

RAC

Status up-date on Issues of Urgency – May 14, 2014

ISSUES OF URGENCY¹ : As the RAC considers a work plan, they have identified several issues that have some urgency, which the owners could pursue in the next phase of work. These issues could become the focus of work during RAC 2.0. Some may require collaborative work prior to the formal start of RAC 2.0. The urgency may be the result of other schedules or deadlines, the relative priority of an action, or the lead time needed to accomplish a recommendation.

ISSUE	STATUS
Advocacy for the Larger Vision for the ERC. RAC 2.0 should affirm the long-term vision and engage in discussions with regional, state and west coast leaders about an ERC vision that is part of a much larger system of trail and high-capacity transit connections. Owners can sound the call for a vision that stretches well beyond the county's boundaries.	<i>On May 29th there will be a meeting of the RAC members' government relations staff to discuss overall federal and state strategy. Kirkland is acting as the convener.</i>
Work with Federal Officials. The owners should begin to lay the foundation for future federal and state support by meeting with federal officials to inform them about the results from the RAC's work, and plans for the corridor.	<i>A summary was jointly prepared and presented to the Congressional delegation in early 2014. Staff will continue to develop an over-arching strategy beginning with the May 29th meeting in Kirkland.</i>
Engage with State Officials. The owners will need to create a collaborative relationship with the state as a partner in re-establishing the corridor connection across I-405, and beginning to plan for how the ERC can be integrated into the interchanges at I-405/I-90, SR-520/I-405 and SR-520/SR-202.	<i>This will be part of the May 29th discussions.</i>
Work with PSRC on Revising the Transportation 2040 Plan. The owners must make sure that the region's transportation plan reflects the RAC's vision for the ERC, and that projects included in that plan are consistent with that vision. This is an important step toward securing future federal and state funding.	<i>Joint comments were prepared and presented during the comment period. All immediately needed trail portions have been included in the "constrained" (funded) part of the plan.</i>

¹ Issues listed in RAC report, pages 61 & 62

<p>Brand Identity. Building public, philanthropic and government support for improvements in the corridor will require an identity for the ERC that captures imaginations and creates an image of what's possible. As suggested in Recommendation 8A, the owners should work together to create a brand identity for the corridor as a whole, while respecting the identities that have already been created by individual owners.</p>	<p><i>This is a body of work that is scheduled in the RAC work Plan to be undertaken in September 2014. It needs to be looked at from both policy and costs. This effort will build on work accomplished as part of the master trail planning efforts conducted by Redmond, Kirkland, and King County, as well as consideration that may take place in the Funders Collaborative work.</i></p>
<p>Collaborate on Policies, Regulations and Incentives to Use Corridor as “Front Door.” The owners have been impressed with the work Redmond has done to ensure that new buildings adjacent to the ERC create an active, engaging presence facing the corridor. New development along the corridor will continue and the owners could begin working together to create local policies or regulations that will enhance the user experience in the ERC.</p>	<p><i>This body of work is scheduled to be undertaken over the summer months. Regional efforts will build on work undertaken by Redmond and Kirkland as part of their planning and implementation processes.</i></p>
<p>Funders Collaborative. The creation of an effective funders collaborative will take time. The owners should begin exploratory conversations with potential funders about building a support structure for the ERC.</p>	<p><i>Potential strategies will be discussed at the May 14th RAC meeting. Staff is seeking guidance on desired next steps.</i></p>
<p>Collaboration on Parallel Planning and Capital Project Activities. In the coming year several planning processes will be underway that will have an effect on the future of the ERC. Kirkland will continue its work to develop a corridor master plan. Sound Transit will complete the high-capacity corridor studies and an update of its Long-Range Plan. The County will begin its corridor master plan process. PSE will complete its planning for a new utility line in Kirkland and Redmond. The owners will need to collaborate on the timing and sequencing of decisions that may result from these plans, and on coordinating the various planning processes. The owners should explore opportunities to conduct joint corridor planning efforts when feasible. In addition, owners will need to work together to coordinate planning for capital projects that will affect the corridor, including collaboration on funding opportunities.</p>	<p><i>This work is taking place between the individual partners with updates provided by owners at RAC meetings.</i></p>