



# King County

1200 King County  
Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Meeting Agenda

### Government Accountability and Oversight Committee

**Councilmembers:**

*Pete von Reichbauer, Chair;  
Steffanie Fain, Vice Chair;  
Claudia Balducci, Reagan Dunn*

*Lead Staff: Gene Paul (206-477-9378)*

*Committee Clerk: Blake Wells (206-263-1617)*

9:30 AM

Friday, April 24, 2026

Hybrid Meeting

#### SPECIAL MEETING

**Hybrid Meetings:** Attend the King County Council committee meetings in person in Council Chambers (Room 1001), 516 3rd Avenue in Seattle, or through remote access. Details on how to attend and/or to provide comment remotely are listed below.

Pursuant to K.C.C. 1.24.035 A. and F., this meeting is also noticed as a meeting of the Metropolitan King County Council, whose agenda is limited to the committee business. In this meeting only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply and not those applicable to full council meetings.

**HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Government Accountability and Oversight Committee values community input and looks forward to hearing from you on agenda items.

There are three ways to provide public comment:

1. In person: You may attend the meeting and provide comment in the Council Chambers.
2. By email: You may comment in writing on current agenda items by submitting your email comments to [kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov). If your email is received by 8:30 a.m. on the day of the meeting, your email comments will be distributed to the committee members and appropriate staff prior to the meeting.
3. Remote attendance at the meeting by phone or computer (see "Connecting to the Webinar" below).

You may provide oral comment on current agenda items during the meeting's public comment period.

	<p>Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355). TTY Number - TTY 711.</p> <p>Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.</p>	
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You have the right to language access services at no cost to you. To request these services, please contact Language Access Coordinator, Tera Chea at 206 477 9259 or email [tera.chea2@kingcounty.gov](mailto:tera.chea2@kingcounty.gov) by 8:30 a.m. three business days prior to the meeting.

**CONNECTING TO THE WEBINAR:**

Webinar ID: 871 9559 4726

By computer using the Zoom application at <https://zoom.us/join> and the webinar ID above.

Via phone by calling 1 253 215 8782 and using the webinar ID above.

**HOW TO WATCH/LISTEN TO THE MEETING REMOTELY:** There are several ways to watch or listen in to the meeting:

- 1) Stream online via this link: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/kctv>, or input the link web address into your web browser.
- 2) Watch King County TV on Comcast Channel 22 and 322(HD) and Astound Broadband Channels 22 and 711(HD)
- 3) Listen to the meeting by telephone – See “Connecting to the Webinar” above.

To help us manage the meeting, if you do not wish to be called upon for public comment please use the Livestream or King County TV options listed above, if possible, to watch or listen to the meeting.

1. **Call to Order**

To show a PDF of the written materials for an agenda item, click on the agenda item below.

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Approval of Minutes** p. 4

*March 10, 2026 meeting minutes*

4. **Public Comment**





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## Briefings

5. [Briefing No. 2026-B0055](#) p. 7  
Auditor's Office and Ombuds Office report on Fraud Risk Management and Response  
*Kymer Waltmunson, King County Auditor*  
*Jeremy Bell, Director, King County Office of the Ombuds*
  
6. [Briefing No. 2026-B0056](#) p. 31  
KCIA Briefing  
*John Parrott, Director, King County International Airport*
  
7. [Briefing No. 2026-B0057](#) p. 37  
Audit Report: Medical Examiner's Office: Continuous Improvement Can Strengthen Control Environment  
*Kymer Waltmunson, King County Auditor*  
*Elise Garvey, Principal Auditor, King County Auditor's Office*  
*Grant Dailey, Senior Auditor, King County Auditor's Office*

## Adjournment

	<p>Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355). TTY Number - TTY 711. Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.</p>	
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## Meeting Minutes Government Accountability and Oversight Committee

**Councilmembers:**

*Pete von Reichbauer, Chair;  
Steffanie Fain, Vice Chair;  
Claudia Balducci, Reagan Dunn*

*Lead Staff: Gene Paul (206-477-9378)  
Committee Clerk: Blake Wells (206-263-1617)*

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9:30 AM

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Hybrid Meeting

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### DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

*Chair von Reichbauer called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.*

2. **Roll Call**

**Present:** 4 - von Reichbauer, Dunn, Fain and Balducci

3. **Approval of Minutes**

*Vice Chair Fain moved approval of the February 18, 2026 meeting minutes. There being no objections, the minutes were approved.*

4. **Public Comment**

*The following people provided public comment:*

*Alex Tsimerman  
Gerri Hill  
Kevin Altheimer  
Devin Stubblefield  
La Tasha Jackson-Rodriguez  
Lee Garrett  
Dr. Nikum Pon*

## Discussion and Possible Action

5. [Proposed Motion No. 2026-0021](#)

A MOTION related to the rules of procedure and mediation of the King County hearing examiner; and rescinding Motion 14876 and Motion 14876, Attachment A.

*Erin Auzins, Council staff, and Devon Shannon, King County Hearing Examiner, briefed the committee.*

*Vice Chair Fain moved approval of Amendment 1. There being no objections, Amendment 1 was adopted.*

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Fain that this motion be recommended do pass substitute consent. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - von Reichbauer, Dunn, Fain and Balducci

6. [Proposed Motion No. 2026-0019](#)

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Trip Switzer, who resides in council district one, to the King County Airport Roundtable, as an at-large representative.

*Gene Paul, Council staff, briefed the committee. Trip Switzer, appointee, answered questions from the members.*

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Fain that this motion be recommended do pass consent. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - von Reichbauer, Dunn, Fain and Balducci

## Briefing

7. [Briefing No. 2026-B0024](#)

Office of the Ombuds: Roles and Responsibilities

*Jeremy Bell, Director, King County Ombuds Office, briefed the committee via PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members.*

**This matter was presented.**

## Other Business

*There was no other business to come before the committee.*

## Adjournment

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 AM.*

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk's Signature

## KING COUNTY AUDITOR & OMBUDS

# Building Toward Effective Fraud Risk Management and Response

KyMBER Waltmunson and Jeremy Bell

April 24, 2026 | GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

GAO Meeting Materials

7 of 37

April 24, 2026

# Ordinance 19978

247 1. Analysis on the feasibility of, and anticipated timeline, recommended  
248 structure and powers, and associated costs for, adding an inspector general position or  
249 positions within the auditor's office, or within a department outside of the department of  
250 community and human services, who would be responsible for auditing, investigating,  
251 and receiving public concerns and complaints of suspected contracting agency fraud,  
252 waste, or abuse of county-administered moneys;

253 2. Analysis of the feasibility of, and anticipated timeline and associated costs  
254 for, creating a qui tam program relating to department of community and human services-  
255 administered moneys that is administered within or external to the auditor's office; and

256 3. Analysis of the feasibility of, and anticipated timeline and associated costs  
257 for, creating an independent contract review process for department of community and  
258 human services-administered contracts that are administered within or external to the  
259 auditor's office.

...adding an inspector general position or position within the auditor's office...

...creating a qui tam program... that is administered within or external to the auditor's office

...creating an independent contract review process... within or external to the auditor's office

