

*CROSS*

**KIRKLAND**  
**CORRIDOR**

VISIONING & PROJECT GOALS - **DRAFT**

23 August 2013

# CROSS KIRKLAND CORRIDOR

## Visioning & Project Goals

### The Vision

The Cross Kirkland Corridor is poised to become one of the city's foremost civic icons. Formerly a boundary and an underutilized space, the corridor is to be reimagined as a central spine and destination that unites Kirkland's neighborhoods. The corridor will serve a broad range of users providing a wide range of uses including active and passive recreation, the preservation and creation of wildlife habitat, and activating (and becoming catalyst for) business development and investment. The Cross Kirkland Corridor is to be a unique reflection of the city it serves.

What makes Kirkland great? Kirkland is a city of distinct and vibrant neighborhoods, some of which were once towns in their own right, with each contributing to the city's collective history and unique character that will be reflected in the corridor. These neighborhoods have long provided a wonderful quality of life—an idyllic balance of room to breathe, abundant green space, and stunning regional views, balanced with a vibrant downtown and community spaces and events which foster a sense of community and culture. While other communities east of Lake Washington might traditionally have been labeled "suburban," this label does not apply to Kirkland, whose history and ongoing development have allowed the city to carve out its own, distinct quality of life. Kirkland today is a tightly knit community that unites the best of urban and suburban life in a unique lifestyle.

Yet there is room for Kirkland to evolve, grow and strengthen its quality of life. As the many distinct neighborhoods have grown together, physical boundaries remained that interrupt the overall connectivity of the city. Isolated pockets of development and differing street grids lack adequate transportation and pedestrian connections, yet these quiet neighborhood pockets also provide a valued sense of escape and neighborhood identity and must be recognized as important assets of the city. Getting around Kirkland, from neighborhood to neighborhood for the daily activities of life, work and play can be trying and challenges the otherwise idyllic lifestyle that pervades the city.

Kirkland has the opportunity to define itself as a model community for its residents to enjoy and an inspiration for others to visit, appreciate and emulate. The bold vision for the Cross Kirkland Corridor has the potential to reach far beyond its own boundary to serve as a catalyst for the entire city.

***Imagine** a Kirkland where kids can walk or bike to school and a friend's house on a network of trails and greenways that separate and protect them from the inherent conflicts with cars.*

***Imagine** an employer choosing to stay in Kirkland or move to Kirkland because of the incredible quality of life for employees to live, work and play in a single city that is connected by active transportation and transit systems.*

***Imagine** Kirkland residents not driving for days at a time, not out of sacrifice, but without need due to the unified connections of the Cross Kirkland Corridor and enhanced transit connections.*

***Imagine** a visitor to the region who comes to Kirkland just to see and experience firsthand the renowned natural and built attractions along the corridor that make it both a destination as well as a connection.*





# VISIONING & PROJECT GOALS

## Public Involvement

### A Vision Shaped By the City and the Public

The vision for the Cross Kirkland Corridor is the result of years of planning, hard work and investment of the city and its residents, who boldly saw and seized the opportunity to purchase and control the 5.7 miles of the corridor. Based on extensive planning by the city and discussion and input from the residents of Kirkland, the master plan gives form to what the city's vision can become.

What should the CKC connect to?

**BURKE-GILMAN**  
**EVERGREEN HOSPITAL**      **LAKEVIEW ELEMENTARY**  
**JUANITA BEACH**  
**FINN HILL @ SANDBERG**      **WINERIES**  
**TOTEM LAKE PARK**      **100TH ST OVERPASS**  
**PETER KIRK ELEMENTARY**

What amenities should the CKC include?

**BIKE FACILITIES**      **SEATING**  
**TRAILS**      **CAFES**  
**RESTROOMS**  
**SIGNAGE / WAYFINDING**  
**ART**

The CKC can strengthen Kirkland by..?

**EXERCISE OPTIONS**  
**ACCESS TO WATER**  
**CONNECT HOMES/BUSINESSES**  
**GATHERING SPACES**      **CONNECT SCHOOLS**  
**ACCESS TO NATURE**  
**TRAIL FOR ALL AGES & ABILITIES**  
**TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES**



## **VISIONING & PROJECT GOALS**

### **Goals**

#### **Connect Kirkland**

The Cross Kirkland Corridor is fundamentally about making connections: connecting to the city via the corridor but also connecting the city back to the corridor. The corridor can connect to existing transit, future transit and potentially become home to high capacity transit. The corridor connects people: neighbors, kids and schools, businesses and their employees and customers in a new model for contemporary communities.

