

January 2014

Metro Transit Service Cuts

by Peter Rimbos, Area Council Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, January 6, 2014, the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) held its first regular monthly meeting of the new year. Topics discussed were: 1) Metro Transit Service; 2) Covington Master Planned Development/ and 3) Rural Stormwater Retention Facility.

Metro Transit Service

King County Metro Transit's DeAnna Martin discussed bus transportation funding and proposed cuts. Revenue from sales taxes, which provide ~60% of Metro Transit's funding, have fallen from pre-recession levels. Although fares have been raised ~80% over the past several years and costs cut, Metro Transit still faces a shortfall. As a result, Metro Transit is planning for major service cuts of ~17%, absent any new funding.

With temporary funding authority from the state expiring in June, Metro Transit has planned for specific service reductions: 74 routes would be eliminated; 107 routes changed; and 33 unchanged routes would become more crowded. This will result in increased traffic congestion.

In our area Route 143 would have one less morning and afternoon commute peak-hour trips to and from Maple Valley. This is especially unfortunate, since Route 143 peak-hour commute runs are full.

Metro Transit plans to send a package of proposed service changes to the King County Council this Spring. If approved, the service changes will be phased in beginning this Fall. The Public will have an opportunity to provide comment to the King County Council before service changes are adopted. For more information, [please click here](#).

Covington Master Planned Development

The Area Council discussed the City of Covington's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed 212-acre Master-Planned Development (MPD) to be located between SR-18, SR-516, and Cedar Creek Park.

The Area Council's Growth Management Committee summarized continuing concerns regarding traffic impacts that require additional consideration. These include gross deficiencies in handling traffic congestion along SR-516, the Kent-Kangley Road.

The area Council will present Oral Testimony detailing these concerns before the Covington City Council at a Public Hearing on January 28.

Rural Stormwater Retention Facility

On December 16 the King County Council opened a Public Hearing into a draft Development Agreement (DA) with YarrowBay to permit a 77-unit clustered housing development on 394 acres in the Rural Area immediately west of the City of Black Diamond. At the Public Hearing the Area Council provided Oral and Written Testimony specifically focussed on a proposed "Regional" Stormwater Facility to be sited in the Rural Area to primarily serve the adjacent urban Master-Planned Developments (MPDs) in Black Diamond (which would generate ~90% of the runoff according to both parties).

The King County Council will reopen its Public Hearing on the draft DA on January 13. In the intervening weeks since the December 16 Hearing, King County's Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (DPER) has been evaluating State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Public comments received in mid December.

DPER plans to release a Threshold Determination related to the draft DA soon. A Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) or Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS) would be the basis for further testimony during the King County Council's January 13 Hearing. The Area Council agreed to again testify to the problems of siting a "Regional" Stormwater Facility in the Rural Area primarily to serve an urban area. The Area Council agrees with King County policy which states that urban-serving and urban-driven facilities should be located inside the Urban Growth Area.

Area Council Officer Elections

At its first monthly meeting of the year the Area Council conducts internal elections for its Officers. For 2014 the Area Council re-elected Steve Hiester as Chair, Peter Rimbos as Corresponding Secretary, and Tara Mahoney as Treasurer. Les Dawson was elected as new Vice-Chair. Rob Morris was elected as new Recording Secretary. All officers immediately assumed their duties for the new year.

Next Area Council Meeting

Meetings are held the first Monday of each month. A Public Comment period at the beginning of each meeting provides citizens an opportunity to voice issues of concern to Area Council members and government officials in attendance. Next monthly meeting: Monday, February 4, from

7:00 - 9:30 PM at the Fire Station at 231st St & SR-169.

