

Eastrail Regional Advisory Council Thursday July 18, 2024 3:00PM – 5:00PM

3:00 PM – 3:05 PM Introductions and Agenda Review

• RAC Co-Chair Kirkland Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold

3:05 PM – 3:15 PM **Public Comment**

RAC Co-Chair Kirkland Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold

3:15 PM – 3:20 PM Approval of April 17, 2024 RAC Meeting Summary

• RAC Co-Chair Kirkland Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold

3:20 PM - 3:30 PM RAC Co-Chair Positions for 2024-2026 Term (Information Item)

 David St. John, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

3:30 PM – 3:50 PM Update on Implementation of 2024 RAC Activities (Information and Discussion Item)

• Colin Petkus, Eastrail Partners

 Shannon Arms, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

3:50 PM – 4:15 PM Next Steps on Key Cross-cutting Trail Corridor
Management Issues (Discussion/Decision Item)

 David St. John, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

4:15 PM – 4:35 PM Eastrail Partners Proposal for Next Service
Agreement (Information/Discussion Item)

• Katherine Hollis, Eastrail Partners

4:35 PM – 4:45 PM Climate Commitment Act Update (Information Item)

• RAC Co-Chair Kirkland Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM **Progress and Success Updates (Information Item)**

RAC members

Katherine Hollis, Eastrail Partners

Adjourn





















EASTRAIL REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY April 17, 2024 | 3 – 5 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; John Taylor, Director of King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks; Jessica Forsythe, Redmond Council Vice-President; Ryan McIrvin, Renton Councilmember; Jared Hill (alternate for Woodinville Councilmember Michelle Evans); Sharon Swan (alternate for Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Director Tom Teigen); Matt Larsen, Puget Sound Energy; Don Billen, Sound Transit; Vicky Clarke, Eastside Greenway Alliance/Cascade Bicycle Club

Welcome and Introductions

Councilmember Sarah Perry called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm, welcomed all in attendance to the second RAC meeting of 2024, and reviewed the agenda.

Approval of January 25, 2024 RAC meeting summary

Councilmember Jessica Forsythe moved to approve the January 25 meeting summary and Deputy Mayor Arnold seconded. **Members unanimously voted to approve the January 25 meeting summary**.

Public Comment

No public comment was registered.

King County Parks Levy Renewal Planning (Information and Discussion Item)

Warren Jimenez, Director of King County Parks & Recreation Division, provided updates on King County Parks Levy renewal planning and community engagement. Slides were included in the meeting packet.

- The Parks Levy is a voter-approved property tax that provides funding for regional and city parks, trails, and open spaces. Current 2020-2025 levy totals ~\$845M and provides ~80% of King County Parks' operating budget. It supports caring for the existing system (39%), increasing access to parks, trails, and open space (24%), building and maintaining the regional trail network (20%), and growing and connecting regional open space (15%).
- Planning for the next six-year levy and working to gather input from Tribes, members of the
 public, and jurisdictions. King County has a Levy Community Advisory Committee and will be
 summarizing feedback and drafting a levy proposal in the summer for Executive Constantine to
 present to King County Council in early 2025 for inclusion on the August 2025 ballot.

Discussion & Next Steps

- Members expressed interest in the levy and related planning work prioritizing accessibility for wheelchair users and anyone with mobility issues. King County has design standards to support trails accessibility (though they sometimes need to be phased due to funding constraints) and is also reviewing access issues (both for facilities and overall connectivity) across the system.
- King County is looking at opportunities to build off existing investments; this will be part of
 internal criteria when reviewing the trails system, and they will also continue to look for
 partnership opportunities to deliver on broader system goals.

• King County will report back on priorities that emerge through the community engagement process.

Micromobility Devices: Considerations for Eastrail (Information and Consensus Item)

Barb Chamberlain, Director WSDOT Active Transportation Division, gave a presentation on considerations for micromobility devices (cycles, scooters, boards, and skates) and their use on Eastrail. While not a policy-making body, the RAC wants to coordinate on emerging issues such as this and understand how jurisdictions are adapting to and handling these devices. Slides were included in the meeting packet, along with micromobility device code language from RAC member jurisdictions.

