict with Covid-relief funding cliffs and decreasing individual philanthropy, causing a threat to the ecosystem of supports for children, youth and families.
Increased Youth Voice	While there are dedicated spots for young people on the Children and Youth Advisory Board, and ad hoc opportunities for young people to give voice to their needs and aspirations, a dedicated and supported Youth Advisory Council for King County should be explored as a mechanism for accountability to young people.
Increase Parent and Family Input	In addition to the need for increased youth voice, parents and families (particularly those with young children) are often not included in solution seeking while also likely having the best answers. Establishing a mechanism for regular and ongoing parent and family input to the County should be explored.
Care and Closure	Ending youth incarceration as it currently exists – will need long term commitment and focus and should be a clear theme or set of recommendations in the updated YAP. Embedding the recommendations for Care and Closure should be considered for inclusion within the updated YAP.

Next Steps

The CYAB reviewed draft recommendations at the September meeting. DCHS is finalizing feedback loops and consulting stakeholders this fall. At the November meeting, CYAB members will vote on the YAP Update, after which DCHS will submit the approved plan to the Exec’s Office and King County City Council in early 2025.

Staff Contacts

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Tia Yarbrough, King County DCHS
tyarbrough@kingcounty.gov

Item 7:
RapidRide Prioritization Plan

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, andie@soundcities.org, 206-724-4060

SCA Regional Transit Committee Members:

Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Covington; Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue; Councilmember Ryan McIrvine, Renton; Mayor Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie; Councilmember Susan Honda, Federal Way; Councilmember Toni Troutner, Kent; Deputy Council President Barbara de Michele, Issaquah; Councilmember Betsy Robertson, Shoreline; Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, New Castle; Councilmember Neal Black, Kirkland; Deputy Mayor Karen Howe, Sammamish; Councilmember JC Harris, Des Moines.

Discussion

At the October PIC meeting, King County Metro staff will present on the development of the RapidRide Prioritization Plan and transit corridor prioritization through 2050. As part of the Metro Connects update, the Regional Transit Committee and King County Council asked Metro to develop a RapidRide Prioritization Plan to prioritize corridor candidates into tiers. In July the RTC approved the Plan which prioritized eight lines to be developed through 2050.

Background

In December 2021 the King County Council updated Metro’s long-range plan, [Metro Connects](#) and set requirements for reporting and updates (Ordinance 19367). As part of the Ordinance, the Regional Transit Committee (RTC) and King County Council asked Metro to develop a RapidRide Prioritization Plan to prioritize corridor candidates into tiers. In addition, the Council asked that this plan include an update on the planning and design of the K and R lines. In July the King County Council and RTC approved the [RapidRide Prioritization Plan](#) (page 24 of the RTC meeting packet).

Methodology

The RapidRide Prioritization Plan identifies three tiers of lines to be developed, informed by updated corridor evaluation, pre-planning level studies and stakeholder engagement:

1. **Corridor evaluations** of candidate corridors based on equity, sustainability, service demand, capital and implementation (weighting equity and sustainability at twice the other metrics).
2. **Pre-planning level studies** of candidate corridors that consider route alignment, capital investment needs and cost estimates.

3. **Stakeholder engagement** with internal stakeholders, Metro’s Equity Cabinet, and jurisdictional partners (focusing on affected jurisdictions of Auburn, Bellevue, Federal Way, Kent, Redmond, Seattle, and Tukwila, as well as through briefings to the RTC). For the jurisdictional meetings, the transmitted Prioritization Plan states that Metro held three rounds of meetings with staff from the affected jurisdictions, to provide overview information about Metro’s work, to provide an opportunity to review and comment on the results of the corridor assessments, and to provide a preview of the results of the analysis, including information about the scoring and proposed tiers.

