



CITY OF KIRKLAND

Department of Public Works

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To: Paul Stewart, Deputy Director

From: David Godfrey, P.E., Transportation Engineering Manager

Date: February 16, 2011

Subject: EASTSIDE RAIL CORRIDOR FEBRUARY 24, 2011 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Members of the Transportation Commission will be at the February 24, 2011 Planning Commission Meeting to discuss the Eastside Rail Corridor. The Transportation Commission has finished work on a draft interest statement for the Corridor and has two main questions for the Planning Commission. Looking at the Interest Statement as a whole, 1) are there any interests in the statement the Commission feels strongly do not belong in the document and if so, what are they? 2) does the Commission have any strongly held interests that are missing from the document and if so, what are they?

BACKGROUND

Last summer and fall, the Transportation Commission engaged in an outreach process to understand the interests of the Kirkland community relative to the Eastside Rail Corridor. This included a meeting with the Planning Commission. The Commission heard from a number of citizens at the Wednesday Market and through an on-line survey. Others with interest in and knowledge of the corridor presented information to the Commission at regular meetings.

Council approved the draft interest statement at its January 18th meeting and, in accordance with a plan agreed upon last June, directed the Transportation Commission to reach out to the wider community with the draft statement. This will include the Park Board, Planning Commission, Houghton Community Council, Business Roundtable and neighborhood associations via KAN. The Commission hopes to complete this work in February.

The City has developed a webpage (www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/eastsiderailcorridor) that has a great deal of background material on the corridor. In summary, the Port of Seattle currently owns the corridor, but previously anticipated purchase by the County and Sound Transit has not occurred. Council has authorized the City Manager to begin exploring options by which the City might purchase the portion of the corridor in Kirkland.