



## Kingston Community Advisory Council (KCAC)

### Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2025

**Notes taken by:** Alena Wolotira

This meeting was held in person at the Village Green Community Center

#### **Present (in person):**

At Large representatives present: Steve Marchese, Alena Wolotira, Kate Joncas, Tim Davis, Cynthia Logan, Chris, Dave Bomalaski,

Representing representatives present: Chris Gilbreath

Ex Officio representatives present: Beth Berglund, Breane Martinez, Marla Powers, Angela Clark (for Kaili Roest), Laura Grunnvoll (for Steve Heacock)

#### **Absent:**

At Large representatives absent: Ben Astaire, Glen Hutchinson (excused)

Ex Officio representatives absent: Karen Jeyes

**Also present:** Andy Nelson (Kitsap Co Public Works), Joe Rutan (Kitsap Co. Public Works), Steve Roark (WSDOT Olympic Region Administrator), John Vezina (Washington State Ferries Deputy Assistant Secretary)

**Welcome & Call to Order:** *Co-chair Davis called the meeting to order at 6:31.*

- **Initial Public Comment** (2-minute limit per person)
  - Beth Berglund: Spoke the following written statement aloud:

*On Tuesday, March 18, 2025 the US Institute of Peace, an independent nonprofit organization located in their own building (not a US government building) was entered and staff forced to leave by a "DOGE" team in large part because of the assistance of members of the DC police force.*

*Since then, the Trump administration has taken a number of illegal actions per the federal courts.*

*I'd like to know whether the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners have had conversations with the Kitsap County Sheriff's office, Washington State Police,*

*and state Attorney General's office. Specifically in anticipation of and to prepare for a request from the FBI, CIA, Department of Justice, etc. for law enforcement assistance.*

*Based on recent history, I would hope local and state law enforcement would operate under the presumption that such requests be treated as suspect as to their credibility, accuracy, and their legality until appropriate evidence is provided.*

*Residents of Kitsap County should feel confident when they are pulled over or when law enforcement shows up at their door that they are dealing with officers that follow the rule of law and the decisions have gone through due process.*

*Thank you and please let me know if I should direct this question to KCSO, WSP, and the state AG's office directly.*

- Comment from audience: Suggestion that Beth share her statement with WSP, Kitsap County Sheriff, and the County Commissioners.
- **Quorum:** Yes
- **Introduction of KCAC members**
- **Commissioner Remarks:**
  - Andy Nelson: Commissioner Rolfes had an unfortunate death in her family. Requested that Andy Nelson attend in her stead.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** Davis moved to approve. Steve seconded. Approved unanimously.

## **New Business:**

- **At large position open**—please share with your neighbors and ask them to reach out to Rebecca Pirtle (contact information on the county's website).
  - Rebecca: there are 6 applications currently. Will commence interviews next week. Email [rpirtle@kitsap.gov](mailto:rpirtle@kitsap.gov).
- **Meeting topics for next 9 months?**
  - Think about it.

## **Reports:**

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Transportation:** (Tim Davis)

- ATMS preparations

- TIPS priorities
- Bump on Main Street–would Public Works comment?
  - Joe Rutan–there’s a bump that’s drainage. There’s a pipe carrying a large amount of water that is leaking. County put a catch basin in, which has created a dam and the water is now bubbling up. DOT is aware. On their work program. Plan to try to address before 7/4 if possible.
  - Q: is that related to Whisper Creek?
  - A: That culvert IS Whisper Creek.

