

King County Emergency Medical Services

2008-2013 Strategic Plan Update

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December 2007

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

Strategic Plan: With the 2002-2007 Medic One/EMS levy ending on December 31, 2007, a new strategic plan needed to be developed. The plan would indicate the roles, responsibilities and programs for the system, and a levy rate to fund these approved functions.

Stakeholders representing the full range of Medic One/EMS providers revised the issues and options facing our system, and used their experience and expertise to develop a *Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan* to ensure Medic One/EMS remained a strong, medically-based system. This strategic plan served as the core of the levy proposal that voters resoundingly adopted (83%) in November 2007.

Revisions: Prior to being presented to the people for a vote, the *Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan* and funding proposal required approval by numerous legislative bodies. It was during consideration by the King County Council that a number of substantial changes were proposed and adopted.

In April 2007, members of the Regional Policy Committee added language proposing that a 6-year levy lid lift be considered as a possible funding mechanism for the Medic One system. Also, the original Financial Plan was revised to better represent the most recent economic data, resulting in refined revenue and expenditure projections but still a Medic One/EMS levy rate of 30 cents.

Finally, an ordinance creating financial policies to strengthen the oversight of the EMS fund was adopted along with the 30-cent levy rate proposal. These modifications require the EMS Division to update the *Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan* document. This is expected to be available in January 2008.

If you are interested in learning more about the Medic One/EMS levy or would like a copy of the Strategic Plan, Financial Plan, or the adopted ordinances, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 263-8560 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov.

November 2007

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

Election Results: Earlier this year, the King County Council passed an ordinance placing a 6-year, 30-cent Medic One/EMS levy on the November 2007 general election ballot.

While the election won't be certified until the end of this month, one thing is abundantly clear - the residents of King County love their Medic One program! With an approval rate exceeding 83%, voter support and adoption of the levy ensures that our world renowned Medic One/EMS system and medical model will receive funding for the next six years.

The people of King County have come to expect high-quality, pre-hospital emergency care from the Medic One program, and the levy is estimated to generate \$630 million over the next six years to support Medic One/EMS programs.

Planning Process: The November vote also concludes the region's two year levy planning process. In anticipation of the 2002-2007 levy expiration, more than 100 Stakeholders representing the full range of Medic One/EMS providers met to review the issues and options facing the system, and develop a *Strategic Plan* to guide the Medic One system into the future.

The *Strategic Plan*, highlighting the programmatic needs of the system and a levy rate to support these programs, serves as the core of the levy proposal that was just adopted.

The levy planning process is well described in the Medic One/EMS levy portion of the EMS web site (www.metrokc.gov/health/ems/).

The *Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan* is currently being updated and will be available shortly.

If you are interested in learning more about the Medic One/EMS levy or would like a copy of the Strategic Plan, Financial Plan, or the adopted ordinances, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 263-8560 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov

July 2007

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

On July 3rd, the King County Council passed an ordinance placing a 6 -year, 30-cent Medic One/EMS levy before the voters in November, 2007. The 30-cent levy rate supports the programmatic and fiscal proposals contained in the Council-adopted *Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan*, and is the rate that was unanimously approved by the Medic One/EMS regional

Stakeholders in October of 2006. The levy is estimated to generate approximately \$630 million over the next six years, and will cost about \$120 per year for the average \$400,000 home.

Adopted along with the 30-cent levy rate was an ordinance creating financial policies to augment the oversight and accountability of the EMS fund. This would be done via increased financial review by the King County Council and annual audits by the King County Council auditor. Also specified in the ordinance is the creation of a formal Medic One/EMS Advisory Task Force to guide the planning of the next Medic One/EMS levy.

Getting the approval to place this Medic One/EMS 30-cent levy on the November 2007 ballot has been a lengthy process, one that has taken nearly two years from start to finish. This helped ensure that issues were thoroughly discussed, consensus was achieved among the regional Stakeholders, and a comprehensive plan that meets the Medic One/EMS service priorities for our region was developed.

