



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**Department of Public Works**  
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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** David Godfrey, P.E., Transportation Engineering Manager  
Ray Steiger, P.E., Public Works Director

**Date:** July 7, 2011

**Subject:** RESOLUTION CONCERNING BECOMING A FEET FIRST AGENDA CITY

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached resolution endorsing the Feet First Agenda.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### *Summary*

[Feet First](#) is a walking advocacy organization promoting walkable communities in Seattle and surrounding cities. One of Feet First's initiatives is promotion of a nine point agenda. Feet First has identified Kirkland as one of a handful of cities in Washington that meets all nine of the agenda points. By adopting the Feet First agenda Kirkland becomes an "Agenda City" and Feet First will recognize Kirkland in their promotional material, on their website and at their 10 Year Anniversary this October, 2011. Feet First's program is similar to the Cascade Land Conservancy Agenda City program of which Kirkland is currently a participant. One difference is that participation in the Feet First program does not have a cost.

In May, representatives from Feet First presented their program to the Transportation Commission. The Commission supports adoption of the agenda by the City Council.

#### *The Agenda*

The following section describes each of the nine points of the agenda and how the City of Kirkland meets that point. The last two pages of this memo further describe each point of the agenda.

1. *An Active Transportation Plan or Pedestrian Master Plan*  
The City of Kirkland adopted its Active Transportation Plan in March, 2009.
2. *A Complete Street Policy*  
In September, 2006, Kirkland became the first city in Washington to adopt a Complete Streets Ordinance (KMC 19.08.055).

3. *Supportive land use policies*

Kirkland has adopted land use policies that support pedestrian friendly development. Goals and policies in the Comprehensive plan explicitly link compact land use patterns with support of a multimodal transportation system.

4. *A Pedestrian Advisory Committee or Active Living Task Force*

Kirkland's Active Living Task Force is no longer meeting, but the Transportation Commission serves in the role of a Pedestrian Advisory Committee. For example, the Transportation Commission developed the Active Transportation Plan and an Interest Statement for the Eastside Rail Corridor.

5. *An integrated departmental approach*

Examples of an integrated approach in Kirkland include the award winning pedestrian safety promotional videos produced by the Youth and Senior Councils with the support of staff from several departments.

6. *Projects promoting walking and pedestrian safety*

Pedestrian related capital projects totaling \$6.25 million are funded in the current 2011-2016 Capital Improvement Program. This includes crosswalk upgrades, sidewalk maintenance, school walk route improvements and an annual non-motorized program.

7. *Pedestrian safety*

Kirkland has had a wide range of pedestrian safety initiatives. The pedestrian crossing flag program is one example of such initiatives.

8. *Promote walking in communities*

Council's Goal Area of Balanced Transportation is an example of high level support for walking in the community. "Walk your child to school day" has become an annual opportunity to get more people involved with walking in their communities. Kirkland's walking map shows all types of destinations where walking can be used for transportation as well as exercise.

9. *Performance measurement system*

The Active Transportation Plan contains a set of strategies that are to be reported on each year. Additionally, pedestrian counts have been made at key locations in each of the past 3 years in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation.



## Feet First Agenda



### MISSION

who we are - what we do

Walking is an essential part of our everyday lives. Walking connects us to people, places and to other forms of transportation. We are all pedestrians.

Feet First promotes walkable communities and envisions people walking every day for their health, transportation, environment, community and pleasure.

Committing to the Feet First Agenda demonstrates support for more walkable and vibrant communities and for pedestrian enhancements that improve safety, mobility and access for all.

### GOALS

promoting walkable communities

**1** Promote walking as an important public policy that:

- Connects communities;
- Improves health and physical fitness;
- Helps the environment by reducing our carbon footprint;
- Improves mobility and provides transportation options;
- Increases community safety by providing eyes on the street; and
- Enhances business district vitality.

**2** Implement a comprehensive set of policies, plans, projects and programs resulting in walkable communities throughout the region.



