

EASTRAIL REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

January 25, 2023 | 1 – 3 PM

Zoom Meeting

Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Members Present: Jay Arnold, Kirkland Deputy Mayor (Co-Chair); Sarah Perry, King County Councilmember (Co-Chair); Michael Ingram (alternate for Councilmember Stokes), Bellevue; Christie True, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks; Jessica Forsythe, Redmond Council Vice-President; Tom Teigen, Snohomish County; Matt Larsen, Puget Sound Energy; Ariel Taylor (alternate for Don Billen), Sound Transit; Michelle Evans, Woodinville Councilmember

Welcome and Introductions

Deputy Mayor Arnold called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm, welcomed all in attendance to the first RAC meeting of 2024, and reviewed the agenda.

Approval of October 19, 2023 RAC meeting summary

Councilmember Jessica Forsythe moved to approve the October 19 meeting summary and Director Tom Teigen seconded. **Members unanimously voted to approve the October 19 meeting summary.**

Major Capital Project 2024 Look Ahead (Information Item)

Joe Inslee and Curt Warber of King County, Jared Hill of Woodinville, and Kim Scrivener of Kirkland provided updates on capital projects along the Eastrail. Slides were included in the meeting packet.

- Totem Lake Connector, Woodinville rail removal, and Northup Connector were completed in 2023.
- Redmond Central Connector connection to East Lake Sammamish Trail: construction is underway, expected to open in 2025.
- RCCIII: final phase of Redmond Central Connector is expected to open in 2025.
- 202 Trestle in Woodinville: construction is expected to begin in 2025 and be completed in 2026.
- Sammamish River Trail connection: Woodinville is working with a consultant on design.
- Slater/132nd HAWK crossing: Kirkland has designed and is seeking funding for this crossing.
- NE 8th St. Bridge connection to Wilburton light rail station: opening this summer.
- Central Wilburton Segment: gravel trail to connect NE 8th St. Bridge and Wilburton Trestle, expected to begin construction and be completed in 2025.
- Wilburton Trestle: currently out to bid, construction will begin in the spring and is expected to be completed in 2025.
- Eastrail to Spring Blvd. Connector: in final design, construction expected to begin in 2025.
- I-405 Bridge (Wilburton gap): under construction, will be completed in 2025.
- I-90 Bridge Trail Segment: King County is seeking additional federal funding and beginning design.
- ST 2 line segment from south Bellevue to the Redmond Technology Center will open this spring.

2024 RAC and PST Work Plan (Information and Consensus Item)

David St. John of King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks provided an overview of the proposed 2024 RAC work plan and requested RAC consensus on moving forward. Slides were included in the meeting packet.

- In 2023, the RAC completed development of Arts Coordination Guiding Principles and made progress on several other items.
- Elements carried forward from the 2023 work plan have been updated to reflect progress and new developments and are included in the 2024 work plan:
 - Plan and implement 2024 RAC-sponsored Eastrail activities.
 - Engage federal and state leaders to support priority projects.
 - Compile, synthesize, and share demographic information describing diversity of Eastrail communities.
 - Share information/coordination about key cross-cutting corridor management issues.
 - Implement 2021 Eastrail trail use information system plan.
 - Develop and implement a Coordinated Strategic Communications Framework.
 - Communicate about major capital project progress and milestones.
 - Continue co-creation efforts to connect to and involve the diverse Eastrail community.
 - Activate open segments.
 - Plan, coordinate, and implement quarterly RAC meetings and twice-monthly PST meetings.
 - Support development and implementation of wayfinding measures to support trail use.
- New element in proposed 2024 work plan: explore/create a more efficient and effective mechanism for ongoing cost-sharing for shared corridor development priorities.
- Renton has proposed adding an element focused on tracking federal and state funding awards and legislator engagement and advocacy.

Discussion & Next Steps

- Members are interested in continuing to discuss the new cost-share element and proactively planning for requests in their jurisdiction/organizational budgets.
- There was consensus that the 2024 work plan should move forward as proposed, including Renton's proposed addition.

Scope and Resource Commitments for 2024 RAC Events (Information and Discussion Item)

David St. John reviewed 2024 RAC activities and resource commitments and solicited RAC guidance and direction on scope refinement and next steps. Slides were included in the meeting packet.

