

News

Portland Briefs cont'd from pg 5

settle in outer Portland and Gresham. *HOLLA* chronicles the organization of the same name, founded by Eric Knox, to mentor kids of color in predominantly white and white-taught schools. The film will be followed by a Q & A session with the filmmakers and Knox.

The film explores the lives of three young women on the *HOLLA* basketball team, as mentorship subtly transforms their experience. *HOLLA*'s soundtrack features material from Portland's nationally recognized music scene, including songs from Tre Hardson (Pharcyde), Catherine Feeny, Joseph, and Liz Vice, whose album "There's a Light" reached #6 on the Billboard Gospel charts this fall.

Seattle News Briefs

Metro Improving ADA Announcements to Serve Riders

Riders are now hearing more comprehensive on-board bus stop announcements on 20 King County Metro Transit bus routes, with more planned in coming months as the agency ensures that interior and exterior ADA announcements are consistently made to better serve riders with disabilities.

The improved on-board stop, route and destination announcements benefit all riders and will meet or exceed Federal Transit Administration requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act. An on-site FTA audit in 2014 found that a significant number of stops and routes were not being announced, but should have been to meet the minimum requirements.

On Nov. 7, Metro completed a first round of increasing interior audio announcements to 100 percent on 20 routes: Routes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 15, 21, 40, 48, 50, 71, 101, 166, 215, 221, 242, 271 & the RapidRide D Line. About every four weeks for the next several months, audio announcements of all stops will be added to additional routes until all routes are addressed.

Metro's revised announcement policy applies to all fixed routes. In most cases, announcements will be made by the on-board system.

Metro operates 238 routes, 211 of which use equipment that speaks and displays automated stop announcements to customers.

Bus drivers will announce all stops if the automated system is not functioning, or on buses without an automated system.

Improved and consistent exterior route and destination announcements also are planned at all bus stops that are served by two or more bus routes starting in February 2016.

An advisory panel representing a cross section of riders – including riders who are blind or who have visual or cognitive challenges – is reviewing Metro's interior and exterior route and destination announcements to help Metro develop new volume standards.

County Council Takes First Action in Response to Homeless Emergency

Expressing support for tripling the number of beds available in the winter shelter operated by King County is an immediate step in responding to the Local Proclamation of Emergency on homelessness. The Metropolitan King County Council this week gave its unanimous support to expanding the winter shelter to accommodate up to 150 beds a night.

In response to the death of 66 people who were living on the streets, and with winter approaching, County Executive Dow Constantine and Seattle Mayor Ed Murray declared emergencies and outlined new investments to respond to the growing crisis of people experiencing homelessness in King County and Seattle.

For over two decades, King County has operated a winter shelter, currently located in the King County Administration Building in downtown Seattle, providing space for 50 beds.

In early 2015, a funding partnership with the city of Seattle allowed the county to double the capacity of the shelter for the remainder of winter 2014-2015.

2016 Flood Control District Budget Focuses on Protection, Prevention

A 2016 budget that continues protecting property and lives from flooding while working to prevent future floods was unanimously approved today by the King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors.

Three areas are the primary focus of the \$55 million budget: addressing deficiencies on levee corridors along the Green and Cedar Rivers, continuing with projects designed to prevent future floods, and working to minimize the impact of urban flooding when it occurs. Two-thirds of the adopted budget will be focused on construction and improvements of the regional flood protection system.

This budget will provide funds for projects that include repairing 4,450 feet of levees in Kent, Tukwila and Renton along the Green River, sediment removal along the Cedar River to help protect the industries along the waterway, and repairing a portion of the Winkelman Revetment along the Tolt River in north-east King County which has eroded and is slumping.

The budget also includes funding for the Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration project to reconfigure the Sammamish River Transition Zone (TZ) and adjacent undeveloped King County property. Increased vegetation within the zone has raised concerns about high lake levels impacting properties surrounding the lake.

The restoration project is focused on reducing the frequency and duration of high lake levels caused by the Sammamish River while continuing to protect habitat vital for recovery of salmon species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Urban flooding has become a growing issue. Funds have been allocated to increase capacity and reduce frequency of clogging of storm drains and add capacity to the drainage system in Seattle's Licton Springs neighborhood and to improve drainage in South Park area of south Seattle to address sewage backups in the community during periods of extended or heavy rain. Culvert replacement in Kenmore and increasing the size of culverts in Shoreline will also help reduce the impact of flooding in these urban communities.

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