

EASTRAIL

LET'S CONNECT

Eastrail Regional Advisory Council

Monday, July 19, 2021

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

--- Virtual meeting by remote technology ---

1:00 PM – 1:05 PM **Introductions and Agenda Review**

- RAC Chair/King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert

1:05 PM – 1:10 PM **Approval of April 19, 2021 RAC Meeting Summary**

- RAC Chair/King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert

1:10 PM – 1:30 PM **Partnership Memorandum of Understanding between the RAC and Eastrail Partners (Consensus Item)**

- Katherine Hollis, Eastrail Partners
- David St. John, King County DNRP

1:30 PM – 1:55 PM **Trail Visitor Survey and Information Sharing Work Plan – Principals Staff Team Recommendations (Discussion Item)**

- Mike Ullmer, King County Parks and Recreation Division

1:55 PM – 2:15 PM **Co-creation Event Planning (Discussion Item)**

- Debbie Lacy, Eastside for All
- Joseph Inslee, King County Parks and Recreation Division

2:15 PM – 2:30 PM **Chair and Vice Chair Positions for Term Starting January 2022 (Discussion Item)**

- RAC Principals Staff Team Members

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM **Progress and Success Updates (Information Item)**

- RAC Members and RAC Principals Staff Team Members

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM **Public Comment**

Adjourn



EASTRAIL REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

April 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); 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; Tom Teigen, Director of Snohomish County Department of Conservation & Natural Resources; Luke Lamon, Sound Transit; Les Rubstello, Woodinville Deputy Mayor

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kathy Lambert called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm, welcomed all in attendance to the second RAC meeting of 2021, and reviewed the agenda.

Approval of January 29, 2021 RAC meeting summary

Councilmember Forsythe moved to approve the January 29, 2021 meeting summary. Christie True seconded. There being no objections, the summary was approved.

Major Capital Project Status

Project staff gave status updates on several trail projects along the Eastrail corridor. Details and visuals were included in the meeting packet.

- *East Lake Sammamish Trail North Extension* – project will connect Redmond Central Connector (RCC) section of Eastrail in Downtown Redmond and East Lake Sammamish Trail and is being constructed as part of the Sound Transit Downtown Redmond Link Extension (DRLE) project. Project is at ~100% design, started construction last fall and trail is expected to open in 2024. There will be fencing and separated structures to allow both the trail and light rail to coexist at grade. Mike Ullmer will provide information about change in Bear Creek Bridge length.
- *Redmond Central Connector Phase III* – Third and final phase of RCC that includes a 1.6-mile segment to extend RCC north to NE 124th Street at the Kirkland border. Design is estimated to start in 2023 with construction beginning in 2024; still working toward complete funding package via federal requests, PSRC grants, and state grants.
- *Kirkland to Woodinville Trail* – 2.5-mile trail connection between Kirkland and Woodinville actively under construction. Kirkland is building Willows Connector now with a goal of opening by the end of 2021. At 145th, Woodinville is building crossing.
- *Totem Lake Connector* – bike/ped bridge connecting two ends of the 5.75-mile Cross Kirkland Corridor currently severed by one of Kirkland's busiest intersections, Totem Lake Boulevard and NE 124th St. Currently under construction, estimated to open July 2022.
- *520 Trail/Northup Way Connector* – trail ramp to connect Eastrail to SR 520 Trail at Northup Way. REI and Facebook contributed \$1 million each; King County contributing the remainder. Currently in early design, estimate construction starting in 2022, completion by fall 2022.
- *NE 8th Street Crossing* – going to bid spring 2021, provides critical connection to Wilburton Light Rail Station and will include Japanese American Agricultural Heritage commemoration. Construction will occur through 2022; goal is to open before light rail opens for passenger service.

- *Wilburton Trestle* – project includes distinctive railing, benches, and overlooks. Finalizing viewpoints on the structure, currently developing 100% design. Going to construction bid in late fall or early 2022, expected to open 2023.
- *Lake Lanes I-405 Expansion* – partnership with WSDOT on 2.5 miles of wide paved trail opening May 2021 with a dedicated Eastrail crossing over I-405.
- *May Creek Trestle* – retrofitting May Creek trestle with wide concrete deck panels (currently narrow so will improve trail user experience), expected to open January 2022.

Eastrail Partners/RAC Memorandum of Understanding Scoping

David St. John of King County and Katherine Hollis of Eastrail Partners shared the draft MOU with Eastrail Partners, included in the meeting packet. Staff will incorporate feedback and circulate a consensus version to be approved at the next RAC meeting in July.

- MOU term is two years and can be amended as needed subject to mutual agreement. It includes ongoing collaboration via quarterly RAC meetings and principal staff team meetings, as well as three priority action areas:
 - Developing and implementing a communications framework for shared work.
 - Playing unifying role as primary point of contact for federal funding priorities.
 - Developing and supporting community activation events and maintaining connection with eastside businesses.

