



Eastrail Regional Advisory Council
Thursday, April 24, 2025 10:00AM – 12:00PM
Remote meeting to be held on Zoom

10:00 AM – 10:05 AM Introductions and Agenda Review

- RAC Co-Chair/City of Redmond Council Vice President Jessica Forsythe

10:05 AM – 10:15 AM Public Comment on Items on Today's Agenda – *Please note that this time is reserved for comments only. Questions are always welcome at Eastrail@kingcounty.gov and will be timely addressed there.*

- RAC Co-Chair/City of Redmond Council Vice President Jessica Forsythe

10:15 AM – 10:20 AM Approval of January 24, 2025 RAC Meeting Summary

- RAC Co-Chair/City of Redmond Council Vice President Jessica Forsythe

10:20 AM – 10:45 AM “Future of Eastrail” Workshop Planning (Information Item)

- Curt Warber, King County Parks and Recreation Division

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM RAC Membership Revision – Eastside Greenway Alliance (Discussion and/or Consensus Item)

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

11:00 AM – 11:20 AM Development and Implementation of “Welcome to Eastrail” Community Guidelines (Information Item)

- Joe Inslee, King County Parks and Recreation Division
- Katherine Hollis, Eastrail Partners

11:20 AM – 11:35 AM Sound Transit 2 Line Opening Events (Information Item)

- Ariel Taylor, Sound Transit

11:35 AM – 11:45 AM Eastrail in the Proposed King County Parks Levy (Information Item)

- Warren Jimenez, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM Progress and Success Updates (Information Item)

- RAC members
- Katherine Hollis, Eastrail Partners

12:00 PM Adjourn



EASTRAIL REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY **January 24, 2025 | 10 AM – 12 PM** **Zoom Meeting**

Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Members Present: Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember (Co-Chair); Jessica Forsythe, Redmond Council Vice President (Co-Chair); Sarah Perry, King County Councilmember; Warren Jimenez (alternate for John Taylor), King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks; Penny Sweet (alternate for Jay Arnold) Kirkland; Ryan McIrvin, Renton Councilmember; Tom Teigen, Snohomish County Conservation and Natural Resources Director; Michelle Evans, Woodinville Councilmember; Matt Larsen, Puget Sound Energy; Ariel Taylor, Sound Transit.

Welcome and Introductions

Councilmember Balducci called the meeting to order at 10:01 am, welcomed all in attendance to the first RAC meeting of 2025, and reviewed the agenda.

Public Comment

Joe Inslee will follow up with the individual who wished to provide comment.

Approval of October 17, 2024 RAC meeting summary

Council Vice President Forsythe moved to approve the October 17 meeting summary and Councilmember Evans seconded. **Members unanimously voted to approve the October 17 meeting summary.**

2025 Capital Project Look Ahead (Information Item)

Joe Inslee, David St. John, Kim Scrivner, Jared Hill, Mike Ingram, Curt Warber, Shannon Arms, and Ariel Taylor shared status updates on active capital projects and openings expected in 2025. Slides were included in the meeting packet.

- Connecting Redmond Central Connector (Eastrail) to the East Lake Sammamish Trail: new trail segment will be completed in 2025, with an activation event being planned. This will be open for use before the 2 Line stations are open.
- RCCIII (Redmond): last paved section of Eastrail will open in 2025, expected completion in June.
- Centennial Trail South (Snohomish County): will begin conceptual design and feasibility to establish corridor alignment and a phasing and funding plan.
- 202 Trestle (Woodinville): finalizing conceptual 202 bridge design, expected to begin construction in the fall for late 2026 completion.
- Sammamish River Trail (Woodinville): hired a contractor to begin design.
- Slater/132nd HAWK Crossing (Kirkland): designed and seeking funding for a full crossing to be constructed in 2025, expected completion in the fall.
- Eastrail to Spring Blvd Connector (Bellevue): finished design, beginning construction this year.
- Grand Connection I-405 Crossing (Bellevue): in early design, expected completion in 2030.
- Central Wilburton segment (King County): in final design, expected summer 2026 opening with Wilburton Trestle.
- Wilburton Trestle (King County): in construction, expected completion in 2026.
- I-405 Bridge (WSDOT/King County): in construction, expected opening in 2026.