RapidRide Tiers

The Plan identified three tiers for the RapidRide candidate corridors:

- **Tier 1 lines** (two lines) would be prioritized for the Interim Network (by 2039) subject to funding capacity. These lines are not currently funded in Metro’s 10-year planning assumptions, so future budget decisions would be needed to proceed.
- **Tier 2 lines** (three lines) would be prioritized next if additional capacity and funding are available. Metro would not develop budget requests for funding plans for these lines unless new opportunities arise. If these lines are not developed by the time of the Interim Network, they would remain as candidates for the 2050 Network.
- **Tier 3 lines** (three lines) would be long-term candidates, not part of the Interim Network. They would remain as candidates for the 2050 Network. Table 7 shows the recommended tiers for the candidate RapidRide lines.

Prioritized Lines

After evaluating candidate corridors based on various criteria, conducting pre-planning studies, and engaging with stakeholders Metro identified the following tiers of lines to be developed through 2050:

Corridor	Route(s)	Tier	Pathway
1049	150	1	Kent, Southcenter, Seattle CBD
1064B	36	1	Seattle CBD, Internat’l District, Beacon Hill, Othello
1012	44	2	Ballard, Wallingford, U District
1993	40	2	Northgate, Ballard, Seattle CBD
3101+1028	B, 271	2	Crossroads, Bellevue, U District
1056	165	3	Highline CC, Kent, Green River CC
1052	181	3	Twin Lakes, Federal Way, Auburn, Green River CC
1999	B, 226	3	Redmond, Overlake, Crossroads, Eastgate

Progress on the K and R Lines

The transmitted plan also reports on current and future work plan items and anticipated milestones for the K and R lines as required, estimating K line completion by 2030 and R link completion by 2031. These lines were already in development and are not considered candidate corridors for RapidRide prioritization.

The **K Line** is The K Line is proposed for an 18-mile north-south corridor parallel to I-405 in Bellevue and Kirkland. The 2023-2024 biennial budget added \$7 million to advance planning and design for the K Line. The K Line has been included in Metro’s 10-year financial plan at \$120 million, with delivery anticipated for 2030.

The **R Line** is proposed for an eight-mile north-south corridor between Downtown Seattle and the Rainier Beach Link light rail station to upgrade the existing Route 7. The 2023-2024 biennial budget added \$22 million to advance planning and design for the R Line. It has been included in Metro’s six-year Capital Improvement Program at \$129 million, with delivery as early as 2031 (a three-year delay since the October 2023 presentation to RTC).

Next Steps

The RapidRide Prioritization Plan guides Metro to advance RapidRide investments over the period representing the first phase of the Metro Connects interim network (2025 – 2039) as funding becomes available. As decisions about RapidRide implementation are made through future biennial budget processes and Capital Improvement Plans, Metro will engage with jurisdictional partners at the City of Seattle for Corridor 1064B (Route 36), and the cities of Seattle, Tukwila, and Kent for Corridor 1049 (Route 150). King County funding will likely be only one part of the overall funding strategy for future RapidRide lines, with additional local, state, and federal funding also needed.

Metro is developing a RapidRide funding strategy that will include plans to:

- Secure funding for the K and R lines
- Upgrade legacy RapidRide lines to replace aging facilities and bring those lines up to the RapidRide standards developed in 2018
- Begin work on the Tier 1 RapidRide candidate corridors

Staff Contact

Questions and comments can be directed to SCA Senior Policy Analyst Andie Parnell at andie@soundcities.org or 206-724-4060.

Item 8:

Public Health Environmental Services Division Rates

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

Aj Foltz, SCA Policy Analyst, aj@soundcities.org, (206) 849-3056

SCA Board of Health Committee Members

Councilmember Heather Koellen, North Bend; Councilmember Penny Sweet, Kirkland;
Councilmember Cheryl Rakes, Auburn; Councilmember Amy Lam, Sammamish

Discussion

At the October PIC meeting, staff from the Environmental Health Services (EHS) Division of Public Health – Seattle & King County will present a proposed rate increase for its services. The increase is intended to secure adequate funding for rate-based EHS programs to cover service costs and maintain effective public health protections. This change will affect permit fees for food establishments, pools, on-site sewage systems, solid waste facilities, pet businesses, and other sectors.

The Board of Health will consider these rate changes at its October meeting. If approved, the new rates will take effect on January 1, 2025.