June 2007

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

The planning for the next Medic One/EMS levy has been in full swing for 18 months now, over which time programmatic and fiscal recommendations were developed, a Preferred Levy rate of 30-cent was adopted by technical and elected officials Stakeholders alike, the *Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan* detailing how the Medic One/EMS system will operate over the next 6 years was drafted and submitted to the King County Council, and two Council committees held

hearings on the *Plan*. At one of these meetings, members of the Regional Policy Committee amended the *Plan* on April 25, 2007, to include language proposing that in addition to the 30-cent preferred rate, a 6-year 25.4-cent levy lid lift should be considered as a possible funding mechanism for the Medic One system. This amended Strategic Plan was subsequently adopted by the King County Council on April 30th.

To push ahead with the renewal of the Medic One/EMS levy, King County Executive Ron Sims has transmitted legislation placing a 6-year, 30-cent per \$1,000 assessed value EMS levy before the voters in November, 2007. The 30-cent levy rate supports the programmatic and fiscal proposals contained in the Council-adopted *Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan*, and is the rate that was unanimously approved by the Medic One/EMS Stakeholders in October, 2006. The introduction of this 30-cent Medic One/EMS levy represents great support for, and commitment to, the recommendations in the *Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan*, as well as the solid expertise and dedication that the Stakeholders committed to the levy planning process over the past 18 months.

This legislation must next proceed to the King County Council's Operating Budget Committee for analysis, discussion and subsequent passage, after which it would be discussed and adopted by the full King County Council. No hearings on the legislation have been scheduled as of yet, and we will keep you updated as the levy proposal makes its way through the process.

In accordance with the state statute governing the Medic One/EMS levy, cities with population exceeding 50,000 must approve a levy proposal before it can be placed on a county-wide ballot. As of this writing, six of the seven cities have passed resolutions confirming their support. Seattle is the final jurisdiction that must approve the measure, and the Strategic Plan will be a topic of consideration at the City Councils during the month of June. These endorsements must be completed no later than mid-July 2007 in order for the measure to be placed on the November 2007 ballot.

If you are interested in learning more about the Medic One/EMS levy or would like a hard copy of the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov.

April/May 2007

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

The current 6-year EMS levy is due to expire on December 31, 2007. Planning for the next Medic One/EMS levy has been in full swing for over 18 months. During this time programmatic and financial recommendations were developed.

A Preferred Levy Rate of 30-cent per \$1,000 assessed value was adopted by technical and elected officials Stakeholders alike in 2006. A *Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan* was drafted detailing how the Medic One/EMS system was expected to operate over the next 6 years.

The document was submitted to the King County Council in April 2007 and two Council committees (Regional Policy Committee and Law, Justice & Human Services Committee) subsequently held hearings to review the *Plan*.

At the April 25, 2007 meeting of the Regional Policy Committee, members amended the *Plan* to include language proposing that in addition to the 30-cent Preferred Levy Rate, a 6-year 25.4-cent Levy Lid Lift should be included as a possible funding mechanism for the Medic One system. This amendment was subsequently adopted by the King County Council on April 30, 2007.

To push ahead with renewal of the Medic One/EMS levy, King County Executive Ron Sims has transmitted legislation placing a 6-year, 30-cent EMS levy before the voters in November, 2007. The 30-cent levy rate supports the programmatic and fiscal proposals contained in the Council-adopted *Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan*, and is the rate that was unanimously approved by the Medic One/EMS Stakeholders in October 2006.

This legislation must next proceed to the King County Council's Operating Budget Committee for analysis, discussion and subsequent passage, after which time it would be discussed and adopted by the full King County Council. As of yet, no hearings on the legislation have been scheduled.

City Approval: In accordance with the state statute governing the Medic One/EMS levy, cities with population exceeding 50,000 must approve a levy proposal before it can be placed on a county-wide ballot. As of this writing, six of the seven cities have passed resolutions confirming their support. The City of Seattle is the final jurisdiction that must approve the measure, and the Strategic Plan will be a topic of consideration at the City Council meetings in June 2007. These endorsements must be completed no later than mid-July 2007 in order for the measure to be placed on the November 2007 ballot.

If you are interested in learning more about the Medic One/EMS levy or would like a hard copy of the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-

4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov

March 2007

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

King County Councilmember Larry Phillips introduced the *Medic One/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) 2008-2013 Strategic Plan* at the **King County Council** on Monday, March 26th. It has been dually referred to both the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) and the Council Law, Justice and Human Services Committee. The next RPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at which the Strategic Plan and Medic One levy should be discussed.

