



Department of Local Services—Roads Update by Peter Rimbos, GMVUAC Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, March 2, the Area Council held its regular monthly meeting. Our special guest speaker was King County Department of Local Services (DLS) Director, John Taylor, who provided an update on the Roads Division projects and priorities.

DLS Roads Division Update

King County DLS Director, John Taylor, provided a status of road issues and funding. In general, a combination of revenue sources is used to fund and maintain our County road infrastructure. King County primarily relies on property taxes with over one-third of the revenues dedicated to County roads.

The County also, to a lesser extent, relies on gas taxes with the state motor vehicle fuel tax shared among cities, counties, and the State. However, this “*sharing*” does not account for the proportional amount of road usage by the various users.

Approximately half of the users on major County arterials originate from the cities, not the unincorporated areas. Consequently, by not focussing on *who* uses *what*, unincorporated area residents pay disproportionately to maintain and improve County roads, as well as tend to *subsidize* (through their property taxes) city drivers who use County roads that serve as connectors between cities (e.g., Issaquah-Hobart Rd. between Maple Valley and Issaquah).

King County has many cities in which many workers commute to other cities via Rural Area roads accelerating the road deterioration. Director Taylor indicated how difficult it is keep up with road maintenance and that it is estimated that such maintenance will all but disappear in 5 years due to these funding irregularities. Disproportionate use of such roads by those who pay little to support/maintain/build them, causes safety problems for the Rural Area residents who depend on the roads for their primary access/connection to work, schools, and commercial areas.

The County is trying to attract businesses to its urban unincorporated areas to build a better tax base, but that is a long-term solution path and also is insufficient to solve the overall problem.

Later this year the County will present a Levy to unincorporated area voters to generate ~\$160M over 5 years to begin to address the funding shortfalls.

King County Comprehensive Plan

The Area Council discussed and approved Comments on two proposed Docket Items (D.I.s) to modify the King County Comprehensive Plan: (1) *D.I. Request #2*—Fletcher to change zoning from Neighborhood Business (NB) to Industrial (I) at 18407 Renton-Maple Valley Rd [SR-169], just south of the Cedar Grove Rd intersection and (2) *D.I. Request #5*—Rainier Christian School (just NW of Lk Desire in an unincorporated Urban area) to extend sewer lines from the Urban Growth Area into the Rural Area to serve a projected ~41 new home sites.

These Comments will be submitted to the King County KCCP Manager, Ivan Miller, for review and action. More information can be found on the Area Council’s web site: www.gmvuac.org, simply click on “*Correspondence*” drop-down menu and select “*Letters.*”

Countywide Planning Policies

The King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) is updating King County's 2012 (as amended in 2016) Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) by the end of this year. The CPPs provide a countywide vision and serve as a framework for each City to update its own comprehensive plan, which must be consistent with the overall vision for the future of King County.

Each of the Area Council's Major Subject-Matter Committees: *Environment*, *Growth Management*, and *Transportation* will review the existing CPPs for their respective areas of expertise, in preparation for the GMPC's release of a Public Review Draft of the 2020 CPPs on September 30. Final adoption is scheduled for December of this year.

The GMPC's exercise also will include updating city *Growth Targets*, which will have impacts on transportation infrastructure throughout the County.

For more information, please see: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/executive/performance-strategy-budget/regional-planning/CPPs.aspx>

Upcoming Area Council Meetings

The next Area Council regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, April 6.

All regular monthly meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, from 7 - 9:30 PM, at the Maple Valley Fire Station (SE corner of SE 231st St & SR-169 intersection directly across from the Police Precinct). All are welcome with each meeting beginning with an open Public Comment period.

Area Council Membership

Your Area Council serves as an all-volunteer, locally recognized advisory body to King County on behalf of all rural unincorporated area residents living in the Tahoma School District. The Area Council's *Vision Statement* is:

"Our community's Rural Character will be supported by facilitating strong local ties and communication between the public, organizations, and government; promoting locally owned businesses and supporting quality education; protecting the environment, and maintaining landowners' rights and responsibilities; promoting controlled and well-planned growth with appropriate infrastructure; ensuring proper representation for rural interests and needs; and supporting the health and safety and the privacy of our vibrant community."

The twelve-seat Area Council currently has open seats. If you have an interest in joining please send an e-mail to: info@gmvuac.org or attend a monthly meeting and express your interest.

Citizens who are not members of the Area Council or do not live within the Tahoma School District are eligible to join and serve on any of the Area Council's three major subject-matter Committees: Environment, Growth Management, or Transportation, as well as the Ad Hoc Economic Committee. We welcome your participation. For information on each of these committees please see the Area Council's web site: www.gmvuac.org and use the drop-down menu under *Committees*. Thank you.