



CITY OF KIRKLAND

Department of Public Works

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To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Ray Steiger, P.E., Interim Public Works Director
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Date: September 23, 2010

Subject: EASTSIDE RAIL CORRIDOR UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

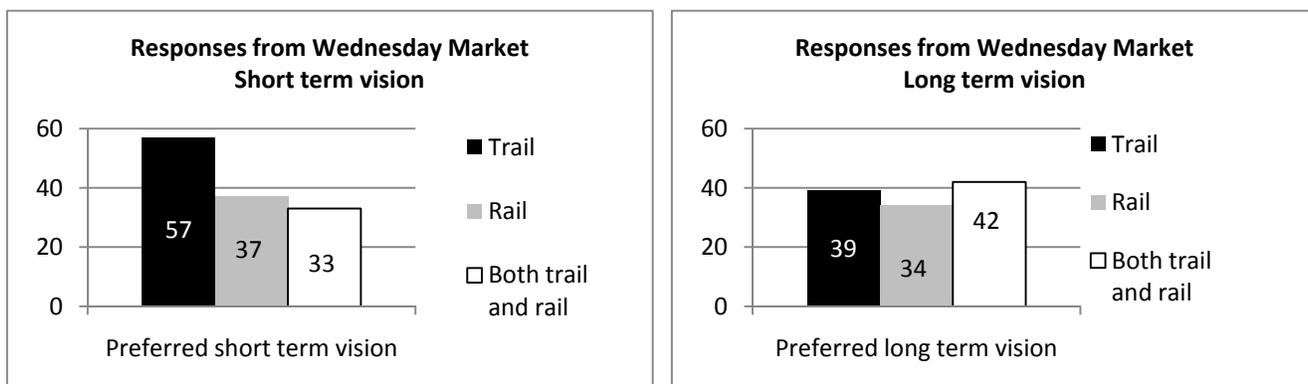
It is recommended that the City Council receive an update on the public process and next steps for the development of an interest statement by the Transportation Commission about the future development of the Eastside Rail Corridor.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

At its June 1 meeting the City Council approved a public process Figure 2 that would culminate in a statement describing the City's interests in development of the Eastside Rail Corridor. This memo is an update on the process to date.

Staff and Commissioners hosted a booth at the Wednesday Farmer's Market on five occasions during July and August; contacting over 300 people with information about the corridor status and seeking comments on corridor development preferences. Comment cards asked for opinions on several issues, including the question of how respondents would like to see the corridor developed in the short (by the year 2020) and long term (by the year 2030). A summary of those responses is shown in the Figure 1 below. For those who specified their neighborhood, most responses were from the Moss Bay, Houghton and Highlands neighborhoods and all the other neighborhoods were fairly evenly represented. About half the respondents did not identify their neighborhood. Comparing responses from those who

Figure 1 Responses from Wednesday Market comment cards



indicated they lived along the corridor with responses from all respondents, those who lived along the corridor were less supportive of rail in both the near and short term.

Beginning on September 3, 2010 an online version of the comment card was launched. Over 330 responses have been received and it is planned that the survey will be available through the end of September. So far, results from the online survey are similar to the responses received at the market.

The City Manager attended the July meeting of the Transportation Commission and gave the Commission an update on the latest conversations among the regional partnership that intends to purchase the corridor from the Port of Seattle. He also highlighted that the Council had authorized him to explore the potential purchase of the Kirkland portion of the corridor by the City of Kirkland, a conversation that continues. However the City Manager also asked that the Commission continue with their existing process on a parallel track since there was no certainty that there would be any role for Kirkland in the acquisition of the corridor.

In August, Commissioners took walks along the corridor on two different evenings to further their understanding of the line's physical features. At its September meeting, the Transportation Commission received a detailed briefing on the comments received thus far. During their October meeting, the Commission will continue to parse and organize the comments that have been received and begin preparing a draft Interest Statement for Council review.

Transportation Commission members attended the Park Board meeting on September 8 where they updated Board members on the corridor process as well as receiving numerous comments from the Board on their interests for the corridor. Transportation Commissioners are scheduled to attend Planning Commission and Houghton Community Council meetings in October and are hoping to receive additional comments from those two groups.

The Commission would welcome any guidance the Council would like to offer on:

- Other questions to be answered by public outreach or particular topics to focus on.
- Additional stakeholders that should be consulted.
- New constraints or factors that should be considered as the interest statement is prepared.

The Commission plans to come back to Council with a draft interest statement in late 2010 or early 2011. Following Council's review, City staff will work with the Commission on further public participation efforts.

This memo has been reviewed and edited by the Transportation Commission.

FIGURE 2 Process/Timeline for public involvement and interest statement development approved by City Council, June 2010

