

Comments and Issues Raised in Task Force Discussion and Deliberation

September 25, 2012/Meeting #8

(Bold face items received multiple comments)

1. **Strong support for trails as a recreation facility for not only cycling enthusiasts, but also families and children; also an important alternative to traditional commuting means.**
2. **Strong support for open space acquisitions—once developed, the habitat is gone. With low land prices, there is great opportunity now.**
3. **Be bold.**
4. Defer to council and executive on the final levy size—identifying closer to the election, and based on future polling, what will be able to pass.
5. **The 6-year levy mechanism does not seem sustainable. We encourage the County to find an alternative to funding parks through repeated 6-year levies.**
6. There needs to be a General Fund component of support for the core parks function.
7. **Does it make sense to buy more land now, given the recession and the challenge of funding maintenance for the division's current assets?**
8. Concern that a large levy will generate push back from cities – they may be concerned that a big county parks levy will reduce city voter support for subsequent city parks levies. It is a matter of balancing these competing interests.
9. Complete projects underway now, rather than starting new projects. The Lake to Sound trail is underway now.
10. Parks use increases when the economy slows down.
11. We should only fund what we can build in the next 6 years (so we could scale back the BNSF funding).

12. Use of parks facilities evolves, multiplies over time.
13. We should think of city and county parks as a system.
14. We must consider population growth.
15. **The levy has to be a truly regional package, benefitting the entire region.**
16. The levy we are proposing is both to maintain the current public investment in our system and make an additional investment in the future of our region.
17. Investments in South King County are needed to address Equity and Social Justice issues.
18. City residents will use these County parks.
19. Our region has a legacy of voting for bold initiatives that improve our quality of life.