

King County Bridges and Roads Task Force Meeting Summary

Meeting #6

January 20, 2016, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.

King Street Center – 8th Floor Conference Room

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review

Bob Wheeler (facilitator) called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m., and the King County Bridges and Roads Task Force (Task Force) did a round of introductions.

The facilitator briefly reviewed the agenda and emphasized the meeting's focus on approving the Task Force recommendations and report, discussing implementation and communications for the recommendations, presenting the recommendations to Executive Dow Constantine and Councilmember Kathy Lambert, and celebrating the hard work of the Task Force.

The Task Force then accepted the November 12, 2015 Task Force meeting summary without any changes.

Road Services Report-Out

Brenda Bauer (King County Road Services Director) gave a brief overview of next steps for implementing Task Force recommendations. She noted that Road Services is already moving forward on some of the Road Services-responsibility recommendations and with legislation in the current state legislative session. Jay Osborne (King County Road Services Deputy Director) mentioned an opportunity at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, January 25 for Task Force members to appear, sign-in, and testify in support of proposed Senate Bill 6314 which suggests certain efficiencies related to Task Force recommendations – addressing issues such as county road engineer record-keeping, orphaned roads, and annexations. He also mentioned an opportunity to present to a regional realtors group in February – at which Task Force member Van Anderson has already volunteered to speak. Jay briefly noted that future outreach will include county-city coalition-building, possible PSRC-led regional collaboration, and, as the 2017 state legislative session approaches, more discussions on state funding options for local roads.

A master outreach schedule and sign-up list was then passed around for Task Force members to identify their interest in speaking about the recommendations at future events. For future speaking engagements, the PowerPoint slides used during this final Task Force meeting can be customized and Road Services is happy to assist Task Force members with speaking points and other preparation.

Task Force Recommendations and Report Approval

The Task Force discussed final approval of its recommendations and report. The facilitator mentioned that a complete signature page will be signed and sent around to Task Force members once it is complete. He also noted a few small, non-substantive changes to the report and recommendations language that were made since it was reviewed by the Task Force in December. Then, referring back to the Task Force's approved operating protocols, the facilitator gave an overview of the consensus decision-making process and noted that a quorum of members, greater than 70 percent, was present at the meeting and thus the Task Force could proceed with a vote.

The Task Force reviewed and approved, by consensus, the following motion (made by Ron Paananen and seconded by Louise Miller):

“The King County Bridges & Roads Task Force gives its final approval of the Task Force Recommendations Report – inclusive of high and low impact recommendations.”

It was noted that, with this decision, the appendices are part of the Report and therefore part of the approval. With the vote on this motion, the Task Force recommendations and report were approved.

Following recommendations and report approval, Brenda Bauer thanked the Task Force for its time, commitment, and hard work since August. She noted that the Task Force processed a significant amount of new and complex information quickly and absorbed this information for use toward making its recommendations. She hopes to work with Task Force members going forward on the presentation of these recommendations, and bridges and roads challenges that the County faces, to outside groups.

Comments and questions:

- Does the full report include appendices?
 - Yes – appendices are found on the “resources” tab of the Task Force web page.
- Can the report also be a tool for use by the King County Legislative Delegation?
 - Yes – the report can absolutely be used by the County Legislative Delegation.

Discussion on Communications Strategy

Brenda Bauer and Jay Osborne briefly recapped some of what they stated at the beginning of the meeting regarding communication and outreach to different groups, including outreach to community councils and organizations, as well as the importance of having a city-county coalition going forward for presenting and implementing these Task Force recommendations.

Jay Osborne then shared and asked for Task Force input on a press release that would be sent out by Road Services about the recommendations. The draft press release was developed based on the Task Force Recommendations Report. Task Force input on the press release addressed issues such as how to reflect the size and range of the large bridges and roads funding gap; comparisons of King County’s bridges and roads infrastructure, and related funding, to Seattle’s; and information about root causes of the funding gap.

Susan West, Road Services Strategic Communications Specialist, then announced a Road Services blog called “*Keeping Communities Connected*” and asked that Task Force members sign-up for and share this blog.

Task Force Presentation Practice and Refinement

Task Force members Louise Miller, Matt Larson, and Bryce Yadon practiced a presentation to be shared later in the meeting with Executive Dow Constantine and Councilmember Kathy Lambert. Other Task Force members provided constructive feedback throughout this practice presentation.

After the practice presentation, Task Force members shared the following ideas for improving this presentation before it is presented to other, outside groups.

- Clearly define the scope of the Bridges and Roads Task Force and highlight the volume and overall scale of roads owned and maintained by King County.
- Show how the bridges and roads funding gap grew so large and put it into realistic terms that people can understand.
- Include a graphic on every slide.

- Include community-specific data showing how much revenue has come from specific communities and how much Road Services spending is coming back to those communities. A possible example to use would be the unincorporated area of Klahanie which represents about five percent of the unincorporated population and two percent of the road miles.
- Include and explain the role of Berk Consulting.
- Avoid going into too much detail on GMA implementation and impacts.
- Highlight the common interest that cities have with the county in addressing bridges and roads funding and the importance of building a city-county partnership. Also, show that the City of Seattle would be considered a partner in this effort.
- Be clear that the county is working together with cities on implementing the Task force Recommendations.
- While it is important to recognize the differences between the urban road infrastructure of the City of Seattle and rural infrastructure of unincorporated King County, consider showing how the overall size of each respective bridges and road network is similar and also the level of funding it takes the City of Seattle to maintain its network – in comparison to the resources King County has available.
- Consider whether each presentation should include a “big ask” – such as a request before the “next steps” slide showing specific steps the county would like each respective audience to take that would assist with recommendations implementation.

