



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Stephen Padua, AICP Transportation Planner
David Godfrey, P.E. Transportation Engineering Manager
Kathy Brown, Public Works Director

Date: January 21, 2016

Subject: King County Metro Transit Long Range Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council receive a presentation from King County Metro Transit (Metro) staff on the Metro Transit Long Range Plan.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Growth is occurring in King County and throughout the four-county central Puget Sound region. Forecasts project that there will be 28 percent more people and 40 percent more jobs in the region by the year 2040. The City of Kirkland projects 8,400 more housing units and over 22,500 more jobs as part of the growth.

To help meet the mobility needs of the new growth, the King County Department of Transportation Metro Transit Division's (Metro's) annual service is expected to increase by 2.3 million annual service hours, from 3.5 million hours today to 5.8 million hours by 2040. To guide service changes, including addressing the expected service needs identified by local jurisdictions, Metro is developing a Long Range Plan (LRP). The LRP evaluates projections of how our communities will change, and, in cooperation with a number of partners, attempts to determine what types of service will best serve the people who will live, work and visit our area in the future. More information is available [at Metro's plan website](#).

In the next step of outreach, Metro will be requesting further feedback from the City of Kirkland and residents on a full draft LRP which will include the service, capital and financial needs for the latest proposed draft transit network. By March, the draft LRP will be released to the public for further review and Metro expects to have the LRP approved by the King County Council by June or July of 2016.

Kirkland staff has provided Metro the following feedback on the LRP Preliminary Draft Concept:

- The 2040 local transit network must address the transit network needs identified in the recently adopted Transportation Master Plan.
- Consistent with the Transportation Master Plan and the Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan, transit service on CKC must be explored to improve ridership and frequency.
- There is a growing transit market on the eastside and major improvements are needed to connections between the Eastside centers.
- Improved transit service in the Finn Hill area should be included in the local network.
- Frequent service to local centers (Totem Lake, Downtown Kirkland, 6th Street Industrial area, and South Kirkland Park and ride) should be included.
- Existing frequent services throughout Kirkland must be preserved, if not improved.
- In order to maintain regional connectivity, network changes may force many transit riders to lose one-seat rides, for example to downtown Seattle. The frequency between transfer routes must be maintained or increased in order to minimize any passenger wait times during a transfer.
- The City of Kirkland currently enjoys frequent service to Downtown Seattle and the City would like to maintain these frequent service connections.

Staff has asked King County Metro to cover the following points in their presentation to Council:

- General overview of the Plan.
- Timeline for the project, including when comments from the City and from the public will be accepted and when the LRP will be reviewed by the Regional Transit Committee and the King County Council.
- In general, what are the major changes being proposed in the draft network compared to today's service in Kirkland (frequency, span of service and capital elements)?
- How is ST3 coordinated with the LRP? Specifically how does transit on the CKC fit in and how will service changes around ST3 be accounted for?
- How will the opening of U-Link change the way service is operated between Kirkland and downtown Seattle?
- Under the proposed network, what kind of connections does Kirkland have to key destinations: Downtown Bellevue and Redmond, Overlake, Lake Union, U-District.
- How will Lake Washington Institute of Technology be served?