



CITY OF KIRKLAND
PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
123 FIFTH AVENUE, KIRKLAND, WA 98033 425.587.3225
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 6, 2014
To: Houghton Community Council
From: Joan Lieberman-Brill, AICP, Senior Planner
Subject: Status of the Houghton Transfer Station

RECOMMENDATION

Review the attached memorandum from John McGillivray, Solid Waste Programs Lead in the Public Works Department, regarding the closure status of the Houghton Transfer Station (HTS).

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

At your October 27, 2014 meeting, the Community Council requested an update about the HTS and the status of its expected closure, while discussing the draft update of the Public Services Element. The attached memorandum addresses the current situation.

There will be no presentation at the January 15 meeting.

Please address any further questions directly to John McGillivray at jmcgillivray@kirklandwa.gov or 425-587-3804.

Attachments

1. Memorandum from John McGillivray dated November 20, 2014



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Public Works
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800
www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Joan Lieberman-Brill, AICP, Senior Planner
From: John MacGillivray, Solid Waste Programs Lead
Date: November 20, 2014
Subject: Houghton Transfer Station Closure Status

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Houghton Community Council with an update on the status of the closure of the Houghton Transfer Station (HTS).

BACKGROUND

The King County Solid Waste Division-owned (KCSWD) and operated HTS in Kirkland has a long history and King County has been contemplating the closure of the facility for the past two decades.

The HTS property was first an open dump site between the 1940's and 1960's. In 1965, King County closed the landfill and opened the HTS. In 1992, the King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan proposed replacing the station with a new station at a different location. In 1995, the rate proposal submitted by the KCSWD was rejected and the KCSWD was directed to continue operating the existing network of transfer stations which included the HTS remaining open at its current location.

In October of 2005, an MOU between the City and the KCSWD was approved by the Kirkland City Council with the passage of Resolution R-4527. The non-legally binding MOU provided that the KCSWD would proceed with several mitigation projects and measures at and around the station. The MOU also stated the KCSWD's commitment to close the HTS upon the completion of the transfer station capital improvement program due to a level-of-service analysis that found that the HTS did not meet several key safety, capacity, and customer service standards.

In March 2013 the Metropolitan King County Council (MKCC) passed [Ordinance 17619](#) which compelled the KCSWD to conduct a full review of its Transfer Plan capital improvement program to determine if all of the new transfer stations needed to be built when planners were forecasting a significant decrease in future garbage tonnage. Specifically, the review would help determine if the transfer system could handle future transactions and tonnage without constructing a new transfer station in Northeast County to replace the HTS. The [Transfer Plan Review Final Report](#) was transmitted to the MKCC on March 3, 2014 and recommended that the KCSWD "... evaluate implementation of operational approaches that would provide service for the northeast county without building an additional transfer station and compare trade-offs and benefits with the adopted Transfer Plan." The operational approaches recommended for

analysis included directing waste haulers to underutilized transfer stations [Alternative E1] and limiting self-haul hours [Alternative E2].

Subsequent to the transmittal of the Transfer Plan Review Report to the MKCC, the Kirkland City Council and staff took and supported the following actions supporting the closure of the HTS:

- On September 17, 2013, the Kirkland City Council adopted [Resolution R-5001 and the King County Solid Waste Transfer and Waste Export Plan Position Statement](#) that reiterated the City Council's desire that the HTS close by 2021.
- On February 4, 2014, the Kirkland City Council adopted [Resolution R-5031](#) reaffirming its position that the HTS close by 2021 and authorized the Mayor to sign a letter to the effect to be sent to King County Council Member Jane Hague.
- On May 9, 2014 Kirkland's staff representative to MSWAC voted in support of the [motion](#) that recommended the closure of the Houghton, Renton and Algona transfer stations no later than 2021, 2018, and 2020, respectively. The approved motion was sent to the MKCC for its consideration during its review of the Transfer Plan Review Final Report.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

On June 4, 2014, the MKCC approved [Motion 14145](#) which revised and amended the Transfer Plan Review Final Report. The motion requires the KCSWD to evaluate strategies to manage transfer system transactions and capital expenditures without building a new Northeast Transfer Station, specifically, to evaluate:

"... strategies to manage transactions at transfer stations, as well as other operational and capital strategies such as the use of underutilized transfer stations. The report shall address the management of transfer station transactions through the use of strategies to avoid excessive user wait times resulting from overutilization of individual stations. The report shall analyze options E1 [Commercial haulers redirected to underutilized stations] and E2 [Limits on self-haul hours] in the Transfer Plan Review Report ..." **Under both the KCSWD-recommended E1 and E2 Alternatives, the HTS is to be closed.**

The MSWAC subsequently formed a Transfer Plan Review Part 2 Subcommittee to assist the KCSWD in the development of transactional and capital demand management strategies that would allow the transfer system to remain efficient and functional in the absence of a new Northeast County Transfer Station when HTS (and potentially the Renton Transfer Station) is closed. Kirkland Solid Waste staff has been active on the subcommittee.

On November 17, 2014, the KCSWD held a workshop to provide stakeholders with an update on the work that is well underway to comply with the provision of the MKCC motion. At the meeting, the KCSWD presented the four alternatives that are being evaluated. **All of the "concepts" assume the closure of HTS.**

- **Concept 0:** No Northeast Transfer Station, no redirection of haulers to underutilized stations, and no restriction on self-haul hours

- **Concept 1:** Redirect commercial haulers to underutilized stations, no Northeast Transfer Station [E1]
- **Concept 2:** Restrict self-haul hours, no Northeast Transfer Station [E2]
- **Concept 3:** Build a Northeast Transfer Station

In conjunction with its consultant, The Transpo Group, the KCSWD has collected data on peak and off-peak traffic patterns at several transfer stations. The Transpo Group is currently applying a variety of demand management strategies to a computer traffic model to determine if implementing various demand strategies will be sufficient enough to handle the transactional demand and consequently forego needing to construct a new Northeast Transfer Station once HTS is closed. Some examples of demand management strategies plugged into the traffic model include offering discounts during certain time periods, limiting the amount of time a customer can be on-site without paying a premium fee, or even requiring mandatory garbage collection in all cities. Examples of capital demand management strategies include adding inbound/outbound scales, providing unloading assistance, or adding hours of operation.

The KCSWD has indicated that it will hold a second workshop in January 2015 to present the findings of its analysis to stakeholders. Per the MKCC motion, the KCSWD must transmit a draft report to the MKCC by March 31, 2015, followed by a final report no later than June 30, 2015. More detailed information can be found on the [Transfer Plan Review website](#). Please direct any questions concerning the transfer plan review to John MacGillivray, Solid Waste Programs Lead at (425) 587-3804 or jmacgillivray@kirklandwa.gov.