- I-90 Bridge Trail segment (King County): in early design, expected 2030 completion.
- I-90 Bridge segment – ESI8 sewer project (King County): temporarily diverting sewer line onto Eastrail to reline existing sewer line.
- ST2 light rail stations (Sound Transit): two more stations opening in Redmond. I-90 segment of East Link is on track to open in late 2025.

2025 RAC/PST Work Plan/Priorities (Discussion and Decision Item)

David St. John provided an update on the 2025 RAC and Principal Staff Team (PST) work plan (much of which carries forward work from 2024) and requested RAC member approval. Slides were included in the meeting packet. Elements include:

- A. Plan and implement the RAC-sponsored Eastrail video and leadership assembly event.
- B. Complete the new agreements between RAC entities and Eastrail Partners (EP) to support ongoing engagement by EP on priority actions.
- C. Engage federal and state leaders to support priority Eastrail projects.
- D. Coordinate efforts to address cross-cutting corridor management issues.
- E. Complete work plan to develop and implement the “Welcome to Eastrail” Community Guidelines.
- F. Coordinate communication about major capital project progress/milestones, community engagement opportunities, and activation events.
- G. Continue co-creation efforts to connect to and involve the diverse Eastrail community.
- H. Plan/coordinate/implement quarterly RAC meetings and twice-monthly PST meetings.
- Current list of cross-cutting issues is now included as an appendix to the annual work plan.

Discussion & Next Steps

- Members were supportive of the work plan and approved moving forward. David St. John will finalize the document and circulate a final version to RAC members.
- There was discussion about concerns about federal funding awards. At this point, there have been no signs that awarded funding will not be disbursed, but members are interested in continuing to discuss necessary advocacy to maintain commitments. County DNRP will explore doing an assessment of the current circumstances around federal funding and, if that assessment is done, bring relevant information forward to inform further RAC awareness and potential supportive action.

Work Plan for “Welcome to Eastrail” Community Guidelines (Discussion and Direction Item)

Joe Inslee and Katherine Hollis provided an update on the “Welcome to Eastrail” Community Guidelines and solicited RAC direction. Slides were included in the meeting packet.

- Goal is to set expectations for how trail users interact with the space and other users, welcome a diverse community of users, and create a consistent Eastrail experience.
- Planning to pursue two elements of this work plan item in 2025: consistent branded welcoming signage and messaging, and an Ambassador program that EP would lead/coordinate.
- Recommend starting with foundational elements of trail etiquette and then use learnings to develop welcoming and educational products later.
- Eastrail Partners will implement a pilot volunteer Eastrail Welcoming Ambassador program starting in the summer focused on providing information and welcoming (not enforcement).
- Ambassador concept would not include an enforcement role for Ambassadors.

Discussion & Next Steps

- Members were supportive of consistent and cohesive messaging and excited by the Ambassador program and approved moving forward.
- Members noted that signage should be simple/minimal to reduce clutter and periodically changed so people continue to notice it. It should have accessible and inclusive visuals and non-English language translations as appropriate. Messaging could be tested with parks commissions.
- There were questions about the role of Ambassadors and potential enforcement mechanisms. Learnings will be used to inform future implementation. King County's Ranger program coming online this year could be another tool to address issues and complement the program.

Leadership Assembly Planning Check-in (Information Item)

Curt Warber shared updates on leadership assembly planning.

- Date is still TBD but planning for a Friday in May before Memorial Day (Thursday as a backup); will send a save the date out soon. RAC members should hold Fridays in May and be ready to encourage attendance to make the event as successful as possible.
- Leaning toward GIX in Bellevue, anticipating 100-150 attendees. Still need funding for venue rental, food, and potentially swag. Requests may come via PST.

RAC Housekeeping: New RAC/EP Agreement, Eastside Greenway Alliance, and In-person RAC Meeting (Information Item)

David St. John shared updates on the RAC/EP agreement, Eastside Greenway Alliance RAC membership, and a potential in-person summer RAC meeting.