Questions/Comments

- Recommend that a recital should state that this is a continuation of an existing partnership to reflect the successful completion and sunset of the prior agreement.
- In recitals, “Cross Kirkland Connector” should be corrected to read “Cross Kirkland Corridor.”
- Broadband likely does not fit under action priorities as it is not really within the purview of Eastrail Partners, however there are opportunities for coordination and cooperation especially related to funding. To the extent that broadband items are of interest, staff can bring those as individual agenda items to the RAC and keep abreast of state and federal legislation that might facilitate fiber along the corridor.

Co-Creation Action Proposal

Debbie Lacy of Eastside for All and Joe Inslee from King County reviewed the co-creation framework discussed at the January meeting and provided information on using Welcoming Week as a focusing effort for co-creation and community engagement related to Eastrail.

- Co-creation model seeks to build transformational—not transactional and time-limited—relationships with communities. This begins with developing relationships and identifying areas of mutual concern or interest, participating in their events (rather than just asking for time on their agendas), compensating people for their time and expertise, being honest and clear about the ways participation will influence/impact decisions, and providing transparent feedback loops and report backs.
- Welcoming Week is a national event that brings together community groups to create and co-sponsor events. It began in September 2016 as a way to spotlight diversity and encourage new ways of working together as a community. Bellevue, Redmond, Kirkland, Issaquah, and Sammamish participated beginning in 2016.
- This year’s mostly virtual event will be September 10-19. The theme is “belonging begins with us” and it could serve as a focusing event to start connecting with community-based organizations and groups to engage on Eastrail.

- Eastside for All will be making introductions to community partners throughout the spring and summer to begin engagement and continue partner activation after Welcoming Week in September. Engagement will begin by identifying communities to get involved, working with them to understand how they use community and public space, and then working with groups and community ambassadors to invite community members to Welcoming Week events.
- Staff will provide updates on engagement activities at next RAC meeting.

State and Federal Funding Updates

David St. John and Katherine Hollis provided updates on state and federal funding opportunities.

State

- Currently over \$24 million in Eastrail projects are listed as priority projects in the state and transportation budgets. Projects are part of the new revenue transportation budget that must pass in the next week (not part of the two-year regular biennium budget but a longer transportation package). Legislators are currently negotiating and have work to do to agree on several pieces of a new revenue package, however, even if it does not pass this session, having these projects on lists helps set us up for future funding when work on a future revenue transportation budget occurs.
- The RAC can send follow-up letters thanking legislators who sponsored projects and emphasizing the desire to move this forward with the budget this session. Councilmember Lambert and Deputy Mayor Arnold will work with Katherine to finalize and send this letter on behalf of the RAC.

Federal

- Transportation – FAST Act expires at the end of September, expect a larger omnibus package before the end of the year (though likely a pared down version of what the President proposed).
- RAISE (formerly BUILD) Grant Program via USDOT could provide funds for Eastrail-type projects.
- Community Partnerships Fund: appropriations are returning and could fund smaller projects (\$1-5 million). Eastrail Partners has already received interest from the federal delegation asking for information about Eastrail projects, demonstrating importance and efficacy of RAC engagement with them last fall (and need for potential future engagement on trails if possible).

Progress and Success Updates

King County – Many updates were covered in trail progress updates above. Darryl Hunt, King County IT, shared that they are working on the first draft of the fiber project RFP and have identified legal agreements required for the project. They are developing documents with principal staff team members and working with Eastrail owners’ attorneys on an MOU. They have also completed a revised high-level schedule that will be distributed; schedule revisions are a result of building in extra time for review and approval of legal agreements. They are working with principal staff team to keep agencies informed and project moving forward.

The opening day for the 2.5-mile trail segment just south of I-90 connecting Bellevue to Renton is tentatively set for the end of May (exact date TBD). Staff will be coordinating with elected officials and will work with RAC on messaging and publicity.

Kirkland – updates were covered in trail progress updates above.

Redmond – updates were covered in trail progress updates above.

Sound Transit – updates covered in trail progress updates above. Staff will work with Joe Inslee to provide more information about weather protection for the trail connection to the SE Redmond Light Rail Station.

Snohomish County – they continue to work with City of Woodinville and Surface Transportation Board on lawsuits to eliminate the operator of railroad on a segment to be able to develop the right of way.