The seven **City Councils** that must approve the levy proposal in order for it to be placed on the ballot are pushing ahead with the necessary endorsements. At the time of this writing, the Strategic Plan will be a topic of consideration at four City Councils during the month of April - Shoreline, Redmond, Kent and Federal Way.

The Renton City Council hosted two meetings at which the Plan and a subsequent resolution were discussed. The EMS Division is working with the two remaining cities (Bellevue and Seattle) to schedule hearings on the Plan and levy. These endorsements must be completed no later than mid-July 2007 in order for the measure to be placed on the November 2007 ballot. We will keep you updated as the levy proposal makes its way through the process.

If you are interested in learning more about the Medic One/EMS levy or would like a hard copy of the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov

January/Feb 2007

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

The *Medic One/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) 2008-2013 Strategic Plan* has been drafted and is en route to the King County Council per the council's request. The Strategic Plan specifies the services to be supported through the next Medic One/EMS levy, and a levy rate to implement these programs.

The *Medic One/EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan* is the direct result of 12 months of meetings with major Stakeholders, representing the full range of Medic One/EMS providers. The group convened to develop the future direction and basis for the next Medic One/EMS levy.

The recommendations identified in the Strategic Plan build upon the EMS system's current successful medical model and regional approach, establish new policy directions, and present a financial plan to support the Medic One/EMS system through the span of the next levy period.

The Stakeholders have unanimously recommended a 6-year, 30-cent levy be presented to the voters at the November 2007 general election.

The **30-cent levy rate** would:

- Continue the current services from 2002-2007 (support 25 medic units, paramedic upgrades, partial support to BLS, core programs that support the critical functions and direct services for the entire Medic One/EMS system);
- Accommodate anticipated growth by adding 3.0 medic units over the span of the levy period;
- Increase BLS funding, tying it to calls that support ALS calls, and utilize a revised funding formula for distributing funds among BLS agencies;
- Enhance and add new programs and Strategic Initiatives to provide the highest quality out-of-hospital emergency care available, and manage both the growth in demand and the costs

of the system without jeopardizing the system;

- Implement a new comprehensive medical quality improvement/medical oversight program;
- Provide all-hazards management support;
- Enhance EMT education and training, dispatch programs, and injury prevention programs;
- Enhanced data collection to track system demand and performance;
- Create a contingency reserve fund, and;
- Utilize a revised inflationary inflator.

The levy proposal must be approved by the City Councils of those jurisdictions with 50,000+ in population, including Bellevue, Federal Way, Kent, Redmond (new), Renton, Seattle, and Shoreline, and the King County Council. These endorsements must be completed no later than mid-July 2007 in order for the measure to be placed on the November 2007 ballot. We will keep you updated as the levy proposal makes its way through this process.

If you are interested in learning more about the Medic One/EMS levy, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov

December 2006

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

In late Fall 2006, the **Elected Officials Committee** endorsed sending a 6-year 30 cent Medic One/EMS levy to the voters at the 2007 General Election. This unanimous decision signaled the end of Phase II, and the launch of Phase III. This is the final phase in the Medic One/EMS levy process and includes the acquisition of formal approval by the six City Councils with 50,000+ in population (Bellevue, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, Seattle and Shoreline), and the King County Council.

In the meantime, the EMS Division has been putting pen to paper,

drafting its **EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan**. The plan communicates the services to be supported through the EMS levy, and a financing plan and levy rate to implement these recommendations. The plan is the primary policy and financial document that will lead the EMS system into the future, and the document that Elected Officials will be deliberating and approving over the next few months.

The **EMS 2008-2013 Strategic Plan** will be submitted to the King County Council no later than February 1, 2007. Subsequent endorsements by the City Councils and King County Council must then be completed no later than mid-July 2007 in order for the measure to be placed on the November 2007 ballot.

If you are interested in learning more about the EMS levy, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov.

October/Nov 2006

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

Summary: The past four months have been spent trying to keep pace with **Phase II** of the regionwide Medic One/EMS levy planning process. In four months, the Elected Officials Committee completed its work and endorsed sending a 6-year 30 cent Medic One/EMS levy to the voters at the 2007 General Election.

Despite the Committee reaching consensus on the levy in record time, this was not an easy decision to make. The Committee analyzed the service priorities and finances for each program area and the impacts that a specific levy type, length and rate might have on the system and taxpayers.