- Trail use takes place in a larger context of community, societal, and biological systems. Equity, safety, and accessibility are essential for transportation, and traffic safety culture, system design, human factors, maintenance, and other elements all impact safe trail use.
- Micromobility devices can facilitate transportation independence for multiple demographic groups and support transit access, multimodal connectivity, land use planning.
- Good data on micromobility device safety data is lacking. We mostly have "anecdata" because traffic safety crash data is only recorded when a police report is filed. Mobility device mass and speed are major variables in safety outcomes.
- Device user behavior is difficult to regulate and enforce, and there is a need to separate technology from behavior (e.g., research shows that the assumption that e-bike riders travel at higher speeds is mostly unfounded).
- There is little consistency in regulatory frameworks across jurisdictions. Enforcement, especially of user behavior, is difficult.
- Education and equity are key to support trail safety with regard to micromobility devices. Education is most effective when someone is new and receives actionable information, and signage needs to be meaningful, accessible, and consistent across the trail. Trail standards should also be the same for all types of transportation, modes, and devices, and consider the needs and device uses of users with disabilities.

Discussion & Next Steps

- Washington's framework for e-bike standards is spreading to other states.
- King County Council is considering legislation to set specific operating hours (rather than current dawn to dusk rules) since Eastrail is effectively not available for commuting in the winter months. Members are interested in learning more about creative options for lighting to support safety that minimize adverse environmental impacts. Members also want to consider trail hours that support multimodal transit access and align with light rail and bus service hours.
- There could be issues if there are differences in standards between King County's other trails and Eastrail. The group agreed that more discussion is needed to determine overall goals and implications of policy choices for jurisdictions along the corridor, especially as King County considers code changes. Consistency in regulation (hours of operation, speed, user code of conduct, etc.), signage, and messaging across Eastrail is critical. Members want to continue discussing and coordinating on this topic.

Update on Implementation of 2024 RAC Activities (Information and Discussion Item)

David St. John of King County Parks reviewed progress on 2024 RAC activities. Slides were included in the meeting packet.

Videos: Bellevue will cover most of the hard costs, King County will fund project management,

and Eastrail Partners will manage the project. Bellevue is in final negotiations with a videographer. They will capture footage of the ST2 line opening celebration and community events over the summer. Expect to complete videos in the fall.

- Tours: will be mostly left up to individual RAC members to design and lead tours as desired.
- **Celebration/activation event**: considering events over the summer including in alignment with a related task in the current, 2023-2024 service agreement with Eastrail Partners.
- Leadership summit: will require consultant support, King County will fund consulting costs and is
 working on a procurement strategy now. Additional cpsts may be identifed as part of further
 scoping with the planning team and consultant; these costs are anticipated to be covered by
 additional RAC entities. Plan to finalize event scope and budget by early June, send a save the
 date by end of June, secure remaining resource commitments by end of July, and hold the summit
 in September.

Eastrail Partners Service Agreement (Information Item)

Nate Caminos, Eastrail Partners Board Secretary, summarized Eastrail Partners' 2025-2026 Service Agreement proposal for \$200,000 (\$50,000 increase from previous Service Agreement) to support community co-creation, shared communications, and private sector support and engagement.

Federal and State Funding Update (Information Item)

David St. John provided updates on federal and state funding. *Federal*

- Snohomish County's Reconnecting Communities grant application was not selected.
- Submitted two RAISE grants in February for Woodinville segment planning and King County's I-90 steel bridge construction, expect to hear back in the summer.

State

• Woodinville, Kirkland, and Bellevue were successful in securing state funding timing flexibility for projects funded through Move Ahead WA.

Progress and Success Updates (Information Item)

Bellevue – receiving positive feedback from the community about Eastrail development and integration.

<u>Sound Transit</u> – ST2 Line opens 4/27 between south Bellevue and Redmond Technology Center, all eight stations will have activation celebrations and ribbon cutting will happen at Bellevue Downtown station at 10 am, trains will start to roll at 11 am.

Redmond – Redmond Technology Center bridge opening will be 4/22 at 10:30 am.

<u>Renton</u> – installed speed cushions along Lake Washington Blvd. which is helping to reduce speeds. Also working on Park Ave. extension this summer. Thanks to Sound Transit for funding a HAWK signal on Lake Washington Blvd. which will open in 2026.

<u>PSE</u> – interested in continuing the Eastrail lighting conversation as they have an easement along the corridor.

<u>Woodinville</u> – closing out the Golden Spike removal project and continuing to work with King County on sightline issues on the Sammamish River Trail/Eastrail connection.