Public comment

- Kirk Hovenkotter and Kelli Refer of the Greater Redmond Transportation Management Association noted that the Redmond Central Connector phase III project is still seeking funding and will connect a busy and growing corridor. They strongly urged support and funding for this connection in time for light rail service in 2024. To advocate for phase III funding, they have met with legislators on Washington Bikes Lobby Day and they are promoting funding for that segment in the state House transportation package. They have also written a letter of support to Rep. DelBene and are organizing with a national coalition of grassroots organizations focused on funding for transit, walking, and biking in the federal package. GRTMA looks forward to working together with the RAC to connect the region.
- David Allen of Bikes Make Life Better shared that Bikes Make Life Better manages bike commuting programs for large companies on the west coast and one of the biggest barriers to bike commuting is perception of safety. He applauded the work of the RAC to advocate for the development of safe active transportation opportunities.

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, July 19th.

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Regarding the Ongoing Partnership between the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council
and Eastrail Partners

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is made by and among KING COUNTY, SNOHOMISH COUNTY, THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, THE CITY OF KIRKLAND, THE CITY OF REDMOND, THE CITY OF RENTON, THE CITY OF WOODINVILLE, A CENTRAL PUGET SOUND REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (SOUND TRANSIT), PUGET SOUND ENERGY (PSE), THE EASTSIDE GREENWAY ALLIANCE (EGA), and EASTRAIL PARTNERS (collectively, the “Parties”). This MOU sets forth the Parties’ mutual understanding regarding the ongoing collaboration between the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council and Eastrail Partners.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, King County, Snohomish County, the City of Bellevue, the City of Kirkland, the City of Redmond, the City of Renton, the City of Woodinville, a Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit), Puget Sound Energy (PSE), and the Eastside Greenway Alliance are the members of the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council (RAC); and

WHEREAS, Eastrail Partners (EP) was formed at the recommendation of the Eastside Rail Corridor Funding Commission and with the support/endorsement of ~~by agreement of~~ the RAC members to play a unique and valuable role in the development of the Eastrail corridor by fostering, increasing, and sustaining private sector, governmental, and community support for actions to implement the RAC vision for the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the RAC members and EP are working closely together to develop a 42-mile multiple-use corridor in east King and Snohomish counties, with connected and coincident segments commonly referred to as the Eastrail, Centennial Trail South, Cross Kirkland Corridor, and Redmond Central Connector and with its northern terminus located in the City of Snohomish, WA and its southern termini located in the Cities of Renton, WA and Redmond, WA, respectively; and

WHEREAS, EP, since beginning operations in early 2020, has been an integral and effective contributor to the advancement of the work to develop the corridor, including the successful delivery of outcomes identified in the 2020 service agreement between the RAC and EP and cost shared by RAC members; and

WHEREAS, EP will continue to focus its resources and efforts on high priority actions contributing to the development of the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the RAC and EP seek to ensure ongoing close alignment and coordination in their respective actions contributing to the development of the corridor.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties have reached the following understanding:

Section 1: Ongoing Collaboration

EP will continue to help shape the agenda of and participate in the quarterly RAC meetings and the regular meetings of the RAC Principals Staff Team, as means to ensure ongoing alignment of efforts

supporting high priorities. Additional contact between RAC member or staff and EP board members and staff is strongly encouraged as needed to support effective collaboration.

Section 2: Priorities for Action between EP and the RAC

The subject partnership between EP and the RAC's will primarily focus on the work areas noted below.

Additional areas of focus can be added as capacity allows to address new opportunities to advance the development of the Eastrail corridor.

- EP will continue to play a unifying role as primary point of contact on coordinated approaches for state and federal governmental engagement and funding opportunities, as a complement to and in association with legislative agenda actions by individual RAC member entities.
- The RAC will partner with EP to bring the RAC's support, and/or that of specific RAC members, to advocacy opportunities.
- EP will build and maintain relationships with Eastside-focused businesses, including possible facilitation of capital project delivery.
- EP, the RAC, and the Principals Staff Team will partner to continue developing and implementing a communications framework for shared work to ensure:
 - [work plan goals are achieved](#),
 - good internal communications between staff, RAC members and EP, including communicating proactively with EP on project funding and status, and
 - good external communications on project status, trail closures and openings, and funding.
- EP, the RAC, and the Principals Staff Team will collaborate on the development, implementation, and/or support of community-activation events.
- By mutual agreement, the parties can explore possible future EP service agreements.

Section 3: Term of this MOU

This MOU will be in effect for two years from the approval of the parties, as determined by the last date of signature among the Parties. This agreement can be amended by the mutual agreement of the Parties. This MOU can be renewed by the mutual agreement of the Parties. [Any Party may terminate its participation in this MOU by providing written notice of termination and the effective date thereof to each Party.](#)

[Signatures]

July ##, 2021

The Honorable [Senator]
[Hart, Russell] Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator [],

On behalf of the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council (RAC), we write today to share more about the 42-mile Eastrail, the pedestrian and bicycle corridor that stretches from Renton to Snohomish, WA. Eastrail is a compelling example of many goals of possible federal transportation and infrastructure packages.