Additionally, the Committee had to consider the state requirements for validation as they determined when the voters should be asked to support such a levy.

Next Steps: The Elected Officials Committee's action initiates the start of **Phase III** of the levy planning

process - gaining the formal approval of the six City Councils with 50,000+ in population (Bellevue, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, Seattle and Shoreline), and the King County Council. This endorsement must be completed no later than mid-July 2007 in order for the measure to be placed on the November 2007 ballot.

If you are interested in reviewing the Final Recommendations, obtaining copies of meeting notes or updates, or learning more about the levy, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov. Documents are also accessible on the EMS homepage <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/ems>

September 2006

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

Summary: Phase II of the 2008 Medic One/EMS levy planning process commenced this summer with the convening of an **Elected Official Stakeholder Committee** to discuss and finalize the EMS Strategic Plan for the 2008 levy period and beyond.

This group, consisting of representatives from the six cities with 50,000+ in population, suburban cities, medical directors, and labor, is tasked with reviewing the Technical Stakeholder recommendations and approving the programmatic and financial proposal. Also on its to-do list is determining the levy length, levy rate, and ballot timing.

The Elected Official Stakeholders Committee has met three times since July 2006 and hopes to have its review and recommendations completed by October or November of this year, including a written 2008 EMS Strategic Plan.

These recommendations will then proceed to Phase 3 of the process, which requires approval of those City Councils with 50,000+ in population, and the King County Council before being put on the ballot either August or November 2007.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for October 18, 2006 from 2:00PM - 3:30PM at the Community Center at

Mercer View (8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island).

If you are interested in reviewing the Draft Recommendations, obtaining copies of meeting notes or updates, or learning more about the planning process, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov. Documents are also accessible on the EMS homepage (<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/ems>).

June 2006

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

Summary: EMS staff was directed to conduct fiscal and programmatic analysis of a 30 cent/ \$1000 AV levy rate and details were presented to the Technical Stakeholders at the June 2006 meeting. With these new figures, Stakeholders now have a thorough understanding of how each service area (ALS, BLS and Regional Services) would be funded within a range of options that span 26 cents to 38 cents/ \$1000 AV.

Pleased with the draft recommendations that have evolved over the past 8 months, the Technical Stakeholders tacitly approved the funding proposal. Technical Stakeholder consent thereby brings Phase One of the process to a close and allows the Draft Recommendations to proceed to Phase Two of the levy planning process: introducing the proposal to Elected Officials for their deliberation.

Executive Ron Sims will kick off Phase Two by hosting a '**2008 Medic One/EMS Levy Orientation**' for Elected Officials on July 20, 2006 from 3PM - 5PM (location to be determined). Monthly meetings will follow to discuss such important issues as the levy length, rate, and ballot timing; in addition to a financial and policy analysis of the proposed Draft Recommendations.

These meetings will continue through the end of 2006 at which time the Elected Officials will have shaped the recommendations into a package that will constitute the regional EMS

Strategic Plan for the next levy period.

If you are interested in reviewing the Draft Recommendations, obtaining copies of meeting notes or updates, or learning more about the planning process, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov. Documents are also accessible on the EMS homepage (<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/ems>).

May 2006

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

Summary: In April, the 2008 Medic One/EMS Levy Planning Draft Recommendations were unveiled for review by the Technical Stakeholders. These draft recommendations proposed a substantial increase in program costs for the next levy when compared to the current 2002-2007 levy.

At the end of the meeting, Stakeholders requested that further analysis be conducted to develop a range of alternate options for levy services, programs and costs that fall within the County's historic levy rate of 25-29 cents. April and May were spent re-evaluating the draft recommendations and proposing alternatives that resulted in a lower levy rate yet still met the needs of the Medic One/EMS system.

At the May Stakeholders meeting, Stakeholders adopted a proposal that endorses a levy package with a range of funding scenarios for discussion and review by elected officials during the next steps of this process. The range spans from \$0.266 (the approximate cost of doing current business using 2008 numbers) to \$0.3825 for funding all the draft recommendations.

Understanding that elected officials throughout the region are not likely to support a levy funding rate that exceeds 30 cents, it was suggested that fiscal and programmatic analysis be conducted and subsequent support be given to a levy rate of 30 cents. The proposal also included language that supports any local jurisdiction that chooses to go out for a local EMS levy to supplement their county EMS levy revenues. Details of a 30 cent levy rate are still being finalized and will be presented to the Stakeholders in June.