<u>Eastside Greenway Alliance</u> – will be at the Wilburton Station for ST2 opening, are also engaging on the King County Parks Levy, additional funding opportunities for Eastrail projects, and the No on I-2117 campaign which would repeal the Climate Commitment Act (which includes Eastrail funding).

<u>Snohomish County</u> – was not successful in their Reconnecting Communities grant but appreciate RAC member letters of support and continue to work on their portion of the corridor.

The meeting recording is available here: <u>2024 Meetings - King County</u>. Interested parties should send comments to <u>eastrail@kingcounty.gov</u>. Joe Inslee will compile any additional comments received.

Next Steps and Adjournment

The next RAC meeting will be July 18, 2024. Staff will send out the schedule for 2024 quarterly meetings soon, as well as meeting registration information in advance. The meeting adjourned at 4:59 pm.





Regional Advisory Council Co-Chair Positions Briefing on Transition to 2024-2026 Terms

July 18, 2024

Today's Focus:

- Review purpose and roles of the RAC
- Review guidance on RAC leadership and eligibility to hold Co-Chair positions
- Look ahead to the anticipated Co-Chair actions for the upcoming terms
- RAC discussion and Q&A



Purpose and Membership of the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council:

• The RAC was created in December 2012 by King County Council Motion 13801 to coordinate corridor planning and development activities in the context of multiple corridor uses

The RAC will serve as a venue to jointly:

- Coordinate the planning, development, public engagement, and communications and marketing activities to the extent possible to ensure effective use of the railbanked portion of the corridor.
- Coordinate the partner planning process for the trail, high-capacity transit, and utility uses in the Eastrail.
- Coordinate with affected cities around local planning and development.
- Address both near-term and long-term recommendations.
- Recommend any needed changes to the county's countywide planning policies relative to the corridor.
- Coordinate on funding capital projects and potentially operations.
- Develop legislative agendas and lobbying as it pertains to Eastrail projects and issues.
- Weigh in on Sound Transit and Metro Long Range Plans as related to the Eastrail.
- Approve a work plan and corresponding budget that sets out the work for the RAC for the year. Members will assign staff to participate in coordination and collaboration efforts.

Purpose and Membership of the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council:

- The RAC was created in December 2012 by King County Council Motion 13801 to coordinate corridor planning and development activities in the context of multiple corridor uses
- RAC membership:
 - At initiation:
 - King County
 - · City of Kirkland
 - City of Redmond
 - Sound Transit
 - Puget Sound Energy
 - Membership additions by 2017 RAC Memorandum of Understanding (KCC Motion 14922):
 - Snohomish County
 - City of Bellevue
 - City of Renton
 - City of Woodinville
 - Eastside Greenway Alliance

RAC Leadership and Co-Chair Eligibility:

- The RAC revised its leadership structure in 2022 by Memorandum of Understanding (KCC Motion 16154)
- Transitioned from a Chair/Vice Chair structure to a Co-Chair structure:

SECTION 3. RAC Leadership:

The RAC will have two co-Chairs. One co-Chair will be an elected official from the King County RAC membership, and the other co-Chair will be an elected official from another Eastrail owner jurisdiction. The co-Chair positions will be selected every two (2) years by the ownership jurisdiction members of the RAC. The RAC will operate under a consensus model and will not take votes approving or disapproving any particular item before the RAC. The RAC may establish subcommittees of members and staff as needed to address special and or specific issues related to the work of the RAC.

Initial Co-Chair terms officially began at the October 2022 RAC quarterly meeting

Look Ahead to RAC Co-Chair Actions for the 24-26 Term:

- Facilitate the timely development of RAC consensus or shared perspective on coordinated trail management (e.g., open hours, lighting, micro-mobility, trail etiquette and user education, etc.)
- Coordinate RAC advocacy for high priority corridor development projects
- Celebrate the completion of major projects to achieve the RAC vision for the corridor, e.g.,
 - Opening of the Wilburton Trestle and I-405 bridges and connected trail segment to NE 4th
 - Opening of Redmond Central Connector Phase 3
 - Completion of the ST Downtown Redmond Link Extension (2 Line), with new Eastrail/RCC connection to East Lake Sammamish Trail and stations in Marymoor Village and downtown Redmond
- Further cultivate the public-private partnership essential to achieving our vision for the corridor
- Prepare and sign RAC member joint statements to external parties on the RAC's behalf
- Represent the RAC at Eastrail events as necessary/appropriate
- Guide development and implementation of the annual RAC/PST Work Plan
- Plan and facilitate quarterly RAC meetings
- Provide guidance and direction to the Principals' Staff Team as needed

Questions?



2024 RAC Activities

Scope and Status Update

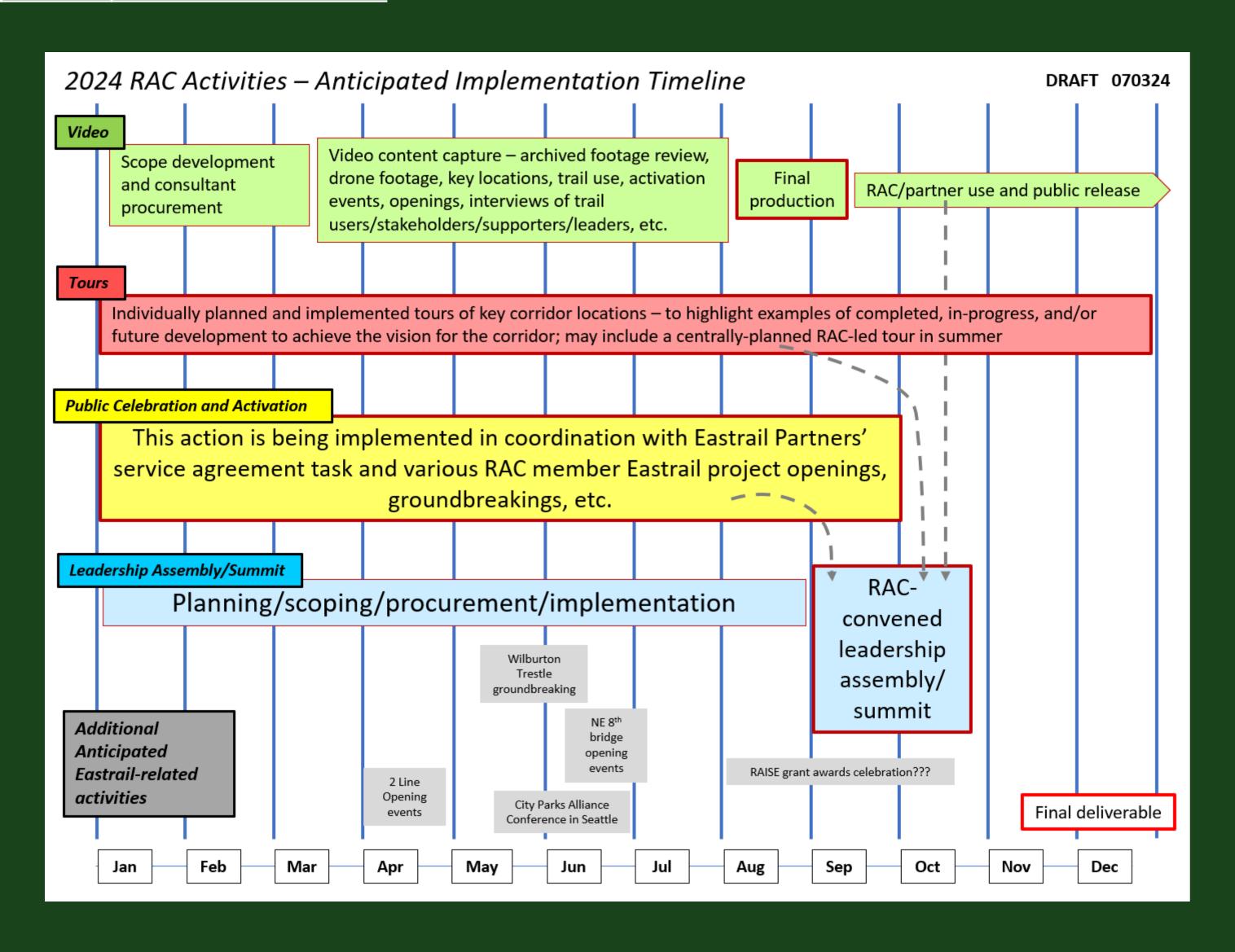
July 18, 2024

Today's Focus:

- Update on status of planning and implementation
- Review funding and staff time commitments needed from RAC entities to meet objectives
- Identify specific implementation/support actions for RAC members
- Get RAC guidance and direction on key elements to advance the work
- Identify next steps



Anticipated Implementation Timeline:



Video(s):

- Goal: Communicate about completed and future collaborative development of the corridor and the community that has undertaken, supports, and is welcome to enjoy the benefits of this effort
- Main Deliverable: Video-based products that meet objectives, e.g., short social media videos, a one minute "Welcome to Eastrail" video, and/or a longer-format deeper storytelling video
- Funding Status:
 - City of Bellevue funding the consultant work plan
 - King County funding EP to manage the project
- Next Steps:
 - Videographer continuing to film with EP support through Mid-August
 - Staged storyline and organic trail footage in all jurisdictions filmed throughout July
 - Finalizing script based on interviews
 - Will review first cuts with staff Mid-August
 - Final draft early September





Leadership Assembly/Summit:

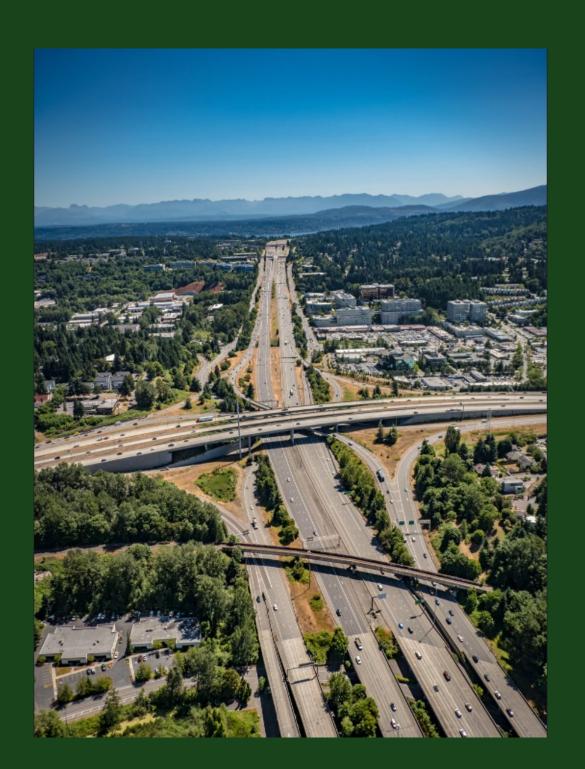
- Goal: Build energy and support for our goals and next big opportunities among public, private and community sector leaders and decision-makers
- Main Deliverable: A half-day, invitation event in September for awareness, strategic discussion, and collaboration among key supporters
- Funding Status:
 - KC funding covering initial/consultant expenses
 - Additional funding needs will be met by other RAC entities
- Next Steps:
 - Execute contract w/ planning consultant
 - Final "Go/No Go" for Venue + Date (GIX in Bellevue, early November 2024)
 - Finalize Invite List email sarms@kingcounty.gov if your team has not received the link
 - Develop draft program agenda + keynote speaker



Tours:

- Goal: Bring key people (decision-makers, leaders, community members, electeds, ...) out to important corridor locations to hear the Eastrail story and learn about our partnership, progress, success, and upcoming opportunities/challenges
- Main Deliverable: On-the-ground Eastrail experience shared with people who support Eastrail and can help us make more progress
- Status:
 - (Many) Corridor visits thus far have been associated with celebratory and activations events
 - No stand alone corridor tours have been scheduled





Celebration/Activation Event:

- Goal: Get people out on the corridor for a fun, memorable experience!
- Main Deliverable: A summer event on the corridor that welcomes the community and helps build their sustained interest
- Status:
 - Aligning this work with the well-aligned EP service agreement task, e.g., events at Feriton Spur Park in Kirkland





RAC discussion





Next Steps on Key Cross-cutting Trail Corridor Management Issues

Follow Up from the April 17 Micromobility Discussion

July 18, 2024

Today's Focus:

- Recap the presentation and discussion on micromobility devices at the April 17 RAC meeting
- Present and discuss high-level desired outcomes for coordinated trail corridor management
- Develop a RAC recommendation for next steps



April 17 RAC Micromobility Presentation Illustrative "Food for Thought":

- Trail use takes place inside community, societal, and biological systems that influence expectations for and behavior on the trail
- Technology, language and regulation relative to trails and transportation are evolving rapidly and require a forward-looking approach
- Micromobility devices can be essential for equitable trail access, e.g., for people with no access to vehicles or with temporary or permanent disabilities
- Rules or standards that change at jurisdictional or ownership boundaries can be confusing to trail users,
 AND THIS HAPPENS TODAY!
- We can't (e.g., cost and capacity constraints) regulate all behavior on trails, need to rely on humans interacting constructively with other humans to get the best outcomes
- Education works best when something is new and you give people actionable info
- Must understand better if trail operation/management requirements from potential federal/state/other funding sources are in conflict with our desired outcomes
- Must understand better the current standards addressing recreational immunity and their implications for trail development and management, for the trail as a whole and for individual trail owners/operators

Relevant Crosscuting Issues:

- Micromobility devices e.g., how to best accommodate and manage for them
- Open hours/hours of operation
- Lighting
- Trail etiquette/ Eastrail "Code of Conduct"
- Trail user orientation and education
- Regulation and enforcement
- Connections to local bike/pedestrian facilities and networks
- Accessibility for people with disabilities
- Access points from neighboring parcels
- Others?

Relevant Crosscuting Issues for Coordinated Trail Management:

RAC Discussion:

- Are there additional cross-cutting issues that should be addressed now?
- Is there a priority among these issues?
- Which issues are logical to combine or address together?
- Do you need more time after this meeting to consider these before using this list as the basis for next steps?



Illustrative Guidance for Coordinated Management (List Part 1):

- The trail should be managed consistently from place to place so users don't need to worry about rules or standards that change at ownership area or jurisdiction boundaries
- Management approaches must be in alignment with established policy and legal guidance, which RAC members may seek to modify to better align policy and legal guidance with the corridor/trail vision
- Emphasis should be placed on including timely trail user orientation and education to support a positive user experience
- Any enforcement and/or regulatory measures deemed necessary to meet desired corridor/trail
 management outcomes must be feasible within practical limitations on effectiveness and implementation
 capacity

Illustrative Guidance for Coordinated Management (List Part 2):

- Management actions should be forward looking and anticipate the likely increase in trail usage as more trail is connected and constructed and is available for a variety of trail uses
- Cost implications of potential coordinated management actions must be assessed in detail to inform the development of any recommendations for RAC consideration
- The development of coordinated management actions should take into account perspectives of the trail user community about how best to achieve desired outcomes

<u>Illustrative Guidance for Coordinated Management:</u>

RAC Discussion:

- Do these guiding principles comport with RAC member perspective? Do they need to be modified?
- Are there additional guiding principles?
- Are the guiding principles of equal priority?
- Do you need more time after this meeting to consider these before using this list as a basis for next steps?



Potential RAC Action:

- Request that Eastrail trail owners/developers/operators AND jurisdictions with direct connections to the trail assign staff to and convene a working group with the necessary expertise
 - Renton
 - Bellevue
 - Kirkland
 - Woodinville
 - Redmond
 - Snohomish County
 - King County
- Eastrail Partners would be requested to provide perspective from the community of trail/corridor users
- Necessary expertise includes trail and transportation facility and system policy and operation, and practicing knowledge of relevant legal standards and requirements for same
- This group will provide staff recommendations for the substance of and implementation plan for coordinated trail corridor management that meets the RAC's guiding principles

Potential RAC Action for Discussion Today:

- This staff group would:
 - 1. Have an initial meeting in August or September and then subsequently meet on a regular basis at an appropriately frequency
 - 2. Review the RAC's guidance on guiding principles for coordinated trail corridor management
 - 3. Review the RAC's guidance on key cross-cutting issues that should be addressed in this effort
 - 4. Accounting for the guiding principles and key issues, develop a detailed work plan that specifies:
 - group members
 - member roles including group leadership
 - anticipated deliverables
 - major milestones and timeline for completion of the work, and
 - any other essential elements of the anticipated work effort
 - 5. Implement that work plan
 - 6. Report back to the RAC on progress and results at the upcoming October, January and April RAC meetings

