

Quality of Life 2021–23 Budget Requests

Bike Lane Connections for Lower-Income Residents in Cascade/Benson Hill Neighborhood: Renton will seek \$1 million to improve a 1.2-mile section of SE 168th St. with sidewalk and bike-lane improvements and safety crossings connecting to several schools and the future Family First Community Center.

Time-Sensitive, Safety-Driven, Environmentally-Beneficial Repairs to the North Coulon Park Walkway: The City is seeking \$1.3 million for critical repairs to concrete decking on the North Coulon walkway. Pilings underneath the decking must be replaced or wrapped and floats underneath picnic pads are badly water-logged.

Building Communities Fund Allocation (HealthPoint) for Family First Community Center: A \$3.029 million allocation has been recommended for HealthPoint, the key organization which will manage the health clinic and other programming within the new Family First Community Center.

Racial Justice and Equity

Seeking Outside Funding and Tools: Renton will actively seek out funding to increase human services, provide dollars for programs that give opportunities to people of color, and address early crises in affordable housing.

Transportation Infrastructure

2021 Transportation Revenue Package: Renton will actively support a 2021 Transportation Revenue Package being crafted by leadership of the Senate and House Transportation Committees. In particular, the City will promote funding and inclusion of the following:

PROJECTS

- » 405/N. 8th Direct-Access Ramp: Renton will urge that completion of this connector be part of any project list (Estimated: \$230 million).
- » I-405/SR 167 Area Transit Improvements: Grady Way overcrossing to save nearly two minutes' travel time for buses accessing the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) station coming to SR 167/Rainier Ave. N/Grady Way by 2024. (Estimated: \$55 million).
- Eastrail Extension Funds to extend the current Eastrail southern terminus from Milepost 5 off Lake Washington Blvd. to the South Coulon Park/Southport entrance. (Estimated: \$6 million).

LEGISLATION

Statutes governing how WSDOT sells off property to be part of a Transit-Oriented-Development (TOD) project: Renton will team with City of Kirkland on WSDOT-supported legislation, providing the agency with more flexibility in how it sells off areas of state property within future TOD projects.

DIRECT DISTRIBUTION, ENHANCED FUNDING FOR GRANT PROGRAMS, LOCAL OPTIONS

» Key Components of any Transportation Package for Local Governments: Renton will work to ensure 2021 revenue packages include a direct distribution of new gas tax to cities and counties; enhanced funding for missioncritical grant programs; local options for roadway needs.

Fiscal Matters — Revenue Relief and Flexibility, Protecting Existing Revenues

Revenue Relief: With a \$16.9 million revenue shortfall anticipated for 2021 due to COVID-19, the City asks that state lawmakers look at structural ways to provide revenue relief to local governments. However, Renton has concerns with a statewide payroll tax penalizing businesses which reward highly-trained workers with high compensation levels.

Protect Existing Revenues, including "State-Shared" Revenues: Renton urges lawmakers, in addressing a projected four-year, \$3.5 billion shortfall, to 'do no harm' and refrain from cuts to local governments that would result in a transferring of negative impacts from the state level to locals.

Fiscal Flexibility, including changes to 'lien' laws: Renton will strongly support a 'fiscal flexibility' bill being led by AWC and WSAC enabling local governments to have more flexibility in the use of revenue streams during the COVID crisis.

Public Safety, Including Policing Reforms

Re-imagining policing and local law enforcement reforms: Renton will strongly support many reforms anticipated on de-certification, use-of-force investigations, duty to intervene, and enhanced funding for training and mental health. Renton will also work with area lawmakers on the use of mental health professionals in tandem with police.

Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) Training Slots:

Renton will strongly support legislative efforts to enhance—or at the very least maintain—funding for BLEA training of newlyhired law enforcement officers.



CITY OF RENTON 2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA Issues to Support/Oppose or Track/Monitor

Budget and Fiscal Matters

B&O Tax Authority: Renton will **oppose** efforts to undercut local authority for cities that impose a B&O tax.

