



King County
Metropolitan King County Council
Committee of the Whole

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	9	Date:	10 Dec 2012
Proposed No.:	2012-0474	Prepared by:	Nick Wagner

SUMMARY

Proposed Motion 2012-0474 (pp. 3-4 of these materials) would adopt King County's 2013 (FY 2014) Federal Agenda (pp. 5-6) and Federal Policy Interests (pp. 7-10).

BACKGROUND

As described in Proposed Motion 2012-0474, King County is dependent upon a strong fiscal partnership with the federal government for transportation, public health, homeland security, salmon recovery, flood control, affordable housing, and other important needs. Toward that end, the Council and the Executive have worked together through their government relations staff in preparation for bringing their positions on federal issues affecting King County to the attention of the First Session of the 113th Congress. A key part of that process is the development of the attached 2013 (FY 2014) Federal Agenda and Federal Policy Interests, though the Council and the Executive will continue to follow congressional developments that might require revision of those goals.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Proposed Motion 2012-0474 would adopt King County's 2013 (FY 2014) Federal Agenda (pp. 5-6) and Federal Policy Interests (pp. 7-10).

AMENDMENTS

It is possible that amendments to the Federal Agenda or the Federal Policy Interests, or both, will be proposed in committee.

INVITED

1. Jason King, Director of Government Relations,
Metropolitan King County Council
2. Genesee Adkins, Director of Government Relations,
Intergovernmental Relations, King County Executive Office

ATTACHMENTS

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KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

December 4, 2012

Motion

Proposed No. 2012-0474.1

Sponsors Gossett

1 A MOTION adopting the King County 2013 (FY 2014)

2 Federal Agenda and the King County 2013 (FY 2014)

3 Federal Policy Interests.

4 WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive have
5 worked together through their government relations staff and desire to bring their
6 positions on federal issues affecting King County to the attention of the First Session of
7 the 113th Congress, and

8 WHEREAS, King County desires to work cooperatively with other local
9 governments and other organizations to achieve its 2013 (FY 2014) federal legislative
10 goals, and

11 WHEREAS, King County is dependent on a strong fiscal partnership with the
12 federal government for transportation, public health, homeland security, salmon recovery,
13 flood control, affordable housing and other important needs, and

14 WHEREAS, the King County council and the King County executive will
15 continue to review congressional developments for possible revisions of King County's
16 2013 (FY 2014) federal legislative goals;

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

18 The King County council hereby adopts the attached King County 2013 (FY
19 2014) Federal Agenda and King County 2013 (FY 2014) Federal Policy Interests as King
20 County's highest priorities for federal action in the 2013 (FY 2014) congressional cycle.
21

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: A. King County Washington 2013 - FY 2014 - Federal Agenda, B. King County
Washington 2013 Federal Policy Interests



KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON 2013 (FY 2014) FEDERAL AGENDA

King County's top federal priorities represent a commitment to meeting the most critical needs of its residents despite ongoing challenges. These priorities protect essential functions and infrastructure, continue our many areas of innovation, and make King County a thriving hub of economic development and job creation. King County's Strategic Plan is the foundation for these federal goals and objectives.

Justice and Safety: Support safe communities and accessible justice systems for all.

Youth: King County seeks resources to protect and support our children through opportunities like Juvenile Connections & Mentoring and the LEAP Program, child support enforcement, and Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants, which provide evidence-based services and community policing to improve the accountability of youthful offenders through collaborative partnerships with other agencies.

Domestic Violence: King County supports the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and its programs, which provide important services for survivors of violence and abuse, give law enforcement, prosecutors and judges the tools they need to hold offenders accountable, and offer investments in the prevention of abuse and the promotion of safe and healthy communities.

Health and Human Potential: Provide equitable opportunities for all individuals to realize their full potential.

Health: King County supports continued implementation of the Affordable Care Act, as well as preservation of the Public Health & Prevention Fund and the Health Centers Program, which ensures access to care for the safety net population. We seek to protect funding for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention that affords activities related to chronic diseases like tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV/AIDS. King County supports a Farm Bill that protects against hunger by ensuring adequate resources for federal nutrition assistance programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program, whose recipients use benefits to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets.

Preparedness: As a nationally recognized leader in public health preparedness, King County supports continued robust funding of preparedness programs so that communities may prepare for and respond to emergencies and perform critical tasks such as distributing medical countermeasures, disease surveillance, addressing the needs of at-risk individuals, conducting drills, and organizing collaboration among local health departments, health care facilities, schools, businesses, and other emergency response partners.

Housing: King County supports services critical to maintaining housing stability and preventing homelessness, including Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

Economic Growth and Built Environment: Encourage a growing and diverse King County economy and vibrant, thriving and sustainable communities.

Transportation: Robust, multimodal mobility through both directly distributed and competitive federal funds is critical to the economic growth and community livability of the County. The County continues its commitment to and support for funding to preserve aging roadway infrastructure, maintaining existing transit mobility while growing bus rapid transit systems, and developing essential non-motorized transportation connections, such as a pedestrian overcrossing connecting the transit-oriented development at the Northgate Transit Center –and Sound Transit's Link Light Rail– to North Seattle Community College.



KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON 2013 (FY 2014) FEDERAL AGENDA

Airport & Aerospace: King County International Airport—also known as Boeing Field—is one of the busiest primary non-hub airports in the nation, and is also home to the Boeing Company’s 737 aircraft flight-test program and other Boeing operations. The airport is due for a number of key facility improvements, including replacement of the air traffic control tower damaged in the Nisqually Earthquake, a new Air Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) station, and resources for additional adjacent airport property expansion. For all these reasons and more, King County strongly supports maintaining the FAA’s Airport Improvement Program. As the Federal Aviation Administration moves forward with the Greener Skies Initiative, we request that the FAA pursue a smart, robust public education process.

Chittenden Locks: The Hiram M. Chittenden Locks maintain the water level of the fresh water Lake Washington and Lake Union at 20 to 22 feet above sea level. The locks are in critical need of replacement of the 100-year-old gate valves as well as a study of a permanent solution to prevent adult salmon from becoming caught in the diffuser well of the fish ladder. The locks are vital to commerce in the region, as they are used heavily by recreational and commercial vessels and are a major tourist attraction.

Environmental Sustainability: Safeguard and enhance King County’s natural resources and environment.

Clean Water & Puget Sound: We support responsible and innovative stewardship of our watersheds and other natural resources throughout the County. We support resources for salmon recovery efforts like the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Program and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program. We also support protection of and new resources for Puget Sound, features of the Puget Sound Recovery Act.

A Balanced Approach to Environmental Infrastructure: King County continues to seek a holistic approach to floodplain mapping and to levee vegetation and maintenance. We support consideration of a holistic, watershed approach to water quality management and regulation as envisioned in the Environmental Protection Agency’s Integrated Planning framework. In collaboration with our partners, we support an approach to the Lower Duwamish Cleanup that reduces human health risks as quickly as possible while minimizing construction impacts on local neighborhoods, human health, and economic development.



KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON 2013 (FY 2014) FEDERAL POLICY INTERESTS

Conservation, Natural Resources, and Habitat Protection & Restoration

We seek federal funding support to implement habitat protection and restoration projects in approved WRIA-based salmon recovery plans. We support efforts to direct a portion of major transportation project mitigation funds to high-priority salmon recovery projects. King County supports federal funding for USFWS to continue investments in research, habitat restoration, and hatchery supplementation for Lake Sammamish Kokanee salmon, as well as recovery of ESA-listed species that consider multiple species and their habitats. In order to maintain the good working order of the Ballard Locks, a critical passage for juvenile salmon and an essential navigation link between Puget Sound to Lake Washington, we support investments in improvements to the Locks. King County supports funding for natural resources like the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Secure Rural Schools Act. We also support ecosystem restoration projects, including the work underway on the Duwamish-Green riverway.

Climate Change and Energy

King County supports federal assistance for local governments to become more energy efficient and to meet climate change goals including the EECBG Program and Qualified Energy Efficiency Bonds to retrofit public facilities for greater energy efficiency, partner with the private sector and local universities to develop “green” technologies and provide green jobs training, and provide assistance to housing authorities to make energy efficiency investments. So that we may replace our transit fleet with hybrid electric buses, develop electric-car charging infrastructure, and purchase alternative fuel vanpool fleet vehicles, we support federal transportation programs that provide for those investments. We support mechanisms to help utilities and communities address the impacts of climate change, as well as federal funding for development of tools and strategies for evaluating and adapting to climate impacts on public health, emergency response, and natural resources. The County supports federal grant programs, including the Sustainable Housing and Communities Grant Program that promote integration of transportation, housing, health, low impact development, and climate mitigation planning and projects.

Economic Development

We encourage federal efforts to partner with local governments and provide them with tools needed to build strong, diverse, and sustainable economies.

We support regional economic growth through strategic public-private partnerships such as the Central Puget Sound Regional Economic Strategy and the King County Aerospace Alliance. We encourage federal support to help develop these and other economic strategies to retain existing businesses and strategically recruit new ones in key industrial clusters where the region has a competitive advantage. King County supports public works grants, such as those through the Economic Development Administration, to support private-sector projects that will create basic jobs, leverage private investment, and encourage domestic and international exports.

King County supports the Port of Seattle, and believes that the County and the Port can work together to maintain the region’s appeal and competitiveness through collaboration and strategic investments. King County values export promotion programs that inform small to middle-size businesses of the economic benefits of international exporting, reduce the fear, myths, and uncertainty surrounding exporting, and encourage firms to actively seek international business.

We support continued funding of Workforce Investment Act programs for youth, low-income adults, and dislocated workers to provide them the tools they need to enter or reenter the workforce in emerging sectors with career opportunities. We support greater funding and support for curricula at the secondary and postsecondary education levels that emphasize training and careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Emergency Management & Flood Hazard Reduction

We support fundamental emergency management tools, including improvements in enhanced 911 services. King County supports integrated approaches to major river flood hazard reduction, including development of regional standards for levee maintenance that both protect public safety and meet state and federal requirements for protecting listed species and maintaining levees. We seek federal funding for major flood hazard mitigation projects, including those that meet multiple objectives of reducing future flood damages, protecting habitat, and providing open space benefits. We support efforts to repair the Howard Hanson Dam so that it may regain its historical conservation pool levels and reduce flood risks in the Green River Valley. We seek funding support and technical assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue updating federal Flood Insurance Rate Maps used to identify flood hazards and regulate development.

Health Care and Support

King County develops and implements creative and effective strategies and programs that prevent the leading causes of poor health, ensure access to appropriate and quality physical and behavioral health services, and promote individual health and interventions to reduce health disparities. Supporting and expanding this work requires stable funding at the federal level for our public health, mental health and chemical dependency prevention and support infrastructure. Critical components of our system of regional public health include: preparedness funding, CDC disease control and prevention, and Maternal Child Health Block Grants.

Addressing health disparities in our community requires investments in resources and initiatives that will give all our residents access to affordable health care, including prescription drug coverage, alcohol and substance abuse treatment, and comprehensive mental health services.

The County will work with Congress and administration officials to support implementation of national health care reform legislation and related legislative and administrative policies that meet the above goals. We particularly support the Public Health Prevention Fund and Community Transformation Grants. We also support federal regulatory and legislative initiatives that will protect the health of our communities and provide environmental safeguards to ensure the safety of our residents. We support steps that will strengthen healthy eating and active living standards that will prevent obesity and reduce use of tobacco and tobacco by-products.

Homelessness & Housing

King County is the administrative lead for the Countywide Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. The plan's success is built on existing strong collaborations between local, state and federal governments, and community nonprofit providers. We support maintaining and expanding funding and regulatory initiatives for affordable, appropriate housing at the federal level for homeless and low income residents of King County, including the Workforce Investment Act and funding for YouthBuild.

