



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**

**Department of Public Works**

**123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800**

**[www.ci.kirkland.wa.us](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us)**

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**To:** Dave Ramsay, City Manager

**From:** Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director  
David Godfrey, P.E., Transportation Engineering Manager

**Date:** March 26, 2008

**Subject:** CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR. BOB FOREGRAVE

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of response to Mr. Foregrave who wrote to comment on the process for selecting members of advisory boards and commissions and about bicycle facilities in Kirkland.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

While Mr. Foregrave is complementary of the process used to select members of Transportation Commission, he wonders how he can pursue his desire for improved bicycle lanes.

On March 2, 2009 the Active Transportation Plan was adopted by Council, and ideas for bicycle facilities are part of that plan. As the body that was responsible for preparing the plan, the Transportation Commission would be a logical place for new ideas on bicycle facilities to be reviewed.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Forgrave [mailto:bob@forgrave.net]

Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 3:22 PM

To: James Lauinger

Cc: KirklandCouncil; David Godfrey

Subject: Thanks, and next step

Mr. Lauinger and city council, thank you for spending a long evening Thursday night personally interviewing the many candidates for various commissions, including a half-dozen for the Transportation Commission. I was impressed by how the interviews were conducted, the quality of the other interviewees I spoke with in the lobby, and with our mayer personally contacting every applicant, successful or not, to offer encouragement. This was a class operation all around.

While I appreciate the easy let down and suggested availability of other city opportunities to get involved, I want to be very clear about one thing. My interest is not in finding more outlets for my volunteer energy, but in the long and critical struggle to finally make Kirkland a safe and connected city for biking. By lowering our standards of a city-approved bike route to something that intermingles bikes and cars on busy roads by design, sometimes on both sides of the bike and especially at intersections, we have put both the city and its residents at great risk. Until we fix this approach, with new standards that create safe biking corridors to connect the city as part of a prudent risk-management plan, it is hard for any alternate transportation plan to be taken credibly in a logistically fragmented, auto-centric city.

A quick look at the community comments from the biking survey validates this position. Listed bad areas were all over the city, including many routes listed in the ATP as bike commuting routes, and crossing I-405 was the #1 issue. By far the top three good areas were areas where bike pelotons routinely band together for security (Market Street and Lake Washington) and "outside Kirkland." This situation won't be fixed by more paint and stencils. If we really want to make a difference, before a high-profile accident and city-named lawsuit forces the issue publicly, it will take a systemic change in our bicycle route safety standards.

My question now is, what is the next step? If I am not helping to encourage change from within the Transportation Commission, then I must do so as an outsider, preferably in a way that dovetails positively with city planning. But as an outsider, I need your guidance to explain what that positive process would be.

Sincerely,  
Bob Forgrave

P.S. Simply dropping my comments into the ATP isn't the answer here. If it were, I wouldn't have needed to volunteer for four years on a commission.

April 8, 2009

**D R A F T**

Bob Foregrave  
10925 128th PL NE  
Kirkland, WA 98033

Dear Mr. Foregrave:

Thank you for your email regarding your application for the Transportation Commission and your comments about bicycle facilities. It is gratifying to hear your opinions of our recruiting procedures and the City is fortunate to have so many qualified people that are willing to donate their time through service on advisory boards and commissions.

Perhaps the best next step in order to advance your ideas for bicycle facilities would be to present them to the Transportation Commission. If you have some specific examples of how and where your ideas could be implemented that would be most helpful. As you point out, the City Council recently adopted a new Active Transportation Plan, a part of which addresses on street bicycle lanes. It is never too late to suggest good ideas. The Transportation Commission is open to the adoption of new practices that can improve cycling in Kirkland. The Commission generally meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:00 at Kirkland City Hall. In the mean time, your email and this letter will be forwarded to the Commission.

The City Council appreciates your thoughts and interest in boards and commissions and in improving cycling. Please contact David Godfrey, Transportation Engineering Manager at (425)587-3865 or [dgodfrey@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:dgodfrey@ci.kirkland.wa.us) if you have further questions on this or other transportation matters affecting Kirkland.

Sincerely,

Kirkland City Council

By James L. Lauinger, Mayor