- **Video(s)** to communicate about completed and future collaborative trail development.
 - Commitments: \$20-30K for consultant support, project management, staff support, and RAC member availability for interviews, etc.
 - Primary need is the funding commitment within the next few weeks. For efficiency, prefer to have one entity pay (which would go toward the entity's cost-share agreed to in October 2022) and another provide project management.
- **Tours** to bring key people to important corridor locations to hear the Eastrail story and learn about progress, successes, and upcoming opportunities and challenges.
 - Commitments: RAC entities to initiate, organize, and implement tours, invite people and spread the word, and provide staff time to plan and attend tours. No financial requirements anticipated.
- **Celebration/activation event** to get people out on the corridor for a memorable summer experience to build sustained interest. Also want to coordinate with other events (e.g., Wilburton Trestle groundbreaking, Sound Transit 2 Line opening, NE 8th St. Bridge opening, etc.)
 - Commitments: coordination with Eastrail Partners, some limited funding for

implementation support for event elements (TBD based on scope).

- **Leadership summit** to build energy and support for goals among public, private, and community leaders through a half-day event in September.
 - Commitments: coordination with Eastrail Partners, finalizing event scope and commitments by April, and funding for consultant support (amount and services TBD based on scope) as well as event costs.
- The total \$80K cost-share estimate is anticipated to remain about the same (pending element scope refinements) and includes the \$20-30K for the video and the remaining amount predominantly going toward the leadership summit. Tours and activation events are expected to rely mostly on staff time and in-kind donations.
- Immediate next steps are to secure funding for video implementation, procure consultant support, and refine scopes for activation event and leadership summit.

Discussion & Next Steps

- Members expressed support for these elements, including moving forward on the immediate next steps, and requested presentation slides and any other supporting documentation from staff to support budget conversations.

Federal and State Funding Update (Information Item)

David St. John and Katherine Hollis of Eastrail Partners provided updates on federal and state funding.

Federal

- Bellevue and King County were not awarded a Safe Streets for All grant for Eastrail trail development along the corridor between SE 5th and 1st. However, Bellevue was awarded funding for a different part of the proposed scope in other portions of the City's bike/ped or mobility network (not involving the Eastrail)
- Snohomish County is still waiting to hear about their Reconnecting Communities grant.
- Woodinville is applying for a RAISE grant (due Feb. 28) for planning and design for the entire length of their Eastrail ownership.
- King County is also applying for a RAISE grant for I-90 steel bridge construction.

State

- Seeking reprogramming of Move Ahead WA funding into the next biennium so as not to lose federal funding for Woodinville's SR202 project and Bellevue's Mountains to Sound Trail project.
- Seeking reprogramming of capital budget funding for Kirkland's Eastrail HAWK crossing (appropriated in State's 2025-2027 and 2027-2029 transportation biennial budgets for HAWK crossing and 132nd intersection improvements).

Sound Transit 2 Line Opening Planning (Information Item)

Ariel Taylor of Sound Transit provided updates on the opening of the 2 Line. Eight new East Link/2 Line stations will open this spring (dates are TBD). The 2 Line will eventually include ten stations over 14 miles on the east side and will be fully open in 2025. Sound Transit will announce grand opening dates as soon as they are set and will host community activation events.

Appreciation for Service

Councilmember Sarah Perry and RAC members recognized and thanked Christie True, Director of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, for her decades of service to King County, the RAC, and the region, and congratulated her on her retirement.

Public Comment

- Daniel requested more information about the I-405 bridge design to share with the Wilburton Community Association. Staff will follow up to provide information.
- Craig S. expressed excitement about progress being made and collaboration on the Eastrail. He frequently rides on the Renton section of Eastrail and sees Eastrail as a linear park and community asset. He requested more information about vehicular lines of sight at the intersection of NE 4th and SE 1st and also about the unpaved section of Eastrail in Renton before the stadium. Staff will follow up to provide more information.

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

Next Steps and Adjournment

The next RAC meeting will be April 17, 2024. Staff will send out the schedule for 2024 quarterly meetings soon, as well as meeting registration information in advance. The meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm.