

EASTRAIL REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

July 19, 2020 | 1 – 3 PM

Zoom Meeting

Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Members Present: Kathy Lambert, King County Councilmember (Chair); Jay Arnold, Deputy Mayor, City of Kirkland (Vice Chair); Ariel Taylor, Sound Transit; Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember; Christie True, Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks; David Hoffman, Puget Sound Energy; Jessica Forsythe, Redmond Councilmember; John Stokes, Bellevue Councilmember; Les Rubstello, Woodinville Deputy Mayor; Randy Corman, Renton Councilmember; Reagan Dunn, King County Councilmember; Vicky Clarke, Eastside Greenway Alliance

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kathy Lambert called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm, welcomed all in attendance to the third RAC meeting of 2021, and reviewed the agenda.

Approval of April 19, 2021 RAC meeting summary

Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the April 19, 2021 meeting summary. There being no objections, the summary was approved.

Chair and Vice Chair Positions for Term Starting January 2022

The current RAC Chair and Vice Chair terms began October 2019 and will end October 2021. Existing guidance doesn't dictate the dates of the term beginning or ending. Staff propose adding clarification that terms begin and end at the end of the fourth quarter RAC meeting of odd numbered years.

Councilmember Balducci moved to maintain Councilmember Lambert and Deputy Mayor Arnold as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively; John Stokes seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Councilmember Lambert will continue as RAC Chair and Deputy Mayor Arnold will continue as RAC Vice Chair for two more years.

Partnership MOU between RAC and Eastrail Partners

Katherine Hollis of Eastrail Partners and David St. John of King County DNRP introduced the updated MOU between Eastrail Partners and the RAC for member consideration. The new MOU (included in meeting packet) provides structure and guidance for partnership and includes three main elements: ongoing collaboration, priorities for action, and terms. Edits presented in the document were considered by RAC members for approval to then move forward with signature.

- King County's Legal Team recommended adding the following sections around property rights and jurisdictional authority and legal relations to give members additional guidance around roles and ownership.
 - Section 4 (property rights): all RAC members were in favor of including this section for clarity.
 - Section 5 (legal relations): RAC members considered this additional language to be unnecessary and were not in favor of including this addition.
- Deputy Mayor Arnold moved to adopt the amended partnership MOU and release for member signature, Councilmember Stokes seconded. All were in favor and none were opposed; the MOU was approved with edits and will be provided for signature by RAC entity members.

Letter to Washington Senators

Katherine Hollis, ED of Eastrail partners, shared a letter addressed to Washington's Senators encouraging and thanking the legislature to support funding for Eastrail projects in the Senate's work. The letter (included in the meeting packet) will be sent on behalf of the RAC to Senators with Representatives copied. Councilmember Reagan Dunn moved to approve sending the letter on behalf of the RAC, Councilmember Forsythe seconded, and all were in favor. The letter will be transmitted to Washington's Senators as drafted.

Trail Visitor Survey & Information Sharing Work Plan – Principals Staff Team Recommendations

Mike Ullmer of King County provided updates on the RAC user data collection program and management system staff recommendations. A robust data collection program would facilitate storytelling, build awareness of people's experience on the trail, inform decision-making, measure the impact of new segments and connections, illustrate value to funders, and generate data points for grant applications. The data collection plan includes manual counts, intercept surveys, and temporary and permanent automated counters, and will require development of a centralized data storage and catalogue system. An example of a potential dashboard data visualization developed by KCIT was included in the meeting packet. RAC members discussed the following recommendations and questions to provide guidance to staff. Staff will come back in October with a refined proposal.