Background

The Environmental Health Services Division (EHS) of Public Health – Seattle & King County (Public Health) focuses on disease prevention through sanitation, safe food and water, proper disposal of wastes and toxics, and promoting safe and healthy environmental conditions throughout King County.

The King County Board of Health (BOH) code mandates EHS to conduct a five-year environmental rate study to assess services and financial data using a full cost recovery model. During the study, EHS must recommend reasonable fees, and fee increases to cover the full cost of their services. State law prevents Public Health from charging more than the actual cost of services, prohibiting cost shifting between permittee categories. EHS recently completed the 2024 Environmental Health Services Rate Study and will be proposing the rate changes for a vote to the Board in October.

As part of the 2024 rate study, EHS asked for feedback from permit-holders on their permit experience and ways that we can improve our services. Additionally, EHS regularly engages with permit holders and incorporates their feedback into daily services. Through outreach channels, EHS has learned that permit holders want the prioritization of low prices for fees, fast permit

turnaround times, responsiveness to public health concerns and complaints, and technical assistance and education on code compliance. The proposed rate changes help support Public Health’s responsiveness to these priorities.

This rate increase supports Public Health’s commitment to advancing equity and social justice, including by improving language access services, offering racial equity training, and improving equity in compliance approaches.

Proposed EHS Rate Increases

Based on financial analysis results, EHS is proposing to increase rates by 5.7% for Food and Facilities and 5.9% for Solid Waste, On-Site Sewage System, and Pet Business Programs, which are lower than the cumulative inflationary increases over the past five years. The proposed rate changes translate into average permit fee increases of \$39 for Food and Facilities, \$38 for the On-Site Sewage System Program, and \$29 for the Pet Business Program (Table 1). Due to the scale and structure of the Solid Waste Program, the permit fee changes can’t be summarized in the same way.

These increases should allow rate-based EHS programs to maintain sufficient funding to cover the cost of services and continue providing effective programs to ensure the protection of public health. The proposed rate changes aim to balance limiting increases that impact customers with the combined impacts of inflation, increased demand for services, increased complexity of services, and other factors.

Table 1: Summarized EHS Rate Study Proposal

	Food & Facilities	Solid Waste	On-Site Sewage System	Pet Business Programs
% Hourly Rate Increase	5.7%	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%
Dollar Amount Increase	\$39	--	\$38	\$29

Next Steps

EHS has completed the 2024 Environmental Health Services Rate Study and will propose rate changes for a Board vote in October. If approved, the new rates will take effect on January 1, 2025.

Staff Contacts

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Item 9:

Hazardous Waste Management Program

DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact

Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, andie@soundcities.org, 206-724-4060

SCA Hazardous Waste Management Program Management Coordination Committee

Councilmember Kim-Khánh Văn, Renton.

Discussion

At the October PIC meeting, King County Hazardous Waste Management Program staff will provide an overview of the Program, discuss recent rate planning, and introduce 2025 legislative priorities.

Hazardous Waste Management Program

The King County Hazardous Waste Management Program is a multi-jurisdictional program whose mission is to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality throughout King County by reducing the threat posed by the production, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials.

The Management Program is authorized by the Washington State Department of Health and King County Board of Health and managed by the Management Coordination Committee (MCC). The MCC is made up of five members representing each of the following: King County Solid Waste Division, King County Water and Land Resources Division, Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle-King County Public Health, and the Sound Cities Association.

The Program is funded by solid waste fees, transfer station collection, wastewater treatment fees, and other grants and interest income that make up the Local Hazardous Waste Fund. The Program provides services to 2.3 million residents and 60,000 businesses across King County, and unincorporated areas. Services include regional public education and outreach, collection services at four locations and mobile collection events, and assistance for businesses to safely manage hazardous materials.

Rate Planning

The Hazardous Waste Program has been developing a rate proposal, with review by the MCC on whether to make a rate adjustment beginning in 2026 ([Attachment A](#)). The Program indicates that an adjustment is essential to address inflation and rising operational costs. Without increased revenue, the Local Hazardous Waste Fund could fall below reserve levels by 2029. In September, the MCC unanimously decided to defer the 2026 adjustment plan and instructed the Program to assess the necessity, scope, and timeline of any adjustments.