Marijuana Revenue Distributions: The Legislature should honor previous agreements to take local marijuana excise tax distributions from \$30 million to \$40 million a biennium. Renton will **support** any 2021 effort along those lines.

Criminal Justice/Public Safety/Fire/Courts

Drug and Property Seizure and Forfeiture Laws: Renton will join the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), AWC, and others in **opposing** efforts to weaken these laws.

Interpreter Funding: Renton is experiencing sharp cost increases in hiring non-English-speaking interpreters required by law. The City will **support** efforts to add funds for interpreter programs.

Legislation disallowing local law enforcement from evaluating citations as a factor of an officer's job performance: Renton joins other agencies in ensuring the number of citations an officer writes not be a quota-driven way to evaluate performance. The City opposes legislation that would disallow it as an evaluation factor.

Traffic safety cameras: Renton will join others in **opposing** unnecessary limitations on use of traffic safety cameras that reduce accidents and save lives.

Use of "Facial Recognition" Technology by Local Law Enforcement: Renton understands the necessity of rules and regulations for use of 'facial recognition' in our society. The City will track this issue in 2021.

Economic Development/Infrastructure/Housing (Affordable Housing)

Tax-Increment Financing: Renton will strongly **support** 2021 legislation to establish a robust "TIF" program in Washington State.

Affordable Housing/Homelessness: Renton will strongly support funding and tools for local communities to add affordable housing units and options for those in need.

Capital Budget Investment: Renton strongly **supports** maximizing the state's bonding capacity toward a two-year Capital Budget — particularly grant programs that distribute funds to local agencies on a competitive basis.

Multi-Family Tax Exemption Program: Renton **supports** legislation that extends the existing "MFTE" program in statute and is open to ways to add "affordability" provisions. to the law.

Public Works Assistance Account: Renton **supports** efforts to rebuild the PWAA and recapture funding previously diverted.

Environmental Sustainability

Laws on recycling, packaging, safe disposal: Renton will support legislation to enhance recycling and safe-packaging practices.

Land Use/Growth Management Act (GMA)

Achieving Density: Renton supports efforts to ensure local communities accept their share of population growth, but legislation must respect local discretion on how to accept density.

Local authority over how to add Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs): Renton is a major **proponent** of adding ADUs but **opposes** legislation that would mandate specific development standards and regulations. **Update timelines for GMA, Shoreline, Critical Area Plans:** Renton strongly **supports** legislation to put these updates on a 10-year cycle to synch with 10-year census updates.

Annexation Statutes: Renton will support 2021 legislation to streamline and update antiquated annexation laws.

Local Government in General

Cyber-Security – More Formal Arrangements in State-Local

Collaboration: Renton is spearheading work to **ensure** state and local agencies team up to fight cyber-security attacks.

Public Records Act (PRA): Renton **supports** new tools to address PRA requests, including better cost-recovery for the staff costs required under the Act.

E-Mail Records Retention: Renton **supports** changes to e-mail records retention to establish a records series for e-mail communication with a minimum retention of seven years.

Parks and Recreation/Arts and Culture

Local funding options for parks and recreation agencies: Renton will support legislation with new funding options for local parks agencies.

Personnel, Pensions, Human Resources Issues

Protect earned service credit for employees: Renton will strongly **support** a request to protect full earned service credit for public-agency employees who accepted furloughs, reduced hours, and "Shared Work" during the most trying months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unemployment Insurance Rates and Costs: Renton **urges** lawmakers to minimize rate increases that impose significant new costs on employers.

Pension rates: Renton asks lawmakers to **proceed with caution** in rolling back employer and employee pension rates.

Transportation

Puget Sound Ferry Service Study: Renton **supports** the PSRC study that identified two potentially viable Lake Washington ferry-service routes emanating from Southport.

"Sound Communities" proposals to provide more tools for Transit-Oriented-Development (TOD) projects: Renton will support Sound Communities as they seek funding for TOD projects that incorporate affordable housing.

Stormwater, WRIA 8 & 9 Packages, "K4C" Proposals

Stormwater Financial Assistance Program (SFAP): Renton strongly **supports** enhancing funding levels for the SFAP.

Ability to charge WSDOT for local stormwater impacts: If it is put forth, Renton would **support** legislation to roll back recent changes that severely limit the cost-recovery for local agencies whose stormwater systems are adversely impacted by state projects.

Capital Budget Request Packages Put Forth by Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) 8 and 9: Renton supports these.

Legislative Proposals to advance the work of the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration ("K4C"): Renton is prepared to support legislative proposals.



2021 CITY OF RENTON LEGISLATIVE AGENDA Efforts on Racial Justice & Equity and Where the City Stands on Policing Reforms

NOTE: The recent killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis shined a bright spotlight on issues of systemic racism and the cause of how our nation needs to move forward in working to achieve racial justice and equity. This issue is a particularly vital one for Renton, which saw its non-Caucasian population grow 262 percent between 2000 and 2018. Renton was ranked by WalletHub as the seventh most diverse city in the nation in 2020, is comprised of 55 percent communities of color, and has more than 100 different languages and dialects spoken in the Renton School District. The City does not have the market cornered on answers to all these issues and understands it has much more work to do—but at the same time, Renton has worked to be a compassionate community and to be diligent in its efforts to promote inclusion, recognize diversity, and make progress on equity.

Below is a listing of actions Renton is taking on inclusion, racial justice and equity, and in policing, along with a series of policing reform legislative items Renton is poised to support during the 2021 Session.

City of Renton in general including particular Human Resources and Police initiatives

- In 2012, Renton was one of the first cities to make inclusion part of its vision statement and Business Plan, which guides key priorities and objectives. The Business Plan was updated in 2020 to enhance its commitment to racial justice and equity.
- Renton utilized Mayor's Inclusion Task Force members, its equity and social justice consultant, and other key communities of color spokespersons to *dramatically increase its Census return rates, reaching a rate of 75.1 percent* in the 2020 Census Complete Count.
- In 2007, Renton created the Community Liaison group that later became an *Inclusion Task Force* with 30+ reps of various diverse communities across the City's largest population segments.
- Since 2016, Renton has used an equity lens to help guide its decision-making and policy work across all departments of the City.
- Renton adopted a Human Resources Inclusion Tactical Plan (2017) that is updated regularly, and since 2014 has conducted annual citywide training in structural and institutional racism and implicit bias.
- » Renton's Human Resources and Police Departments have *continually improved hiring practices and job recruitment* to attract a more diverse pool of candidates more reflective of the racial and ethnic makeup of the City, including strategies to diminish implicit bias in hiring decisions.



- Since 2014, Renton has used the *expertise of an equity and social justice consultant* (Benita Horn) to fulfill an annual scope of work based on the Renton Business Plan goal of inclusion.
- » Led by its Mayor, Police Chief, Deputy Public Affairs Administrator, and equity and social justice consultant, Renton has an ongoing dialogue and regular conversations with the Inclusion Task Force, Renton African American Pastors (RAAP), Latinos, Vietnamese, youth groups, and more.
- Renton sponsors a community-wide Multi-Cultural Festival each year to honor and celebrate the diversity that makes the City special. This year the 5th Annual celebration went virtual.
- » Only 0.1 percent of all the Renton Police Department's contacts result in a use of force. Additionally, the Department extensively trains its members in de-escalation tactics.
- » Renton has *banned chokeholds* unless an officer's life is in grave danger.
- » Renton used CARES Act funding to provide over \$1 million in rental and food assistance to those in need.

Current City initiatives underway

- » RETOOLING THE INCLUSION TASK FORCE: Mayor Armondo Pavone has directed that the Task Force be updated and re-invigorated and that a separate Commission be formed to have an even more active role in providing policy input to the City prior to decisionmaking and to help the City focus on equitable outcomes.
- » HB 1590/RENTAL ASSISTANCE: Renton is one of the King County cities that imposed the 1/10th of 1 cent sales tax for affordable housing authorized under the legislatively enacted House Bill 1590. A City staff team is recommending that some of the initial HB 1590 funding be used for early-action intervention to continue rental-assistance efforts that will be at crisis beginning January 1, 2021.
- » MENTAL HEALTH CO-RESPONDER AND TREATMENT: Renton is also part of a multi-South-King-County agency effort to secure up to \$350,000 for mental health field response teams that pair police and mental health professionals to assist those for whom incarceration and arrest is not the answer. The City also is likely to deploy early-action 1590 funding toward supplementing these mental health response and treatment efforts.
- » COMMUNITY COURT: Renton is in the homestretch of establishing a Community Court that will use non-incarceration strategies to help those facing mental health and drug-addiction challenges.
- » BLACK LIVES MATTER STREET MURAL: The Renton City Council passed an ordinance on November 23 directing that a Black Lives Matter street mural be designed and placed within the City in collaboration with the African-American community.
- » HUMAN SERVICES/HUMAN NEEDS FUNDING: As part of its direction to staff in the 2021-22 budget, Renton City Councilmembers asked the City return to at least a \$1 per capita level of human services/human needs funding in the City budget—and beyond that if possible and as the economy improves. Human Services/Human Needs funding had dipped to about 70 cents per capita in the wake of the Great Recession.
- » EMPLOYEE HIRING AND CONTRACTING: Mayor Pavone has directed Renton's HR Department and Administrative Services Division (ASD) to spearhead efforts to expedite an already aggressive plan for diversity in hiring and contracting.
- » RACIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: Mayor Pavone directed that a priority be added to Renton's Regional, State, and Federal legislative agendas to actively seek outside funding for increased humanservices funds, start-up funding for programs providing new opportunities to people of color, and crisis-response funding such as continued rental assistance.

#8CANTWAIT Take Action Right Now.











Data proves that together these eight policies can decrease police violence by 72%

Policing Reforms Legislation anticipated in 2021

Renton poised to support the following:

- » Use of force statewide data-base and statewide standards.
- » Independent investigations of use-of-force incidents by involving police (Renton would recommend such a panel include subject-matter-qualified representatives).
- » Strengthening of the de-certification process.
- » Increased training for police, particularly around de-escalation.
- » Increased funding for mental health, particularly co-responder type programs.
- » Increase funding for training slots at the Basic Law Enforcement Academy.
- » Revamping processes to better recognize decisions by police chiefs who fire employees over inappropriate use-of-force and overall conduct.
- » Banning the use of chokeholds.



RACIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY AND POLICING REFORMS



NOTE: Renton strongly supports enactment of a transportation investment package—or "new revenue package"—in the 2021 Session. The City believes the package should address key safety, congestion, and capacity needs; should be multi-modal in its approach; and should invest systematically so that both the state and local government needs are met. Renton's State Legislative Agenda briefly lists the projects, program, and funding priorities for a package; and this paper elaborates on key projects.