#### **Foster a Greener Kirkland**

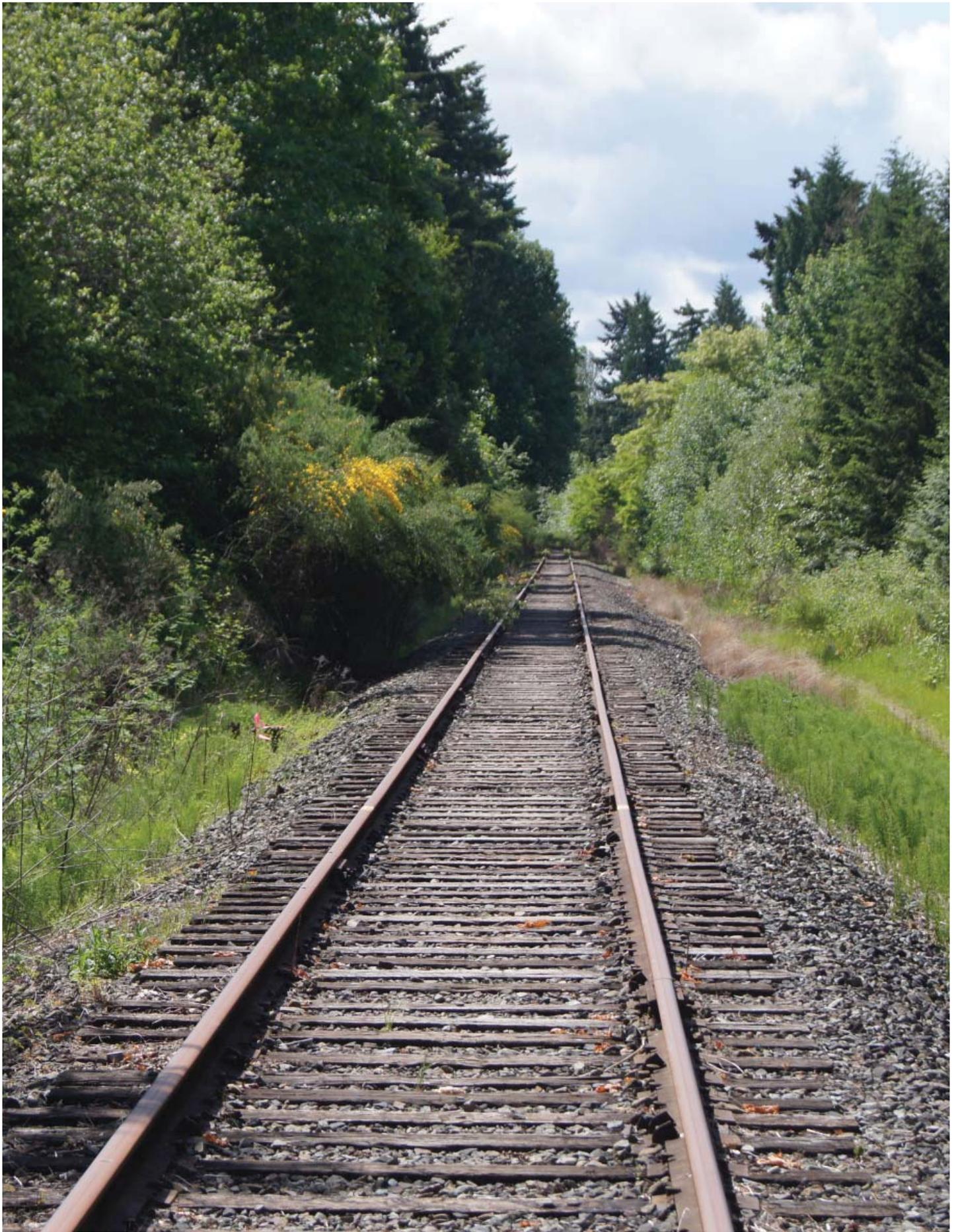
The Cross Kirkland Corridor master plan will shape the development of an ecologically and environmentally enhanced corridor even as it becomes an intensively used and integral part of Kirkland city life. The corridor's greatest contribution to sustainability extends beyond its own project limits to offer the opportunity for all of Kirkland to become more sustainable. By providing sustainable and regional amenities, the corridor makes Kirkland 'greener'.

#### **Shape a Place Unique to Kirkland**

More than a corridor that connects, the Cross Kirkland Corridor is a place, a destination, and an attraction. Kirkland is a city of diverse citizens, and the corridor will welcome and serve all citizens and visitors of all ages and abilities. The corridor will also capture the unique qualities that make Kirkland special—both in its design and in the programs and events it supports.

#### **Activate Kirkland and Evolve with Time**

The corridor can lead the whole city forward to achieving existing and new goals. It is designed to adapt and evolve over time to meet the needs of a growing city. The corridor offers balanced transportation solutions that today might include improved connections to transit, and also future possibilities which may one day include high capacity transit. The corridor is envisioned as a catalyst for change and growth of the underutilized areas of the city to increasingly become home to new businesses and residents.



## **VISIONING & PROJECT GOALS**

### **Connect Kirkland**

#### **Enhance and create connections**

The CKC will both enhance and forge new connections between the neighborhoods along its route. These connections will extend far beyond the corridor itself, utilizing streets, parks and other public spaces to create a network of trails, streetscapes, bike lanes, cycle tracks, and greenways that will tie the city to the corridor.

#### **More than one type of trail**

Along its nearly six miles, trail alternatives may take on differing profiles. Sections of the trail with generous widths may allow parallel, separate trails, whereas in other areas the space and trail widths may be constrained to a single-wide facility. Parts of the corridor will be subject to intense urban traffic pressures including numerous traffic crossings and high pedestrian volumes while other sections may be more “rural” in character. The trail design will respond to this and intuitively influence the speed of biking and pedestrian flows to manage conflicts.

#### **Shape intuitive, inherently safe connections on the corridor**

The CKC will be heavily used immediately for both recreation and commuter transportation (it already is) and that usage will only grow with the success of the trail itself and the completion of regional links and transportation networks. The master plan will develop a strategy for how and where the many different users (high and low speed) of the corridor will be safely mixed or separated, as well as how these strategies will evolve over time as traffic increases. Whether users are mixed or separated, the corridor’s engineering and urban design elements should intuitively invite right-minded use patterns.

#### **Shape intuitive, inherently safe connections to the corridor**

Building a network of trails, streetscapes and greenways to and from the corridor will take time. These connections should provide adequate separation from motorized transportation to provide safety and perceived safety for the broadest range of corridor users, including those who are less physically able.

#### **Safe crossing**

While there are relatively few street crossings along the 5.7 miles of the corridor, their design is critical to the corridor’s success. The master plan will develop crossing strategies unique for each crossing, yet of a similar vocabulary to intuitively guide corridor users and motorists alike to create safe crossings. While more distant, the possible use of the corridor for high capacity transit will also require an additional layer of consideration for inevitable crossing of the transit ways.

#### **Navigation and wayfinding**

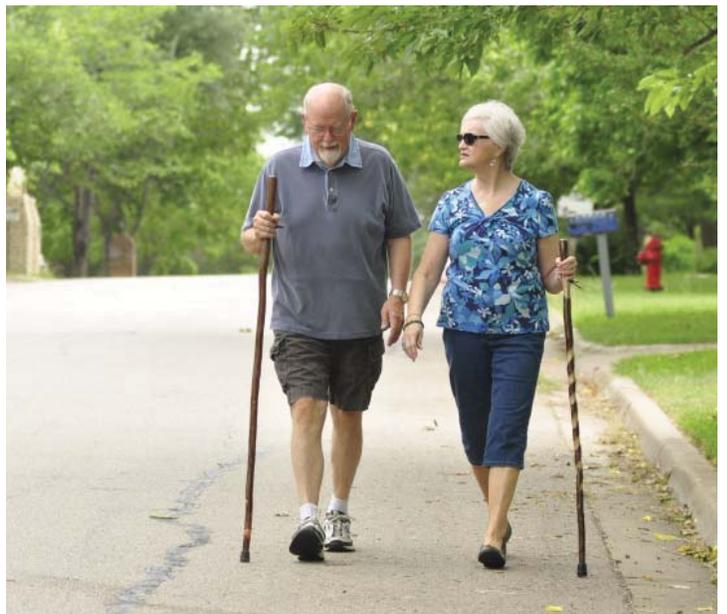
The CKC, and the network of connections that feeds to and from it, will be developed with a logical, intuitive wayfinding and navigation system which communicates to visitors where they are, how to get to their destination, and how to move to and from the corridor into the broader Kirkland community.

