



CITY OF KIRKLAND
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT
123 FIFTH AVENUE, KIRKLAND, WA 98033
425.587.3600 - www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 20, 2016

To: Transportation Commission

FROM: Janice Coogan, Senior Planner
Paul Stewart, AICP, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: FINN HILL NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN- DRAFT TRANSPORTATION POLICIES, FILE CAM15-01754

1. RECOMMENDATION

Review and comment on the enclosed preliminary draft transportation policies for the Finn Hill Neighborhood Plan prepared by the U.W. Green Futures Lab (GFL) consultant team (see Attachment 1). Your comments will be forwarded to the Planning Commission at their study session the next day on July 28, 2016 and incorporated into the development of the final draft Neighborhood Plan.

2. BACKGROUND AND PROJECT STATUS

Green Futures Lab (GFL) students at the University of Washington are working with the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance and City in developing a neighborhood plan.

In January 2016, a joint meeting was held with the Parks Board, Transportation Commission and Planning Commission to discuss the overall schedule and process. Members were asked to provide comments on key issues they would like to see the neighborhood plan study. Attachment 3 includes the group's flip chart comments.

Over the last year GFL has conducted a number of public outreach activities including neighborhood meetings and online surveys and produced a background report and documented the public comments. The last event was a Priorities Forum held in February to gain a sense for the participant's priority values for the future on a number of topics. These opinions have formed the basis for the preliminary draft neighborhood plan.

When complete the Finn Hill Neighborhood Plan will be a chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. Neighborhood Plans are intended to express the values of the neighborhood for future growth and what is unique from other areas of the City. Similar to other neighborhood plans, the draft Plan will include a vision statement,

guiding principles describing neighborhood values, historical context, and goals and policies related to natural environment, parks and open space, land use, transportation, public services and utilities. GFL is in the process of preparing the final draft neighborhood plan for the Planning Commission study session at the end of August. As part of the planning process land use changes or rezones are being may be proposed.

The next steps in the process include a public open and public hearing on the draft neighborhood plan in the fall. Planning Commission will make a recommendation to City Council for adoption in the fall or early 2017.

3. DRAFT TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY POLICIES

The Transportation and Mobility section includes voting results from the public meetings and online survey on a number of transportation issues, draft policies and follow up strategies recommended by GFL to implement the policies.

To summarize, the draft transportation policies discuss neighborhood priorities for intersection and sidewalk improvements, locations for pedestrian connections and trails, establish a green loop corridor around the neighborhood, desire for improved transit service, discourage regional and by-pass vehicular traffic through neighborhood and encourage implementing the Juanita Dr. Corridor study.

Transportation and Mobility Issues

Transportation related issues raised by neighborhood meeting participants and neighborhood association include:

- a) Participants support creating a Green Loop Corridor circling the neighborhood (see Attachment 2, map). The intent would be to include public rights of ways, and to obtain public easements over private property in order to create a system of pedestrian and bike trails that connect parks, open spaces, pedestrian trails, wildlife corridors and natural areas. A similar concept is planned for an east/west *Green Corridor* in the Totem Lake Business District north of NE 124th ST.
- b) What strategies can be applied to reduce traffic congestion, provide travel options and improve pedestrian safety.
- c) Establishing pedestrian and bicycle connections throughout the neighborhood is a high priority for the neighborhood especially from Lake Washington to the top of Finn Hill. Participants identified where pedestrian connections and trails are desired of which many of these locations traverse private property or along stream corridors.
- d) Safety concerns related to narrow streets and concerns for emergency and vehicular access to Goat Hill area.

- e) Provide intersection improvements to improve pedestrian safety.
- f) Interest in more rural design street and sidewalk standards for Holmes Point Dr. area.
- g) Lobbying King County Metro Transit to improve transit access be improved throughout the neighborhood.
- h) What strategies can be developed to reduce commuter traffic through the neighborhood?
- i) Should a policy be put in place that will limit development so that congestion does not become intolerable?

Questions for Transportation Commission

- *Do you agree with the preliminary draft policies and recommended implementation strategies?*
- *Do you suggest edits or changes?*

Attachments:

1. Draft transportation section dated July 11, 2016
2. Proposed Green Loop Corridor map
3. Meeting notes from January joint meeting