Meeting Schedule

June 1, 2006: Stakeholders Meeting (1st Thursday of each month) from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM at Renton Fire Station #14 (1900 Lind Avenue SW, Renton).

If you have any questions, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov. Documents are also accessible on the EMS homepage (<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/ems>).

April 2006

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

Summary: On April 6, 2006, Technical Stakeholders of the 2008 Medic One/EMS Levy Planning process met to review the newly proposed Draft Recommendations for levy services, programs and costs. The recommendations put forth at the meeting proposed a substantial increase in program costs for the next levy when compared to the current 2002-2007 levy.

- The projected costs of the current 2002-2007 levy are \$344.3 million.
- Projected costs of a six-year levy beginning in 2008 are \$712.4 million.

This translates to a preliminary levy rate of \$.3825 per \$1000 assessed value, an amount well outside the historic range of EMS levies in King County, which have varied between \$.25 per \$1,000 and \$.29 per \$1,000 in most recent levies.

After examining the proposals, the Stakeholders requested that Subcommittee meetings be held in April to develop a range of alternate recommendations. All three Subcommittees will meet to identify funding priorities and develop other options for discussion at the next Stakeholders group in May 2006.

Meeting Schedule

May 4, 2006: Stakeholders Meeting (1st Thursday of each month) from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM at Renton Fire Station #14 (1900 Lind Avenue SW, Renton).

May 11, 2006: BLS Subcommittee Meeting (2nd Thursday of each month) from 1:30PM-3:30PM at Mercer Island

Fire Station #91 (3030 78th Avenue SE, Mercer Island).

May 16, 2006: ALS Subcommittee Meeting (3rd Tuesday of each month) from 1:00PM-3:00PM at Kirkland Fire Station #22, (6602 108th Avenue NE, Kirkland)

May 23, 2006: Regional Services/Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee Meeting (4th Tuesday of each month) from 10:00AM-12:00PM at Mercer Island Fire Station #91 (3030 78th Ave SE, Mercer Island).

If you are interested in reviewing the Subcommittee proposals or obtaining copies of meeting notes or updates, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov. These documents are also accessible at the EMS homepage (<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/ems>).

March 2006

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

Summary: Month Six of the 2008 Medic One/EMS Levy wrapped up with the three Technical Subcommittees developing draft recommendations that will be the basis of the new EMS Strategic Plan.

These draft recommendations will be presented at the April 6, 2006 Stakeholders meeting.

Recommendations from the **ALS Subcommittee** highlight a base unit cost for medic units and subsequently outline the costs of providing ALS services and unit needs for the span of a 6-year levy.

Recommendations from the **BLS Subcommittee** include a proposed BLS funding rate, a new funding formula to distribute BLS money among the service providers, and two new Strategic Initiatives to strategize how we can increase BLS support throughout the region.

Recommendations from the **Regional Services/Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee** include making programmatic changes to enhance current programs. They also include creating new programs to consolidate Medical Quality

Improvement and assessing the Emergency Medical Dispatch system as whole to help reduce non-emergency calls, increase public awareness of the various community injury prevention programs, and streamline our data collection abilities.

Meeting Schedule

April 6, 2006: Stakeholders Meeting (1st Thursday of each month) from 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM at Renton Fire Station #14 (1900 Lind Avenue SW, Renton).

April 13, 2006: BLS Subcommittee Meeting (2nd Thursday of each month) from 1:30PM-3:30PM at Mercer Island Fire Station #91 (3030 78th Avenue SE, Mercer Island).

April 18, 2006: ALS Subcommittee Meeting (3rd Tuesday of each month) from 12:00PM-2:00PM at Kirkland City Hall, (123 5th Avenue, Kirkland). PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENT TIME AND LOCATION.

April 25, 2006: Regional Services/Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee Meeting (4th Tuesday of each month) from 10:00AM-12:00PM at Mercer Island Fire Station #91 (3030 78th Ave SE, Mercer Island).

If you have any questions regarding the levy process or would like copies of meeting notes or updates, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov. These documents are also accessible at the EMS homepage (<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/ems>).

February 2006

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

Summary: February 2006 was a particularly busy month for 2008 Medic One/EMS Levy participants. Fully engrossed in reviewing the current EMS program, additional meetings were requested to ensure there was adequate time to analyze each of EMS's primary service areas

and prepare draft recommendations that will eventually be incorporated into an EMS Strategic Plan.

With agency templates submitted and an average cost of ALS service being calculated, the **ALS Subcommittee** recommended proceeding with a unit projection proposal that will add 2.5 medic units over the length of a six-year EMS levy. The proposal anticipates moderate growth in call volumes, primarily suburban areas, and supports anticipated increases in the population of 65+ in the region.

The **BLS Subcommittee** adopted a funding formula proposal that would allow any new funds (i.e. CPI and/or additional levy funding directed to BLS) to be allocated to agencies 50/50 based on Assessed Value and Call Volumes, and added to the base funding that the agency received the previous year. Additionally, they proposed two Strategic Initiatives to examine how the costs to provide BLS services can be better covered, and how we can provide better BLS support to vulnerable agencies.

The **Regional Services/Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee** met twice in the month of February to complete its review of current EMS programs and initiatives, and propose possible enhancements or new programs to improve our already outstanding system. The group is proposing recommendations to be discussed and finalized at the March 28th, 2006 meeting.

The three subcommittees are expecting to bring draft recommendations to the April 6, 2006 Stakeholders meeting.

Meeting Schedule:

March 2, 2006: Stakeholders Meeting (1st Thursday of each month) THIS MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED to enable the subcommittees more time to complete their tasks.

March 9, 2006: BLS Subcommittee Meeting (2nd Thursday of each month) from 1:30PM-3:30PM at

Mercer Island Fire Station #91 (3030 78th Avenue SE, Mercer Island).

March 21, 2006: *ALS Subcommittee Meeting* (3rd Tuesday of each month) from 1:00PM-3:00PM at Kirkland Fire Station #22 (6602 108th Avenue NE, Kirkland).

March 28, 2006: Regional Services/ Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee Meeting (4th Tuesday of each month) from 10:00AM-12:00PM at Mercer Island Fire Station #91 (3030 78th Ave SE, Mercer Island).

If you have any questions regarding the levy process or would like copies of meeting notes or updates, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov. These documents will also be accessible at the EMS homepage (<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/ems>) in the very near future.

January 2006

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

Summary: Although a new year often begins slowly, the 2008 Medic One/EMS Levy *Stakeholders* jumped into 2006 with increased fervor. Busy scrutinizing the various topics that will impact each of EMS's primary program and service areas, our stakeholders are committed to analyzing the policy and funding issues that will shape the next EMS levy.

Agreeing on a standardized cost template was again the focus of the *ALS Subcommittee* and members of this group will submit expenses for FY 2004-2006 by Tuesday, February 14, 2006. They are also discussing how they should determine future unit allocations or needs, and what sort of future cost driver should be used for the next levy.

The *BLS Subcommittee* finalized its standardized cost template and should be completed with FY 2004 Actuals by Thursday, February 2, 2006. It is our hope to get all BLS agencies to submit their templates. The Subcommittee also continued its debate on an equitable funding formula, reviewing three new

formulas reflecting variations on calls and Assessed Value growth over time.

As the conversation settled on local versus regional spending, it was agreed that another round of formulas based on keeping the new money within the jurisdictions where such funding is generated would be reviewed.

The *Regional Services/ Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee* continued its review of the current EMS programs and initiatives by examining the various Community Programs currently in place, and entertaining proposals to create a systematic and seamless Quality Assurance program, and an Enhanced Data Collection network.

Meeting Schedule:

February 2, 2006: Stakeholders Meeting (1st Thursday of each month) from 1:00PM-3:00PM at Renton Fire District #14 (1900 Lind Ave SW, Renton)

February 9, 2006: BLS Subcommittee Meeting (2nd Thursday of each month) from 1:30PM-3:30PM at Mercer Island Fire Station #91 (3030 78th Avenue SE, Mercer Island)

February 21, 2006: ALS Subcommittee Meeting (3rd Tuesday of each month) from 1:00PM-3:00PM at Kirkland Fire Station #22 (6602 108th Avenue NE, Kirkland)

February 28, 2006: Regional Services/ Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee Meeting (4th Tuesday of each month) from 10:00AM-12:00PM at Mercer Island Fire Station #91 (3030 78th Ave SE, Mercer Island)

If you have any questions regarding the levy process or would like copies of meeting notes or updates, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov. These documents will also be accessible at the EMS homepage (www.metrokc.gov/health/ems/) in the very near future.

