

# ***EASTSIDE RAIL CORRIDOR REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL***

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## **MEETING SUMMARY**

July 12, 2019 – 1:30 PM

Bellevue Botanical Gardens Education Center

**Advisory Council Members Present:** Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember (Chair); Jay Arnold, Deputy Mayor, City of Kirkland (Vice-chair); Angela Birney, Council President, City of Redmond; Russ Bosanko, Parks Operations & Community Partnerships Manager, Snohomish County; Susan Boundy-Sanders, Woodinville Councilmember; Randy Corman, Renton Councilmember; Luke Lamon, Government and Community Relations Officer - Eastside, Sound Transit; Richard Smith, Eastside Greenway Alliance; David Hoffman, Local Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager, Puget Sound Energy; John Stokes, Bellevue Councilmember; and Christie True, Director of King County Natural Resources and Parks.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Vice-chair Jay Arnold called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m., welcomed all in attendance and asked the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) members to introduce themselves.

### **Approval of Meeting Summary**

Councilmember Stokes moved approval of the April 5, 2019, meeting summary. There being no objections, the summary was approved.

### **Fiber Feasibility Study Final Report**

Brenda Cooper, Chief Information Officer, City of Kirkland, and Darryl E. Hunt, IT Project Manager, King County; provided a presentation and answered questions from the members. The presentation addressed the following:

- The background behind the fiber feasibility study report
- Uses of fiber
- Feasibility project scope
- Feasibility study highlights
- Conceptual design options
- Business models and return on investment
- Next steps and recommendations

Staff will be available to meet with members outside of the RAC meeting to discuss this topic in further detail and will keep the Principal Staff Team apprised of new developments.

## **Formation of the Eastrail Partners Entity and Supporting RAC Resolution**

Gene Duvernoy, Matt Cohen and Bill Finkbeiner, Eastrail Partners, addressed the history leading up to the organization of Eastrail Partners. Articles of Incorporation for Eastrail Partners, a nonprofit corporation, were filed yesterday with the Secretary of State. The group is comfortable that they have met their obligation of \$100,000 of funding from outside sources. Since the corporation has not yet been approved as a 501(c)3 by the IRS, it has partnered with The Seattle Foundation who will act as their fiscal host for contributions. A formal agreement is in the works. Initial Board of Directors consists of Stacy Graven, Gene Duvernoy and Greg Johnson. The hope is to have their initial meeting in August. Plan to build a board that reflects the diversity of the communities that the Eastrail touches. Discussion ensued regarding the relationship of this new entity to the RAC.

**Action:** Councilmember Stokes moved approval of the resolution to form the Eastrail Partners entity and ask the member organizations to secure funding and make the transfer to the Eastrail Partners by September 30, 2019. Councilmember Birney seconded the motion. There being no objections, the motion was approved by consensus.

## **Branding and July 20<sup>th</sup> Event Update**

Joe Inslee, Communications Specialist, King County Parks Department, addressed the upcoming event planned for Saturday, July 20, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. on the Redmond Central Connector. The goals of this event are to introduce the new Eastrail brand, introduce Eastrail Partners and community activation. Cascade Bicycle Club and REI have collaborated to provide events and activities.

Other branding activities include a new website that will be launched next Thursday, development of outreach materials and production of items such as water bottles, buttons, etc. Another concept in the works is the Eastrail mobile experience, which would be some sort of mobile item (e.g., cart, etc.) that could be taken to various events to interact with the public and promote the trail.

## **2021-2023 Eastrail Work Plan and Budgeting**

The RAC is looking for input from staff and members regarding goals for the next few years. As these goals are set for the next few years, the RAC would like to try to anticipate funding needs well in advance.

The Chair and Vice-chair terms expire at the end of this year. This will be decided by consensus at the next meeting.

The Chair expressed thanks to the staff from all jurisdictions for their work over this past year.

## **Member Progress and Success Updates**

Renton – Discussion about having an extension of the Eastrail connect to the inner road system of Gene Coulon Park.

Snohomish County – Moving forward with their 60% design. The fiber component will be considered as an addition to the design.

Sound Transit – Projects along the trail continue to move along. The final portion of the public art installation next to the OMFE is going up.

Eastside Greenway Alliance – In addition to the work for the event on July 20<sup>th</sup>, they have been holding policy rides with Boards of Directors and stakeholders showcasing the work that is happening and the work that will be done.

Bellevue – Appreciate all the outreach and public engagement. It is an opportune time for them as they would like to coordinate those efforts with the Bellevue Arts Program.

Kirkland – Several Councilmembers will be at the July 20 event.

King County – Working internally on a County ordinance to formally change the name to Eastrail. Working to develop ideas to acknowledge the Japanese-American contributions to the eastside. One opportunity for this is at the bridge crossing at NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Bellevue.

Redmond – Celebration on the 20th on the Redmond Central Connector. “So Bazaar” will be held on August 15th, 22nd and 29th at the Redmond Central Connector Park & Downtown Park. A piece of sculpture called the “Erratic” needs to be moved for Sound Transit work.

### **Public comment**

The following attendees offered public comment:

David Allen – Urged members to keep the focus on connections points like Gene Coulon Park. Consider the Grand Connection as important to all of you as it can be used as a guiding point for any of the jurisdictions.

*Chair Balducci suggested discussion of all potential connection points as a possible work item for next year.*

John Kerns – Has property along the railroad tracks just south of Snohomish. Commented on a lawsuit against the investor who owns the easement to run freight between Woodinville and the City of Snohomish. Asked the RAC if they care about trains or not.

*Chair Balducci noted that the RAC had not been briefed on any legal activity and asked staff to get information to the members who are party to whatever litigation is taking place. As far as the rails, that is a big question, noting that the different jurisdictions have different opinions on passenger rail.*

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.