- RAC/EP agreement: PST is continuing to draft but there are still some issues to resolve, including the type of agreement (interlocal agreement might not be an option, discussing alternatives). The goal is to have an agreement by the end of Q2 with approval by Q3 to facilitate funding.
- Eastside Greenway Alliance: EGA was added in 2017 to provide a community voice on the RAC; Vicky Clarke has been serving as the representative. However, this group doesn't substantively exist anymore so would like to relinquish its seat. The RAC will need to update the MOU which names members but would like to maintain the seat for an organization that serves as a user advocacy group. RAC members engage more on this at the April meeting, with the potential to approve revisions to the RAC MOU.
- July in-person RAC meeting: Sound Transit OMFE, Redmond Senior Community Center, or Kirkland Parks maintenance facility could serve as locations. Staff will discuss further the location options and what the place-based agenda could include.

Progress and Success Updates (Information Item)

Snohomish County – plan to celebrate railbanking. Looking for partnership and potential federal funding opportunities with private sector/utilities with intersections between infrastructure resilience projects and habitat restoration, recreation, and stewardship.

Woodinville – Council approved accepting federal funds, hiring a consultant for design and permitting for Eastrail section and seeing more community engagement. Exploring potential contract with Lime to support expanded regional micromobility since Bothell and Redmond have contracts.

Kirkland – celebrating Totem Lake Connector Bridge, looking forward to 132nd crossing.

Redmond – stay tuned for ribbon cuttings for RCCIII and Sound Transit station openings this summer.

Bellevue – adopted Comprehensive Plan update last year with new Wilburton policies, will adopt land use code revisions later this year to allow development to pursue Plan vision. Will also be seeking funding opportunities for Grand Connection crossing.

King County – several projects underway with planned openings in 2026. Planning for next Parks Levy, will have more updates soon.

The meeting recording is available here: [2025 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 next RAC meeting will be April 24, 10 p.m. – 12 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

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Let's Connect

**RAC Membership Revision – Eastside Greenway Alliance
Information Item**

April 24, 2025

RAC Membership Revision – Eastside Greenway Alliance

Today's Focus:

- Review 2017 RAC MOU as it pertains to and guides RAC membership
- Review current circumstances related to RAC member Eastside Greenway Alliance
- Consider and discuss options for addressing EGA's departure
- Identify next steps



RAC Membership Revision – Eastside Greenway Alliance

2017 RAC Organizational MOU:

SECTION 2a. RAC Membership:

The RAC membership will be driven by the RAC vision. Members will include owner jurisdictions (King County, City of Kirkland, City of Redmond, Sound Transit, City of Woodinville, and Snohomish County) as well as easement holders (PSE, King County and Sound Transit), and cities directly adjacent to the corridor who hold permitting and land use authority, (City of Bellevue and City of Renton), and the Eastside Greenway Alliance. King County will have four representatives, the King County Executive (or his/her designee), and three members from the County Council. The Eastside Greenway Alliance will have one member appointed to serve as representative of the Alliance. All other parties will have one representative from each party as a member of the RAC.

Status Update on the RAC/EP Interlocal Agreement

2017 RAC Organizational MOU:

SECTION 2b. New RAC Membership:

The RAC will add or remove members, membership agencies and jurisdictions based on the following processes:

- Consensus agreement of the current RAC membership.
- Signed letter of interest by all parties acknowledging the change to the membership structure.

Status Update on the RAC/EP Interlocal Agreement

Eastside Greenway Alliance Members:

- Cascade Bicycle Club
- Transportation Choices Coalition
- Futurewise
- Forterra
- Mountains to Sound Greenway
- Move Redmond
- Trust for Public Land
- Washington Trails Association



Status Update on the RAC/EP Interlocal Agreement

Priorities for the Eastside Greenway Alliance:

1. **Rebrand the Eastside Rail Corridor** as a way to communicate the vision to the public
 - Eastrail rebranding completed in 2019
2. **Secure funding for trail**
 - funding for the Wilburton Trestle (including \$3m State; \$500k Group Health; \$1m from Bellevue)
 - advocacy for strong investment (\$50m) via the 2019 to 2025 KC Parks levy
3. Government partners identify a long-term plan to complete the trail by forming a **Blue Ribbon Funding Commission**.
 - The Funding Commission recommended the formation of a friends of group, which set the stage for Eastrail Partners

SUCCESS!

