



Youth Council Visioning Meeting

October 28, 2013

City staff met with the Youth Council to conduct a visioning exercise.

The following summarizes topic questions and comments generated in group discussions.

What do you see as the top 3 issues for Kirkland 's young adults over the next 20 years? What will change compared to now?

- Jobs for teens
 - will be more competitive
 - Increase jobs for teens and summer jobs
 - increase high technology jobs
- Traffic
- Alternative Transportation Options
 - Less driving
 - more walking
 - increase pedestrian walkways
 - more biking
 - increase bike lanes
 - Increase downtown parking
 - Provide more transit stops/more frequent
 - Provide light rail to school
- Provide more shopping malls Downtown and Totem Lake for shopping and to provide jobs
- Housing
- Overcrowding and population growth
 - Grow while keeping the quaint Kirkland feel
 - Preserve nature – plant more vegetation and trees while allowing for growth
 - Too many tall office buildings – ugly (art on buildings), cover small shops
 - Provide roof-top gardens
- Fun activities for teens
 - Not like Bellevue
 - Mini-mall/retail for teens/dense shopping
 - Organized activities
 - Sports courts
 - Walking trails
 - Drinking fountains
- Gender equality
- Rising taxes (housing & property expensive)
- Provide smaller police stations around the city
- Increase athletic fields; indoor pool and recreation center
- Improve image of teen center

What types of businesses should Kirkland try to attract over the next 20 years that would help young adults get jobs and/or prepare for their future careers?

- Retail stores that hire youth
- Art jobs
- Office jobs
- Organic businesses
- Development of Totem Lake Mall jobs
- More beaches
- More movie theaters/fast food/places for teenagers to work as their first job
- Expand the hospital to allow the types of businesses that will hire teens
- Graphic design, public relations
- Expand small businesses; keep larger ones out

As Kirkland becomes more diverse both culturally and in language, how should we accommodate these differences for Kirkland's young adults?

- Schools could provide an introduction for kids and their families arriving from other countries to become aware of community services
- Schools provide early language introduction and more options
- Increase adult ESL classes and provide for free
- Retail and restaurant workers bilingual
- Increase multi-ethnic stores
- Increase the spectrum of winter cultural celebrations

In your transportation vision for Kirkland 2035, how will Kirkland's young adults get around?

- Light rail that connects to bus network
- Trolley within Kirkland and to Redmond
- Less roads
- Expand freeways
- Increase parking
- Bus service that is more reliable, provides a greater service area, better route planner and app for smartphone
- Electric cars with more chargers
- Public bike share
- Increase number of bike paths and separate from cars
- Pedestrian walking:
 - more sidewalks and walking trails
 - cars yield to pedestrians
 - replace cross walk flags with lights
- Jet packs
- Safe options for elderly & people with disabilities

What should Kirkland's neighborhood business districts look like in the future and what should they contain to serve Kirkland's young adults?

- Design of business districts
 - Redevelop Totem Lake Mall
 - Provide landmarks e.g. like Space Needle
 - Design for transit
 - No big sky scrapers
 - Adequate parking
 - Seasonal activities
 - Not by water
 - Big buildings
 - Telephone wires underground
 - Wi-fi
 - Public art in the City mirrors graffiti etc. Show you're creative.

- Types of businesses:
 - grocery stores
 - retail stores for teen jobs
 - More family restaurants like Chipotle, Coldstone, Italian
 - Surf/skate shops
 - Nordstrom
 - Movie theater (BD)
 - Bowling
 - Ice skating
 - Outdoor movie
 - Clothing stores
 - General big store (Target)
 - Small shops (books)
 - Family-owned businesses
 - Commercial/activity center
 - More restaurants