

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

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### **MEETING SUMMARY**

September 22, 2017 – 1:00 PM  
Redmond Public Safety Building

**Advisory Council Members Present:** Chair, Claudia Balducci, County Councilmember; Vice-Chair, Jay Arnold, Kirkland City Councilmember; Reagan Dunn, County Councilmember; Bob Burns, Deputy Director of King County Natural Resources and Parks (representing County Executive Dow Constantine); Angela Birney, Redmond City Councilmember; Brandon Buchanan, City of Woodinville; Steve Dickson, Snohomish County; Ric Ilgenfritz, Executive Director - Planning, Environment, and Project Development, Sound Transit; Julien Loh, Local Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager, Puget Sound Energy; John Stokes, Bellevue Mayor; and Blake Trask, Eastside Greenway Alliance.

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Claudia Balducci, Advisory Council Co-Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

#### **Election of RAC Chair and Vice Chair (Action)**

*Councilmember Arnold made a motion to elect Councilmember Balducci as Chair. The motion was seconded by Mayor Stokes. The motion passed.*

*Councilmember Birney made a motion to elect Councilmember Arnold as Vice-chair. The motion was seconded by Mayor Stokes. The motion passed.*

#### **ERC Funding Commission –Jeff Muhm, King County Council Staff (Discussion and Direction)**

Jeff Muhm, King County Council Initiatives Director, reviewed the scoping document for the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC) Funding Commission to include:

- Purpose
- Implementation structure
- Membership
- Timeline/Level of Effort
- Preliminary scope

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of having the document reflect that the focus is on the corridor as it has been conceptualized, not just as a trail; ensuring that the Funding Commission is geographically balanced with a good mix of public and business representatives; having a clear definition of the scope of work; providing more detail in meetings 1 and 2; the possibility of including elected officials or RAC members on the Funding Commission; making it clear that the Funding Commission is advisory to the RAC and does not make final decisions.

David St. John noted that the RAC will approve the scope of work. The Commission's work will be

supported by input from the Principal Staff Team (PST). There will have to be a ratcheting up of engagement with the RAC.

Chair Balducci recapped the discussion as follows:

- Strong support to move forward
- Some concern regarding number 3
- Ensure geographic distribution in membership
- Ensure frequent communication between the Commission and the RAC
- Create an organizational chart showing the relationship of the Commission to the RAC
- Have PST provide a list of suggested Commission members (types or specific) to the RAC members prior to their next meeting

### **ERC Branding Scope (Information and Discussion)**

Vicky Clarke, Eastside Greenway Alliance, and Grace Bergman, Trust for Public Land, presented information related to the proposed branding project, to include:

- Branding effort goals
- Project implementation – roles and responsibilities
- Scope of work
- Timeline
- Proposal format
- Qualifications
- Budget
- Evaluation Criteria

Two major milestones were noted – having the consultant send out a survey to the public and presenting the RAC with a summary of the public input. The consultant will be tasked with designing three logo options and a brand guide.

Discussion ensued regarding the challenge of representing the entire corridor and tying in existing brands, taking individual agency design standards into account, ensuring that the scope of work documentation indicates the three owners who currently have branding in place, whether the south Snohomish section should be included in the overall branding effort, use of social media, and instructing consultant to allow for future brands to happen.

Chair Balducci indicated that it would be good to reach out to Snohomish County and see if they want to be a RAC member or participate at a higher level.

The hope is to send out the request for proposals in a month.

## **Member Progress and Success Updates (Discussion)**

### King County and City of Kirkland

Councilmember Arnold reported that the City of Kirkland has set aside money for bridge design and is partnering with King County on a TIGER grant. The Wilburton and Totem Lake Bridges are the two projects under this proposed funding which will provide connections for eastside innovation centers.

Bob Burns asked for everyone's support to move this forward, noting that it would be helpful if there were broader support. The availability of the funds was discovered two weeks ago and we have 45 days to submit the application materials. A draft letter of support can be submitted electronically or via hard copy as desired.

*Mayor Stokes moved that the group submit a letter on behalf of the RAC signed by the Chair and Vice-chair. The motion passed.*

David St. John noted that they will have to work with delegation members both here and in DC. Our request will likely be for \$25,000.

### City of Kirkland

Councilmember Arnold – The money from the state's capital budget mentioned previously is stalled. A "Crossing Kirkland" event was held on September 9 during which a second piece of art, under the 85<sup>th</sup> Street overpass, was unveiled. Kirkland continues to make investments in connections to the corridor and recently acquired the Totem Lake Park property from the County adjacent to the Cross Kirkland Corridor.

### King County

Bob Burns reported that the County just signed a contract for rail removal. Once the rails are gone there will be interim gravel trails.

### City of Redmond

Councilmember Birney announced a ribbon cutting on September 23rd for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Redmond Central Connector, which restored the trestle and incorporated artwork and places to pause. This will be the first year for the Redmond Rain Fest, to be held on the first part of the Connector on September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

### Eastside Greenway Alliance

Blake Trask noted that \$2.5 million has been set aside in the state transportation budget for the Wilburton Trestle. There is still potentially one-half million in the budget that could augment that. They have been doing walks to help raise awareness of the trail. Richard Smith, the new Executive Director for the Cascade Bicycle Club, will be joining them for one of these walks.

### City of Bellevue

Mayor Stokes reported that they are working through the Grand Connection decisions.

### Puget Sound Energy

Julien Loh provided updates on the Energize Eastside and Lake Hills/Phantom Lake Transmission line projects.

### Snohomish County

Steve Dickson reported that they are working with a consultant team and state agencies. The main trestle over the Snohomish River is in disrepair - restoration options are being explored. We are seeing a lot of movement in residential development along the corridor. There is approximately \$1million in the State's capital budget to go towards trail design.

### Sound Transit

Ric Ilgenfritz reported that the full 14-mile length of the East Link Extension is under construction. Construction of an elevated new pedestrian connection, guideway will run through 2021. A contract has been awarded for the construction of the maintenance facility. A temporary trail is in place from the south side of the 520 trail over to 120<sup>th</sup>. Work on preliminary designs for the two stations in Redmond is underway. Ric reported that he would be leaving Sound Transit next week and thanked the RAC for their work and efforts. Don Billen will be stepping in as the Sound Transit representative to the RAC.

### **RAC Meeting schedule for 2018 (Discussion)**

Staff will work on coordinating quarterly meeting dates for 2018. Chair Balducci suggested considering using the first Thursday, either morning or afternoon, once per quarter.

### **Public Comment**

There was no one present wishing to provide public comment.

### **Next steps and adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.