



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**City Manager's Office**  
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3001  
www.kirklandwa.gov

---

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
**From:** Lorrie McKay, Intergovernmental Relations Manager  
**Date:** September 22, 2016  
**Subject:** CITY OF KIRKLAND DRAFT 2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AGENDA

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council reviews the Draft Proposed 2017 State Legislative Priorities Agenda (Attachment A) and provides comments to staff, so that a final priorities agenda may be brought back to and adopted at the October 18, 2016 Council meeting.

A redline version of the City's 2016 adopted legislative priorities, showing the proposed changes for 2017, is attached (Attachment B).

### **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

The City's annual Legislative Agenda consists of three segments: general principles; its top legislative "priorities;" and selected issues/items which the City may "support" (i.e., not priority items). This memo only addresses the proposed top legislative priorities for 2017. Staff will return to Council at a future meeting with items/issues identified for Council's consideration on its Support Items Agenda.

The regular 2017 legislative session is a long, 105-day session. The three month session will begin on Monday, January 9 and end on Friday, April 21.

As a result of avoiding to put forward a major proposal to address school salaries and local levies in the 2016 session, lawmakers and the Governor still face an enormous McClery challenge going into the 2017 legislative session. While the 2016 legislature did pass a bill that set up a task force to collect data on school salaries and levies and make recommendations for the 2017 legislative session, salaries are projected to cost an estimated \$3.5 billion every two years. Finding that sort of money is the challenge and many are already speculating that 2017 will extend into special session. The education funding task force is expected to draft a plan by the start of the 2017 legislative session. The advice of Kirkland's contract lobbyists and several state legislators is that Kirkland's priorities need to be short, and focused primarily on policy issues and not monetary requests.

It is in this context that staff has drafted and is recommending a judicious list of legislative priorities for 2017.

#### General Principles

- Protect shared state revenue sources available to the City, including the State Annexation Sales Tax Credit, and provide new revenue options and flexibility in the use of existing revenues.

- Support long-term sustainability efforts related to City financial, environmental and transportation goals.
- Oppose unfunded mandates.
- Oppose any further shifting of costs or services from the State or County to cities.

#### City of Kirkland DRAFT 2017 Legislative Priorities

- Kirkland supports new funding and policy tools to address homelessness and create more affordable housing, such as:
  - Restore the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) to pre-recession levels
  - Add affordable housing to the list of eligible projects that can be funded by REET 1 and REET 2
  - Extend document recording fee for housing (eliminate sunset) and increase the fee
- Kirkland supports allowing Kingsgate Park and Ride to be used for an affordable housing Transit Oriented Development.
- Kirkland supports adequate and sustainable funding to maintain high-quality statewide training for law enforcement personnel.
- Kirkland supports allowing local jurisdictions the option to cap an MPD (Metropolitan Park District)
- Kirkland supports capital or transportation budget funding for a multimodal safety improvement project connecting the Cross Kirkland Corridor with the Redmond Central Connector.
- Kirkland supports allowing both the state and local governments the option of replacing the property tax cap, currently fixed at 1 percent, with a cap that is indexed to both population growth and inflation.

There have also been discussions about potentially including proposed changes to the Public Records Act. Staff will be seeking direction on whether such proposals should be added to the priority agenda.

#### Development of the Draft Proposed 2017 Legislative Agenda

The process for developing the coming session's legislative agenda begins in the preceding year, with the Intergovernmental Relations Manager maintaining a running list of ideas as they come up throughout the year (from councilmembers, legislators, directors, staff, etc.). Additionally, in June the Intergovernmental Relations Manager proactively reaches out to directors and managers of City departments for potential new issues or ideas. Mayor Walen and Councilmember Asher participate on the Association of Washington Cities' Legislative Committee and help identify statewide priorities. In August, the City Manager proposes a draft set of priorities to Council's Legislative Work group for consideration, feedback and for its recommendation to the full Council for consideration.

In 2016, the City of Kirkland prioritized support for a whole host of policies and funding tools to address homelessness and create more affordable housing. While Kirkland's commitment and interests in this area remain strong going into the 2017 session, staff recommend some changes.

#### Priority Items from 2016 proposed for deletion:

Several concepts did not gain enough support last session and are not likely to receive support from lawmakers in 2017. Staff recommend removing the following three items from the list of priorities:

1. Support for a local option demolition fee dedicated toward the construction of affordable housing;
2. Support to allow local jurisdictions to impose up to an additional 0.25% real estate excise tax (REET) specifically for investments in affordable housing; and
3. Support for identifying State-owned property to host authorized encampments, vehicle parking, emergency shelter, and housing.

