



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Public Works
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Transportation Commission
Date: February 23, 2012
Subject: Rail Corridor Strategic Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council reviews the Transportation Commission proposal to develop a scope of work and budget estimate for an Eastside Rail Corridor Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

In 2010, Council asked the Transportation Commission to develop an Eastside Rail Corridor Interest Statement in preparation of the purchase of the rail corridor by King County. It was anticipated that the Interest Statement could be used in a County-led regional process. In April of last year, the Council approved the Commission-developed interest statement for the corridor.

The Commission's current work plan as approved by Council calls for the Commission to develop a "trail Strategic Plan". With the City's acquisition of the Kirkland segment imminent, the Commission feels it is time to undertake work on this plan.

Our current view of the strategic plan is that it will begin to address questions such as:

- What are the long term and the short term visions for the corridor? Much of this work may have been done in the Interest Statement.
- Who are the stakeholders and what is their involvement at various phases? What is the public process that would bring the visions to reality?
- What is the basic development scheme? For example, what types of transit use are likely and practical and when might they be active. Should an interim trail be pursued, or is it likely that funding for a paved trail will be available in the near future?
- When should a cost estimate for various development options be obtained?
- What kind of detailed planning is necessary and when should it be done?
- Are there certain segments of the corridor that lend themselves to development first?
- Are some funding sources more likely than others to be secured and does this influence how development should occur?

It will be important to answer these questions in the context of the Interest Statement. Although it is possible for the Transportation Commission to do some of the preliminary work for a Strategic Plan, the Commission believes that an effort of this importance and magnitude

will require the assistance of outside consulting resources. Therefore, the Commission would like to develop a scope of work and budget estimate and return to Council in the late spring/early summer for approval.

Other boards and commissions have important interests in development of a strategic plan particularly the Park Board, and the Transportation Commission will work with the Park Board and other interested stakeholders to develop the draft scope of work.