### **Community Services** (Cynthia Logan)

- March 31 meeting. Communicating with school principals. Each committee member is taking a school. Posting to the website calendars do not always include all events. CSC members planning to attend the middle school event on 4/15 “Hidden in Plain Sight”
- Future meeting set to discuss common goals with the Environment and Land Use Committee in April.
- Community Service member also attends monthly zoom meetings with the Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (“ACAC”) to work to coordinate and expand efforts for access by disabled persons in the Kingston community
- March 26 NKSD Meeting rescheduled to April 16. CSC will be in attendance and will participate.
- Discussing possible sponsorship of the G2G2 program–transportation for Kingston residents to access services located in South Kitsap. People who need services and don’t have a car find transportation very difficult
- Working on providing funding for Kingston Reader Board access for each of the Kingston area schools with the NKSD office and the Port (who maintains the reader board)
- **Affordable Housing Subcommittee** (Chris)
  - Remembrance of Heady Hicks–wanted the Times Square complex to remain affordable to seniors and disabled residents. May 15 Housing Kitsap will complete transaction to keep complex affordable, unfortunately now after she has passed.
  - Hearings with the Spring Hill proposal. Hearing examiner ruled in favor of the developer on all three issues, based on an Army Corps of Engineers nationwide ruling
  - Homes of Compassion and Bremerton Housing Authority are now serving single women and women with children. Have 2 residents but have a total capacity for 5 adults and 2 children.
  - Landings townhomes, not an affordable housing site, will utilize section 8 vouchers

- Severe weather shelter—every night open this winter, it was utilized. We really need some daytime warming areas in Kingston because only alternatives are in South Kitsap
- Presentation in August here at KCAC
- Next meeting of CSC: April 18, Village Green, 4pm

### **Environment & Land Use** (Dave Bomalaski)

- Meeting to discuss common goals with the CSC at the Village Green, 4/18 at 4 pm

### **Parks, Trails, Open Spaces:** (Mark Libby)

- April 1 meeting. 3 recent work parties this spring, working on the area behind the Village Green. Last work party got some starts in the ground to install local plants to replace some invasive vegetation.
- Divide property: 4/22 meeting, 5/6 meeting, working in small groups for potential uses and restoration
- KPTOS has 33 potential projects and they're trying to be reasonable about what to request for priority Transportation Improvement Plan submissions.
- Up next: 4/12 work party at Quiet Place

## **Organization Reports:**

### **Port of Kingston:** (Laura)

- Thank you to everyone who attended the 3/26 luncheon

### **Kingston Friends of the Library** (Karen Jeyes)

- Karen wasn't present.

### **Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce** (Angela Clark)

- Summer concerts
- Discussion of trash removal in downtown
- Comment: Stakeholders are also working on trash pickup possible solutions

### **Kiwanis Club** (Chris Gilbreath)

- 4/27 Bike Fest! 1-4 pm—bring your kids, they'll learn about safety and have their equipment checked.

### **Rotary Club** (Chris Gilbreath)

- Engaged in getting ready for June 20 Golf Classic. Register by May 1 to

receive a reduced price.

- Gordon Auction May 9 at Port Gamble Pavilion (Gordon PTO)
- May 20-21–YMCA NKU Presentation
  - 20th–NK auditorium
  - 21st–at VG

### **Village Green Foundation** (Beth Berglund)

- Community meal on Friday–likely serving quiche. Meal starts at 5 pm. Same schedule, 2nd Friday every month.
- Kingston Friends of Library–Spring booksale from 10-2
- Peruvian cultural event, food and opera. 4/27 at 3 pm
- Park lawn is mowed by volunteers and we need more! All info in the monthly bulletin.
  - Contact [dwitter@mindspring.com](mailto:dwitter@mindspring.com)

### **North Kitsap School District** (Breane Martinez)

- Spring break, so it's very quiet now
- Next Wednesday, 4/16, 6pm Kingston High School commons. Talking about the future of our Kingston schools. Listening and learning session. What does the community think our schools should look like and learn about current enrollment, facilities.
- Celebration of the military and the child. 500 students with family members in the military. Next Friday, 4/18, encouraging everyone in the community to wear purple– "purple up"
- Other resources:
  - <https://www.nkschools.org/>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/nksd400>
  - [https://www.nkschools.org/about-us/departments/communications/parentsqua\\_re-for-families](https://www.nkschools.org/about-us/departments/communications/parentsqua_re-for-families)

### **Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe** (Marla Powers)

- Nothing this month.

### **Guest Presentation: Andrew Nelson, Kitsap Public Works Director**

Also here: Joe Rutan–Kitsap County Road Engineer, Steve Roark–administrator from WSDOT Olympic Region; John Vezina–WSF Deputy Assistant Secretary

- Much needed change for the community of Kingston–addressing the ferry congestion that accrues in Kingston while vehicles wait for the ferry. 104
- 104 Working Group Agencies:
  - Kitsap Co
  - Kitsap Public Works
  - WSF
  - Washington State Patrol
  - Kitsap Transit

- Port of Kingston
- ATMS Project status–design phase is complete, construction about to start.
- Kingston as a central Puget Sound transportation hub.
  - Edmonds/Kingston route is one of the busiest in the state.
  - Kitsap Transit Fast Ferry started in 2019
- Problem: Lindvog to toll booths on HW 104–non-moving congestion when the ferry is busy
- History
  - 2020 Study re: developing and building out a holding lot on WSDOT property along Lindvog and 104. Study results: 11 lane holding lot, which would hold 400 vehicles, would meet the demand and remove all of the traffic being held back along Lindvog (or in town, where there is no law enforcement controlling traffic flow). Extremely expensive.
  - Other solutions identified, Phase I of which is this Active Traffic Management System. Similar to current law enforcement ferry boarding pass issuance system. ATMS will emulate that manual distribution of a boarding pass, as well as meter and control the traffic as it heads downtown toward the toll booths.
  - Phase II–realignment of 104, placing inbound and outbound ferry traffic on First Street. Process paused because Whisper Creek is currently running through a pipe and it's been determined that this is a fish passage barrier that needs correction in order to carry this forward. WSDOT is in pre-design of correction of this barrier before further work can be done on the realignment study. Pre-design to be finished in October, 2025.
    - Realignment would free up downtown Kingston main street. Public Works will work with Kingston to redevelop main street. Complete Streets study contained a master plan for the village core, which will serve as the basis for the redesign.
- Benefits of ATMS:
  - Gets the ferry traffic out of downtown and ensures that traffic is metered to limit the backup of vehicles waiting in the downtown corridor.
  - Good for access to businesses, safety of pedestrians, transit, local vehicles.
  - Provides predictability for ferry users
- How will ATMS work:
  - Intelligent traffic system. In the toll booth facility, connected via fiber optic cables, to a machine at Lindvog. Will hold vehicles at Lindvog until there is more room east of West Kingston Road
  - Miller Bay Road to intersection with Lindvog: new holding lane and boarding pass dispenser island. Located near where the current law enforcement officer stands. Signs ahead of holding lane will direct ferry riders to the pull off with a stop sign and 2 boarding pass dispensers. One will be raised for larger vehicles. (Q: what do we do if there are errors with the dispensers?)
  - Pull up to stop bar, take boarding pass, then proceed to the end of the holding lane at the intersection of 104 and Lindvog.
  - Far right lane, currently the shoulder, will hold the traffic. Left, straight, and right turns will still be possible.
    - Traffic signal configuration–far right will control the ferry holding lane. Will release enough vehicles to steadily feed the holding lot down next to the ferry, ensuring the lot is full when the next ferry loads.
    - Restriction to limit right turns on red. Do not want a car turning right into the ferry holding vehicles.
    - Signal will operate normally for other local traffic for vehicles coming from the North or South. Will appropriately change signal

to accommodate waiting vehicles approaching from these directions.