Priority Items from 2016 proposed to be moved to the 2017 Support Items Agenda:

Similarly, staff recommend that the following four items be moved from the City's 2016 priorities to its 2017 Support Items Agenda, which will be brought to Council in January

1. Support for allowing local jurisdictions to authorize a local option tax exemption to preserve affordability;
2. Support for allocating additional resources for mental health and substance use disorder treatment; and
3. Support for the rights of religious organization to host safe parking efforts for the homeless on property owned or controlled by the religious organization
4. Kirkland supports facilitating greater access to rooftop residential and community solar installations by extending the timeframe for state solar incentives in the Renewable Energy System Cost Recovery program.

Priority Items from 2016 proposed for carry over into 2017:

Staff recommend carrying over the following two priorities from the City's 2016 legislative agenda:

- Support of capital or transportation budget funding for a multimodal safety improvement project connecting the Cross Kirkland Corridor with the Redmond Central Connector (Attachment C); and
- Support for allowing both the state and local governments the option of replacing the property tax cap, currently fixed at 1 percent, with a cap that is indexed to both population growth and inflation. (The Washington State Association of Counties and the Association of Washington Cities are spearheading this effort in 2017)

New Legislative Priority Items for consideration in 2017:

Staff recommend including three new items on the Cities list of legislative priorities for the 2017 session.

- Support for allowing the Kingsgate Park and Ride to be used for an affordable housing Transit Oriented Development.

The Kingsgate Park and Ride is owned by the State and managed by King County. In June of 2015, Representative McBride organized a tour with Secretary Peterson, Mayor Walen and City Manager Kurt Triplett to discuss the City's interest in TOD at the site. The City sent follow-up letter to the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) in October 2015, formally expressing its interest in TOD at Kingsgate (Attachment D). Secretary Peterson sent correspondence in February 2016, expressing WSDOT's interest in working with the City of Kirkland (Attachment E). In July of this year, WSDOT's Dylan Counts also toured the site with the City Manager and discussed the City's "vision" and interest in TOD there. The ST3 package includes a project to expand the parking at Kingsgate by 800 additional stalls. Beginning in June 2015, and throughout its entire process of drafting the ST3 System Plan that will be on the ballot, the City communicated its interest in TOD at Kingsgate to Sound Transit. Mr. Counts is WSDOT's liaison to Sound Transit.

- Support for adequate and sustainable funding to maintain high-quality statewide training for law enforcement personnel.

The Kirkland Police Department has studied the status of officers who are eligible to retire over the next four years and has determined that it may lose up to 24 people by 2020, which is 24% of the City's police force. The need for basic law enforcement training classes is critical.

- Support for allowing the local option to cap an MPD (Metropolitan Park District).

In 2015, at the urging of its residents, the Kirkland City Council unanimously approved an ordinance placing a ballot measure before Kirkland voters to create a Metropolitan Park District (MPD) that, if it had been approved, would have funded a proposed 87,000 square foot multi-purpose recreational facility. MPDs are allowed by State law (RCW 35.61) and require 50% voter approval. MPDs allow for the collection of property taxes up to .75 cents to fund parks and recreation, including maintenance and operations. The City Council proposed a Kirkland Aquatics and Recreation District would encompass the city boundaries of Kirkland. The City Council would serve as the governing body of the Aquatics and Recreation District and be responsible for the budget and setting the initial property tax rate. While the City Council did not ask voters for the full .75 cents in the 2015 ballot questions, residents raised concerns that once the MPD is authorized, the MPD Commissioners would have the full .75 cent authority and no subsequent public votes would be needed, because the MPD Commissioners could increase it legislatively. The intent of this legislative proposal is to build public trust by allowing local jurisdictions the option to ensure that whatever is authorized by the voters is capped. Any effort to increase the amount would have to come back to the voters for approval.

#### The City Council's Legislative Workgroup

The City Council's Legislative Workgroup, consisting of Mayor Walen and Councilmembers Asher and Marchione, is staffed by the City Manager and the Intergovernmental Relations Manager with participation from Waypoint Consulting Group, the City's contracted lobbyists. Councilmember Asher is the Chair the Legislative Workgroup.