December 2005

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

Summary: December 2005 was a busy month for the 2008 Medic

1/EMS Levy Technical Stakeholders. They have committed themselves to analyzing the policy and funding issues that will shape the next EMS levy. Divided into three subcommittees, Stakeholders have left few stones unturned as they examined the various subjects that may impact each of EMS's primary program and service areas.

The *ALS Subcommittee* submitted completed standardized cost templates and discussed the objectives behind using such a guide while highlighting allocation needs for the next levy, and possible future cost drivers.

A costing template was discussed by the *BLS Subcommittee* although the spotlight was on assessing the current BLS funding formula and other funding proposals based on calls, assessed value and a combination of both, as suggested by the group.

The *Regional Services/ Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee* reviewed systematically the Dispatch and Training programs and will examine Advanced Technology projects and a Quality Improvement proposal in January 2006.

Meeting Schedule:

January 5, 2006: Stakeholders Meeting (1st Thursday of each month) from 1:00PM-3:00PM at Renton Fire District #14 (1900 Lind Ave SW). WE WILL PRESENT STATUS REPORTS FROM EACH SUBCOMMITTEE.

January 12, 2006: BLS Subcommittee Meeting (2nd Thursday of each month) from 1:30PM-3:30 PM at Mercer Island Fire Station #91 (3030 78th Avenue SE, Mercer Island). WE WILL REVIEW THE COST TEMPLATE AND FUNDING FORMULA VARIABLES.

January 17, 2006: ALS Subcommittee Meeting (3rd Tuesday of each month) from 12:00 PM-2:00PM at Kirkland City Hall, Peter Kirk Room (123 5th Avenue, Kirkland). ****Please note alternate time and place for this meeting**** WE WILL DISCUSS COST INDEXING.

January 24, 2006: RS/SI Stakeholders Meeting (4th Tuesday of each month) from 10:00AM-12:00 PM at Mercer Island Fire Station #91 (3030 78th

Avenue SE, Mercer Island). WE WILL FOCUS ON QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS.

If you have any questions regarding the levy process or would like copies of Subcommittee notes or updates, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov. These documents will also be accessible at the EMS homepage (www.metrokc.gov/health/ems/) as of the first of the year.

November 2005

2008 Medic One/EMS Levy

Summary: As the second month of the 2008 Medic 1/EMS Levy planning process comes to a close, the Technical Stakeholders have swung into action, delving into the policy issues that will shape the next EMS levy.

To best study the matters affecting advanced life support (ALS) services, basic life support (BLS) services, and regional services and strategic initiatives, three subcommittees were organized by each of these primary program and service areas.

Each subcommittee has developed a work plan to guide their analysis throughout this process, and is systematically working through each important topic to put together levy recommendations for the Stakeholder group to support and approve.

Discussions for developing standardized cost templates and full cost recovery methods have been the focus of the ALS and BLS Subcommittees, while the Regional Services/Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee is examining all of the existing regional programs and considering how they could be enhanced.

Meeting Schedule:

December 7, 2005 (NEW): Regional Services / Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee Meeting from 10AM-12PM (location TBA). Dispatch issues will be discussed.

December 8, 2005: BLS Subcommittee Meeting from 1:30PM-3:30PM at Mercer Island Fire Station #91 (3030 78th Ave SE). Finances and the revised cost template will be reviewed.

December 20, 2005: ALS Subcommittee Meeting from 1PM-3PM at Kirkland Fire Station #22 (6602 108th Avenue NE, Kirkland). The revised cost template,

proposed unit projection and methodology and annualized costing will be reviewed.

December 22, 2005 (NEW): Regional Services/ Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee Meeting from 10AM-12PM (location TBA). Training and Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance will be discussed.

January 5, 2006: Stakeholders Meeting (1st Thursday of each month) from 1:00PM-3:00PM at Renton Fire District #14 (1900 Lind Ave SW).

If you have any questions regarding the levy process or would like copies of the Subcommittee documents, please contact Helen Chatalas at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov.