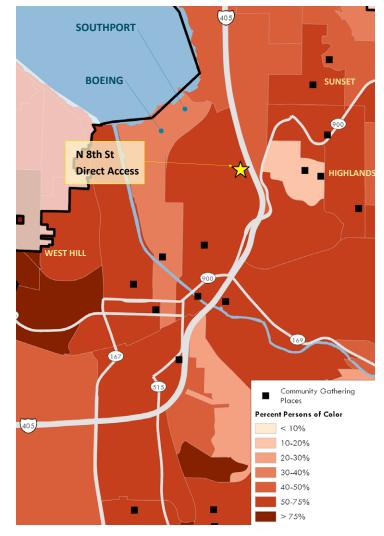
2021 TRANSPORTATION NEW REVENUE PACKAGE

N. 8th Direct Access Ramp (Est. \$230 Million)

THE IDEA OF A N. 8TH STREET DIRECT ACCESS RAMP is included in the Interstate 405 Master Plan and also was a part of the original "Sound Move" plan developed to guide Sound Transit's investments. The project, which would involve construction of a direct transit and HOV access ramp at 405 *(extending up from Houser Way)*, received an initial \$20 million allocation through the 405/167/509 tolling legislation enacted by the 2019 Legislature (ESSB 5825). *Renton urges that final design and construction of this project, estimated to cost about \$230 million, be included in any 2021 Transportation Package.*

The N. 8th project would offer direct access in the center of the Renton community via 8th and Garden Avenue North, connecting to key regional growth centers downtown and at The Landing/Southport and employment hubs such as Boeing, Paccar, and Southport. This area is also a key access point for lower-income and under-served communities near downtown Renton and area mapping shows that the population served is between 50 and 75 percent people of color. These communities have a heavy reliance on transit and transit access.

Absent completion of the N. 8th direct access ramp, the only transit/HOV access to the High Occupancy Toll lanes (HOT Lanes) being built through Renton would be at the far north (405/44th) and south ends (405/167) of the City. People who need to access the HOT lanes from neighborhoods such as Kennydale, Sunset, Highlands, and Maple Valley Highway would have to merge across multiple lanes of traffic.

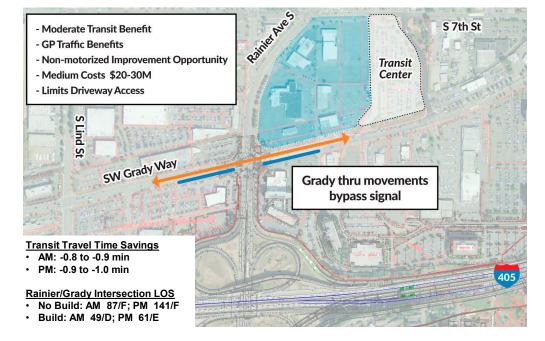


Grady Way Overcrossing off 405/167 to save nearly two (2) minutes of transit travel time (Est. \$55M)

ANOTHER KEY PROJECT for Renton as well as the larger region is in the immediate vicinity of the I-405/ SR 167 interchange, where Sound Transit is building a

peak travel time. *This project was a part of the 405 Master Plan and Renton urges it be included in any new revenue package*.

new Bus Rapid Transit station at Rainier Avenue and Grady Way to service BRT users on the Bellevue-to-Burien leg of 405 BRT beginning in 2024. There are significant safety and weaving hazards for BRT buses and all vehicles off of this freeway interchange, impeding travel to the planned BRT station. Renton has worked with WSDOT on design and costing out of an overcrossing at Grady Way and Rainier that would reduce traffic weaving and gueuing and is estimated to save transit nearly two (2) minutes of AM and PM



Eastrail: Extend Corridor from Milepost 5 to South Coulon Park/Southport Entrance (Est. \$6M)



A COALITION comprised of King and Snohomish counties, multiple cities, Sound Transit, Eastrail Partners, REI, Google, SECO Development, and many others is working to construct a continuous Eastside Rail Corridor (now known as "Eastrail") along old Burlington Northern/Santa Fe trackage between Renton and South Snohomish County. A key part of constructing a fully connected Eastrail is to address 4-5 gaps in the system. One of the key gaps is in Renton, where the existing Eastrail terminates at Milepost 5, just beyond the north entrance to Coulon Park. Extending Eastrail from Milepost 5 to the South Coulon Park/Southport entrance offers a generational opportunity for Eastrail supporters to ultimately link the trail with the existing Cedar River Trail and the planned Lake-to-Sound Trail, both of which run through Renton. With funding (estimated at \$6 million), this project could be underway within five (5) years.