The draft priority items on the City's legislative agenda represent the primary focus for Council's Legislative Committee, the city's Intergovernmental Relations Manager and contracted lobbyists during session. The committee meets weekly during the session in order to track the status of the priorities and offer support for achieving their success.

It is the goal of the Legislative Committee to have the City's 2017 legislative priorities adopted before it hosts its annual legislative coffees with the city's delegation, which may begin in late October.

#### The City's State Legislative Delegation

The City of Kirkland includes three legislative districts – 1<sup>st</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, and 48<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Legislative District 1**

The City will see two changes in the 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative District. Senator Rosemary McAuliffe announced at the end of the last session that she would not seek re-election. Representatives Luis Moscoso filed for the Senate seat and lost in the primary to Guy Palumbo. In the November general election, Mr. Palumbo will face Mindie Wirth. Derek Stanford, the House of Representatives incumbent in position 1 will face Neil Thannisch in the general. In the open position 2 House seat vacated by Luis Moscoso, Shelley Kloba faces Jim Langston in the general election.

#### **Legislative District 45**

Senator Andy Hill is not up for re-election this year. Larry Springer, the incumbent in House position 2 is unopposed. Roger Goodman, the incumbent in House position 1 will face Ramiro Valderrama in the general.

### **Legislative District 48**

The City will likely see change in the 48<sup>th</sup> legislative district as well with Senator Cyrus Habib running for Lieutenant Governor against Marty McClendon in the general election. Joan McBride is the incumbent in House position 2, and Patty Kuderer, who was appointed last year, is the incumbent in House position 1. Should Senator Habib win election to Lieutenant Governor, the Senate seat in the 48<sup>th</sup> will be filled by an appointment process.

### State Lobbyists

Waypoint Consulting was retained by contract to serve as Kirkland's State lobbyists. Majken Ryherd and Teresita Torres will participate in the upcoming legislative breakfasts.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

After receiving the City Council's feedback and edits, final Legislative Priorities will be prepared for adoption at the Council's October 18, 2016 regular meeting. Staff will also provide a draft Resolution adopting the priorities at that time. The Support Agenda will be prepared for Council's consideration in January 2017.

Attachments: A. Proposed Draft 2017 Legislative Priorities Agenda  
B. Redline of council adopted 2016 Legislative Priorities, show proposed 2017 priorities  
D. Cross Kirkland Corridor to Redmond Central Connector capital budget request



## **CITY OF KIRKLAND 2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

### **General Principles**

Kirkland supports legislation to promote the City Council's goals and protect the City's ability to provide basic municipal services to its citizens.

- Protect shared state revenue sources available to the City, including the State Annexation Sales Tax Credit, and provide new revenue options and flexibility in the use of existing revenues.
- Support long-term sustainability efforts related to City financial, environmental and transportation goals.
- Oppose unfunded mandates.
- Oppose any further shifting of costs or services from the State or County to cities.

### **City of Kirkland 2017 Legislative Priorities**

- Kirkland supports new funding and policy tools to address homelessness and create more affordable housing, such as:
  - Restore the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) to pre-recession levels
  - Add affordable housing to the list of eligible projects that can be funded by REET 1 and REET 2
  - Extend document recording fee for housing (eliminate sunset) and increase the fee
- Kirkland supports allowing Kingsgate Park and Ride to be used for an affordable housing Transit Oriented Development.
- Kirkland supports adequate and sustainable funding to maintain high-quality statewide training for law enforcement personnel.
- Kirkland supports allowing jurisdictions the option to cap an MPD (Metropolitan Park District)
- Kirkland supports capital or transportation budget funding for a multimodal safety improvement project connecting the Cross Kirkland Corridor with the Redmond Central Connector.
- Kirkland supports allowing both the state and local governments the option of replacing the property tax cap, currently fixed at 1 percent, with a cap that is indexed to both population growth and inflation.



## CITY OF KIRKLAND **2016-2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

### **General Principles**

Kirkland supports legislation to promote the City Council's goals and protect the City's ability to provide basic municipal services to its citizens.

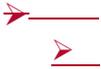
- Protect shared state revenue sources available to the City, including the State Annexation Sales Tax Credit, and provide new revenue options and flexibility in the use of existing revenues.
- Support long-term sustainability efforts related to City financial, environmental and transportation goals.
- Oppose unfunded mandates.
- Oppose any further shifting of costs or services from the State or County to cities.