# Presentation flow

1. Gaps in fraud management and response
2. Feasibility
3. Joint recommendations

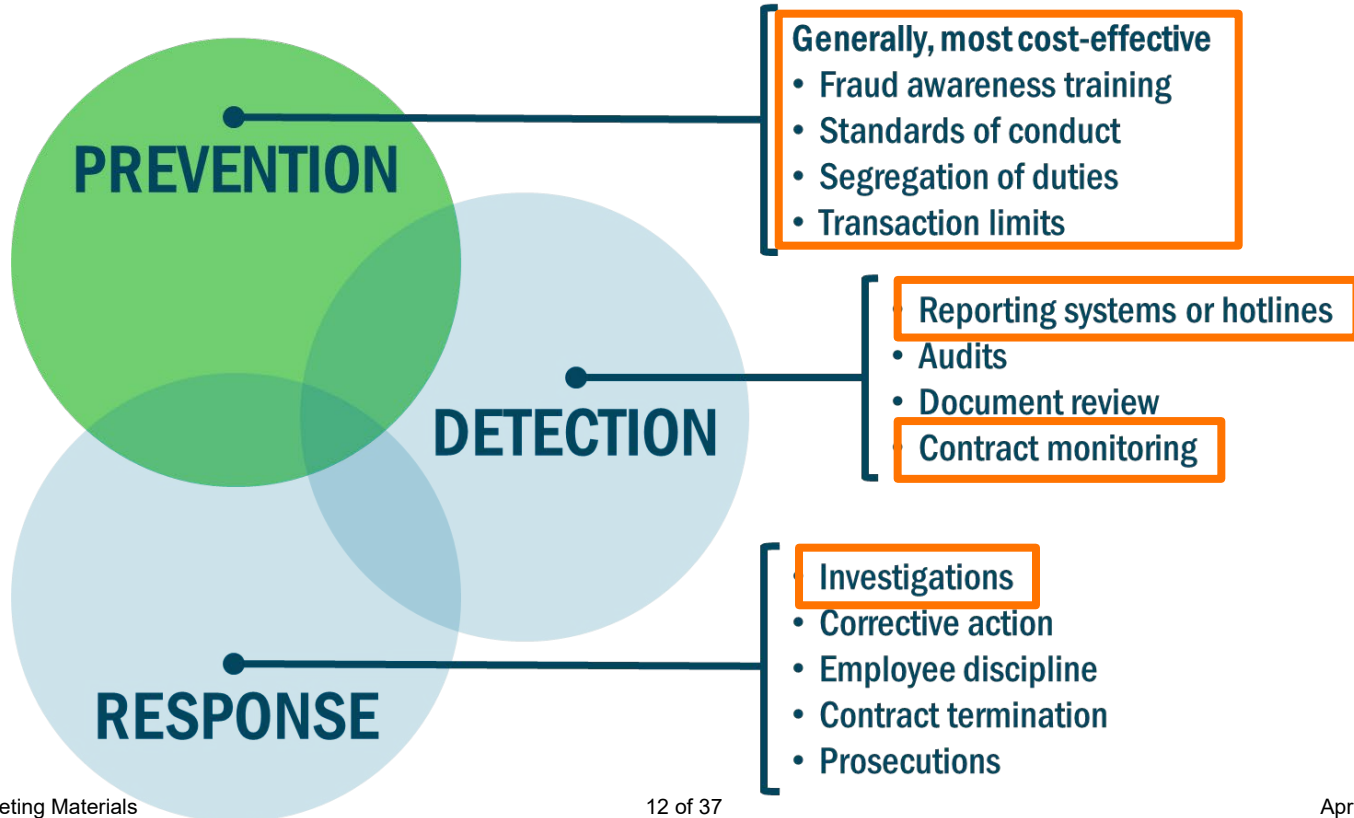
# Good news

- There are quick, efficient ways to reduce risks
- Investments may be offset by reduced losses

# Six gaps in fraud risk management

1. Lack of internal fraud investigation capacity
2. Complex policy environment
3. Gaps in independent contract oversight
4. No clear reporting path
5. Limited fraud and ethics awareness
6. Limited information and analytics

# Act to prevent, detect, and respond



# Hotlines detect and prevent fraud

- Tips are the most common detection method  
Tips (43 percent) vs internal audit (14 percent)
- Hotlines increase tips
- Hotlines prevent fraud
- King County could receive 100-400 reports/year

# Effective hotlines are easy to use

## CENTRALIZED

- Have fewer entry points that are easy to find



GAO Meeting Materials

## ACCESSIBLE

- Offer different formats (e.g., online forms)
- Be open to the public, contractors, staff
- Publicize regularly



