



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Marilynne Beard, Deputy City Manager
Date: February 6, 2014
Subject: KIRKLAND 2035 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT #10

RECOMMENDATION:

City Council receives an update on public involvement activities and progress on plan updates related to the Kirkland 2035 initiative.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

This is the tenth in a series of updates to the City Council about Kirkland 2035 initiatives.

Neighborhood Plan Updates

One major initiative that began in the past month was the neighborhood plan update meetings. As described in the prior report, four meetings were scheduled for January and February. Neighborhoods were combined to reflect shared business districts but were able to break into neighborhood-specific groups for discussion about their neighborhood plans.

North	Finn Hill, Juanita, Evergreen Hill
Central	Moss Bay, Market, Norkirk, Highlands
South	Houghton, Everest, Lakeview
East	North Rose Hill, South Rose Hill, Bridle Trails, Totem Lake

The discussions included:

- A quick "neighborhood values" future visioning exercise including a discussion about adjacent neighborhood business districts
- A comparison of future vision results with existing plan
- Validation of sections that still fit
- Identification of issues that need to be considered or updated with consideration to how they align with the larger community vision

New neighborhoods in the Juanita, Finn Hill and Evergreen Hill areas that do not have an existing plan will meet on February 20.

Approximately 70 people attended the first meeting (Houghton, Everest and Lakeview neighborhoods) and approximately 90 people attended the second meeting (Highlands, Moss Bay, Market, Norkirk). Email comments were also received and one more opportunity to

comment will be made available on line for those who were unable to attend. Common themes included:

- The Cross Kirkland Corridor continues to be a source of many positive comments and is an exciting prospect for the community.
- Traffic was a frequently-heard concern with a particular focus on traffic around neighborhood business centers (e.g. 108th Avenue NE, Market Street, Lake Washington Boulevard). If additional density is planned for these areas, residents believe that traffic will get worse. The street system does not seem to be able to handle the current density which led some participants to express opposition to increased density in their neighborhood and local business district. Some participants noted that Kirkland is already very dense and did not understand why the City was allocated a higher relative level of population and job growth than neighboring cities that are less dense.
- Participants were interested in maintaining their neighborhood's existing character. They would like to see increased opportunities for walking and biking routes between their neighborhoods and local business areas.
- Participants appreciate having local business districts that meet as many of their daily needs as possible (e.g. grocers, dry cleaning, restaurants, pet stores, etc.). There was a concern that they might lose some of those businesses if areas were redeveloped.

Overall, participants were appreciative of the opportunity to comment on their neighborhood plans. A second round of meetings will be held in May or June to provide feedback to neighborhoods about how their input can be incorporated into the current Comp Plan update or how their comments will otherwise be addressed.

Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC) Master Plan

Several events and reports about the CKC occurred since the last update to Council. A brown bag lunch session was held on January 14 which drew 25 participants. Much of the time was spent on a discussion of 1) the surface of the interim trail and 2) parallel trails in the Master Plan.

A monthly on-line newsletter is being distributed to streamline communications and to assure updates get out to the public on a regular basis. The second newsletter was sent out the week of February 10.

The City Council received an update on the Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan at their February 4 meeting. On February 8, the Advanced Transportation Symposium drew over 100 participants to focus on alternative transportation options for the corridor. An update on the interim trail project will be provided at the February 18 City Council meeting.

On February 27, a community forum will be held focusing on the Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. Two informational sessions will be held on the CKC and participants will be able to comment on issues such as a parallel versus shared use trail in the master plan and mile markers. Participants will also be able to comment on the projects included in the draft PROS Plan. The event has been promoted through the

usual on-line channels and staff will be posting a notice on the large CKC signs located on the corridor.

In addition to the CKC and neighborhood plan events, the Kirkland Business Roundtable focused on the economic development element of the Comprehensive Plan. On February 10, Totem Lake Conversations will focus on the update of the Totem Lake plan. Results of those events may be available for the February 18 K2035 presentation.

Other K2035 Activities

- On February 18, the City Council is scheduled to receive an update on the Juanita Corridor study.
- At the February 21 City Council Retreat, the Planning Department will provide a progress report on the Comprehensive Plan Update. The City Council will be able to review and comment on the updated vision statement. The draft Community Profile has been posted to the City's website.
- On March 4, the City Council will hold their annual joint meeting with the Planning Commission where progress on the Comprehensive Plan can be discussed as well as the 2014 Planning Commission work program.
- The third community planning day will be held on Saturday, April 26 at City Hall. An overview of activities and topics to be presented at the event will be provided in an upcoming K2035 update.

The next K2035 update will be at the March 18 City Council meeting.