### **City of Kirkland 2016-2017 Legislative Priorities**

- Kirkland supports new ~~policies and~~ funding and policy tools to address homelessness and create more affordable housing, such as:
  - ~~○ Allow local jurisdictions the option to impose a demolition fee to be dedicated toward construction of affordable housing;~~
  - ~~○ Allow local jurisdictions to impose up to an additional 0.25% real estate excise tax (REET) specifically for investments in affordable housing;~~
  - ~~○ Allow local jurisdictions to authorize a local option tax exemption to preserve affordability;~~
  - Allocate additional resources for mental health and substance use disorder treatment;
  - Restore the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) to pre-recession levels;
  - Add affordable housing to the list of eligible projects that can be funded by REET 1 and REET 2; and
  - ~~○ Extend document recording fee for housing (eliminate sunset) and increase the fee~~
  - ~~○~~
  - ~~○ Identify State-owned property to host authorized encampments, vehicle parking, emergency shelter, and housing; and~~
  - ~~○ Ensure the rights of religious organization to host safe parking efforts for the homeless on property owned or controlled by the religious organization~~
- Kirkland supports allowing Kingsgate Park and Ride to be used for an affordable housing Transit Oriented Development.
- Kirkland supports adequate and sustainable funding to maintain high-quality statewide training for law enforcement personnel.
- Kirkland supports allowing jurisdictions the option to cap an MPD (Metropolitan Park District)

- Kirkland supports capital or transportation budget funding for a multimodal safety improvement project connecting the Cross Kirkland Corridor with the Redmond Central Connector.
- Kirkland supports allowing both the state and local governments the option of replacing the property tax cap, currently fixed at 1 percent, with a cap that is indexed to both population growth and inflation.

~~Kirkland supports facilitating greater access to rooftop residential and community solar installations by extending the timeframe for state solar incentives in the Renewable Energy System Cost Recovery program.~~



- ~~Kirkland supports clarifying records retention, disclosure, and use limitations of video and/or sound recordings made by law enforcement or corrections officers.~~



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**City Manager's Office**  
 123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3001  
 www.kirklandwa.gov

November 24, 2015

**PROJECT TITLE:** Cross Kirkland Corridor to Redmond Central Connector

Kirkland supports funding of \$1,500,000 to complete the design and construction of a 1/3 mile pedestrian and bicycle connection between the Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC), and the Redmond Central Connector (RCC) to connect the high tech corridor of Willows Road and the aerospace and manufacturing companies to Totem Lake and the expanding regional trail network.

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

This proposed improvement provides for the installation of an 11 foot wide shared-use path between the intersection of NE 124th Street and Willows Road, and the CKC at 139th Avenue NE. The project involves support and efforts from King County, City of Redmond, the Eastside Rail Corridor Regional Advisory Council, and the City of Kirkland.

- **Kirkland** recently completed construction of a 5.75 mile crushed-gravel multi-use path along the full length of the CKC.
- The **Regional Advisory Council** for the Eastside Rail Corridor report (Creating Connections, Oct. 2013) calls for the development of a continuous trail connection between Kirkland and Redmond.
- **King County** has approved the removal of the rails along their portion of this connection.
- The **City of Redmond** has plans to construct a trail along the Redmond Central Connector to their border which will complete the connection.

Project benefits include:

- Encouraging convenient alternative transportation connections between two urban centers, Downtown Redmond and Totem Lake.
- Providing usable and safe public access to healthy forms of recreation.

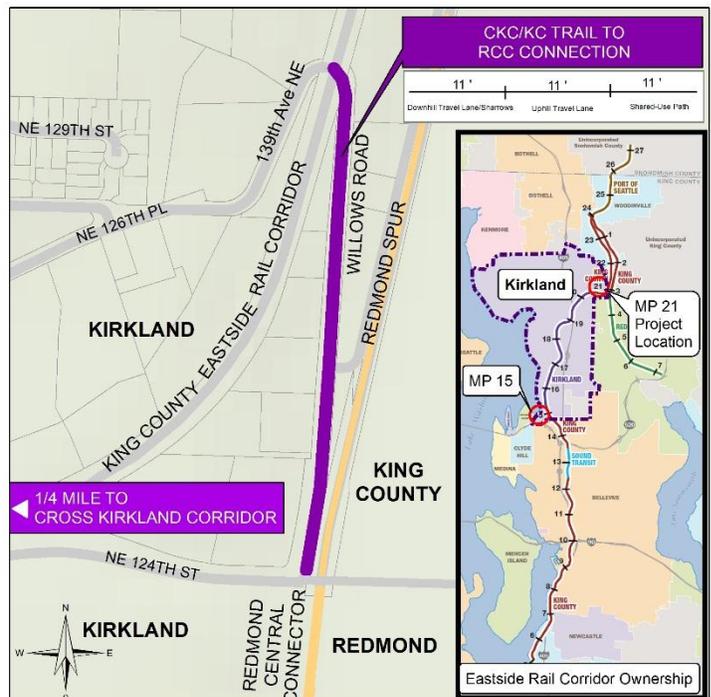
The City of Kirkland is requesting \$1,500,000 for design and construction. The connection can be designed and constructed in 12-18 months with multi-agency coordination needed.

