

**Kirkland Transportation Commission
Meeting Notes
Wednesday March 24, 2010**

Call to Order

Don Samdahl called the meeting to order at 6:05. Members Present: Jon Pascal, Morgan Hopper, Tom Neir, Carl Wilson, Joel Pfundt, Sandeep Singhal. Kirkland Staff present: Dave Godfrey, Ray Steiger, Public Works Department

Approval of meeting notes from February 24 meeting

Approved unanimously.

Transportation Conversation

The Commission reviewed the new draft document. There was discussion about the tone of the document relative to users of automobiles. The Commission agreed that some changes to the wording would be appropriate. Comments were made about the location and structure of tables in the "Issues" sections of the document. Commission requested that a editable version of the report be sent out so that Commissioners could alter the table more easily. The Commission also asked that the Council goal on balanced transportation be incorporated into the document.

Updates

Commission moved updates to an earlier position on the agenda

Staff: discussed neighborhood plan meeting on May 25th, Sandeep Singhal agreed to attend. Reviewed future meeting dates. Discussed I-405/NE 116th interchange plans and SR 520 bicycle connections. Ray Steiger reviewed the Community Survey, the results of which were presented at the recent Council retreat.

Samdahl pointed out that Mike Miller had been appointed to the Planning Commission. Pfundt reported that SR 908 would be turned back to Kirkland and Redmond in June of 2010 under legislation approved by the Governor. Pascal hoped that the Commission would be able to offer input on the bicycle wayfinding project. Also reported that for now, tolling was not moving forward on I-405. All others: none.

Public Comment: video of Public comments are available on line at http://kirkland.granicus.com/mediaplayer.php?view_id=13&clip_id=1801

Bob Forgrave (begins at 1:19 on video)

Spoke in support of establishment of a trail on the Eastside Rail corridor, and discussed the cost of different options.

Georgina Foster (begins at 6:02 on video)

Discussed previous comments by GNP railroad concerning a categorical exemption to a NEPA process

Shawn Etchevers (begins at 9:27 on video)

Commented that the size of vehicles that are allowed to park on the street is important. Sometimes large vehicles are so wide that they partially block the bicycle lane.

BNSF Corridor update video of this presentation and subsequent discussion is available on line at http://kirkland.granicus.com/mediaplayer.php?view_id=13&clip_id=1801

Lisa McConnell from Eastside Trail Advocates gave a presentation on that group's position on trail development. (Begins at 13:04 on video)

After the presentation, the Commission asked questions including:

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what is ETA's position on rail,
What's the feasibility and cost of a trail with no rail,
Amounts of potential usage by type of trip
Framing development of a trail as a transportation facility?
Could a gravel trail be useful?
Is there support within ETA for a bond to fund construction of a trail?

Tom Jones gave a presentation on behalf of the Cascadia Center (Begins at 43:53 on video). After the presentation, the Commission asked questions on many topics including: the ability to compare various technical data, cost for rail and how a rail operation would be profitable, necessary environmental process for stations, other north/south rail line options.

The Commission then discussed how to prepare a item for the April 6 Council meeting (Begins at 1:24:00 on video). It was decided to draft a letter for Council consideration outlining principles that Kirkland would like to see in a regional process and to propose that the Commission be a facilitator for a local public process. Staff was directed to prepare these documents and send them to the Commission for review. Sandeep Singhal agreed to attend the April 6 meeting on behalf of the Commission.

Recognition of Jon Pascal

Jon Pascal's term on the Commission expires on March 30 and the Commission took the opportunity to recognize the many contributions of Mr. Pascal over his 8 plus years of service.

Introduction of new members

New members Carl Wilson, Tom Pendergrass and Michael Snow introduced themselves to the other Commissioners. Mr. Pendergrass and Mr. Snow will begin their terms on April 1.

Meeting adjourned