- As you approach the ferry terminal, right before Sourdough Willies and Crepes shops, there will be three loops on each side that will detect traffic levels.
- Approach from other streets than 104 will be prohibited. Must proceed through the ticket dispensers on 104 in order to access the ferry.
- Timing of the operations of the system
  - Originally floated as 24/7. Technically not possible to have it engage only when there is traffic. Issue of having to use the dispensers when traffic is light.
  - Chris Ifland vehicle traffic measurement project coupled with WSF ticket sales allowed for good prediction of typical traffic trouble spots. Using his models, likely there will be a 90% success rate of the system working when it's needed.
  - Driving around is a burden for local commuter vehicles
  - TIMING:
    - 8 am to 8 pm on days when the system is in operation
      - If you're through the tollbooth before 8 am, no need to use the holding lane
    - Days of the year when system will be in operation: running by Mother's Day 2025, through Indigenous Peoples Day. Week of Thanksgiving, Christmas, + all Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year
- Contractor selection process: expecting the contract will be executable by the end of April, which will allow construction in May. Purchase of technical equipment will be necessary. Expecting to construct over May and have operations, testing, and commissioning process run. Intending to have the system operational after the 4th of July to early fall.
  - Q: has there been funding identified to cover traffic management before the system is operational?
- 2 weeks before construction begins, 8,000 home addresses in the Greater Kingston Area will receive a postcard with information about the change to hopefully notify area residents. Contractors can only work Tuesday to Friday, 8 am to 6 pm. Won't start anything that would impact traffic before 8 am.
- Please share information widely. Website: [kcowa.us/ATMS](http://kcowa.us/ATMS).
- Points of contact:
  - Joe Rutan, KC Roads Engineer
  - Eirik O'Neal, Outreach Coordinator
  - Slides already posted to above website
- QUESTIONS
  - KCAC Members:
    - Comment: Will there be funding for traffic control until the ATMS launches?
      - John Vezina: not only until it launches, until it's firmly settled and established in the community. WSF has committed to the Kingston community to seeing us through until the end.
    - Comment: How will the system work in terms of preventing line-skipping. The machine tickets will be timestamped. Will there be a window for when the tickets are accepted at the toll booths?
      - A: working on the operations plan now. After convos with the working group, generally expecting people to go from the holding line to the toll booth.
      - Response: but that means people can't stop and use local businesses.
    - Comment: Will the line at the red light be photo-enforced? Will there be additional cameras added up from the ticket station so

that line-skipppers can get caught?

- Nelson:
- A: there is no raised arm or a gate. Discussed but this is another mechanical feature that's a point of failure, plus adding time to the sequence of getting cars moving.
- A: no plan for photo enforcement
- A: still planning to use the same state ferry cameras for 104 traffic monitoring
- Vezina
  - Line cutting is the most challenging issue that people deal with. Can't force people to be decent humans. People get aggressive.
  - A: can't put pressure on employees to enforce rules
- Comment: What does it look like locally for early ferry ticket acquirers? Also, concerns about Barber Cutoff. Has lived here for over 20 years. Works off of BC for 15 years. BC on a good day is dangerous to try to cross. Any local person is going to re-route on Barber Cutoff to get to 104. Gordon Elementary is off of BC and people already drive to fast. This road has not been built to accommodate this use and she is very concerned about safety. How are we preparing for this?
  - Nelson: these are conversations that we've been having throughout the 104 working group planning period. And the reason why we've implemented the ticketing system is to try to avoid school times.
  - Comment: but Gordon starts at 9:20.
  - Nelson: note that most of the winter months to Mother's Day will not require ticketing.
  - Audience comment: are we waiting for a fatality before we come up with a solution?
- Comment: Sidewalks identified as a community need in the comp plan. Where are our sidewalks?
- Comment: I am a heavy ferry user who lives east of Lindvog. Many who live in proximity to the ferry are going to be incredibly impacted. No safe route for folks who live east of Lindvog-U-Turns will happen, Barber Cutoff is already a dangerous intersection. Thinks the timeframe is too long. Tuesday at 2pm in June is not when there are backups. People aren't going to do this. It may be borderline irresponsible for the county to move forward without a safe route for people to travel. Kingston residents are not the cause of the backup. We are a funnel for a lot of people in the area. We know when to avoid the ferries and we patronize the stores and the businesses. Proposal: enable Kingston residents to bypass the system during certain times. If your Driver's License has 98346, can you go straight to the toll booth? Hoping that there would be an opportunity for a local option to enable local people to avoid the ticket system.
- Vezina response: It's up to the community and the county to decide
  - WSF will not and cannot institute a system where residents are given first class status. Part of the state highway system supported by state taxes. Not going to ask colleagues to run the enforcement. AG doesn't think this is legal either
- Comment: The impacts of the ATMS on local road safety should have been addressed before the ATMS was developed.
- 
- Public Comments:
  - Commenter: Lives in the Ohio loop. Map is missing houses north of HW



