



CITY OF KIRKLAND

Department of Public Works

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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Julie Underwood, Director of Public Works
Joel Pfundt, Transportation Manager
Kimberly Scrivner, Transportation Planner

Date: June 30, 2021

Subject: EASTRAIL REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH EASTRAIL PARTNERS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council receive an update about a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council and the Eastrail Partners, and to discuss potential language amendments, if any. No formal action is requested at this time.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Eastrail: The [Eastrail](#) is the 42-mile multiuse corridor that will connect the Eastside between Renton and Snohomish County, as well as a spur to Redmond, along a former BNSF railway segment. Currently, [13 miles of the Eastrail are open](#), including 5.75 miles within Kirkland known as the [Cross Kirkland Corridor](#).

Eastrail Regional Advisory Council (RAC): The [RAC](#) was formed in 2012, with the original members being those entities that had property rights or ownership interests along the corridor: Sound Transit, the cities of Kirkland and Redmond, Puget Sound Energy, and King County. In 2017, the RAC was expanded to include representatives from jurisdictions through which the Eastrail passes (the cities of Bellevue and Renton), new Eastrail owners (the City of Woodinville and Snohomish County), and the Eastside Greenway Alliance. These entities work together to maintain a collaborative, regional planning process for Eastrail. The owners' goal is to achieve connectivity and multiple uses, maximizing public benefit and enjoyment throughout the corridor both directly and indirectly.

Deputy Mayor Arnold is the Vice-Chair of the RAC.

Eastrail Partners (EP): The [EP](#) was formed in 2019 as a non-profit advocacy group focused on community engagement for the Eastrail and seeking public/private partnerships to advance further development of the corridor. The [Eastrail Partners Board of Directors](#) represent expertise in advocacy, land use, design, development, communications, and community on Lake Washington's Eastside.

The formation of the EP was originally funded by contributions from non-profits, the private sector, and RAC members. At the [October 2019 Council meeting](#), the Kirkland City Council approved up to \$10,000 as the City's funding contribution toward the establishment of the Eastrail Partners. This partnership then was facilitated by a service/funding agreement signed by Kirkland's Public Works Director. The total \$100,000 raised by this public/ private partnership was intended to fund the Eastrail Partners for one-year.

2021 DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN RAC MEMBERS AND EASTRAIL PARTNERS:

EP, since beginning operations in early 2020, has been an integral and effective contributor to the advancement of the work to develop the corridor. This includes successful delivery of outcomes identified in the 2020 service agreement between the EP and RAC members. The EP will continue to focus its resources and efforts on high priority actions contributing to the development of the corridor and seek to ensure ongoing coordination with RAC members.

The proposed, non-binding MOU (see Attachment A) seeks to establish mutual understanding regarding the ongoing collaboration between the RAC members and Eastrail Partners. There is no additional funding contribution being asked of RAC members at this time and the suggested term of the MOU will be two years from the approval of all parties.

RAC members, including Deputy Mayor Arnold, will be discussing this draft MOU at the [July 19th, 2021 RAC](#) meeting. Deputy Mayor Arnold will convey any input from the City Council to the RAC on July 19th. The goal at this RAC meeting is to seek consensus on the language in the MOU. Once consensus on language has been reached, approval and execution of the MOU will be sought at a subsequent time.

Attachment A: Draft Memorandum of Understanding

FINAL REVIEW DRAFT 06/1/21

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Regarding the Ongoing Partnership between the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council
and Eastrail Partners

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is made by and among KING COUNTY, SNOHOMISH COUNTY, THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, THE CITY OF KIRKLAND, THE CITY OF REDMOND, THE CITY OF RENTON, THE CITY OF WOODINVILLE, A CENTRAL PUGET SOUND REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (SOUND TRANSIT), PUGET SOUND ENERGY (PSE), THE EASTSIDE GREENWAY ALLIANCE (EGA), and EASTRAIL PARTNERS (collectively, the “Parties”). This MOU sets forth the Parties’ mutual understanding regarding the ongoing collaboration between the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council and Eastrail Partners.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, King County, Snohomish County, the City of Bellevue, the City of Kirkland, the City of Redmond, the City of Renton, the City of Woodinville, a Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit), Puget Sound Energy (PSE), and the Eastside Greenway Alliance are the members of the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council (RAC); and

WHEREAS, Eastrail Partners (EP) was formed at the recommendation of the Eastside Rail Corridor Funding Commission and with the support/endorsement of by agreement of the RAC members to play a unique and valuable role in the development of the Eastrail corridor by fostering, increasing, and sustaining private sector, governmental, and community support for actions to implement the RAC vision for the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the RAC members and EP are working closely together to develop a 42-mile multiple-use corridor in east King and Snohomish counties, with connected and coincident segments commonly referred to as the Eastrail, Centennial Trail South, Cross Kirkland Corridor, and Redmond Central Connector and with its northern terminus located in the City of Snohomish, WA and its southern termini located in the Cities of Renton, WA and Redmond, WA, respectively; and

WHEREAS, EP, since beginning operations in early 2020, has been an integral and effective contributor to the advancement of the work to develop the corridor, including the successful delivery of outcomes identified in the 2020 service agreement between the RAC and EP and cost shared by RAC members; and

WHEREAS, EP will continue to focus its resources and efforts on high priority actions contributing to the development of the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the RAC and EP seek to ensure ongoing close alignment and coordination in their respective actions contributing to the development of the corridor.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties have reached the following understanding:

Section 1: Ongoing Collaboration

EP will continue to help shape the agenda of and participate in the quarterly RAC meetings and the regular meetings of the RAC Principals Staff Team, as means to ensure ongoing alignment of efforts

supporting high priorities. Additional contact between RAC member or staff and EP board members and staff is strongly encouraged as needed to support effective collaboration.

Section 2: Priorities for Action between EP and the RAC

The subject partnership between EP and the RAC's will primarily focus on the work areas noted below.

Additional areas of focus can be added as capacity allows to address new opportunities to advance the development of the Eastrail corridor.

- EP will continue to play a unifying role as primary point of contact on coordinated approaches for state and federal governmental engagement and funding opportunities, as a compliment to and in association with legislative agenda actions by individual RAC member entities.
- The RAC will partner with EP to bring the RAC's support, and/or that of specific RAC members, to advocacy opportunities.
- EP will build and maintain relationships with Eastside-focused businesses, including possible facilitation of capital project delivery.
- EP, the RAC, and the Principals Staff Team will partner to continue developing and implementing a communications framework for shared work to ensure:
 - good internal communications between staff, RAC members and EP, including communicating proactively with EP on project funding and status, and
 - good external communications on project status, trail closures and openings, and funding.
- EP, the RAC, and the Principals Staff Team will collaborate on the development, implementation, and/or support of community-activation events.
- By mutual agreement, the parties can explore possible future EP service agreements.

Section 3: Term of this MOU

This MOU will be in effect for two years from the approval of the parties, as determined by the last date of signature among the Parties. This agreement can be amended by the mutual agreement of the Parties. This MOU can be renewed by the mutual agreement of the Parties.

[Signatures]