Status Update on the RAC/EP Interlocal Agreement

Current Circumstances of Eastside Greenway Alliance:

- EGA has been a valuable member of the RAC since 2017
 - Provided a supportive voice from the stakeholder community on the RAC
 - Coordinated the engagement of several non-governmental entities that support Eastrail
 - Lead and supported implementation of actions to address high priorities
- The formation and effectiveness of Eastrail Partners has added a new avenue for community engagement
- EGA member entities remain supportive of Eastrail but have decided to disband their group

Status Update on the RAC/EP Interlocal Agreement

Options for Addressing EGA's Departure:

1. Keep the seat on the RAC for the role EGA was performing, and immediately identify a new entity(ies) to take that seat
2. Keep the seat on the RAC, and work through a timely process to consider the purpose of the seat and identify an entity(ies) to take that seat
3. Eliminate the RAC seat and reduce the number of RAC member entities
4. Other options?

Q&A and RAC Discussion

- *Should the seat on the RAC be eliminated or maintained?*
- *Are there other options to consider for addressing EGA's departure?*
- *If this seat is maintained after EGA's departure, what purpose should this seat on the RAC serve?*
E.g., ...
 - *[Same as with EGA]*
 - *Focus more on broad community engagement*
 - *Support progress in a specific issue area of high importance for the next two years*
- *If this seat is maintained, what are the options for specific entities that could be considered for the seat based on the purpose of the seat?*



Welcome to the Eastrail Community Guidelines

Eastrail Regional Advisory Council
April 24, 2025

2025 Scope of Work

1) Build upon existing materials to develop a suite of Eastrail etiquette messaging and graphics

2) Light implementation of Eastrail Welcoming Ambassador program (*Eastrail Partners*)



Etiquette messaging

BE COURTEOUS. BE SAFE. ENJOY.

“ON YOUR LEFT!”

Give room and notice when passing

Keep right

Pass left

Share the trail

SPEED LIMIT 15

Safety first

EASTRAIL

CITY OF KIRKLAND WASHINGTON



Trails are for all to enjoy

Act Safely & Predictably

EASTRAIL

CITY OF KIRKLAND WASHINGTON

Eastrail Ambassadors Program

Goals

- Bring community awareness of welcoming, safe Eastrail use through positive messaging and encouragement
- Help trail users understand the overall Eastrail effort
- Engage trail volunteers and understand how they might be useful in future ambassador programs.
- Goal is information and welcoming, no enforcement or directly addressing behavior.

Eastrail Ambassadors Program

- For summer 2025, we propose selecting 2 days in each open area of the three owners' trail segments

King County Parks – Early Summer 2025

One day each in Bellevue and Renton, focusing on areas of highest usage.

Kirkland – Mid-summer 2025

One day each in two segments of the trail, likely near Feriton and Totem Lake.

Redmond – Late summer / early fall 2025

One day in the newly opened RCCIII segment, one day at or near the new Downtown Redmond Light Rail station.





2025 Regional Advisory Council/Principals' Staff Team Work Plan Priorities

These priorities were approved by the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council (RAC) at its January 24, 2025 quarterly meeting. This list of priorities is intended to capture the breadth of activities that are anticipated to be the focus of RAC members and the RAC Principals' Staff Team in 2025. The order of the list does not denote relative importance among the individual priorities. Action on any of these priorities will be guided by the RAC and driven by ongoing and evolving assessment of importance and timeliness.