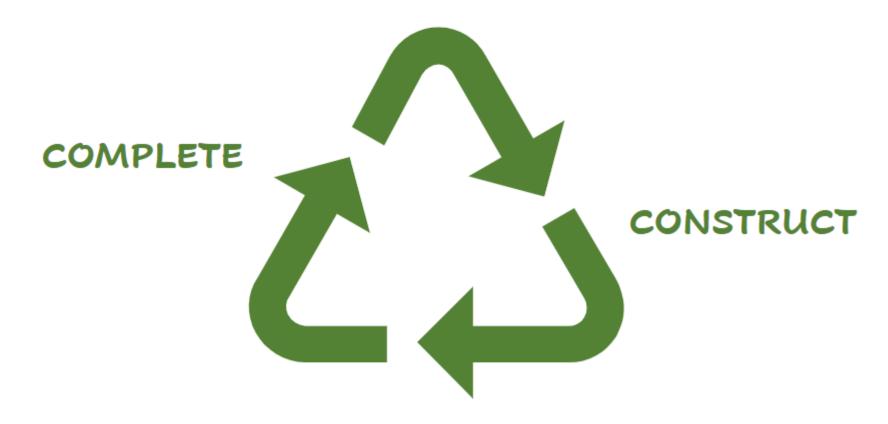
Q&A and RAC Discussion

Background on RAC Service Agreements with Eastrail Partners





CONNECT





2019-2020 and 2023-2024 Service Agreements and Amplification

2019-2020: \$100,000

Scope: start-up funding

2023-2024: \$150,000

 Scope: community co-creation and shared communications



Amplification

Successful acquisition of over \$70M for the Eastrail effort since Eastrail Partners began operations in 2020.

- Private Sector engagement and investment (\$9.5M Amazon, REI, Meta)
- Advocacy and coalition-building for governmental funding (\$29M state Move Ahead WA projects, \$30M federal RAISE grant funding)
- Eastrail Partners fully-funded annually



Future Service Agreements

COMPLETING THE EASTRAIL

CREATE AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY

TO ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT AND MAXIMIZE THE VALUE OF THE EASTRAIL

Building and sustaining support for the Eastrail requires a unifying voice for the entire corridor. An independent organization could fill this role, strengthen relationships with the private sector, and facilitate public-private partnerships to enhance the trail experience. A new entity would partner with the RAC to increase awareness of the Eastrail and its benefits—and build support for the trail.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Designate this new entity as the private/ non-profit partner and charge it with engaging other community organizations invested in building the Eastrail.
- Partner with this entity to promote public/private partnerships, sponsorships, and recognition opportunities to the private sector.
- Support the formation of an independent organization whose purpose is to:
 - · Advocate for the Eastrail
 - Lead private-sector fundraising, including soliciting and receiving philanthropic contributions
 - Provide a full-corridor perspective on funding decisions and priorities for trail construction
- Conduct research—including public opinion surveys—on the viability of policy or ballot initiatives
- Serve as a coordinated "clearinghouse" for ways in which private sector can support the Eastrail
 - Work with individual donors
 - Educate and engage the community in support of development
 - Organize community volunteer days



Need for a longer-term shared agreement for Eastrail Partners and RAC service partnership

- Different process for each of two service agreements
- Need for less laborious and time-consuming process for all parties



Next Biennium Service Agreement

ASK: \$200,000 Service Agreement for the 2025-2026 Biennium

SCOPE:

- Continued shared communications and community collaborations (50%)
 - ~ Part of the "complete" of the connect-construct-complete model
 - community collaborations on trail activations and public art
 - unified Eastrail.org website, social media, and info@ inquiry address
- Coalition-building and advocacy for trail funding and construction needs (50%)
 - ~ part of "connect and construct" of the connect-construct-complete model
 - partnership with RAC entities on funding (previous examples include Move Ahead WA and RAISE grant processes, as well as private sector investment)
 - coalition-building for successful trail funding and construction, especially as we collectively begin to look towards Snohomish County's section.

Note: service agreement ask represents less than 1/3 of Eastrail Partners' annual operating budget.



Future Service Agreements – Process and Needs

- Need for a longer-term shared agreement for Eastrail Partners and RAC service partnership
 - What is the right instrument to achieve future Service Agreements? ILA type agreement with 10-year timeline?
 - How can this longer-term agreement help ensure timely delivery to Eastrail Partners?
 - Do RAC entities need to revisit funding allocation formula?
- Biennium Service Agreements
 - Revisited for scope and funding amount each biennium
 - Current Ask:
 - 2025-2026 Biennium ask of \$200,000 total
 - Funding delivered to Eastrail Partners by end of 2025



Eastrail Climate Commitment Act Funding