The Eastrail will increase access to transit options, like Link Light rail, decreasing carbon emissions; produce positive health outcomes for all populations through access to greenspace and recreation; boost economic growth; and improve equity through access. In short, Eastrail trail will foster community and sustainability for our region. Built on a historic railroad line, the Eastrail runs from the City of Renton to the City of Snohomish, with an adjacent publicly-owned segment that extends from the City of Woodinville to the City of Redmond. The Eastrail is being developed to achieve the RAC vision for transforming the corridor into a multiple-purpose asset supporting uses including a regional trail, high-capacity transit, and utilities that collectively will benefit and knit together the diverse communities, neighborhoods, employment hubs, and economic growth centers of this area of King and Snohomish Counties.

While strong partnerships between city and county governments, communities, organizations, and corporations continue to propel this multifaceted effort - with over 15 miles of trail open and significant capital investment in the trail to date - there are still significant funding needs to realize a fully connected Eastrail.

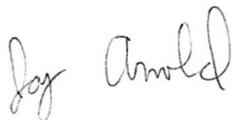
Federal investment for the Eastrail would capitalize on robust and growing public-private partnerships that support corridor development and expedite Eastrail projects that increase opportunities for safe active recreation. It would also further enable the engagement and leadership of diverse communities in the development and enjoyment of the corridor, improving equity through access - making the trail a truly welcoming and well-integrated element of the Eastside's transportation and recreation system.

We were pleased to see the House indicate support for the Eastrail through approved legislation that would fund specific Eastrail projects, and we ask you and your colleagues to sustain these budget items in the Senate. We look forward to working with you and your staff to secure funding that will help our region realize a fully connected Eastrail.

Sincerely,



King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert
Chair, Eastrail Regional Advisory Council



City of Kirkland Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold
Vice Chair, Eastrail Regional Advisory Council

Cc (via email): [RAC members] [Eastrail Partners]

DRAFT

Eastrail Visitor Survey and Information Sharing Workplan

Staff Recommendations for the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council

July 19, 2021

Presentation Outline

- Goals
- Data collection and management
- Data sharing and communication
- Staff recommendations
- Questions and discussions



What would this system enable us to do:

- Tell the Eastrail story
- Build awareness
- Inform decision making
- Measure impact of new Eastrail segments
- Illustrate value of Eastrail investments
- Develop competitive grant applications



Why are we bringing this to the RAC?

- RAC member organizations together or individually would:
 - Help ensure data collection is coordinated across our organizations
 - Collect data – quantitative and qualitative
 - Share the information the system generates – with leaders, funders, and constituents
 - Provide resources to implement the system



Data Collection Overview



Manual Counts/
Intercept Surveys



Temporary Counter



Permanent Counters



Days

Weeks/Months

Years

Data Management



Usage data
Counts, speed
Manual, loggers
(vendor)



Spreadsheets?
volume/freq?



Survey data
(vendor)



Spreadsheets?
PDF?