#### **Reach beyond the city!**

The CKC is a critical link in a regional system. Even as the city shapes the future of its portion of the corridor, the need to connect the trail into a functional regional trail system is becoming apparent. At the south end, portions of the corridor in Bellevue must be developed to connect the CKC to BelRed, future Sound Transit Light Rail, and beyond. At the north end there is the opportunity to accelerate the CKC’s connection to the Redmond Central Connector, which in turn connects to the Sammamish River Trail, Bear Creek Trail, and the East Lake Sammamish Trail. The east side rail corridor itself will also connect to Woodinville and beyond.

#### **Connect to transit today!**

Even as the master plan is developed to welcome future high capacity transit, the CKC can improve transit now, connecting to existing transit routes and even becoming a catalyst for revising transit routes and stops to serve and be served from the corridor and trail network.



## **VISIONING & PROJECT GOALS**

### **Foster a Greener Kirkland**

#### **A three-layer approach:**

In shaping the CKC into the nation's greenest corridor, we will focus on three layers of opportunity:

- **Outcome:** The city will change in response to realizing the CKC vision. As increasing numbers of the population use the corridor as part of their daily lives it will shape Kirkland into a more sustainable community
- **What we build:** The corridor will be developed to improve both the community value and the ecology of the landscape.
- **How we build it:** The design and construction of corridor elements will reduce the impacts of construction itself and heal and restore damaged landscapes.

#### **Enhance Kirkland's active lifestyle**

The corridor and its network of connections can change Kirkland by changing how residents live and interact as a community. When disconnected areas of the city connect, biking and walking for local trips, such as work, school, shopping and services, becomes a legitimate means of transportation. The CKC should reduce motorized vehicle trips in the city not out of sacrifice, but by simply providing a better, more desirable alternative.

#### **Enhance ecology**

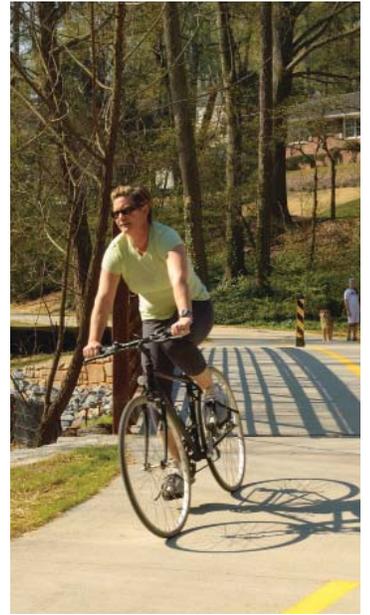
Even as we are inviting ever more people onto the CKC, we can also enhance the corridor's ecology and the ecology of the city as a whole. These efforts can include enhancing and connecting green spaces, green stormwater strategies, and restoring impacted creeksheds.

#### **Construct with care**

Even as the corridor is developed, in some stretches intensively so, this development can occur with the most forward looking of design and construction practices, including careful sourcing of materials, minimizing unnecessary site work, and minimizing export of materials from the site.

#### **Build stewardship (residents don't just own it, they care for it!)**

The CKC will seek opportunities to engage Kirkland's residents to not only fund its improvement and ongoing maintenance, but also welcome community members to take ownership of elements along the corridor that can be shaped and maintained by community groups. In doing so, the corridor's character will be enhanced as it builds community and further solidifies support for environmental stewardship and the ongoing care of Kirkland's public spaces.



## **VISIONING & PROJECT GOALS**

### **Shape a Place Unique to Kirkland**

#### **Celebrate the unique characters of the all the neighborhoods the corridor touches**

Each neighborhood the corridor touches is unique and will infuse its own unique character on the adjacent stretch of the corridor.

#### **Honor history**

Because of Kirkland's age as an independent city, it is blessed with a great history, including industry and transportation and the railroad that once shaped the very corridor now being reimagined. This history should be celebrated in the wonderful places and discoveries up and down the corridor.

#### **Embrace the landscape**

The corridor will embrace its rich setting with an amazing diversity of experience, from naturalistic forest and dramatic tunnels of trees to wide open views and regional landmarks to the Olympics and beyond.

#### **More than a trail, a destination**

Maximize the opportunity to develop the corridor as more than a linear, extruded transportation element. Even as it is an artery connecting across the city, it is also an attraction bringing people together in a common place and reflecting the culture and character of the surrounding city.

#### **A place for all!**

Beyond recreational and commuting bicyclists, the corridor will welcome a broad range of users including less skilled bicyclists, those less physically mobile, the very young to the anything but young, picnicking families with kids, to hipsters on their way to a downtown restaurant. The corridor welcomes all!

