

EASTSIDE RAIL CORRIDOR REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

October 17, 2019 – 10:00 AM
City of Redmond Council Chambers

Advisory Council Members Present: Jay Arnold, Deputy Mayor, City of Kirkland (Vice-chair); Angela Birney, Council President, City of Redmond; Susan Boundy-Sanders, Woodinville Councilmember; Vicky Clarke, Eastside Greenway Alliance; David Hoffman, Local Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager, Puget Sound Energy; Kathy Lambert, King County Councilmember; John Stokes, Bellevue Councilmember; Ariel Taylor, Government and Community Affairs Officer, Sound Transit; Tom Teigen, Parks Operations & Community Partnerships Manager, Snohomish County; and Christie True, Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks.

Introductions and Agenda Review

Vice Chair Jay Arnold called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., welcomed all in attendance and asked the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) members to introduce themselves.

Approval of July 12, 2019, meeting summary

Councilmember Birney moved approval of the July 12, 2019, meeting summary. There being no objections, the summary was approved.

Trail Development Progress and Upcoming Implementation

Members of the Principal Staff Team provided a presentation on the status of capital projects on the trail, both current and upcoming. The intent is to keep the RAC informed as to the status of the various projects and support RAC consideration of how to address gaps in project funding and where there may be a need for RAC members to participate in coordination efforts supporting a project or projects.

Current projects include:

Project	Phase	Funding Status
Gene Coulon Connection	Early design	Partially funded
Lake Lanes I-405 Expansion	Final design	Fully funded
I-90 Steel Bridge	Early design	Unfunded
I-90 Trail/Mts. To Sound Connection	Early design	Unfunded
Wilburton Trestle	Final design	Partially funded
Eastrail – Main Street Greenway Connection	Early design	Partially funded
Grand Connection	Planning	Unfunded
Eastrail NE 8 th St. Bridge	Final design	Fully funded
Spring Boulevard Connector	Early design	Unfunded
520 Trail/Northup Way Connector	Early design	Fully Funded
Totem Lake Connector	Final design	Fully funded

Willows/124 th Connector	Final design	Fully funded
Kirkland to Woodinville Interim Trail	Planning	Fully funded
145 th Crossing	Early design	Partially funded
Redmond Central Connector III	Early design	Partially funded
Centennial Trail South	Early design	Unfunded

Discussion ensued regarding covered overpasses, reclaiming any wood that is removed from the trestle to incorporate into art installations, the Northern Connections Package, the connection under 520 connecting the Redmond Central Connector with the East Lake Sammamish Trail, a correction to the estimated cost for the Redmond Central Connector, the inclusion of updates on capital funding in the work plan, and considering what the RAC’s legislative agenda might be.

Eastrail Partners (EP) Formation and Coordination with the RAC

Taldi Harrison, REI and Eastrail Partners Director, reported that since their last report to the RAC the Eastrail Partners’ nonprofit status has been secured, consultant staff have been hired on an interim basis and the fundraising target has been exceeded.

Formation of the EP board is underway, with 12 board members in place who were also previously on the ERC Funding Commission. Gene Duvernoy will serve as President, Greg Johnson as Vice President and Stacy Graven as Secretary. The ultimate goal is to have about 17 members on the board. They are currently seeking more geographic representation from Redmond, Renton and Woodinville. They are also looking for expertise in diversity, equity and inclusion; financial management; and fund raising. Two formal meetings have been held to date.

Matt Cohen, Eastrail Partners Board Member, reported that the primary focus right now is recruiting an Executive Director. They are interested in recommendations from RAC members and the broader audience. One of the EP’s main focuses will be to work with the RAC to address funding gaps. A draft framework agreement with each of the RAC members to secure their cost shares was provided in the RAC meeting packet. One of the deliverables for the first year is to secure an exemplary corporate sponsorship and joint venture supporting the RAC vision for the Eastrail. In the long and short run, the EP’s goal is to mobilize support for the project, public and private, and to support the RAC members in achieving those goals.

Development of 2020/21/22 RAC Work Plan

David St. John, Environmental Affairs Officer, Department of Natural Resources and Parks Director’s Office, and Joe Inslee, Communications Specialist, Department of Natural Resources and Parks Director’s Office, reviewed a proposed work plan for 2020-2022. Discussion ensued regarding the need to continually work on outreach so the project is not forgotten by those not directly involved; prioritize the items on the proposed work plan; tie the coming features to existing ones; assess corridor programming and the best way to go about it; connect with organizations like tourist bureaus, destination management organization, etc., regarding contributing towards data collection and wayfinding; look at ways to combine resources to achieve the same goal for multiple jurisdictions; consider adding the fiber component to the work plan; include updates on capital projects; and address what the RAC can do from a funding perspective with entities outside the respective jurisdictions.

Confirmation of RAC Chair and Vice Chair for 2019-2021

Motion: Councilmember Birney moved that the RAC continue on with Chair Claudia Balducci and Vice Chair Jay Arnold in their current roles through the next term. The motion passed by consensus.

Member Progress and Success Updates

Sound Transit – The downtown Redmond Link extension is moving from the planning phase into the construction phase. All are invited to the groundbreaking from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. on October 23rd at 166th Ave. NE and NE 76th.

Eastside Greenway Alliance – Have been providing support for the King County Parks Levy and working on the No on I-976 campaign.

King County – Thanks to all for the Parks Levy support. Shout out to Sound Transit for \$3 million for NE 8th from the Access fund. Also thanks to Sound Transit for their work on NE 8th and Wilburton, as well as the work involved in the groundbreaking next week. In regard to public testimony at the last meeting regarding rails to trails and the Surface Transportation Board matter – a page is included at the end of the packet that provides some background on this.

Bellevue – NE 8th is what we have had the most progress on. We've been working closely with King County and Sound Transit staff on the Japanese-American memorial. Biggest concern is the timing.

Snohomish County – Thanks to King County and Woodinville for outreach tied to the Surface Transportation Board matter.

Redmond – Downtown Link Station work is beginning. A sculpture called "The Erratic" will need to move so work on the station can start. Received an award from the American Planning Association for Cleveland Street, one of three great streets in its annual Great Places in America program. Very successful summer series utilizing both the Connector and the downtown park. Redmond Lights, which will also utilize the Connector, takes place December 7 and 8.

Kirkland – Crossing Kirkland was held in September to bring community onto the corridor. Kirkland Rotary is funding a shelter at the site of the original Depot on the rail line. Pieces of the ferry Kalakala will be on the corridor early next year. Cascadia Shakeout took place during this meeting, ask all to take a few moments to reflect on what you would do in the event of an earthquake.

Public comment

The following attendees offered public comment:

- Christopher Randels – Would be helpful to have a cohesive artistic vision or program. Prioritizing the art plan in the 2020 work plan would be a good step. Through a collaboration amongst the cities and agencies involved, create a central portal or mechanism through which community and individual projects can be submitted, reviewed and approved. Encouraged the RAC not to underestimate artistic contributions.

- Jeanne DeMund – Thanks to City of Renton staff and King County for their work in planning Eastrail/Coulon Park connection. Expressed concern regarding safety at the south end of the Eastrail and asked that the completion date not be delayed further.
- John Kerns – Commented regarding the Surface Transportation Board matter and expressed concerns over safety at the Centennial Trail Park due to train activity.

Next steps and adjournment

It was noted that the bad weather notification has been extended through next week – cautioned all to take precautions.

Dates for next year's meetings will be out shortly.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.