External data,
e.g. Census

Data management framework
Start simple



- Secure
- Manageable
- Not too \$\$
- Easily accessible



Exchange data with
other Cities, Counties

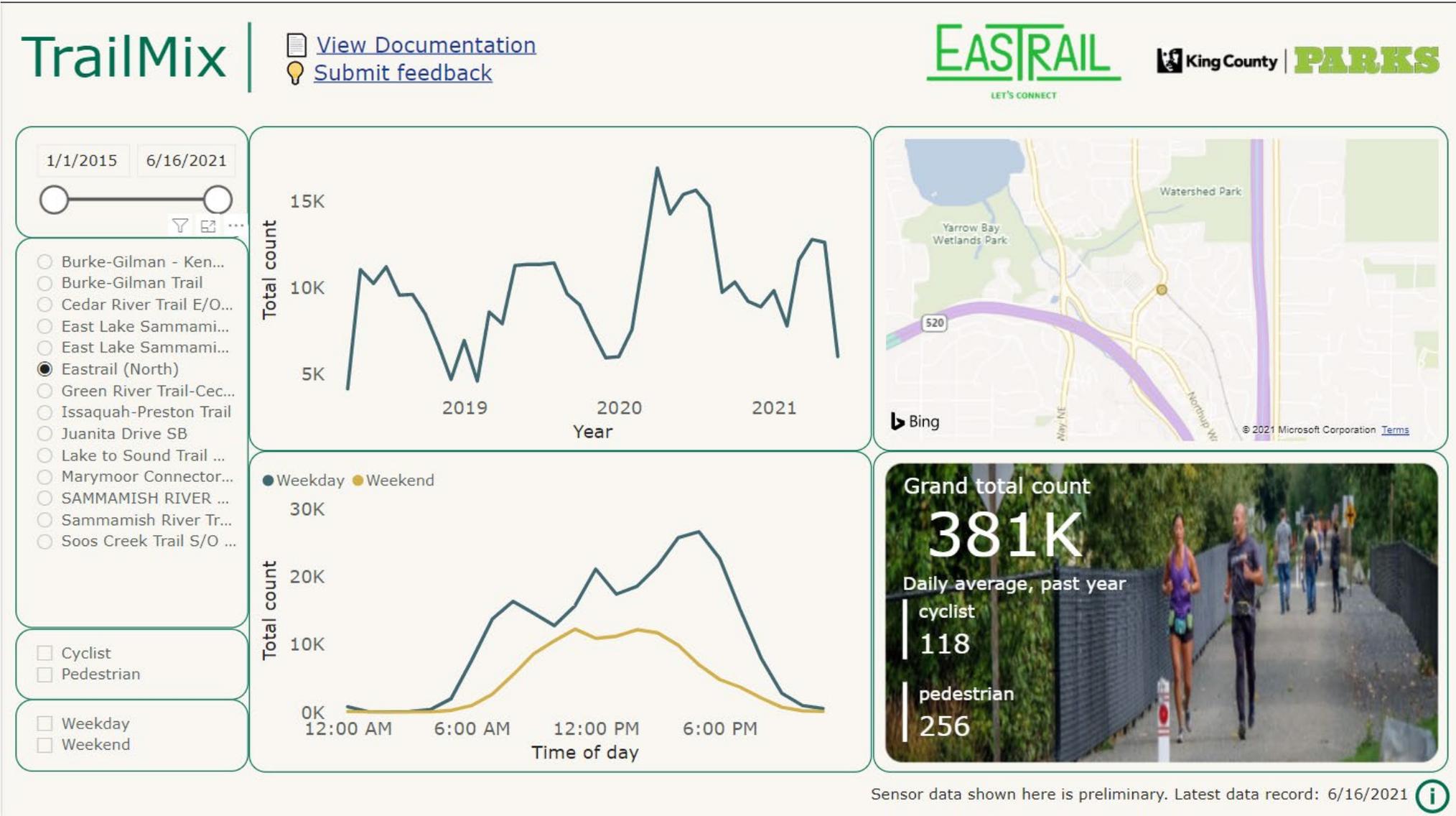


Analytics & reporting,
Start simple



Open Data

Data Sharing and Communication

