



CITY OF KIRKLAND
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 (425) 587-3000
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager

From: Thang T. Nguyen, Transportation Engineer
David Godfrey, P.E., Transportation Engineering Manager
Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director

Date: January 22, 2008

Subject: GTEC Resolution

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council authorize the Mayor to sign the attached resolution designating the Totem Lake Urban Center as a Growth and Transportation Efficiency Center (GTEC).

Certifying the Kirkland GTEC by February 2008 would allow Kirkland to receive technical and survey measurement from WSDOT. The survey data would help verify our mode split and improve our opportunity to compete for future GTEC and CMAQ (Congestion Management and Air Quality) grants to fund Commuter Trip Reduction (CTR) and transportation projects with Totem Lake. The certification of the Totem Lake Urban Center as a GTEC does not obligate Kirkland to implement or fund the strategies within the GTEC plan.

Background

The City of Kirkland's GTEC plan is a voluntary strategic plan primarily focused on reducing commute trips within the Totem Lake Urban Center. The target of the plan includes health care employees, Totem Lake Mall employees, entry level employees, as well as residents in Totem Lake. The plan proposes a more aggressive approach to reducing drive alone commute trips and vehicle mile of travel (VMT), by expanding the base CTR program to employers and residents not currently affected by the CTR program.

Staff presented the GTEC plans to the City Council at the September 18, 2007 Council meeting; Council approved the plan and instructed staff to move forward and submit the plan to the PSRC and the CTR Board for approval and to compete with 13 other jurisdictions for the available GTEC funds.

Staff submitted the GTEC plan to PSRC and it was approved by the PSRC in October 2007. The PSRC recommended approval of the Kirkland GTEC to the CTR Board in October 2007. The CTR Board acknowledges the Kirkland GTEC plan but notified staff that the City of Kirkland GTEC plan was not selected for GTEC funding for the 2007-2009 biennium.

The CTR Board thought that the strategies within the Kirkland GTEC plan appear well focused on achieving program goals, including, changes to existing parking policies, increasing transit service, expanding vanpool services, developing a local promotional effort to increase ride-matching and transit use, transit subsidies,

Memorandum to Dave Ramsay

January 22, 2008

Page 2

and tele-work programs. However, they found that the King County Metro provided a conditional letter of support for the GTEC, which was a red flag for the reviewers and the parking policy could use more emphasis on eliminating employer parking subsidies, and to alter parking code. City Parking Code still maintains minimum parking requirements for new developments. Although King County Metro supported the strategies and goal within the Kirkland GTEC plan, they did not want to be obligated to provide financial support of our plans.

The Board suggests working with King County Metro to resolve the issues behind their conditional support for the GTEC plan, move forward with changes to parking management policies, amend the Comprehensive Plan to include Totem Lake GTEC program goals, work to improve the Bike/Ped infrastructure and continue to establish the Ride Fast Ride Easy program. The Ride Fast Ride Easy program is a Trip Reduction Performance Program (TRPP) grant program proposed to reduce SOV trips from entry level employees and multi-family residents within the Totem Lake area.

Subsequently, staff met with WSDOT staff in December to discuss the result of the Kirkland GTEC application and to solicit advice to improve our application for future funding opportunities. WSDOT staff encouraged Kirkland to continue moving forward with our GTEC plan, particularly with those transportation and land use policy elements that will increase trip reduction success. WSDOT indicated that the mode split survey they offer would help to improve the GTEC plan.

RESOLUTION R-4686

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF THE TOTEM LAKE URBAN CENTER AS A GROWTH AND TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY CENTER (GTEC)

WHEREAS, the Totem Lake neighborhood has been designated an Urban Center by the Kirkland City Council and by the Growth Management Planning Council and is so designated in the City's Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of a GTEC is to go beyond the goals of the commute trip reduction program and to reduce traffic congestion as well as develop and implement plans to reduce vehicle miles traveled per employee; and

WHEREAS, the GTEC designation qualifies the City of Kirkland to receive technical and measurement support from the Washington State Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the GTEC designation enables and strengthens the City of Kirkland's applications for Federal, State and County funding such as the State GTEC program and Congestion Management and Air Quality program; and

WHEREAS, the Puget Sound Regional Council has approved designation of the Totem Lake GTEC,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland that the Totem Lake Urban Center is designated as a GTEC.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this _____ day of _____, 2008.

Signed in authentication thereof this _____ day of _____, 2008.

MAYOR

Attest:

City Clerk