King County supports federal initiatives that provide services critical to maintaining housing stability and prevent homelessness, including Community Development Block Grants, McKinney Homeless Assistance Grants, HOME Investments, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing, the National Housing Trust Fund, and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit & Tax-Exempt Bond Housing Program. Complementing the housing strategy is the provision of tools to reduce homelessness for families, individuals and youth through early support and intervention, including consideration of ways to prevent discharging youth and adults directly into homelessness from federal institutions. We also seek opportunities to connect county investments supporting veterans with the federal government's initiative to end homelessness for veterans.

Human Services

King County supports funding for human services programs that help all children and youth grow and prosper socially and academically, offer paths to reduce or prevent involvement in the criminal justice system, crisis mental health and emergency medical systems, and provide a safety net of services and partnerships to support our most vulnerable residents. We further support initiatives that offer opportunities

for independence, self-sufficiency and mobility for all residents, including those with developmental and other disabilities.

Land Use and Built Environment

King County favors policies that support the integration of land use, transportation and public health through urban and suburban development standards; siting of hazardous land uses; transportation infrastructure; transit planning, and building construction requirements. We also support greater access to locally generated and fresh food, and the improved use of electronic food stamps to purchase these products from local farmers and producers. The Farm Bill and many of its components—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Farmers Market Nutrition Programs (FMNP)—help promote healthier communities.

Law & Criminal Justice

We support a fair and accessible justice system that keeps people safe in their homes and communities. We support the use of court fees that appropriately balance the need for revenue with the need to eliminate barriers to court access. We support legislation that would allow for the interception of federal tax refunds to pay for past-due state judicial debts, as well as Child Support Enforcement funds. We are committed to ending domestic violence and sexual assault for our residents, and support resources like those through the STOP Violence Against Women program. We continue to be concerned about human trafficking and will work to combat its practice. We encourage the continued use of successful crime prevention and gang intervention programs, like School Resource Officers and Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants. We also support collaborative partnerships between communities and law enforcement and tools that help residents and local officers exchange information. We also support reasonable implementation of the Voting Rights Act that allows local governments to comply without undue financial or administrative burden.

Stormwater/Water Quality/Puget Sound Partnership

We support more holistic implementation of the Clean Water Act, including evaluation of and prioritization of actions at a watershed and Puget Sound scale. We seek federal funding to support watershed- and Puget Sound-scale analysis and identification of the most cost-effective approaches for retrofitting stormwater facilities. We support federal aid for wide-scale retrofits of stormwater facilities and septic systems, similar to past federal investments to develop wastewater treatment plants.

In collaboration with our partners, we support an approach to the Lower Duwamish Cleanup that would enable high-priority clean-up actions to proceed and reduce human health risks as quickly as possible while minimizing construction impacts to local residents and businesses. Clean-up work should be subject to rigorous monitoring and adaptive management.

We support funding and implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda, including funding for grants administered by EPA and establishment of the Puget Sound Restoration as a recurring line-item in the federal budget. We support federal appropriations for the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration and Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Program.

Transportation

Robust, multimodal mobility is critical to economic growth and community livability in King County and the nation. We support a surface transportation reauthorization bill that supports these goals through both directly distributed and competitive federal funds. With nearly 1,700 miles of paved roads, 51 miles of unpaved roads, and 184 bridges under county management, we have a diverse and complex mix of infrastructure needs to support our many communities. The County continues its commitment to and support for funding to preserve and maintain the aging roadway infrastructure connecting rural, suburban and urban communities.

We support resources to acquire remaining parcels adjacent to the County's airport property, as well as funding for passenger ferry service capital investments. We support preservation and expansion of trip

reduction programs and innovation in carpool and vanpool programs, including the Commute LESS Act. We support continued improvement in enforcement of laws that make it a crime to have an unsecured load.