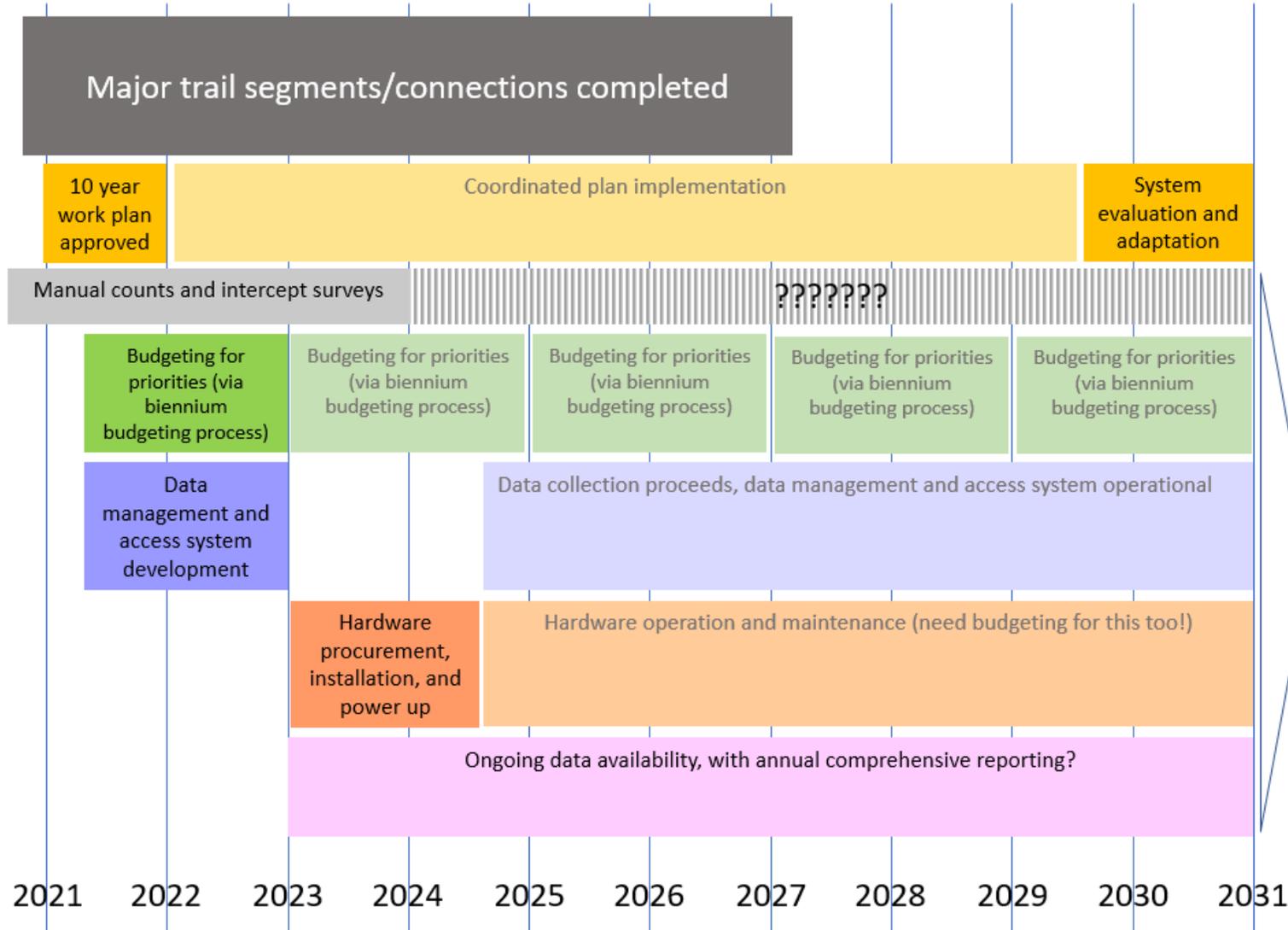


*This is an early version of a potential dashboard and will change/evolve with additional stakeholder input.

Recommendations

Recommendation #1: Create and implement a 10-year plan

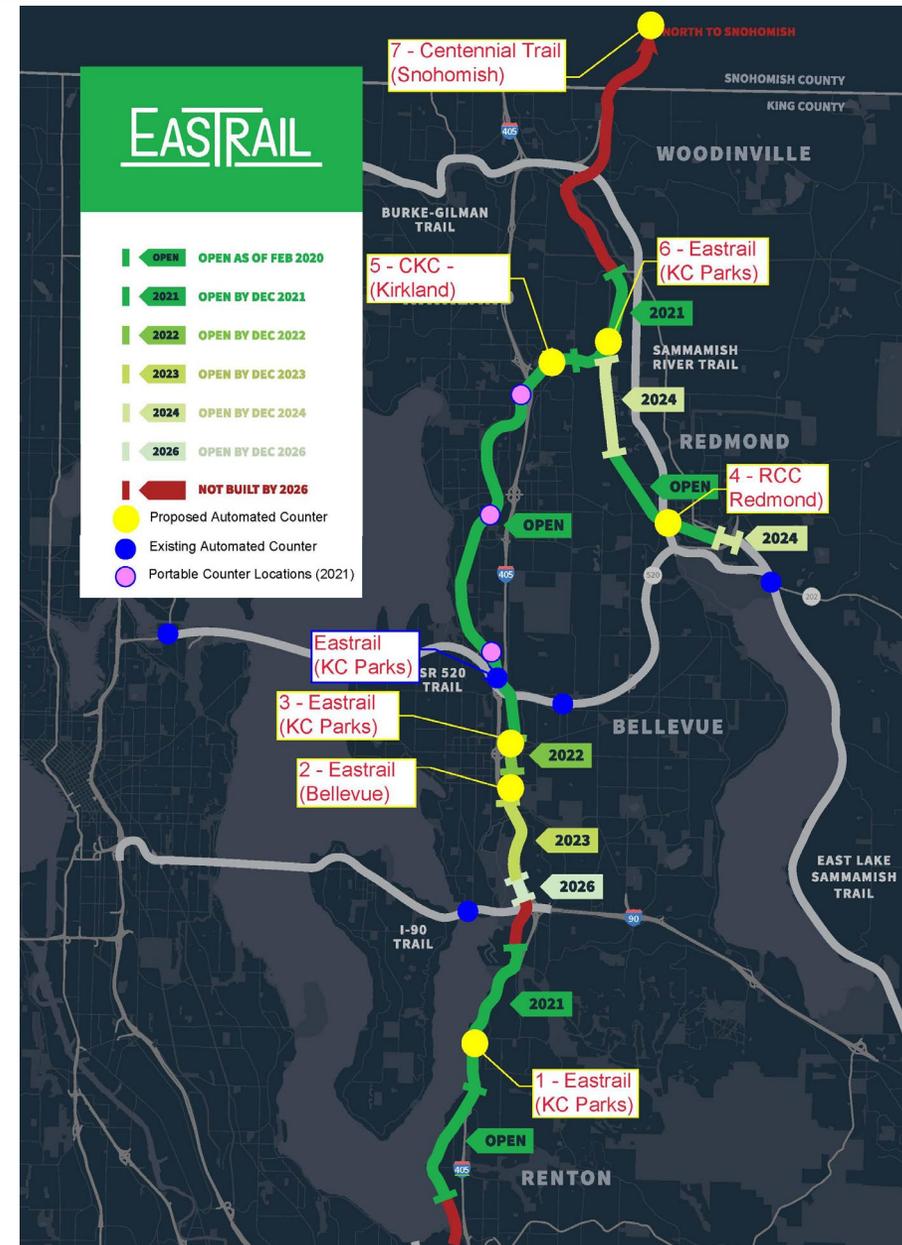
Eastrail Info Collection System Timeline