#### **Create contrast and surprise**

In creating a corridor that will surprise and inspire people, it is important to embrace juxtaposition. With the many rich characters along the corridor, the design will not simply seek to replicate a character, but seek opportunities to introduce elements that may be in juxtaposition to that character. In doing so, the design will highlight the unique qualities of the space by forming a contrast as unexpected yet welcomed surprises along the corridor.

#### **Emphasize multi-use**

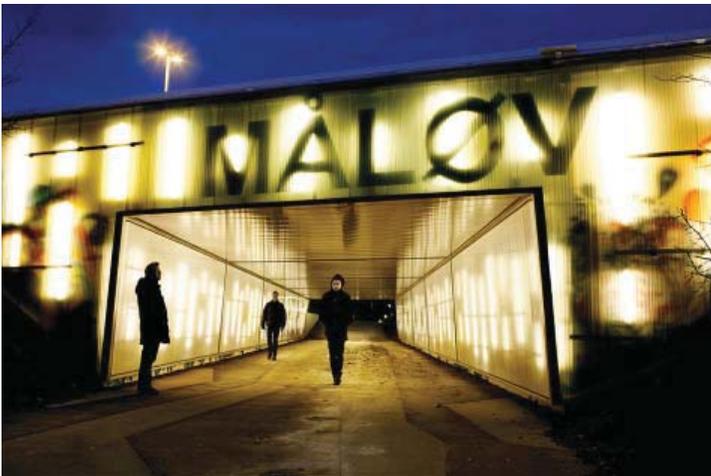
With the demand for space and activities along what is ultimately a narrow corridor, multi-use activities which can serve broad user groups should be emphasized. Single use activities that limit use and access of portions of the corridor to a limited group should be minimized.

#### **Embrace art**

Include art on the corridor as an evolving signature of the city's cultural values. Art can be incorporated in many forms, but can be most powerful at engaging and returning people to the corridor if there is regular change, less a static display but more a curated exhibit. The corridor should seek the opportunity to welcome artists regularly up and down its length for ephemeral interventions of a limited duration that allow for artistic experimentation and create buzz and interest in the corridor and the broader city itself.

#### **Energize with programming**

While the completed corridor will teem with passive activities on sunny evenings and weekends, it can also be programmed with events and activities that attract ever broader groups of people, extending periods of peak activity throughout the year.



## **VISIONING & PROJECT GOALS**

### **Activate Kirkland and Evolve with Time**

#### **Growing around and out from the corridor**

For decades the city has developed circulation and development patterns around modern transportation arteries like I-405 and other high capacity streets. New planning strategies (Trail Oriented Development, or TrOD) and inevitable growth pressures will shape a new pattern of new development over time, congregating new residents, workplaces and services around the Cross Kirkland Corridor as a new transportation artery and civic amenity.

#### **Activate the edges**

Since construction of the railroad corridor long ago, adjacent properties have turned their backs to the utilitarian trackway and its noise and activity. Reimagined as the Cross Kirkland Corridor with its increasing activity and users, this trend should reverse. The back will become the front, as properties seek to connect and benefit from being on or near an emerging new civic feature and transportation spine of the city.

#### **Strengthen business and development**

Planning initiatives emboldened by the corridor's development should increase Kirkland's residents, job retention and job growth, allowing more people who work in the city to also call it home.

#### **Connect to transit today, home to transit in the future**

The Cross Kirkland Corridor originated as a significant transportation corridor and it is to continue in that capacity, albeit with modernized modes of transit. The cargo trains of before are to be replaced by non-motorized transportation (walking, biking, etc.) connecting to transit today. The corridor will also be planned to welcome potential future light rail or bus rapid transit service.

#### **Welcome infrastructure**

The corridor is already home to infrastructure, including power, communications and sewer. The value of the CKC to connect infrastructure as well as people and ecology should be welcomed. This may include engineered utilities subtly and seamlessly integrated into the corridor as well as "green" utilities such as stormwater management elements which can be integrated as amenities and attractions on the corridor.

#### **Designed to evolve**

While the master plan will show a near-term and long-term vision for the corridor, it is recognized the future cannot be predicted and the vision becomes less detailed the further the master plan reaches into the future. The master plan will guide future decision makers in the design and development of the corridor, yet also have the flexibility to evolve with undefinable yet inevitable change in both the corridor and the city over time.