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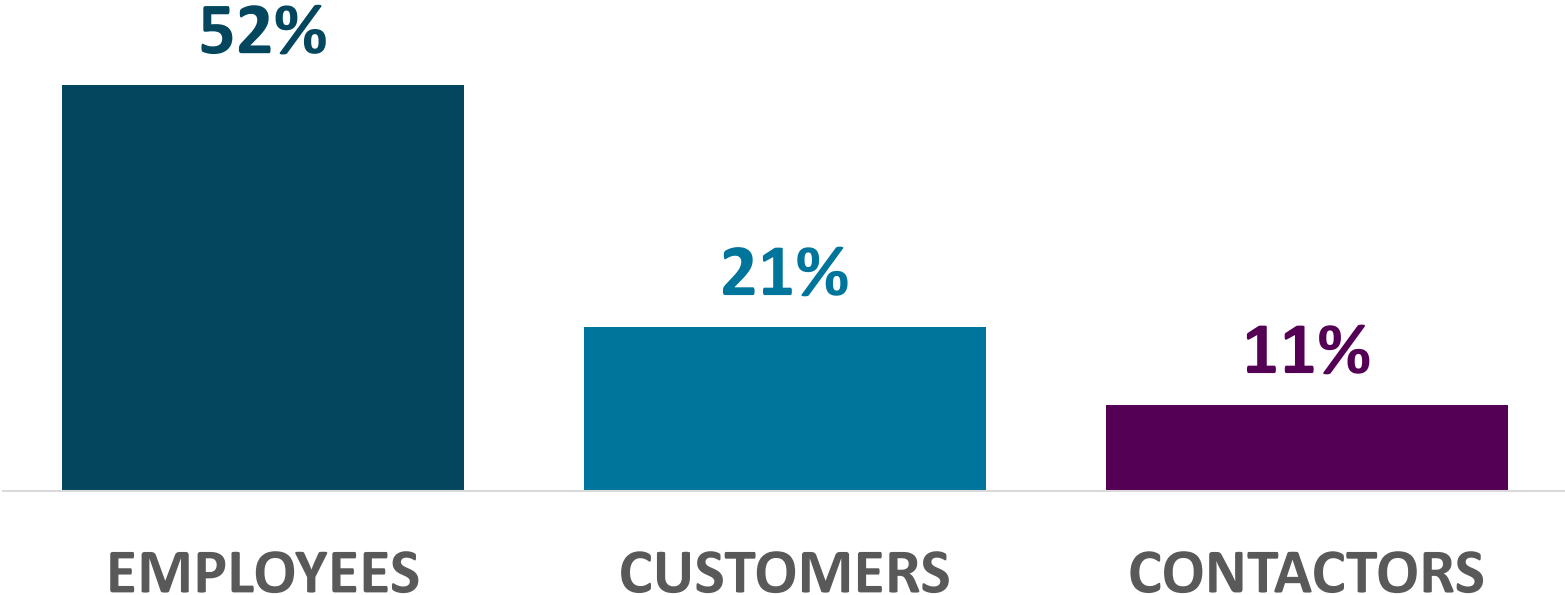
## ANONYMOUS

- Allow reports from unnamed sources



April 24, 2026

# Employees and third parties make reports



Association of Certified Fraud Examiners' *Occupational Fraud*  
2024: A Report to the Nations

# Fraud investigation capacity is lacking

- Various agencies have investigative authority
- No dedicated, trained fraud investigators
- Leading practice is for investigators to be independent and qualified

# Gaps in independent contract monitoring

- County does not require inspection clauses in contracts
- No independent contract monitoring function
- Missing flexible oversight tool

# Feasibility conclusions



Inspector  
General  
Positions



Independent  
contract  
monitoring



Qui tam

# What is an Inspector General?



## AUDIT

### PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS)

### CHARACTERISTICS

- System- or agency-level review
- Sufficient and appropriate evidence for conclusions
- Often more time intensive



## INVESTIGATION

### PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- Quality Standards for Investigations

### CHARACTERISTICS

- Case- or person-level review
- Evidence of civil, criminal, or administrative violations
- Fact finding and corrective action



## INSPECTION

### PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- Quality Standards for Inspections and Evaluations, or
- GAGAS

### CHARACTERISTICS

- Contract-, program-, operation-level review
- Recommendations and findings may or may not be issued publicly

Source: Offices of King County Auditor and Ombuds analysis of City and County of San Francisco, Office of Controller, Proposition C: Inspector General, July 17, 2025, and Quality Standards for Federal Offices of Inspector General



# What is needed to complete IG-type coverage?

	AUDITOR	OMBUDS
Organizationally independent	✓	✓
Direct access to people, information	✓	✓
Subpoena power	with Council motion	with written complaint
Scope includes contractors	✓	under ethics code
Administer oaths for testimony	X	✓
Complaint reporting system	X	✓
Audit function	✓	X
General investigation function	X	✓
Fraud investigation function	X	X
Inspection function	informal	informal



# Auditor and fraud investigation

- Duty to report potential fraud
- Access to all county-funded entities
- Expands scope with potential fraud
- Lacks fraud investigation authority in code

This led to delays in addressing issues identified during the DCHS audit.

