

**Kirkland Transportation Commission**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday, October 24, 2018**

An audio recording of the meeting is available on the [Transportation Commission Page](#) of the City website.

**Call to Order**

Chair Perlic called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.

Members Present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kurt Ahrensfeld	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brayden Brackett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Dueker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faith DeBolt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Jacobson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terry Marpert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa McConnell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Perlic

Kirkland Staff Present: Kathy Brown, Joel Pfundt and June Carlson, Public Works Department

Others Present: Grace Carlson and Corey Holder, King County Metro Transit; Juan Higuera, Sound Transit; and Aaron Gooze, Fehr and Peers

**Review of past meeting notes**

Notes from the September 26, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Items from the Audience**

None.

**North Eastside Mobility Project**

Joel Pfundt, Transportation Manager provided an introduction and expressed how well the City of Kirkland, Metro and Sound Transit have worked together during this process. This introduction also described how the Transportation Master Plan's four principles for transportation and other transit related policies might help guide the Commission's discussion regarding the North Eastside Mobility Project (NEMP).

Grace Carlson and Corey Holder from King County Metro Transit, and Juan Higuera from Sound Transit then presented to the Commission regarding the details of the NEMP. First they reviewed the background, including the scope of the routes being considered for changes, and why Metro and Sound Transit are proposing making these changes. The two primary reasons being the closure of the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel and Montlake Freeway Station to buses. Also, this presents an opportunity to look at a major revision to the transit service in this area for the first time in many years.

Next Metro and Sound Transit staff outlined what the community said they wanted out of any new service proposal and then how the proposed scenario, which would be implemented in September of 2019, goes about addressing the community's needs and past comments from the 2017 SR 520 Connections project. The proposed scenario is described as North Eastside Restructure: Potential Network B. The presentation also outlined alternative services that will be offered through Metro's Community Connections program (Community Ride and Community Van). The presentation also outlined what would happen if no further action was taken after March of 2019. The presentation wrapped up by describing the next steps of the project, including public meetings and other outreach to the community.

Commissioners unanimously endorsed Potential Network B as the preferred way forward with the following comments. There was concern about the increased cost of a trip between Kirkland and downtown Seattle for riders not using an ORCA card due to the transfer between bus transit and Link light rail. It was pointed out that those riders could transfer to a bus to downtown Seattle at the Evergreen Point Station. Commissioners also asked about how the Community Connections services work, including making sure they work for students and serve "last mile" connections along with "first mile" connections. Commissioners like the travel time benefits that would result between major destinations. It was also suggested that Sound Transit consider the 542 or 556 serving the South Kirkland Park and Ride in order to provide better connections for riders. Commissioners mentioned their concern regarding the loss of the one-seat ride between Finn Hill, and downtown Kirkland and Bellevue; as well as the 255 no longer serving Kingsgate. Commissioners were supportive of the improved frequency and span of service on many of the routes in Kirkland and the surrounding communities, with the 255 and 930 being mentioned specifically. There was also support for the new proposed route 544.

### **Draft Kirkland Transit Implementation Plan**

Aaron Gooze, Fehr and Peers Project Manager for the Kirkland Transit Implementation Plan (KTIP), presented the draft plan to the Commission for their review and comment. The presentation began with an update on the project status and outreach to date. This was followed by an overview of the sections included in the draft KTIP and a review of the proposed project list.

Overall the Commissioners suggested that the plan include a better description of planned transit improvements by our regional partners, specifically Sound Transit and Metro Transit. It was also suggested that the timelines for each project be revisited, the project maps be improved to better differentiate between existing and proposed improvements, the reference to land use at the beginning of the plan be clarified and the 49ers hat be addressed. The Commission also had the following specific comments on each project:

- Project 1 – Confirm that buses can make eastbound right from NE 38<sup>th</sup> PI to 108<sup>th</sup> Ave NE and consider how to enforce drivers not blocking intersections.
- Project 3 – Why operate in both the AM and PM peak?
- Add southbound bus lane at 98<sup>th</sup> Ave NE and Forbes Creek Dr.
- Project 4 – Clarify that proposal would not actually fully close Totem Lake Transit Center to bus service. Transit Center could also be used to facilitate other uses, such as more layover, bus charging and use by transportation network companies.
- Project 7 – Project creates pedestrian safety issues and feels like a step backwards from all the work done to improve pedestrian friendliness in downtown Kirkland.
- Project 8 – Widen the sidewalk in this area to improve the waiting environment and identify improvements to the pedestrian crossing. Also, what is the future of the Houghton Park and Ride?
- Project 9 – Does the project improve lane alignment north-south on 116<sup>th</sup>/120<sup>th</sup> Ave NE?
- Project 10 – Address bike access on 108<sup>th</sup> Ave NE in the vicinity of the South Kirkland Park and Ride, and also user experience items like bike parking and wayfinding.

### **Updates from Commissioners/Staff**

Staff reported on the following:

- Bike Share – Community outreach to find out what people think about piloting a bike share permit is underway. A town hall meeting occurred during the City Hall for All event on 10/6/18. Next will be discussions with neighborhood associations, a community survey, and finally a community meeting on 12/6/18.
- King County Trail Summit – Occurred on 10/18/18. Commissioners Ahrensfield and McConnell attended. Commissioner Ahrensfield provided notes.

Commissioners reported on the following:

- Brackett – Will be experiencing a new mode of transportation as he plans to get his driver's license by the time of the next meeting.
- DeBolt – Enjoyed opportunity to attend City Hall for All event.
- Jacobson – Attended event and came away with the impression that everyone is OK with e-bikes, but nobody wants e-scooters.

**Meeting adjourned** unanimously approved to adjourn at approximately 8:50 PM.