Priority Actions

A. Plan and implement the RAC-sponsored Eastrail video and leadership assembly event

- Resolve, as needed, the final focus for these activities, including scope, purpose and goals, target audience, timeline, roles for RAC members, and other key planning elements
- Secure resources, including e.g., funding, RAC member staff time, and contracted consultant support, as needed
- Implement and complete the activities, including any supportive follow-up actions

B. Complete the new agreements between RAC entities and Eastrail Partners (EP) to support ongoing engagement by EP on priority actions

- Finish drafting the agreements in 1Q2025
- Complete necessary approvals by Parties as soon as possible after final agreement(s) is complete
- Support approval processes through briefings by PST members for decision-makers as necessary
- Ensure all funding is timely provided to EP, with a target of December 31, 2025

C. Engage federal and state leaders to support priority projects

- Identify priority projects for federal and state funding opportunities
- Implement strategic and timely actions, by RAC members, staff, and stakeholders, to develop and take advantage of federal and state funding opportunities
- Develop and share supporting materials and communication tools to convey priorities and pursue funding
- Conduct field visits, briefings, and/or other direct engagement and outreach with federal and state leaders to share information and encourage support
- Track awards of federal and state funding to ensure, for example, there is awareness of federal and state leadership in securing funding and that funding is deployed to achieve objectives

D. Coordinate efforts to address key cross-cutting corridor management issues



- Develop and maintain a list of key cross-cutting issues (see Appendix A – Eastrail RAC Cross-cutting Issues List) related to coordinated corridor management
- Provide briefings on prioritized cross-cutting issues at RAC meetings and identify follow-up actions as necessary
- Complete the work plan to develop and implement the “Welcome to Eastrail” Community Guidelines, as the first cross-cutting issue addressed under this action area (see separate work plan item)
- Develop new work plans to address additional cross-cutting issues once the “Welcome to Eastrail” Community Guidelines work is completed

E. Complete the work plan to develop and implement the “Welcome to Eastrail” Community Guidelines

- Secure RAC approval of work plan at January RAC meeting
- Implement work plan
- Implement products of the work plan

F. Coordinate communication about major capital project progress/milestones, community engagement opportunities and activation events

- Develop a shared calendar showing major milestones (e.g., groundbreaking, significant construction activities, ribbon cutting, etc.) in 2024 for key capital projects
- Share information about these milestones with Eastrail stakeholders
- Develop consistent shared messaging to highlight additional Eastrail objectives (including multiple use) when communicating about trail capital projects
- Involve RAC entities and stakeholders in planning and implementing milestone-driven events
- PST members ensure their agency communications staff are coordinating Eastrail-related comms with EP

G. Continue co-creation efforts to connect to and involve the diverse Eastrail community

- Work to reduce barriers for projects that engage community members
- Implement the Eastrail Partners Service Agreement scope
- Sustain and grow relationships with community-based organizations (e.g., attend their regular meetings to learn about their interests and priorities)

H. Plan/coordinate/implement quarterly RAC meetings and twice-monthly PST meetings

- Implement Quarterly RAC meetings and twice-monthly PST meetings to support timely and strategic coordination of member activities



Appendix A

Eastrail Trail Cross-cutting Issues List March 6, 2025

This list is current as of March 6, 2025, including updates reflecting the approval of the 2025 RAC/PST Work Plan.

- Open/closed hours (including encampment management)
- Lighting
- E-bikes and scooters (single-user motorized travel modes)
 - Supporting infrastructure and amenities (e.g., electric chargers)
- Trail etiquette/user education
- Coordination of strategy to secure federal, state, and private funding for priority projects
- Connections to local bike/pedestrian facilities and networks
- Art development and implementation (following up on the approved Guiding Principles)
- Honoring diversity/cultural norms in corridor operations/management
- Coordination of events that cross ownership boundaries
- Trail-Oriented Design - concepts, standards, tools, etc. (including “Trail Improvement/Investment District” concept)
- Corridor access from neighboring parcels
- Noise management/mitigation (esp. around special events)
- Accessibility for people with disabilities
- Technology opportunities
- Wayfinding plan development and implementation
- Developing and sharing current demographic data describing the diversity of the communities served by the Eastrail trail
- Gathering and sharing trail use data through implementation of the 2021 Eastrail Trail Use Information System Plan (including any updates to that Plan to reflect new objectives and/or approaches)