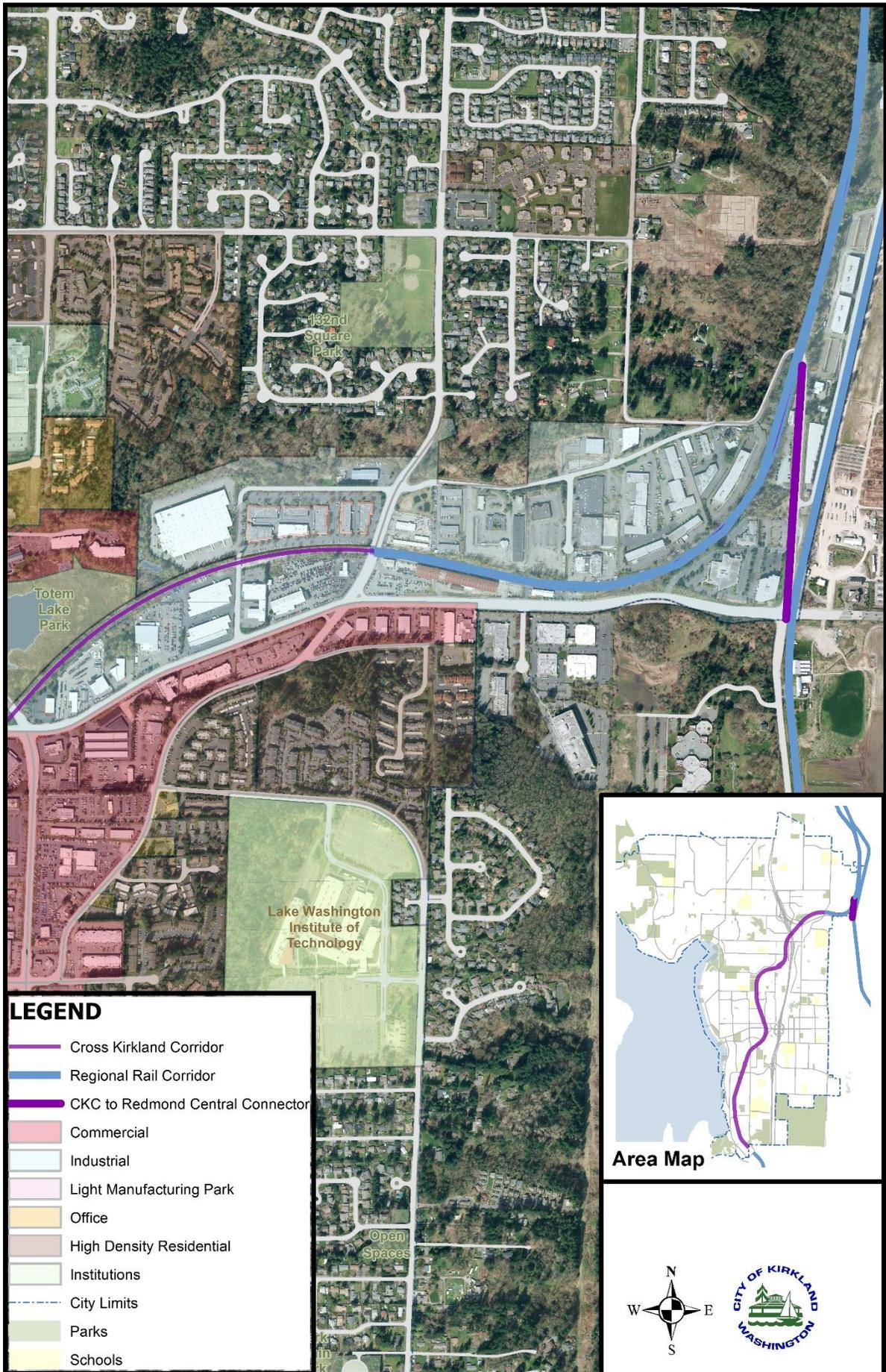
**KIRKLAND CONTACTS:**

Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
 425-587-3020

Kathy Brown, Public Works Director  
 425-587-3802

Lorrie McKay, Intergovernmental Relations Manager  
 425-587-3009







October 8, 2015

Secretary Lynn Peterson  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 47316  
Olympia, WA 98504-7316

**RE: City of Kirkland's Interest in Developing TOD at the Kingsgate Park and Ride**

Dear Secretary Peterson,

On behalf of the City of Kirkland, I write this letter to express the City's interest in developing Transit Oriented Development (TOD) at the Kingsgate Park and Ride. The City will assist WSDOT in its work with USDOT on any work/research that might need to be done to advance this interest.

We are grateful that you and your staff took time to visit Kirkland in June of this year to tour several sites, including the Kingsgate Park and Ride with myself, Deputy Mayor Sweet, Representative McBride and our City Manager, Kurt Triplett.

The Kingsgate Park and Ride is owned by WSDOT and operated by King County Metro Transit. It is located just east of I-405 at NE 130<sup>th</sup> Street, adjacent to the Totem Lake Urban Center. Sound Transit's Totem Lake Freeway Station is located across the street from the site, as are the NE 128<sup>th</sup> Street direct access ramps for northbound and southbound HOV lanes on I-405. King County Metro's Totem Lake Transit Center is located five blocks east on the southwest corner of the hospital campus of EvergreenHealth. Totem Lake, is Kirkland's largest employment center and is the focus of significant economic revitalization. By 2035, Totem Lake is expected to double its housing units to approximately 12,000 units. Employment is expected to increase from today's 13,000 employees to approximately 52,000 employees.

The City continues to invest in significant multimodal connectivity capital projects in anticipation of connection to the I-405 high capacity transit spine and Kirkland has prioritized pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure investments around access to transit facilities. WSDOT's willingness to work with the City on its interest in developing a TOD at the Kingsgate site left us hopeful for the future of maximizing the livability of the Totem Lake area.