104. Over 100 families north of 104 before Lindvog.
- Possible enhancements: NK Walk on ferry, buy a ticket in advance that is time and date stamped.
  - Commenter: suggests that we use a reservation system in Kingston.
    - Vezina: reservations, while in place on other routes, are much harder to administer on commuter routes.
  - Commenter: Community member for 3 generations, reflecting on the incredible growth of the population over her lifetime. All other ferry docks in the state have adequate marking of driveways and business entry points on the pavement except for Kingston. Notes issues with the ferry system near her house in Friday Harbor.
  - Commenter: Lives up Ohio and is a daily commuter. Could a traffic circle be installed on 104 at Barber Cutoff/Parcells to address traffic back ups and make it easier/safer for drivers east of Lindvog to get in line for ATMS?
    - Roark: The state has a transportation safety program with limited funding. Annual ranking of a list of all proposed safety improvements on state highways, with funding going to the most important improvements on the list as determined by WSDOT factors. The list is never entirely completed. Roundabout likely not to rise high on this list
  - Commenter: I'm new to the community. If the schedule is 8-8 but we are driving on during times when we know there is no traffic, can we just proceed directly to the toll booth without getting a ticket?
    - A: No. You must have a ticket.
  - Commenter: Will WSDOT be installing additional cameras so that riders can look online to see if the ATMS is active?
    - A: No, but the WSDOT app itself will show the status
  - Commenter: Lives up Ohio. Appreciates KCAC efforts. Is unable to have ice cream near the current ferry line because she gets frustrated with and yells at vehicles blocking business entrances. Striping and signage are not clear.
  - Commenter: Who owns the Diamond lot at the bottom of Ohio? It's dangerous at night and it's an eyesore in the summer because of unchecked weeds
    - A: possibly the state. John Vezina will check
  - John Vezina-FYI, the Hyak is finally getting moved out of Kingston Harbor.
  - John Vezina-FYI, there needs to be a seismic retrograde of a trestle at the Kingston terminal. Work will start in June, impact on ferry riders will only be that the farthest 2 lanes of the holding lot will be out of commission to hold construction materials
  - Commenter: Lives up Lindvog. When are we going to have to use this system? Will there be visual indications on the side of all routes leading to toll booths that the system is active and telling drivers they need to turn around?
    - Nelson: we will be reactivating the overhead WSDOT 104 system (as you drive east toward the ferry along 104) to contain messaging about the status of the ATMS. There will also be conduit DOT signs before the holding lane flashing.
    - Response: can all entry points please get static signs?
  - Commenter: Lives along 104, approaching Lindvog. The 25 MPH speed limit sign is in his driveway. He's noticed a recent increase in the speed of traffic heading east up the hill and on days when there is a backup of the ferry line, he has no sight lines when trying to turn out of his driveway, meaning that the speeding traffic may be unseen as he turns out. U turns from folks trying to get in line will make this even more dangerous

- Answer: traffic safety team tracks speed and collisions on all roads. Again, there is an annual evaluation process of safety scenarios on all roads.
- Answer: the official route for drivers to get in line for the ATMS is to head up West Kingston Road, out to Miller Bay, then to turn right onto 104.
- Comment: Why not a technologically intelligent system that only engages when there is traffic? Are people really expected to go all the way around just because the system says so? Can there be some lights that flash to notify drivers when the system is in effect?
  - Answer: good ideas, all. When trying to develop this plan, we had to take into account the technological possibilities, the timeline, and the possible funds. Funds and timeline limited more sophisticated system.
  - Answer: we started with the idea that the system would always be on and through many discussions with impacted stakeholders, developed a compromise of the current timing. The WSDOT WSF app will always tell you if the system is on.
- Comment: do traffic backups ever go beyond Barber Cutoff?
  - Audience: YES
- Comment: What will the impact of traffic backups be on drivers using Barber Cutoff?
  - Answer: We considered many different options and this is just step one in developing a new process for holding ferry traffic out of town.
- Comment: It may be possible that people are going to use the storage place, which has apartments next door, as their turn around spot.
  - Answer: Washington State Patrol has stated that it is not illegal to make a u-turn over a double yellow line so long as it is safe to do so.

## **Final Public Comment**

**Closing Items: None.**

## **Upcoming Meetings:**

- May 14–Sheriff’s office report on C.O.P., homeless program, Kingston crime update
- June 11–Chamber Small Business update
- July 9–Summer Break, no meeting
- August 13–Affordable housing needs and opportunities
- September 10–Year of the rural

2025 Potential Meeting Topics:

- Annual youth representative presentation

**Motion to adjourn by Tim Davis seconded by Alena Wolotira.**

*Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.*