

Kirkland Transportation Commission
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, June 27, 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 6:08 PM.

Members Present:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kurt Ahrensfield | <input type="checkbox"/> Brayden Brackett | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Dueker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faith DeBolt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Xander Fiss | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terry Marpert | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa McConnell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Perlic |

Kirkland Staff Present: Kathy Brown, Stephen Padua, Public Works Department.

Others Present: Grace Carlson – Metro, Aaron Gooze – Fehr & Peers

Review of past meeting notes

Notes from the May 23, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

Items from the Audience

None.

North Eastside Mobility Project

Grace Carlson, Senior Service Planner from King County Metro explained the purpose of the North Eastside Mobility Project and provided a recap of the project progress to date. She explained how Metro's Community Connections program will support fixed transit service and how the plan will outline future changes in Kirkland. She also explained how the SR-520 transit outreach process that commenced in 2017 is supporting the direction of this project to evaluate the best options which implement Metro's Long Range plan vision. Grace then requested comments from the Commission and wrapped up with a summary of the project timeline and upcoming outreach efforts.

The discussion focused on the importance of route 255 and the potential service changes the community needs to consider. The external factors being considered is the potential closing of the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel to buses in 2019, the closure of the Montlake flyer stops in March 2019, and timing for capital improvements outlined in the One Center City plan. Commissioners expressed their concern that forcing 255 riders onto downtown Seattle surface streets will frustrate eastside transit riders more than the potential truncation at the University of Washington Light Rail Station. The Commission asked about the decision process on service changes in 2019 and if it was too late to attempt a March 2019 truncation of route 255 instead of waiting until September 2019.

The Commissioners also expressed their concern about having to cross Montlake at all even after the One Center City improvements, but still felt re-directing the 255 to UW station was a better option than moving the 255 on Seattle's surface streets. Ken suggested running two versions of the 255 where a 'local' route would stop at all the stops it serves today and having an 'express' route that would serve the same route but less stops.

The Commission strongly encouraged Metro staff to look into this process and confirm the decision process. Public Works Director, Kathy Brown, confirmed that she will relay the Commission's concerns to the City Manager and the City Councilmembers.

Kirkland Transit Implementation Plan

Aaron Gooze, Project Manager on the Fehr and Peer's consultant team provided a recap of the project progress to date and the next steps to finalize the plan. The implementation plan will provide a list of capital projects, such as transit queue jumps or signal priorities; and identify areas where additional non-motorized projects and flexible transit service areas should be prioritized. He presented on the data analysis which was used to guide the plan and the criteria being considered to prioritize the project list. Aaron then requested feedback from the Commission and finished the presentation on next steps for the project. Aaron will return to the Commission's July meeting to report back on the draft priority list of projects and funding mechanisms to support the plan.

The Commission expressed interest in weighing in on the criteria scoring but decided to wait until they see the prioritized project list at the July meeting before giving feedback on the criteria weights.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Update / Transportation Concurrency

Kathy Brown, Public Works Director, presented a summary to the Commission on the progress of the CIP update and Transportation Concurrency. The commission was given a brief refresher on how the CIP attempts to balance people trip capacity with expected growth. Kathy followed it up with a summary of the proposed CIP and an explanation of the direction Staff is going with funding multi-modal projects.

Commissioners expressed their support for staff's direction and the proposed CIP update and would encourage the City Council to consider this approach and get these projects funded.

The City Council will have a study session on July 3rd to review staff's strategy for prioritizing multi-modal capacity projects and the proposed CIP.

Updates from Commissioners/Staff

Staff reported on the following:

- I-405/NE 85th St Interchange and Inline Station City Council letter was adopted and sent to Sound Transit on June 19th
- Bike Share Update – Staff will be going to the next 3 council meetings to first introduce bike share and ask for direction; then give a draft of the pilot for review and then adopt any code changes to support the pilot.

Commissioners reported on the following:

- McConnell – Attended the Eastside Rail Corridor, Jane Hague Way opening event. In September there will be a Eastside Bike Summit.
- DeBolt – Also attended the ERC opening event and inquired about the expansion projects with no updates to report. Attended the Juanita Heights Park expansion and is excited for the City's project to look at potential trail projects.
- Marpert – Highlighted concerns for bus to rail transfer issue, which greatly impacts riders who pay with cash.
- Perlic – Expressed additional concerns about helmet enforcement related to bike share operations and the hard situation this puts parents in.

Meeting adjourned unanimously approved to adjourn at approximately 9:17 PM.