Legislative Priorities

The Hazardous Waste Management Program monitors hazardous waste-related bills during the Washington State legislative session. In 2024, several legislative successes were achieved. Program staff will summarize these successes and offer a forecast for the 2025 legislative session at the October PIC meeting.

Staff Contact

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I. Why a Rate Adjustment is Needed

A rate adjustment is necessary to keep pace with inflation and rising operational costs to continue delivering high-quality hazardous waste services to King County residents and businesses. The current fee, set in 2019, has remained unchanged since 2022. While the Program has maintained low costs through operational efficiencies, strategic investments, partnerships, and systemic change efforts, inflation and increased costs require a rate increase. Without additional revenue, the Local Hazardous Waste Fund will drop below reserve levels by 2029, jeopardizing services and infrastructure improvements.

II. Factors Impacting Rates

In developing the rate proposal, the Program considered and analyzed a range of key factors and options, including:

- A. **Timing** – Whether to seek a rate adjustment beginning in 2026, or to wait until the Program’s fund balance is projected to drop down to its required minimum reserve in 2028.
- B. **Duration** – The duration for the proposed rate period ranges from two to four years.
- C. **Cost-drivers** – Several factors impact the cost of the Program’s operation and services. The primary driver is inflation followed by labor for the new co-located collection facility at the new South King County Transfer Station, service improvements to strengthen community services, and replacement of aging research equipment.
- D. **Increase** – Whether to seek a one-time adjustment for the rate period or smaller annual adjustments applied over the rate period.
- E. **Underspending** – How to responsibly plan for anticipated underspending to ensure financial sustainability.

III. Rate Increase Options

1. **Option 1: No Rate Increase (delay to 2028)**
 - Spend down current fund balances.
 - Opportunity to conduct a rate study in the interim.
 - More time to address aging facility needs.
 - Alignment with King County budget process.
2. **Option 2: Rate Adjustment (2026–2029)**
 - Proceed with a four-year rate plan starting in 2026, with a mid-point review after two years.
 - Implement a rate model with one reserve.
 - No formal rate study; engage with the budget office on reserve requirements.

IV. MCC Decision and Next Steps

The Management Coordination Committee (MCC) unanimously agreed in September to defer the 2026 rate adjustment plan, and tasked the program with the following action items:

- Develop the scope and timeline for a rate adjustment integrating a rate study.
- Explore whether an earlier rate adjustment is possible.

Item 10:
SCA Legislative Priorities
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, andie@soundcities.org, 206-724-4060, and Aj Foltz, SCA Policy Analyst, aj@soundcities.org, (206) 849-3056.

SCA Legislative Committee Members

Mayor Mary Lou Pauly, Issaquah; Mayor Traci Buxton, Des Moines; Mayor Jan Molinaro, Enumclaw; Councilmember Wendy Weiker, Mercer Island; Mayor Armondo Pavone, Renton; Councilmember Amy Falcone, Kirkland

Update

SCA has been collecting SCA member city legislative agendas in preparation for developing a 2025 SCA Legislative Agenda that reflects member city priorities. Members who have not done so already are encouraged to share legislative agendas or issues your city is prioritizing for the 2025 legislative session with SCA staff.

At the October PIC meeting, members will receive an overview of the 2024 SCA Legislative Agenda, as the Legislative Committee will convene in October. During the November PIC meeting, members will review a preliminary draft of the SCA 2025 Legislative Agenda and will have the opportunity to provide feedback.

Background

2025 SCA Legislative Agenda

The SCA Legislative Committee will meet to discuss SCA's legislative priorities to create a draft Legislative Agenda. The Legislative Agenda will be brought to PIC for discussion on November 13, and again in December, if needed, for continued discussion and ultimately a vote to recommend adoption by the SCA Board of Directors.