Sept/Oct 2005

2008 EMS Levy

The first **EMS Stakeholder meeting** was held on October 10, 2005, thus officially "kicking off" the start of the 2008 EMS planning process. The meeting brought together nearly 50 representatives of fire departments, emergency physicians, paramedics, dispatch centers, hospitals, ambulance companies and labor to start developing recommendations for the next EMS levy that would take effect in January of 2008.

Three subcommittees have been created to best discuss the major issues affecting each of the program areas of advanced life support (ALS) services, basic life support (BLS) services, regional services and strategic initiatives.

These subcommittees have been tasked with delving into policy issues including the levy length, the levy rate, and funding mechanisms for EMS programs, and developing recommendations for the Stakeholder group to support and approve.

These **recommendations** will then be brought to a Regional Stakeholder group of elected officials convened by the King County Executive in Spring/Summer 2006. They will review and finalize the regional EMS Strategic Plan for the 2008 levy

period and beyond, and approve the EMS levy package to be put before the voters in November of 2007.

Meeting Schedule: Initial BLS and ALS meetings were held on October 13, 2005 and October 18, 2005, respectively. The following meetings have also been scheduled:

- **Regional Services/Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee Meeting:** October 25, 2005 at 9:30am (Wells Fargo Bldg; 999 3rd Ave, 7th Floor, Seattle)
- **Stakeholders Meeting:** November 3, 2005 at 1:00 pm (Renton Fire Department, Station #14; 1900 Lind Ave SW, Renton)
- **BLS Subcommittee Meeting (2nd Thursday of each month):** November 10, 2005 at 1:30 pm (Mercer Island Fire Station #91; 3030 78th Ave SE, Mercer Island)

(A date and time for monthly ALS Subcommittee meetings has yet to be solidified).

Extensive **communications** are being planned, including regular updates, newsletter, and reports accessible at the EMS Division homepage, as the technical recommendations develop. It is only with extensive input that we can develop a comprehensive plan that meets the EMS service priorities for our region. With this in mind, participation in this process is encouraged, either by serving on one of these Subcommittees or attending Stakeholders meetings.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the levy process or would like copies of meeting notes, please contact Helen Chatalas at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@kingcounty.gov.

July/August 2005

From the Manager
Tom Hearne

The EMS Division and the region of King County are preparing for an EMS levy reauthorization at the

General Election in November 2007. The new levy would take effect in January 2008. The current EMS levy was approved for a period of six years (2002-2007), at a levy rate of \$.25 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation (AV).

The 2008 EMS levy planning will utilize a staged approach in which a technical advisory group will develop recommendations for the next EMS levy. The technical group will include representatives from stakeholder groups, including emergency physicians, paramedic providers, fire departments, dispatch centers, hospitals, private ambulance companies, and labor.

Major policy issues that the technical group will discuss include the levy length, the levy rate, and funding mechanisms for advanced life support (ALS) services, basic life support (BLS) services, regional services, and strategic initiatives. It is anticipated that there will be several subcommittees organized around each of the primary program and service areas, and that each subcommittee will develop funding recommendations.

The technical planning process will be overseen by a steering committee which includes medical directors, representatives from North/East King County, South King County, and Seattle, in addition to the EMS Division. It is expected that the technical recommendations will be brought to a regional stakeholder group of elected officials convened by the King County Executive in Spring/Summer 2006. They will review and finalize the regional EMS Strategic Plan for the 2008 levy period and beyond.

This new EMS Strategic Plan will serve, as the current *2002 EMS Strategic Plan Update* does, as the major guiding policy and financial document for the region. This lengthy regional process is critical in order to develop strong regional consensus about EMS service priorities among cities and fire

districts across King County. The entire region currently benefits from the extensive planning process that resulted in an effective and useful strategic plan.

In order for this plan to be presented to voters countywide, it must be approved by the councils of all cities over 50,000 in population and the King County Council. There are currently six cities over 50,000 (Bellevue, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, Seattle, and Shoreline), but it is projected that there could be as many as eight by 2007, perhaps more depending on annexations and growth in the next two years.

The regional process for reauthorizing the EMS levy requires significant time in order to conduct the necessary technical analyses, garner consensus that will result in a regional proposal, and allow sufficient time for the cities to review and approve the plan. The EMS Division plans extensive communications as the technical recommendations are developed, including regular update reports and a newsletter. If you have any questions or comments regarding the levy process, please contact me at (206) 296-4555.