# Org Chart: Austin Auditor's Office



# What is an inspection program?

- Narrow unit of analysis compared to audit
- Flexible processes and reporting



# What is qui tam?

*People who sue in name of the government and themselves*

- US False Claims Act
  - Requests for payment based on false information
  - Get up to 30 percent of funds recovered
- Not recommended by PAO: liability and cost
- Engage and incentivize reporting

# Joint recommendations

Create three new functions in the Auditor's Office:

1. Fraud Investigation
2. Hotline
3. Contract Inspection

Schedule a program review for 2030

# Joint recommendation: Hotline and Fraud

## AUDITOR'S OFFICE

## STAFFING

Fraud investigators for hotline and investigation

2 FTE

Administrative support

1 FTE

## OMBUDS OFFICE

## STAFFING

Ombuds staff to respond to increased hotline reports

2 FTE

~\$880,000

April 24, 2026

# Joint recommendation: Contract Monitoring

## AUDITOR'S OFFICE

## STAFFING

Inspectors for reviewing contracts

2 FTE

~\$375,000

# Thank you!

Study is available online at  
[KingCounty.gov/Auditor](https://www.kingcounty.gov/Auditor)

# Reporting volumes of various agencies

AGENCY	FTE	VOLUME
<b>King County</b>		
Office of Risk Management Services	7 administrative and investigation	1,748
Ombuds	1 administrative	804
<b>Peer Jurisdictions</b>		
Austin City Auditor's Office (TX)	6 administrative and investigation	404
Miami-Dade County Office of Inspector General (FL)	4 analysts	431
Multnomah County Auditor (OR)	1 administrative and investigation	100

# Other County investigative staff

AGENCY	SCOPE	INVESTIGATE FRAUD?
Department of Human Resources	Employee misconduct, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harassment or discrimination</li> <li>• Inaccurate or fraudulent timekeeping</li> <li>• Theft of county property</li> </ul>	Yes, or may contract out
Office of Law Enforcement Oversight	Policies in King County Sheriff's Office, General Orders Manual	Yes, or may contract out
Office of Risk Management Services	Tort claims	No, refer to Ombuds or another County agency
Ombuds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethics violations</li> <li>• Administrative acts</li> <li>• Lobbyist disclosure</li> <li>• Improper governmental action</li> <li>• Whistleblower retaliation</li> </ul>	Yes, or may contract out or refer to another County agency
Public Health - Seattle & King County	Healthcare compliance	No, contract out

# King County International Airport Taxiway B Relocation Project

John Parrott, King County International Airport Director

## The Compliance Gap

**Current Standard:** The FAA requires a **400-foot separation** for Airplane Design Group (ADG) IV to ensure safe simultaneous operations.

**Existing Condition:** Runway 14R-32L and Taxiway B currently range from **325 to 350 feet**.

**Total Deficiency:** The separation is currently short by **50 to 75 feet**.

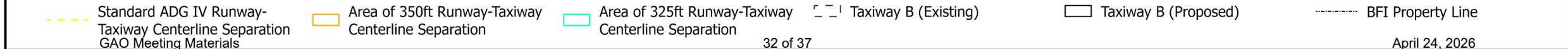
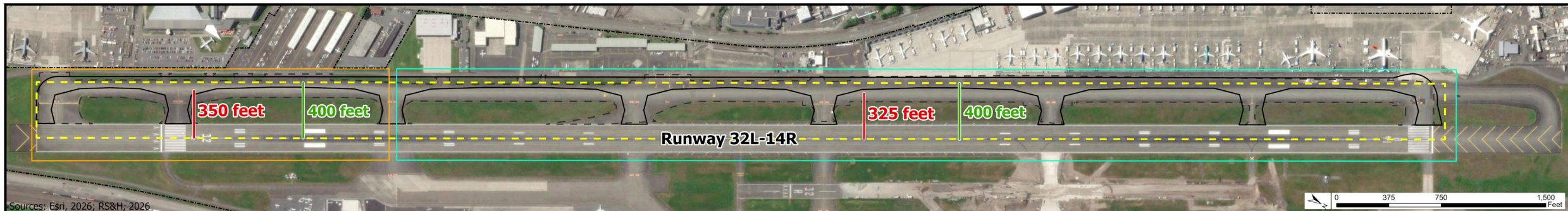
## The Safety Objective

Achieving the 400-foot standard **minimizes the risk of incidents or incursions** when multiple ADG IV aircraft are operating.