Presentation to Executive Constantine and Councilmember Lambert

Prior to the Task Force presentation to Executive Constantine and Councilmember Lambert, the Task Force heard brief statements from the following individuals:

- Harold Taniguchi (King County Department of Transportation Director) thanked the Task Force for its hard work.
- Dow Constantine (King County Executive) thanked the Task Force for its hard work and the sacrifices it has made to participate in meetings. He noted his interest in seeing the results of the Task Force’s work since August. He recognized that these recommendations are the first step toward real bridges and roads solutions. King County’s bridges and roads network is used for emergency services, recreation, and commuters. It includes well-used connections and solutions will require coordinated, regional partnerships since the problem is too big for any one jurisdiction to address. Leaders will have to learn more about what is broken in the bridges and roads funding system and work to fix it.
- Kathy Lambert (King County Councilmember) thanked Executive Constantine for hearing her concerns about bridges and roads over the years. She appreciates the time spent on this by Task Force members. She is happy to no longer be the only one talking about bridges and roads challenges. She noted that bridges and roads funding is not a partisan issue. She hopes the Task Force recommendations are considered a way to save money – since bridges and roads maintenance costs will grow the longer maintenance is put off. King County is in a unique situation compared to other counties given the relatively small share of unincorporated population relative to the total county population. She hopes Task Force members speak out about the bridges and roads challenge – whether that includes talking to friends and neighbors, or writing op-eds.

Task Force members Louise Miller, Matt Larson, and Bryce Yadon then gave a presentation that covered the Task Force charge, challenges it was asked to address, consequences of not addressing these challenges, its process and findings, high and low impact recommendations, and next steps.

Comments and questions:

- Executive Constantine expressed his amazement and initial disbelief at the size of the bridges and roads funding gap and noted that the public may have even more disbelief. He noted that the bridges and roads network is deteriorating and the problem needs to be acknowledged. He also acknowledged the financial burden put on cities when they take over county roads – since such roads need to be upgraded to city service standards. In this way, a more regional and ultimately state solution is needed. Additionally, this is an opportunity to recognize that we no longer have 40 individual municipalities in King County – and rather that we have a shared system.
 - A Task Force member noted that individual cities have substantially different levels of resources for taking on county roads and upgrading them. This same member also noted the importance of recognizing that residents of most cities work in other areas – and thus the regional road network is important to every city.
- Councilmember Lambert explained that, even if nobody lived in unincorporated areas, those roads would still be necessary given their heavy, multimodal use from residents in cities and other counties. Also, even if a sufficient funding source is secured, the process of implementing that revenue source and collecting revenue can take few years before it can benefit bridges and roads.

Closing Celebration

The Task Force closed the meeting at approximately 4:30 p.m. with cake and refreshments.

Attachment 1: January 20 Task Force Meeting Attendees

Task Force Members

Name	Affiliation	Attended?
Van Anderson	King County Boundary Review Board	No
John Bloomer	Enumclaw Fire Department/King County Fire District #28	Yes
Josh Brown	Puget Sound Regional Council	Yes
Peter Eberle	Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council	Yes
Joe Fain	Washington State Legislature—47 th District	No
Ashley Glennon	Fall City Community Association	Yes
Michael Gonzales	Teamsters Local 174	Yes
Bob Harrison	City of Issaquah	Yes
George Irwin	King County Agricultural Commission	Yes
Janet Keller	Keller Dairy	Yes
Duana Koloušková	Transportation Concurrency Expert Review Panel	No
Andra Kranzler	Skyway Solutions	Yes (phone)
Matt Larson	City of Snoqualmie	Yes
Hank Lipe	Vashon Island Fire & Rescue	Yes
Ceci Mena	Professional & Technical Employees Local 117	Yes
Louise Miller	Former King County Councilmember and State Representative	Yes
Louis Moscoso	Washington State Legislative—1 st Legislative District	No
Amy Ockerlander	City of Duvall	Yes
Ron Paananen	Parsons Brinckerhoff	Yes
Blake Trask	Washington Bikes	Yes
Bryce Yadon	Futurewise	Yes

Meeting Organizers

Name	Affiliation
Brenda Bauer	Road Services Division, King County
Jay Osborne	Road Services Division, King County
Susan West	Road Services Division, King County
Bob Wheeler	Triangle Associates
Evan Lewis	Triangle Associates

Other Meeting Attendees

Name	Affiliation
Dow Constantine	Executive, King County Executive Office
Kathy Lambert	Councilmember, King County Council
Ned Ahrens	Photographer, King County Department of Transportation Communications
Chris Arkills	King County Executive Office
Diane Carlson	King County Executive Office
Ed Connors	Washington State Department of Transportation
Shelley De Wys	King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Judy Eberle	NA
Wes Edwards	King County Department of Transportation
Jeremy Ferguson	King County Roads Services Division

Name	Affiliation
Lise Kaye	King County Council Staff
Aaron Kunkler	Bothell reporter
Susan Oxholm	King County Roads Services Division
Stephanie Pure	King County Department of Transportation
Brandy Rettig	King County Road Services Division
Rey Sugui	King County Road Services Division
Harold Taniguchi	Director, King County Department of Transportation