Recommendations

Recommendation #2:

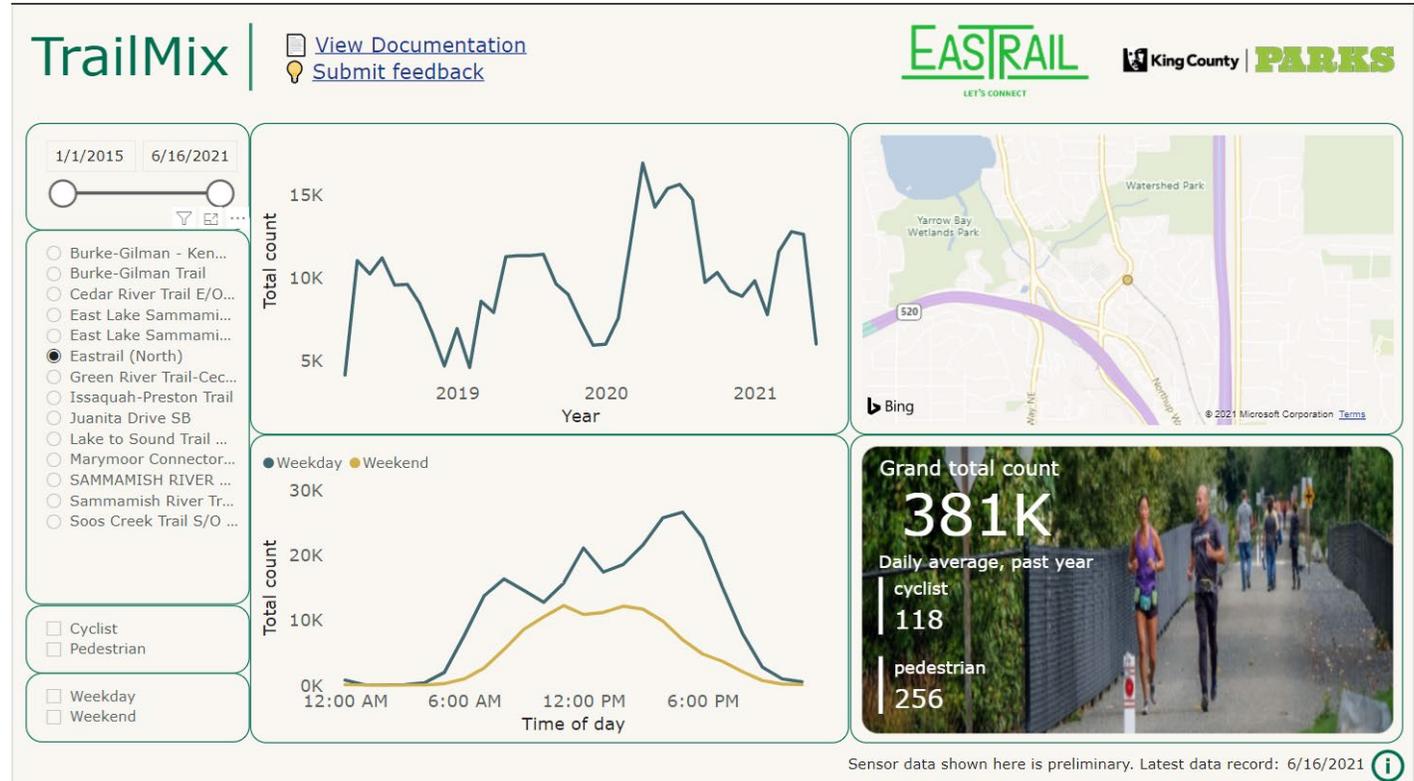
Secure resources for purchase, installation, and ongoing O&M of automated data collection equipment at desired locations.



Recommendations

Recommendation #4:

Create and implement a data management system.



Recommendations

Recommendation #5:

Develop the tool for collecting and managing qualitative information about Eastrail.