As the operator of one of the largest bus systems in the United States, King County strongly supports federal efforts to fund public transportation improvements nationwide, including maintaining existing transit mobility while growing both bus and light-rail rapid transit systems. We support innovative opportunities for transit-oriented development that serves a number of complementary goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, focusing density into urban areas, and providing for a range of affordability levels for county residents. We support legislation to reduce greenhouse gas levels caused by transportation, including legislation that gives transit vehicles priority in the design and operation of federal roads. We support programs to promote hybrid and electric buses, electric charging stations, and alternative fuels for vehicles.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

We support development “cradle-to-cradle” product education, stewardship, recycling, and take-back programs for products for which improper disposal is likely to result in hazardous waste or water quality contamination, including pharmaceuticals and medicines, computers and other electronics, carpet, and fluorescent lighting. We support resources to reduce and regulate toxics in the environment, as well as the ability to exercise local authority over toxics in alignment with other laws and standards.

November 30, 2012

The Honorable Larry Gossett
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Gossett:

Attached for your consideration and approval is a motion establishing the 2013 (FY 2014) Federal Agenda of King County. The proposed 2013 (FY 2014) Federal Policy Interests document is also attached. As in previous years, it may be necessary to further amend these at a later date to incorporate major issues and concerns that arise during the congressional session.

This year was marked by contentious conversations in Washington, DC over federal spending and a bitterly divided electorate confronting a presidential election. The passage of the Budget Control Act in 2011 set in motion a series of automatic reductions in spending beginning in 2013, now known as the “fiscal cliff.” The current continuing resolution agreement preserves federal funding through March of 2013, but with so many fiscal elements in play—sequestration cuts, expiration of the Bush administration tax cuts, and an upcoming need to raise the debt ceiling among them—the picture is very uncertain. Federal resources remain critical to a number of the County’s key programs, from law enforcement to housing assistance and from veterans’ services to salmon recovery.

Despite the growing tension over federal budgets, King County continues to have a strong voice in the federal policy arena. From aerospace and economic development to health care reform and transportation innovation, we continue to market the resources and attributes that make King County a logical choice for new programs and investment.

The 2013 (FY 2014) Federal Agenda is structured around the Strategic Plan to provide consistency throughout the vision and reform efforts ongoing at King County. The basic tenets of the Strategic Plan are: Justice and Safety: Support safe communities and accessible justice systems for all; Health and Human Potential: Provide equitable opportunities for all individuals to realize their full potential; Economic Growth and Built Environment: Encourage a growing and diverse King County economy and vibrant, thriving and sustainable communities; and Environmental Sustainability: Safeguard and enhance King County’s natural resources and environment.

Collaboration will again play a key role in succeeding with our priorities for 2013. We will work with our intergovernmental partners, including the Governor, the Puget Sound Regional Council, and the cities of King County to aggressively advocate for federal funding for the challenges our region faces. This includes continued federal support for transportation, public health, homeland security, salmon recovery, flood control, affordable housing and other important needs.

We will continue the strong collaborative relationship we have with the County Council and separately elected officials to address the priorities outlined in the attached documents. We also look forward to continuing our alliances at the national level with the National Association of Counties, the American Public Transportation Association and other partner organizations. Furthermore, we look forward to continuing to support the efforts of Washington² Advocates and Sixkiller Consulting, who work jointly on our behalf in Washington, DC.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this document, please feel free to contact Genesee Adkins, Director of Government Relations, at 206-263-9628, or genesee.adkins@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Michael Woywod, Chief of Staff

Jason King, Director of Government Relations, Communications
and External Affairs

Carmela Ennis, Government Relations Associate

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Fred Jarrett, Deputy County Executive, King County Executive Office (KCEO)

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget

Sung Yang, Chief of Staff, KCEO

Frank Abe, Communications Director, KCEO

Joe Woods, Deputy Chief of Staff, KCEO

Genesee Adkins, Director of Government Relations, KCEO

Diane Carlson, Director of Regional Initiatives, KCEO