2021 KEY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS



168th St. Bicycle/Pedestrian Lanes in Cascade/Benson Hill

CONNECTING AN UNDER-SERVED COMMUNITY

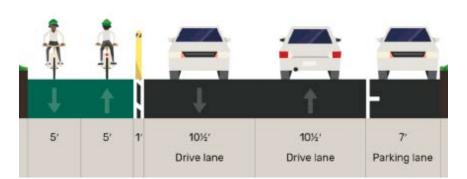
REQUEST: The City of Renton requests a \$1 million allocation in the 2021-23 Capital Budget to assist the City with a project to build a 1.26-mile-long connected bicycle network and to improve crossings between 108th Avenue SE and 128th Avenue SE.

BACKGROUND/NARRATIVE: Since annexing Cascade/Benson Hill in 2008, Renton has been steadily working to address significant infrastructure investment deficiencies in the neighborhood, which is comprised of

54 percent communities of color. Four (4) of every 10 households in Cascade/Benson Hill are costburdened, and more than one-third (36 percent) of the residents speak a primary language other than English. In developing a neighborhood plan and in surveying residents' needs, Renton has found that a top priority for citizens of Cascade/Benson Hill is to have safe walking and bicycle connections.

BENEFITS OF THIS PROJECT: This project establishes a key east-west route in the Cascade/Benson neighborhood that connects multiple community destinations and improves access to transit, featuring dedicated bicycle-lane components, as well as the development of three safety crossings between 108th Avenue SE and 128th Avenue SE. The project is listed as a "TIER 1" (highest priority) component of the City's Trails and Bicycle Master Plan.

A major benefit of establishing the connected bicycle network along 168th Street SE is that four schools (Renton Park Elementary, Nelsen Middle School, Lindbergh High School, and Renton Academy) will be linked either via a signed bicycle route or a low-traffic-volume local roadway. One important takeaway of Renton's neighborhood outreach is that many people bike within and beyond their neighborhood to trails, workplaces or school, or



recreation facilities. Public engagement cited barriers to biking focused on the absence of biking facilities, dangerous crossings, and the lack of wayfinding. Cascade Elementary School, the future location of the Family First Community Center, and the future extension of the Soos Creek Trail are all within the project's vicinity. These connections will provide a conduit for neighborhood residents to be physically active, to get out and recreate, and to live healthier lifestyles.

SE 168th St is an existing King County Metro transit route that is due to receive additional service via service restructuring. The improvements for safer crossings will enhance access to transit for those that depend on transit as their main transportation mode as well as new users of public transportation.

Renton also has evaluated this project through an equity lens and can demonstrate that it would be particularly beneficial for residents who are from lower-income households and communities of color.

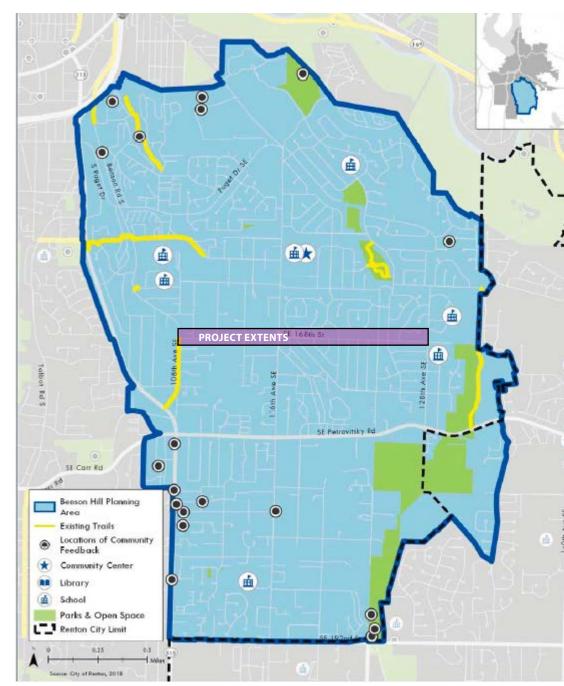
READINESS OF THIS PROJECT: Renton already identified this project as a priority and has included it in its Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). How the City proceeds with and phases the project will be dependent on funding. The City anticipates it would have the project completely designed and phases under construction by Spring/Summer 2023.

COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL SUPPORT: There

is strong community support for the bicycle and pedestrian network envisioned through this project, and Renton anticipates receiving additional support from neighborhood-based, schools-based, and faithbased organizations in Cascade/Benson Hill. Additionally, by constructing a safer bicycle and pedestrian network that can serve the Family First facility and ultimately hook up to the Soos Creek Trail, Renton is designing a project that will have regional benefits.

LOCAL FUNDING AND DOWNSTREAM MAINTENANCE AND

PRESERVATION: Renton will combine state capital dollars with local funds and other outside grant funds to ensure this project can be built as designed. The overall project cost is \$2 million and the City will be prepared to construct it in phases. The City also will be taking on the permanent maintenance and upkeep of the 168th Street bicycle and pedestrian network.





2021-23 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS Coulon Park North Water Walk Repairs, Enhancement

A)

Picnic Floats (2)

to be Retrofitted

All Piles (99) to be Wrapped

FOR SAFETY, FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

View West from Ivar's Deck

REQUEST: The City of Renton requests \$1.3 million in the 2021-23 Capital Budget to make critical repairs to a 360linear-foot segment of the Coulon Park North Water Walk. There is a safety imperative associated with this project, and the resulting light-penetrating materials will be a major environmental upgrade for fisheries and for salmon habitat.

BACKGROUND/NARRATIVE: Along with being the City of Renton's signature park, Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park is a regional asset that draws tens of thousands of visitors each year, including over 15,000 per day for events. Along with a boat launch, play area, and open space that serve as major attractions, the walkways of Coulon and particularly the North Water Walk over Lake Washington is a huge draw for residents and visitors alike. The water walk is where visitors can access both Ivar's and Kidd Valley and enjoy natural areas along the shoreline and over Lake Washington. But the water walk structure, first built in 1982, is in dire need of an upgrade.

BENEFITS OF THIS PROJECT: This project has a particular safety urgency in that pilings underneath the concrete decking of the water walk must be replaced or wrapped, and floats underneath picnic pads are badly waterlogged. Renton wants to do this

New Light-penetrating Decking and Concrete Panels

Future Phase (new light-penetrating decking and concrete panels)

Ivar's Deck and Moorage Floats, Decking Previously Replaced

replacement work before a serious incident occurs – something we just witnessed in our region with the Pier 58 collapse on the Seattle waterfront. Side by side with the safety benefits of repairing the Coulon North Water Walk is replacing concrete decking with light-penetrating material that will be a substantial upgrade for the natural and shoreline environment. This material will enhance fisheries and salmon habitat, and it is a required element under an aquatics land lease agreement Renton has with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).



Before: Concrete decking to be replaced and picnic floats retrofitted



After: Structural repairs and light-penetrating decking

READINESS OF THIS PROJECT: Renton has enlisted a consultant to design this project and will replace the Coulon North Water Walk in phases. This phase of the project can be bid and underway as soon as early 2022 with capital funding in hand.

COMMUNITY, REGIONAL, AND AGENCY SUPPORT:

Renton is anticipating strong neighborhood, business community, and tourism-organization support for this project. Additionally, at the state agency level, the DNR and the Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife are strongly supportive of seeing this water walk work proceed.

LOCAL FUNDING AND DOWNSTREAM MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION: Renton will

combine state capital dollars with local funds, a previous councilmanic bond that includes Coulon Park funds, and other outside grant funds, to build what is likely to be a 3-phase project. The City will take on the permanent maintenance and upkeep costs of preserving and caring for the upgraded water walk.