Example Visitor characteristics data fields

- Visit origination location
- Length of visit
- Safety perceptions
- Primary use for trail
- Demographics



Questions/Discussion

Questions for the RAC

- What information do you want from the system?
- How often would you want that information?
- What's the best/easiest way for you to get that information?
- How would you share that information – e.g., open houses, social media posts, webpages, ...?

Eastrail Co-Creation



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Eastrail Co-Creation effort for Welcoming Week



Eastside for All Partner has facilitated introductions with:

- Immigrant Women’s Community Center
- 4 Tomorrow
- Indian-American Community Services
- Friends of Bellevue Cultural Center

Example conversation themes:

- Value of events/art that welcome community into the Eastrail
- Importance of a series of engagement
- Support for multi-generational opportunities (involve youth!)
- Each year immigrant led community groups plan multiple events *for the entire community*

Eastrail Co-Creation effort for Welcoming Week



September 10 - 19, 2021

Staff will be keeping RAC members up to date on Eastrail Welcoming Week development.

RAC members are very welcome to participate in the planning.

Eastrail Fiber Update

Presentation to the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council

July 19, 2021

Topics for Status/Update

- ▶ Schedule for RFP Development
 - ▶ 2nd draft of RFP distributed to Eastrail Owners on Monday July 12, 2021
- ▶ Anticipated Project Agreements
 - ▶ Project MOU - (final draft distributed to Eastrail Parties)
 - ▶ Cost recovery and revenue share agreement - (conceptual development stage)
 - ▶ Vendor services contract - (legal work has not started)
- ▶ Next steps
 1. Eastrail Owners review & execute the project MOU or provide changes
 2. Receive edits to the 2nd draft rfp and place into King County procurement template
 3. Develop cost recovery and revenue share model (s) and draft an agreement

Schedule and Milestones

Note: Text in green font indicate milestones for Eastrail Owners review

Start	End	Duration	Milestone Activity
9/14/2020	1/29/2021	138	RFP Development
2/8/2021	2/11/2021	4	RFP Draft Distribution
2/12/2021	3/5/2021	22	1st Draft RFP Review & Comment
2/8/2021	6/30/2021	142	Develop MOU, Lease, Rev Share Model & (Svc Contract?) w/ Parties
5/30/2021	6/30/2021	30	2nd Draft RFP, Review
7/30/2021	9/27/2021	60	Parties Review RFP & Agree to MOU, Lease, Revenue Share Model & (Svc Contract?) (RPC?)
9/30/2021	10/14/2021	14	KC Assembles Final RFP
10/15/2021	11/8/2021	25	Final RFP Review w/ MOU, Lease, Revenue Share Model & (Svc Contract?)
11/9/2021	12/20/2021	40	Advertise RFP (with the due date of 12/20)
11/15/2021	11/15/2021	1	Pre-Bid conference with prospective bidders
12/21/2021	1/17/2022	28	RFP Analysis & ID top bids
1/18/2022	1/25/2022	7	Create & transmit proviso report to KC Council
2/25/2022	3/25/2022	30	KC Council Review Report of Top Bids*
3/25/2022	3/29/2022	5	Notify Top Bidders
3/30/2022	4/9/2022	11	Best and final Bids Due
4/10/2022	4/11/2022	1	Notify Winning Bidder
4/12/2022	7/7/2022	120	KC Council Legislative Action "MOU, Lease, Revenue Share Model & Svc Contract"
7/8/2022	9/30/2022	85	Negotiate Final Vendor Contract

* Indicates Eastrail Owners will review top bids (i.e., for milestone occurring between 2/25/2022 – 3/25/2022)

Agreements Anticipated as Part of the Project

Legal Deliverable	Description of Document
Property Rights MOU (status = final draft distributed)	For use by all the Owner & Easement Holder Parties; a nonbinding MOU that identifies the important deal points, property-rights priorities, and other terms and conditions basic to constructing the Eastrail Fiber Optic project.
Revenue-sharing model (status = conceptual discussion stage)	For use by all the Owner Parties; This will describe a “to be developed revenue distribution formula among the Owners for revenue gained thru the lease of excess Eastrail fiber optic infrastructure constructed as part of this project. And a cost recovery model, if public funds are used for construction.
Common lease template* (status = legal work has not started)	For use by all the Owner Parties; alternatively, the County could negotiate leases of other Owner Parties’ real property for sublease or assignment to the selected proposer.
Vendor service contract* (status = legal work has not started)	For use by all the Owner & Easement Holder Parties; Some form of service contract to pair with the lease. This service contract is likely the agreement to be negotiated with the selected proposer following conclusion of the RFP process.

* Denotes separate contractual arrangements potentially integrated into a single legal instrument.

THANK YOU
and
QUESTIONS