- #1: create and implement a 10-year data collection and management plan, including methods and plan for acquiring data, data management and access, budgeting, and hardware.
 - RAC members would like more information about what is included in hardware and software, where there is additional data we would want to include that isn't part of the software package, and whether KCIT could build on an off-the-shelf product.
 - RAC members would also like to know how much the full system would cost to develop. Staff are still working with KCIT on scoping data management system and will report back in October with a refined proposal and cost estimates. Cost-sharing details are being worked out for database development and maintenance, but the plan assumes jurisdictions would pay for counters within their boundaries.
- #2: secure resources for purchase, installation, and ongoing O&M for data collection at seven desired counter locations.
 - Six of the counters would be lower profile and cost ~\$6,500 each. One totem-style counter proposed in Bellevue with real-time data costs ~\$35,000.
 - Counter locations were selected to provide even coverage, measure changes in use with new projects, and provide snapshots of use on different segments. Bellevue was chosen for the totem counter as it includes an iconic piece of the Eastrail. Higher use is also expected between NE 8th and the Northup Way connector so it would be useful to have a more visible counter at that location.
 - No counters considered at this time will include video data collection to avoid data retention and privacy concerns. Current hardware selections also won't capture speed, although they could help identify areas with speed issues in the future.
- Recommendation #3: continue current manual count locations in 2021 and beyond using 2020 protocols.
 - Without automated counters, manual counts will be only way to collect this data.
- Recommendation #4: create and implement a data management system, securing technical expertise to scope and build the system, identify common data needs, and determine what we want data to do.

- Staff expect that dashboard creation and refinement will take six months to a year.
- Recommendation #5: develop tool for collecting and managing qualitative information about Eastrail beyond just trail use data.
 - RAC members want to know about trail usage by segment, how people are using Eastrail as a transportation corridor, which segments are highly used, as well as first and last mile data about transit connections.
 - RAC members would prefer annual trail use updates with details about seasonal usage but would welcome more frequent staff updates to report observations related to safety concerns or success stories. The online dashboard could also include a place for users to report safety concerns or other issues such as litter, etc.
 - RAC members are in favor of on-demand data via online dashboard as well as social media posts to raise awareness.

Co-Creation Event Planning

Debbie Lacy of Eastside for All and Joe Inslee of King County provided updates on planning for [Welcoming Week](#) as a co-creation and community engagement event related to Eastrail. This effort is intended to build ongoing relationships and serve as a model for future efforts and partnerships.

- Staff are facilitating a co-creation process with several community-based organizations in East King County—including the Immigrant Women’s Community Center, 4Tomorrow, Indian-American Community Services, and Friends of Bellevue Cross-Cultural Center—and are working to build ongoing relationships.
- The event will occur between September 10-19 (final date will be decided soon) and logistical planning for the event is underway.
- Staff are gathering options to share with community partners for decision-making about event location. It might be two locations with some walking in between.
- There is an event on Friday, July 23 about transformative placemaking and designing for equity. Registration is available [here](#) and Joe Inslee will share the recording with RAC members.

Progress and Success Updates

Eastrail Partners – over 65 people attended an event near the Google campus on the Cross-Kirkland Corridor to highlight how the Eastrail and state funding for the trail can integrate with the transportation system.

Bellevue – Eastrail keeps coming up in discussions about other efforts, including the Grand Connection across I-405 and the Wilburton redevelopment, which is exciting.

King County – currently going to bid soon on the segment between Kirkland and Woodinville and in early August will go to bid on the NE 8th Street Crossing. A large portion of the segment south of Bellevue and I-90 is now open and another segment will be open at the end of the summer.

Fiber Project Update

- No significant schedule changes, staff are working on the second RFP draft to PST members and project agreements. The MOU final draft was distributed and is now in legislative and leadership

review cycles for Redmond, Kirkland, Woodinville, and King County. Staff are also working on the cost recovery and revenue sharing agreement and vendor services contract.

- The next steps are for Eastrail owners to review and execute the MOU. Staff will also receive edits to the second draft of the RFP by mid-August to then put it into King County's procurement template.

Kirkland – improvements by SRM Development via Google's campus expansion include a paved and separated trail plus public restrooms and other public and park facilities.

Redmond – received \$2.13M from PSRC for the Redmond Central Connector. They are hoping to begin design in early 2022 with potential construction starting in 2023. Construction is also underway for light rail and the Redmond Central Connector through downtown.

Renton – Renton and King County staff are continuing discussions about securing the BNSF railway past milepost 5 down to Coulon Park. In the 2021 legislative session both Senate and House transportation plans contained \$6M to extend the dead end at milepost 5 to Coulon Park but will need a new funding package (currently placeholders). Construction will begin in August to retrofit the May Creek Trestle.

Public comment

- No public comment was registered.

The meeting recording is available here: <https://kingcounty.gov/council/issues/erc/2021-meetings.aspx>. Interested parties should send comments to eastrail@kingcounty.gov. Joe Inslee will compile any comments received.

Next steps and adjournment

The next meeting is Monday, October 18th.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.