

**Kirkland Transportation Commission  
Meeting Notes  
Wednesday, July 25, 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 6:04 PM.

Members Present:

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kurt Ahrensfield | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brayden Brackett | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Dueker     | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith DeBolt           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Xander Fiss                 | <input 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, Armaghan Baghoori, Public Works Department, and June Carlson, Public Works Department

Others Present: Sarah Saviskas – Fehr & Peers

**Review of past meeting notes**

Notes from the June 27, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved with one amendment to add Ken's comment on splitting the route 255.

**Items from the Audience**

Olivia Ahna commented on the new development at the intersection of NE 132<sup>nd</sup> Avenue & 85<sup>th</sup> Street. Including stating that the neighborhood understood the development was supposed to be a commercial development and that it changed to become a mixed use development that will bring 144 additional units to an area already at capacity. An additional comment was made that at peak travel time, the buses are full, the arterials are congested, and the neighborhood is deeply concerned with adding more residential units. Olivia suggested the City add a southbound right-turn-lane on 132<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE at 85<sup>th</sup> Street and relocate the bus stop on the northwest corner of that intersection to relieve some of the congestion.

Lynn Armstrong also commented on the new development and supported Olivia's comments and suggestions for improvements. Lynn added that there is a concern for school bus access to the area and the safety of students walking to Mark Twain Elementary. Lynn also asked if staff could speak with her about the new improvements on NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street and accessing NE 126<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

An additional audience member, Diana Moore, also spoke to the Commission in support of the comments made by Olivia and Lynn. Diana added that the traffic flowing from neighboring cities is growing and is significantly impacting the access for the residents on NE 131<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

Chair John Perlic and Kathy Brown, Public Works Director, both responded to the audience members that transportation staff will be looking into their concerns and to figure out what the options are available for them to submit their comments directly to the permitting process for the new development. Kathy offered her contact information to each of the commenters so they can get in contact with the transportation staff. The TC discussed evaluating their work plan to potentially look at how the Transportation Commission can be more involved with these neighborhood concerns regarding development impacts on our transportation system.

Stephen Padua introduced Armaghan Baghoori, the city's new Transportation Program Coordinator, to the Commission. Armaghan will be assisting the Public Works Department with managing the city's Commute Trip Reduction programs, managing the Metro Community Connection Projects (SchoolPool, Community Van, etc.) and advancing the city's overarching Transportation Demand Management goals.

Stephen also introduced June Carlson, the city's new Strategic Advisor, to the Commission. June will be assisting the City with managing the regional transportation projects, particularly, implementation of I-405 Bus Rapid Transit, the 85<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange re-design, and the Kingsgate Transit Oriented Development.

**Kirkland Transit Implementation Plan Project**

Sarah Saviskas, Senior Transportation Planner on the Fehr and Peer's consultant team provided a quick recap of the project progress to date and the information that was discussed at the Commission's June meeting. The 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. Sarah presented the draft list of the prioritized projects based on the criteria that was previously discussed with the Commission. Sarah then requested feedback from the Commission on the criteria and the line-up of prioritized projects. Fehr and Peer's will return in September to solicit feedback from the Commission on a draft plan. City staff plans to release the draft plan to the public for review and collect feedback prior to next Commission meeting in September.

The Commission asked staff to take a closer look at the methodology behind the evaluation of the non-motorized project analysis and the flexible transit service analysis. The Commission commented that the methodology for the non-motorized analysis should be taking into account the terrain and planned projects since that will sway the projects the city should prioritize. The Commission also commented that the flexible transit service analysis seems to direct priorities towards areas that would potentially sway people away from existing fixed transit service.