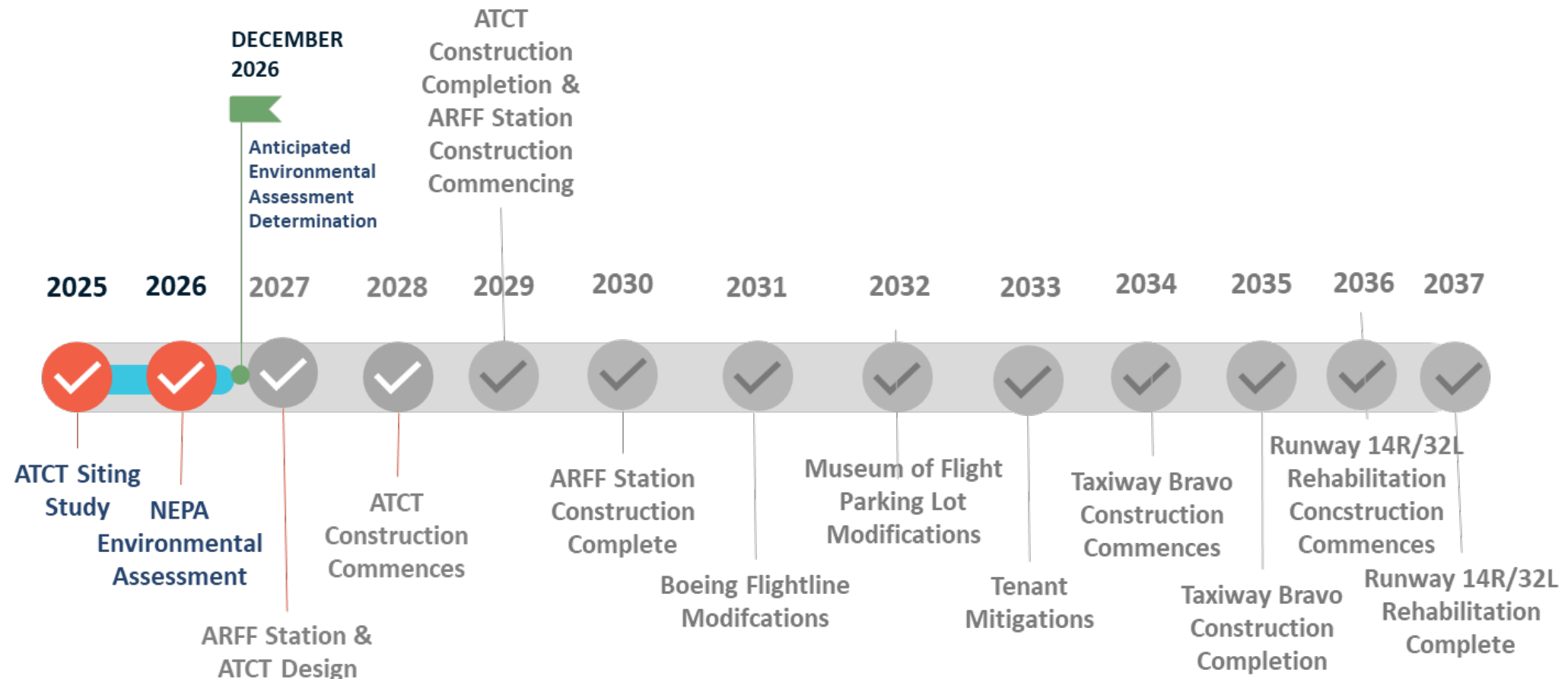
## Proposed Action

**Relocation:** Shift Taxiway B and its Taxiway Object Free Area (TOFA) **west by 50 to 75 feet**.

**Infrastructure:** Existing landside infrastructure must also be relocated to accommodate the shift.



# Project Timeframe



# Project Financials

 FAA has committed ~500 million in funding

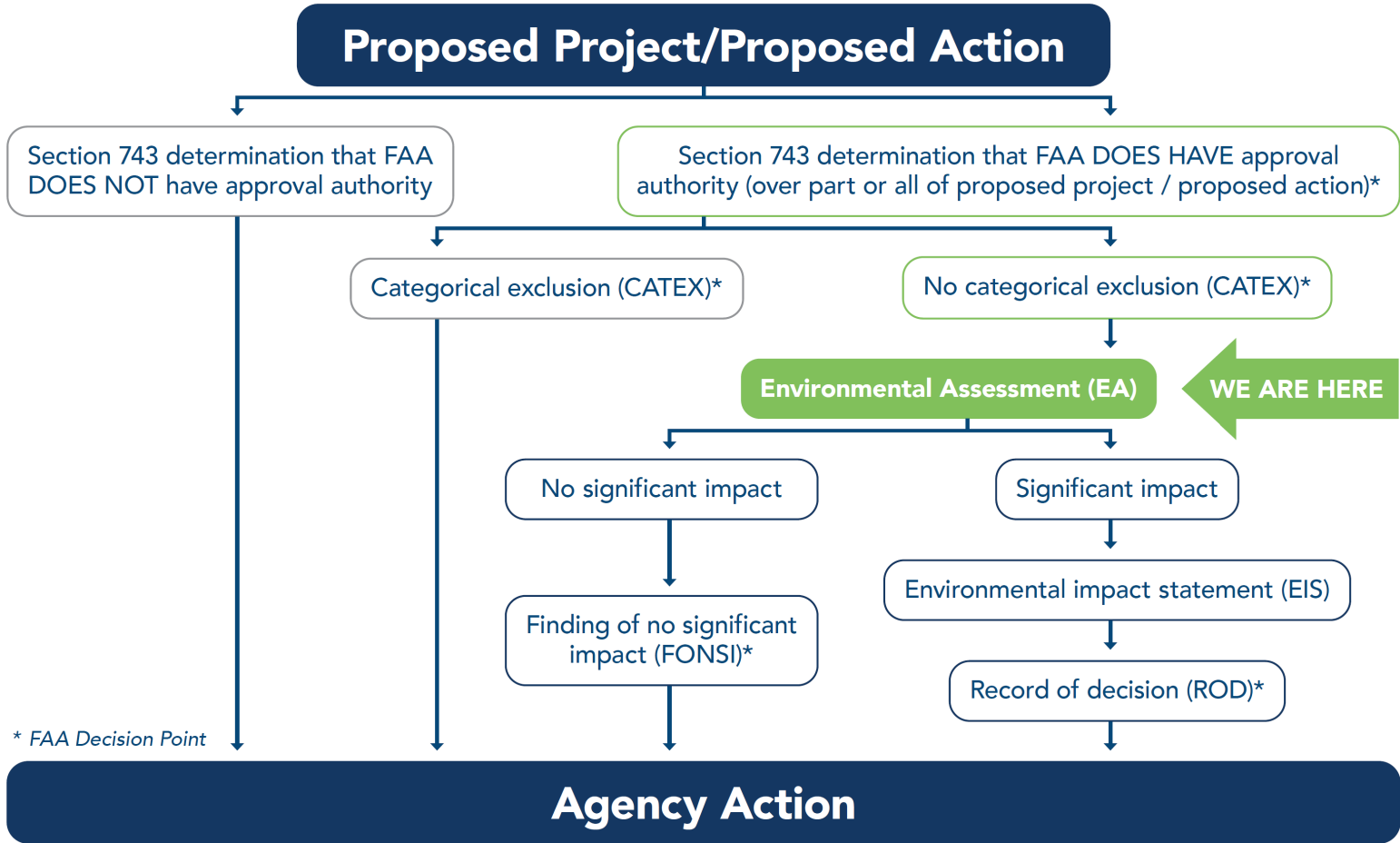
 KCIA will fund the 10% match through:

Revenues generated at the airport

- Landing/parking fees
- Ground leases
- Fuel Flowage fees

Bond Funding

# The NEPA Process



# Questions?



**King County**

# **Government Accountability and Oversight Committee**

**April 24, 2026**

**Agenda Item No. 7  
Briefing No. 2026-B0057**

**Audit Report: Medical Examiner's Office: Continuous  
Improvement Can Strengthen Control Environment**

**Any materials for this item will be available at or  
after the meeting.**