The 2025 SCA Legislative Agenda will continue to be shaped by issues raised in city legislative agendas as it is refined. Members are encouraged to continue sharing their legislative agendas or initial city priorities for the 2025 legislative session with SCA staff, as they become available.

SCA is also tracking the Association of Washington Cities' (AWC) legislative advocacy. Since the last PIC meeting, AWC has formally adopted [2025 City Legislative Priorities](#), which include fiscal sustainability, behavioral health treatment capacity, housing supply, public safety and infrastructure investment. More information, including fact sheets about each of these priorities, can be found at the link above.

2024 SCA Legislative Agenda

At the recommendation of the SCA Legislative Committee and PIC, the SCA Board of Directors adopted a 2024 SCA Legislative Agenda ([Attachment A](#)) that reflected city priorities found in common across city agendas. Priorities included:

- Improve public safety
- Promote economic vitality
- Address the behavioral health treatment crisis
- Support sustainable funding for core local services
- Invest in transportation infrastructure and mobility
- Promote housing affordability
- Mitigate and prepare for impacts of climate change

Next Steps

The SCA Legislative Committee will meet to discuss SCA's legislative priorities and the evolving draft Legislative Agenda. The Legislative Agenda will be brought to PIC on November 13, and again on December, if needed, for continued discussion and ultimately a vote to recommend adoption by the SCA Board of Directors. Questions and comments can be directed to Andie Parnell, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, andie@soundcities.org, 206-724-4060, and Aj Foltz, SCA Policy Analyst, aj@soundcities.org, (206) 849-3056.

Sound Cities Association

2024 Legislative Agenda



Improve Public Safety

Increase tools and resources, including local taxing authority, to address auto theft and property crime and to support officer recruitment and retention.

Promote Economic Vitality

Increase support for community revitalization and workforce development programs in critical fields with hiring shortages.

Address the Behavioral Health Treatment Crisis

Increase the capacity of the crisis response system and fund local programs that connect individuals with needed care and diversion programs.

Support Sustainable Funding for Core Local Services

Replace the 1% cap on annual property increases with a limit tied to inflation and population growth and increasing flexibility for use of

Invest in Transportation Infrastructure & Mobility

Increase investment in the Public Works Assistance Account, honor commitments made in Move Ahead Washington, and provide local funding options with an emphasis on preservation and maintenance.

Promote Housing Affordability

Provide resources such as local option REET to assist cities with implementation of local affordable housing plans and recently adopted planning and zoning changes, and reduce the cost of regulations on housing production.

Mitigate and Prepare for Impacts of Climate Change

Allocate state and federal funding to cities to mitigate and prepare for the impacts of climate change, including responding to extreme

Legislative Guiding Principles

SCA adopts the following guiding principles through which all legislative proposals will be measured against:

- *Advance racial equity and social justice
- *Improve the social safety net
- *Make no unfunded mandates to cities
- *Preserve local decision-making authority
- *Honor commitments to shared revenues



October 9, 2024
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 11:
Levies and Ballot Measures in King County
INFORMATIONAL

Potential Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities					
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure	Result	Next steps
2024	August	Des Moines	Public safety levy	Failed	Will be on the November ballot

Potential Future Ballot Measures – Other Jurisdictions and Special Purpose Districts			
Year	Month	Jurisdiction	Measure
2024	November	Seattle	Transportation levy renewal (“Move Seattle”)
2024	November	Issaquah SD	Capital Bond - \$650 Million
2024		King County	Automated Fingerprint Identification System levy renewal
2024	November	LWSD	\$112 Million Levy
2025		King County	Parks levy renewal
2025		King County	EMS levy renewal
2025	November	Burien	Public Safety
2027		King County	Best Starts for Kids levy renewal
2029		King County	Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services levy renewal
TBD		King County	Housing levy
TBD		King County	Transit levy
TBD		King County	Climate resiliency levy lid lift

Next Steps

SCA members are encouraged to send information about any levies or ballot measures under consideration by your city or that will impact SCA staff. Items shown as potential future ballot measures have not yet been approved to be placed on the ballot by the respective legislative authority.