## INITIATIVES

strategies for action

### CHILDREN NEED MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE ACTIVE:

*The percentage of children walking to school has dropped from 66% to 13%<sup>1</sup> over the last 30 years while the number of overweight children has increased 300%<sup>2</sup>.*

### WALKING WILL HELP YOU LIVE LONGER:

People who engage in moderate activity – the equivalent of walking for 30 minutes a day for 5 days a week – *live about 1.3 to 1.5 years longer* than those who are less active<sup>3</sup>.

### WALKABILITY IS GOOD FOR HOME VALUES:

In a typical metropolitan area, a one-point increase in *Walk Score* is associated with an increase of housing value from \$700 to \$3,000<sup>4</sup>.

1. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2. National Center for Health Statistics
3. Franco, Oscar H., et al. "Effects of Physical Activity on Life Expectancy With Cardiovascular Disease" *Archives of Internal Medicine* 165 (2005): 2355-2360.
4. Cortright, Joseph. "Walking the Walk." CEO's for Cities (2009).

- 1. An Active Transportation Plan or Pedestrian Master Plan**  
Adoption of this comprehensive document should guide all pedestrian oriented policies and strategies.
- 2. A Complete Street Policy**  
An adoption of a policy recognizing that public streets need to be designed to accommodate multiple uses including pedestrian, bicycle, transit, freight and vehicle mobility.
- 3. Supportive land use policies**  
Adoption of policies resulting in pedestrian-friendly and sustainable developments, vibrant neighborhoods and communities.
- 4. A Pedestrian Advisory Committee or Active Living Task Force**  
The creation of and support for a community-based group is essential to effectively advocate for projects and programs that promote walking.
- 5. An integrated departmental approach**  
Staff, preferably from multiple departments, should be assigned to support and coordinate pedestrian-related policies and activities.
- 6. Projects promoting walking and pedestrian safety**  
Capital Improvement Programs and operating budgets should include projects that encourage walking and enhance pedestrian safety e.g. sidewalks, crossings, wayfinding signs, amenities including benches, shelters, and lighting. A dedicated funding source for these projects should be identified.
- 7. Pedestrian safety**  
Legislation, policies, education, engineering and enforcement strategies should be implemented and supported enhancing pedestrian safety.
- 8. Promote walking in communities**  
Policies and programs should be implemented that promote walking to and from schools, parks, libraries, public transportation, work, home and shopping.
- 9. Performance measurement system**  
Measures should be put in place to monitor the levels pedestrian activity and the effectiveness of pedestrian-oriented strategies.

For more information please contact us:  
Feet First is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



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RESOLUTION R-4887

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND STATING THE CITY OF KIRKLAND'S COMMITMENT TO THE FEET FIRST AGENDA, WHICH DEMONSTRATES SUPPORT FOR MORE WALKABLE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND FOR PEDESTRIAN ENHANCEMENTS THAT IMPROVE SAFETY, MOBILITY, AND ACCESS FOR ALL.

WHEREAS, in September of 2006, Kirkland became the first community in the State of Washington to adopt a complete streets ordinance; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2009 the City of Kirkland adopted an Active Transportation Plan and is currently implementing the plan's strategies, and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland Comprehensive Plan contains a wide range of goals and policies promoting land use that is supportive of walking; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland Transportation Commission is an active and effective voice of advocacy for pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, City staff across all departments work in an integrated manner to carry out Council's direction to maintain Kirkland as a walkable, pedestrian friendly City; and

WHEREAS, City Council regularly uses significant funds to construct and maintain capital projects supporting pedestrian mobility and safety; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland is a leader in pedestrian safety innovation; and

WHEREAS, the City regularly engages in programs to support and encourage walking for transportation and to measure progress toward achieving walking goals; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of these City of Kirkland policy actions and budgetary investments resulted in Kirkland being named one of the "Top 10 Most Successful Walkable Suburbs in the United States" in an October, 2010 article in *The Wall Street Journal*;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. The City of Kirkland is a Feet First Agenda City and will continue to implement policies and programs which support pedestrian mobility in order to add to the vibrancy, health and safety of our community.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

Signed in authentication thereof this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk