



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**December 11, 2012**

**Motion 13801**

**Proposed No. 2012-0452.2**

**Sponsors Hague, Phillips, Ferguson,  
Patterson, Dunn and von Reichbauer**

1           A MOTION establishing the Eastside Rail Corridor as a  
2           corridor of regional significance and declaring the  
3           criticality of the regional ownership partnership by  
4           establishing the Eastside Rail Corridor regional advisory  
5           council to immediately initiate a regional planning process.

6           WHEREAS, the Eastside Rail Corridor ("the ERC") is a forty-two-mile corridor  
7           that extends from Renton to Snohomish and from Woodinville to Redmond, and

8           WHEREAS, the ERC creates a direct contiguous land use and transportation  
9           connection through the communities of Renton, Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond,  
10          Woodinville, Snohomish county and King County, and

11          WHEREAS, the first time acquisition of the ERC was studied was by the Puget  
12          Sound Regional Council, leading to the original vision of potential uses. In May 2007,  
13          the Puget Sound Regional Council completed a technical study of the ERC identifying  
14          desirable potential uses and examining their general impacts, the comparative costs of  
15          such potential uses and the legal or institutional issues associated with preserving or  
16          acquiring the ERC. Based on this study, the BNSF corridor advisory committee  
17          recommended, for the ERC portion south of Woodinville, that, among other uses, an  
18          interim regional multipurpose trail be developed, and

19 WHEREAS, the region, through the Puget Sound Regional Council has  
20 established land use and transportation plans to guide the integrated and managed growth  
21 of the Puget Sound region, and

22 WHEREAS, the ERC is centrally located within the Puget Sound planning area,  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, these regional planning efforts have established, through Vision  
25 2040, regional goals for the economy, housing, transportation, public services,  
26 development patterns and the environment, and

27 WHEREAS, the ERC provides an opportunity to connect jobs, housing and  
28 transportation across multiple communities, and

29 WHEREAS, King County has established policy emphasizing the critical  
30 importance of transportation dual-usage, transit and nonmotorized trail usage, to link the  
31 centers and cities of the Puget Sound region, and

32 WHEREAS, development of the ERC has the potential to meet future public  
33 transportation needs by providing regional livability connections to South, East and North  
34 King County through a series of biking, walking and hiking trails, and

35 WHEREAS, the ERC could also provide for a regional trail system that could  
36 extend into Snohomish and Skagit counties to the north, and Pierce county to the south,  
37 and

38 WHEREAS, the ERC is a regional utility corridor for the transmission of natural  
39 gas, electricity (and related facilities), water and wastewater, and

40 WHEREAS, King County has experience with other joint use corridors such as  
41 the Interurban Trail and the Tolt Corridor, and

42 WHEREAS, the ERC provides a trans-generational opportunity to support  
43 walkable, compact and connected communities through publically owned lands, and

44 WHEREAS, through dual-usage and trail sponsorship, King County has an  
45 opportunity to enhance and protect the environment through reduced greenhouse gas  
46 emissions and to improve public health through increased opportunities to bike and walk,  
47 and

48 WHEREAS, the ERC provides a regional opportunity to connect historically  
49 disadvantaged and geographically disparate communities and centers, and

50 WHEREAS, the ERC is now under public ownership, and

51 WHEREAS, King County is the interim trail sponsor, and

52 WHEREAS, King County is entering into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with  
53 the Port of Seattle for 15.6 miles of fee ownership in the southern portion of the ERC  
54 south of Woodinville and 3.6 miles of trail easement within the northern portion of the  
55 ERC north of Woodinville, contingent upon future financing, a Reciprocal Coordination  
56 and Cooperation Covenant Agreement with Puget Sound Energy, an Intergovernmental  
57 Land Transfer Agreement with the city of Redmond and a prospective Intergovernmental  
58 Land Transfer Agreement with the city of Kirkland, and

59 WHEREAS, Puget Sound Energy has purchased a utilities easement the length of  
60 the ERC, and

61 WHEREAS, Sound Transit has purchased 1.1 miles of fee ownership in Bellevue  
62 and a transit easement over the southern portion of the ERC, and

63 WHEREAS, the cities of Redmond and Kirkland have purchased in fee those  
64 portions of the ERC within their respective municipal boundaries, and

65 WHEREAS, Puget Sound Energy, Sound Transit, Redmond and King County  
66 were all a party to the November 5, 2009, Memorandum of Understanding, wherein dual  
67 usage was a guiding principle, and

68 WHEREAS, the city of Kirkland is in agreement with that guiding principle for  
69 the use of its property rights, and

70 WHEREAS, King County's dual usage policy identifies the critical importance of  
71 a comprehensive regional planning process, and

72 WHEREAS, this motion advances the goals of the county's Strategic Plan by  
73 encouraging vibrant, prosperous and sustainable communities and safeguarding and  
74 enhancing King County's natural resources environment, and

75 WHEREAS this motion further advances the goals of the county's Equity and  
76 Social Justice Initiative by supporting ongoing public access for all people to the ERC as  
77 a safe, clean and quality outdoor space and facility that will serve the interests of the  
78 citizens of the region, and

79 WHEREAS this legislation advances the adopted King County Comprehensive  
80 Plan by furthering economic development, housing, natural resources, utilities and  
81 transportation modalities, and

82 WHEREAS, the eastside of King County is the second largest economic engine in  
83 the state, and

84 WHEREAS, the most affordable housing is located in southern King County, and

85 WHEREAS, the economic recession has caused all levels of government to look  
86 toward creative financial partnerships, and

87 WHEREAS, the taxpayers of King County are the same taxpayers who support  
88 Sound Transit, and

89 WHEREAS, interim use of the ERC is subject to freight reactivation, and

90 WHEREAS, the high capacity transportation, regional trail and county  
91 wastewater facilities that are to be located in the ERC will be of significant public benefit  
92 and constitute essential public facilities. As essential public facilities, these  
93 transportation, trail and wastewater uses are subject to the requirements of the Growth  
94 Management Act, and

95 WHEREAS, the ERC will be a dual use transportation corridor, which is a  
96 corridor that will provide for the co-location of motorized public transportation facilities  
97 and regional trail facilities;

98 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

99 A. Due to its regional role in connecting and supporting vibrant, livable and  
100 healthy communities for all, the ERC is hereby designated a corridor of regional  
101 significance.

102 B. The high capacity transportation, regional trail and county wastewater  
103 facilities that are to be located in the ERC will be of significant public benefit and  
104 constitute essential public facilities. As essential public facilities, these transportation,  
105 trail and wastewater uses are subject to the requirements of the Growth Management Act.

106 C. The Eastside Rail Corridor regional advisory council ("ERCRAC") is hereby  
107 established as a collaborative group to carry out a regional planning process to  
108 "coordinate planning and development activities to the extent possible to ensure effective  
109 use of the southern portion of the ERC and the Redmond Spur" as previously discussed in

110 that certain November 5, 2009, memorandum of understanding. The ERCRAC's regional  
111 planning process and guiding principles shall work to implement the regional dual use  
112 objectives consistent with any existing easements, covenants and other property interests  
113 of record that are applicable to the ERC.

114 D. The executive shall transmit by January 16, 2013, for council confirmation by  
115 motion, advisory council membership with the following executive-level representation:

- 116 1. Three King County councilmembers;
- 117 2. King County executive or the executive's designee;
- 118 3. One representative from the city of Redmond;
- 119 4. One representative from the city of Kirkland;
- 120 5. One representative from Puget Sound Energy; and
- 121 6. One representative from Sound Transit.

122 E. The King County executive and county councilmember representing the  
123 majority of the cities directly impacted by ERC development shall serve as co-chairs and  
124 shall convene the first meeting of the advisory council in February 2013.

125 F. A technical staff team shall be established by the advisory council to support  
126 the work of the advisory council.

127 G. A third-party facilitator who is not an employee of King County shall be hired  
128 by the county to lead the work of the advisory council based on the guidance of the co-  
129 chairs of the advisory council and the support of the interagency, technical-staff working  
130 group.

131 H. The goal of the advisory council is to oversee the partner planning process  
132 including implementing and coordinating the rail, trail and utility uses in the ERC,

133 coordinating with affected cities around local planning and development with the  
134 regional uses and overseeing the work of a technical staff work group.

135 I. Consistent with that goal, the advisory council will develop a charter and work  
136 plan with policy options identified for discussion by March 29, 2013. As part of their due  
137 diligence, the advisory council should review and consider previous studies of the ERC.  
138 The advisory council shall address both near-term and long-term recommendations  
139 including any needed changes to the county's countywide planning policies and present  
140 them to the King County executive by July 31, 2013.

141 J. The advisory council shall reach out to a broad-spectrum of stakeholders,  
142 including but not limited to representatives of regional partners, local governments in the  
143 ERC, community organizations, business owners, adjacent landowners, rail/trail  
144 advocates, public health agencies and citizens who are interested in the ERC's  
145 development.

146 K. The King County executive shall transmit these recommendations by motion  
147 to the council by August 30, 2013.

148

Motion 13801 was introduced on 11/26/2012 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 12/10/2012, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,  
Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn and Mr. McDermott

No: 0

Excused: 1 - Mr. Ferguson

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None