### **Electric Assist Bicycle Policy**

Stephen Padua, Transportation Planner in Public Works, presented background information on policies related to the use of electric-assist (e-assist) bicycles in our region. The State Legislature passed a bill that classifies e-assist bicycles into different categories and clarifies where the different category of e-assist bicycles can be used. Kirkland staff is proposing a new law that would allow the use of e-assist on the Cross Kirkland Corridor, in accordance with new state legislation. The next step for staff is to bring a draft law to the city council for approval. Separate from this effort, but in support of bicycle use in Kirkland, staff is also pursuing an education campaign on proper trail use etiquette. The campaign is consistent with the signs King County and Seattle are using on their trails to encourage users be vocal when passing,

In regards to the education campaign, the Commission expressed their support for this campaign, but asked staff to consider using the same signage as King County to be consistent but also because their 'fun' signs have more descriptive pictures that can be more universally understood.

In regards to the e-assist bicycle policy, the Commission expressed concern on allowing class 3 bicycles on sidewalks and on the CKC. The Commission members in attendance also asked staff to contact the Commissioners not in attendance to collect their feedback on this matter as well. One sign idea suggested to staff was to use the "congested area ahead" sign in addition to the other signs showed in the presentation.

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

Staff reported on the following:

- Bike Share Update – Staff went to the July 3 council meeting to introduce bike share and they will be going to the August 6 council meeting to give a draft of the pilot for review and a meeting in September to potentially adopt any code or policy changes to support the pilot. Kathy and Stephen stated the biggest changes to the permit include a more robust public outreach process and limiting the total number of permits that will be issued as part of the permit. Staff added that there will be a full customer service process to ensure all calls and emails to city staff are informed and directed to the correct people.
- North Eastside Mobility Plan – Metro staff will speak with the Commission in September to discuss the results of their outreach process and present a draft list of concept solutions to implement the Metro Connects Plan.
- I-405/NE 132<sup>nd</sup> St Interchange – An online open house will be released in the first two weeks in September, based on the Commission's feedback to WSDOT staff. An access hearing is scheduled for September 11 and more details will be sent to the Commission as soon as those plans are finalized.
- I-405/NE 85<sup>th</sup> St Inline Station and Interchange – An open house was held at City Hall on July 19 and 40 people attended. Kurt added that he was in attendance and stated there was a lot of options for submitting feedback but he is concerned with the access points to areas in close proximity to the station.

- Additionally, Kathy Brown followed up with new information regarding a discussion from the previous Commission meeting on the potential Metro route 255 truncation at the University of Washington Light Rail Station in 2019. The information about Council's ability to discuss a March 2019 with the King County Council was inaccurate and September 2019 is the earliest time to truncate the 255 at UW.

Commissioners reported on the following:

- Deuker –commented that he believes truncation at UW will force people to choose another mode because people prefer a one-seat ride. Ken added that he spoke Councilmember Asher on the subject and he shares Ken's concerns about losing riders if Metro forces a two-seat ride.
- Perlic – shared that he is frustrated with the process regarding the route 255 truncation at UW and commented that the data presented by Metro shows that truncation is the best option. He believes there was a missed opportunity to fix a problem caused by the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel (DSTT) closure and the Montlake flyer stop closure by truncating the route 255 at UW in March 2019. Instead, transit riders will be forced to sit in traffic congestion on the surface streets of downtown Seattle for at least 6 months.
- Ahrensfield – commented that Metro should consider a pilot and incentives for eastside riders to try the proposed truncation route. Additionally, Kurt announced the Tour Les Totem Lake event on July 28, the next Saturday.
- McConnell – Suggested Kirkland pursue it's own education campaign to communicate to local transit riders the options to get around when the DSTT and the Montlake stop closes in March 2019.
- Kathy Brown responded to all route 255 comments and stated the city council completely understands the frustration of the process and agrees with the data that the transfer at UW Station is the better of the two options available. City staff is working closely with Metro staff to find new solutions to mitigate the big issues. One effort Metro is pursuing is requesting WSDOT delay the Montlake flyer stop closure to minimize the impact on eastside ridership to UW.

**Meeting adjourned** unanimously approved to adjourn at approximately 7:58 PM.