We appreciate the enormous responsibility you carry as the Secretary of Transportation and look forward to working with your staff on next steps. The City's point of contact for this is Dorian Collins at (425) 587-3249 or email [dcollins@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:dcollins@kirklandwa.gov).

Sincerely,

KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL



By Amy Walen, Mayor  
City of Kirkland

Cc: Lorena Eng, Northwest Region Administrator  
Allison Camden, Intergovernmental and Tribal Relations Director  
Kirkland City Council  
Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
Eric Shields, Director, Planning and Building Department  
Dorian Collins, Senior Planner, Planning and Building Department  
Lorrie McKay, Intergovernmental Relations Manager



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

Lynn Peterson  
Secretary of Transportation

Transportation Building  
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.  
P.O. Box 47300  
Olympia, WA 98504-7300  
360-705-7000  
TTY: 1-800-833-6388  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov)

February 1, 2016

**RECEIVED**

**FEB 04 2016**

**CITY OF KIRKLAND  
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

The Honorable Amy Walen  
City of Kirkland  
123 Fifth Avenue  
Kirkland, WA 98033-6189

Dear Mayor Walen:

Thank you for your October 8<sup>th</sup> letter regarding the City's interest in developing Transit Oriented Development (TOD) at the Kingsgate Park and Ride in Kirkland. Please accept our apology for the delay in our response.

With Kingsgate being the City's priority for TOD, we look forward to working with USDOT and the City to determine the steps necessary to make this happen with the state owned Park and Ride lot.

Please feel free to contact Dylan Counts, of our Public Transportation Division at (206) 464-1232 or email [countsd@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:countsd@wsdot.wa.gov), with questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn Peterson".

Lynn Peterson  
Secretary of Transportation

cc: Lorena Eng, Northwest Region Administrator  
Allison Camden, Intergovernmental and Tribal Relations Director  
Kirkland City Council  
Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
Eric Shields, Director, Planning and Building Department  
Dorian Collins, Senior Planner, Planning and Building Department  
Lorrie McKay, Intergovernmental Relations Manager