

EASTRAIL REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

July 12, 2022 | 10 AM – 12 PM

Zoom Meeting

Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Members Present: Jay Arnold, Kirkland Deputy Mayor (Co-Chair), Sarah Perry, King County Councilmember (Co-Chair); John Stokes, Bellevue Councilmember; Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember; Christie True, Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks; Jessica Forsythe, Redmond Council President; Ryan McIrvine, Renton Council President; Luke Lamon, Sound Transit; Michelle Evans, designee for Woodinville Mayor Les Rubstello; Tom Teigen, Snohomish County; Vicky Clarke, Eastside Greenway Alliance

Welcome and Introductions

Councilmember Perry called the meeting to order at 10:02 am, welcomed all in attendance to the third RAC meeting of 2022, and reviewed the agenda.

Approval of April 29, 2022 RAC meeting summary

Deputy Mayor Arnold moved to approve the April 29 meeting summary and Councilmember Stokes seconded. **Members unanimously voted to approve the April 29 meeting summary.**

Arts Coordination Planning

Jeff Aken from the Redmond Parks Department. and Katherine Hollis of Eastrail Partners shared updates on the arts coordination framework discussed at the April meeting and requested RAC direction on two potential models: arts guiding principles or an arts master plan.

- *Eastrail Arts Guiding Principles*: high-level, jurisdiction-led model to support coordination
- *Eastrail Arts Master Plan*: more comprehensive and requiring more resources and consultant support, would move from collaboration to deeper coordination and implementation
- Next steps are to review refined objectives and required resources at the October RAC meeting and in January 2023 approve a final set of guiding principles.

Discussion

- Members agreed that a guiding arts framework provides an opportunity to support Eastrail development as a community destination through art, installations, visuals, and storytelling.
- Members were concerned about funding and time required to do a full master plan and thought that guiding principles could provide the appropriate level of structure to support cohesion and coordination without being too prescriptive and were in favor of moving forward with guiding principles.
- Art and interpretive elements could also include Eastrail branding to ensure uniformity across wayfinding and signage. Members also had questions about how this would be integrated with the Leafline.

Shared Funding/Budget Project Proposal and Recommendation

David St. John of King County DNR provided updates on proposed cost share items for the 2023-2024 biennial budget and solicited RAC member direction on which proposed actions to pursue.

- *Action Area 1: Implement Eastrail Information System Plan (already moving forward)*
 - Plan was finalized at October 2021 RAC meeting to gather data about trail usage and impacts of connecting segments to inform design, development, and operations and maintenance decisions.
 - Funds will be used for procuring and installing counting equipment and technology, developing a shared data collection and management system, developing a public facing web tool, and incorporating information into future funding proposals.
 - **~\$90,000** for 2023-2024 biennium with ongoing costs into the future
 - King County will also serve as the data manager and contribute \$60,000
 - Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, and Snohomish County will each contribute \$7,500
 - Higher cost share ratio for King County is due to equipment considerations and deviates from standard cost share framework.
- *Action Area 2: Eastrail with Community*
 - Development of community-informed and co-led planning and programming to continue making Eastrail an inclusive and welcoming public space for all. Funds will be used to further solidify long-term relationships with CBOs, neighborhood groups, and other community members to inform programming; identify and build opportunities for communities to co-plan Eastrail efforts; implement community-informed education for trail use practices; and implement shared Eastrail communications.
 - **~\$75,000 - \$150,000** for events, meetings, programming (\$35,000), Eastrail Partners (EP) Community Collaborations Manager staffing (\$25,000), and communications (\$15,000). This would likely move forward as a service agreement between the RAC members and EP, potentially using the prior service agreement as a model.
- *Action Area 3: RAC-convened Eastrail event*
 - Option A: two-day in-person Eastrail conference hosted by the RAC in Q1 2024 to highlight successes and progress, thank and recognize contributors, and build support and momentum for future action.
 - Day 1: field visits to 4-6 locations of key completed, in progress, or future projects
 - Day 2: convene at a venue on/near Eastrail for the following:
 - Recap of progress since 2016
 - Panel discussion of lessons learned re: collaboration, equity, connection between Eastrail and other regional/local trails, funding, co-creation, mode integration, pandemic response, etc.
 - Presentations/discussions on upcoming/emerging challenges and support needed to overcome them
 - Session recognizing key contributions from federal/state/local elected officials, businesses, community members, etc.
 - **~\$30,000 and \$60,000** for event planning, coordination, implementation, consultant support services, communications, collateral development, web presence, contributor acknowledgement, transportation, venue and related on-site support, refreshments/lunch.
 - Option B: two-day regional/national corridor development conference focused on lessons learned and problem-solving from major trail development projects regionally and nationally to raise the profile of trail development and demonstrate regional leadership.
 - Track sessions devoted to equity and inclusion, financing/fundraising, trail-oriented development, trail-transit integration, technology, arts integration and implementation, site visits to key projects, etc. Does not include an opportunity to

thank key contributors and provides less local recognition but is more issues-based with a broader geographic range.

- **~\$70,000 - \$120,000** for event planning, coordination, implementation, consultant support, communications, travel and lodging for invited guests, speaker fee for keynote, development of collateral materials, web presence, transportation for site visits, venue costs, refreshments/lunch.

Discussion

- Members agreed to move forward on Action Areas 1 and 2.
- For Action Area 3, members were evenly split between Option A and B. Some members felt that Option A was more relevant to the scope of the RAC in the immediate future, while others felt that Option B would offer the opportunity to learn more about initiatives across the country, attract attention and involvement to catalyze broader business and community partnerships, and maximize trail development momentum for community benefit. Thinking big could provide inspiration and connection to support achieving the Eastrail vision. There could also be strategic reasons (such as the 2024 Parks Levy) to consider a larger regional/national conference.
- All members acknowledged that Option B would be a much larger and costly effort that would need to get started quickly, potentially requiring additional funding support from other partners like PSRC, corporate funders, etc.
- A potential compromise could be to pursue Option A and invite national speakers.

Eastrail Partners Action Update

Katherine Hollis shared updates on from Eastrail Partners, including their new hire, collective federal and state funding processes, and upcoming events.

- Collin Petkus, their new Community Collaborations Manager, started last week and brings deep community engagement and organizing experience on the Eastside.
- Rep. DelBene included two Eastrail projects in her Community Projects list:
 - \$2.5M for SR202 in Woodinville
 - \$1.1M for Redmond Central Connector
- Eastrail partnered to support applications for PSRC funding for two Eastrail projects:
 - Bellevue: Spring District Connector
 - Woodinville: SR202 remaining funding
- Bellevue and King County are working to assess new trail funding opportunities in the federal infrastructure law, including the Safe Roads and Streets for All grant program. Bellevue is developing an application for infrastructure improvements around frequent transit and is partnering with King County on a proposal to implement safety improvements at the SE 1st St and SE 5th St crossings and improvements, including paved trail, between them.
- Feriton Spur Park opening celebration: Wednesday, July 13 from 5:30 – 8 PM.
- Move Ahead WA funding celebration with state legislative champions: Wednesday, August 24 from 9:30 – 10:30 am, location TBD.
- Peace Peloton 2nd Annual Fresh Air Eastside event: cycling event to elevate Black-owned businesses, Sunday, August 28.

RAC Business

Councilmember Perry solicited RAC member feedback about whether to continue holding remote RAC meetings or to move toward a hybrid remote/in-person model, as well as input on the October RAC meeting agenda.

- All members were in favor of continuing with remote meetings to allow for flexibility and greater public participation, though they were interested in finding opportunities to gather in person on the Eastrail and requested staff support in finding and scheduling a date.
- Members were interested in discussing trail lighting during winter months, e-bikes and scooters, user education, trail etiquette, and corridor access from neighboring parcels in future RAC meetings. Additional ideas should be shared with RAC staff before the next meeting.

Progress and Success Updates

Bellevue – starting the Wilburton Vision comprehensive plan update process. Code changes through this process will encourage density, development, and transit- and trail-oriented development.

Kirkland – construction has begun on the first of four spans on the Totem Lake Connector which is scheduled to open in spring 2023 and will provide a safe crossing over ten lanes of traffic.

Redmond – design is underway for the RCCIII. Redmond also hosted first Derby Days since 2019 with between 20,000 – 40,000 in attendance, including a drone show in place of a fireworks show.

Snohomish County – working through final legal issues related to securing railroad rights access and ownership and hope to be finished in the next eight months.

King County – construction has begun on NE 8th bridge crossing. 2.5-mile trail segment between Kirkland and Woodinville is now open. They are also conducting focus groups to inform the wayfinding project. The fiber project RFI closed June 15 and owners are reviewing the four received responses; staff will provide a detailed update at the October RAC meeting.

Sound Transit – ST Board approved permanent station names for downtown Redmond Link light rail: Marymoor Village and Downtown Redmond stations. As part of that extension they worked closely with partners to enhance existing and create new trail connections to feed into the regional network.

Eastside Greenway Alliance – working with Eastrail Partners to plan cycling events to advocate for Eastrail with various audiences.

Public comment

No public comment was registered.

The meeting recording is available here: [2022 Meetings - King County](#). Interested parties should send comments to eastrail@kingcounty.gov. Joe Inslee will compile any additional comments received.

Next steps and adjournment

The date of the next RAC meeting is October 20. Staff will send out meeting information soon.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 am.