

Eastside Rail Corridor: City plans for public involvement process

The City Council has approved a public involvement process that will offer opportunities during summer and fall for stakeholders to contribute to developing an “interest statement” that will address the City’s short term and long term vision for the Eastside Rail Corridor. Recognizing the importance and potential benefits of the Eastside Rail Corridor to the Kirkland community, the City Council and Transportation Commission are interested in involving Kirkland citizens, businesses and special interests groups to help develop the statement.

The entire corridor, known as the “Woodinville Subdivision,” runs 44 miles from Renton to Snohomish; with 6 miles within the Kirkland city limits. In late 2009, the Port of Seattle (Port) finalized its acquisition of the corridor from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway.

Five agencies with interests in the corridor (King County, Sound Transit, Puget Sound Energy, Cascade Water Alliance, and the City of Redmond) are negotiating terms for the purchase and easement rights from the Port of Seattle.

An informational website, including frequently asked questions, highlights of City Council and Transportation Commission meetings and the ability to subscribe to email updates about the Corridor, is available at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/eastsiderailcorridor.