



CITY OF KIRKLAND

Planning and Community Development Department

123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3225

www.kirklandwa.gov



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 21, 2014

To: Transportation Commission

From: Teresa Swan, Senior Planning

Subject: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE: DRAFT VISION STATEMENT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES, EIS GROWTH CONCEPTS, AND UPDATE REVIEW APPROACH AND SCHEDULE, FILE CAM13-00465, SUB-FILE #7

I. Recommendation

The Transportation Commission reviews the:

- Draft **Vision Statement and Guiding Principles** and provides comments, if any, to be forwarded to the Planning Commission.
- **Growth concepts** to be studied in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Comprehensive Plan Update and provides comments to staff.

Planning staff provides an overview of the **approach to review** to the Plan Element Chapters and the Update **schedule**

II. Visioning Statement and Guiding Principles

The existing [Vision Statement](#) is a two-page verbal description of Kirkland in the year 2022 that summarizes the desired characteristics for our community planning and development efforts. The existing Vision Statement is also a descriptive narrative of the 17 [Framework Goals](#) that follow. The Framework Goals restate the goals and policies found in the general Element Chapters. They both reflect the same key planning themes and both are overly long.

The City Council has asked staff to reduce the length of both the Zoning Code and Comprehensive Plan by consolidating information and looking for ways to be more succinct. Over the years both documents have continued to grow in length.

Vision Statement

On January 9, 2014, the Planning Commission agreed on a shortened Vision Statement. The revised Vision Statement is based on the cumulative **Wordle** and the **main themes** from the Kirkland 2035 Vision Conversation. The most common words (shown in the largest font size) reflected in the cumulative Wordle are in the following order:

1. Green
2. Vibrant, Walkable Livable
3. Accessible and Sustainable
4. Friendly and Healthy
5. Connected, Progressive, Natural and Unique

If you compare the revised Vision Statement with the existing [Vision Statement](#), you will find generally similar themes with the exception of the new terms “green” and “sustainable.” Another difference is that the new statement doesn’t make a reference to Kirkland as a community with a “small town feel.” Commission members felt the city is becoming more urban.

On February 21, 2014, the City Council reviewed the Planning Commission’s draft Vision Statement and made some edits. The Council version is provided below:

Draft Vision Statement

Kirkland is one of the most livable cities in America. We are a vibrant, attractive, desirable and welcoming place to live, work and play. Civic engagement, innovation and diversity are highly valued. We are respectful, fair, and inclusive. We honor our rich heritage while embracing the future. Safe, walkable, bikeable and friendly neighborhoods are connected to each other and to thriving business districts, employment centers, schools, parks and our scenic waterfront. Diverse and affordable housing is available throughout the city. Convenient transit service provides a viable alternative to driving. Kirkland strives to be a model, sustainable city that values preserving and enhancing our natural environment for our enjoyment and future generations.

Guiding Principles

On January 9, 2014, staff suggested to the Planning Commission that the existing **Framework Goals** be replaced with aspirational community principles reflective of the Kirkland 2035 Visioning Conversations. The existing 17 Framework Goals are a restatement of what is already addressed in the goals and policies found in the individual elements so these overarching goals could be replaced with more general guiding principles.

On February 21, 2014, the City Council reviewed the Planning Commission’s draft Guiding Principles and made some edits. The Council version is provided below:

**Draft Guiding Principles
(to replace Framework Goals)**

I. Livable

Quality of life: safe and well-maintained neighborhoods, parks, open space and recreational facilities, lake access, community gathering places and activities, excellent schools, and access to services and to healthy life choices.

Diverse and Affordable: residential neighborhoods and business districts for a variety of incomes, ages and life styles.

Community Design: High quality and attractive architectural design and landscaping, and preservation of historic buildings and sites.

II. Sustainable

Ecological: natural systems and built structures that protect and enhance habitats, create a healthy environment, and promote energy efficiency.

Economic: a vibrant economy offering choices in jobs, businesses, services and entertainment throughout the community.

Social: health and human services that fulfill the basic needs of all people without regard to income, age, race, gender or ability.

III. Connected

Sense of Community: community involvement in government, schools, civic events and social service programs that creates a sense of belonging through shared values.

Accessible: a safe interconnected system of well-maintained roads, bike and pedestrian paths across the entire city, convenient access to transit, and walkable and bikeable neighborhoods within a short distance to nearby destinations used on a daily basis.

Technology: reliable, efficient and complete systems for residents and businesses to be connected, informed and involved.

Does the Transportation Commission have any comments on the Vision Statement and/or the Guiding Principles?

III. Growth Alternative in Environmental Impact Statement

An Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for the Comprehensive Plan Update. The EIS will evaluate significant impacts of the Plan Update.

The current land use plan with existing zoning will serve as the baseline or “no action alternative”. The City has selected the consulting team of Berk, 3MW, The Watershed Company and Fehr and Peers to prepare the EIS. Preliminarily, staff has identified four conceptual land use issues to be studied in the EIS as a **growth alternative** concept to the “no action alternative”:

1. Neighborhood Business Centers: Consider certain of these centers for more intensive development. Except those in the newly annexed areas, these centers are serviced by major bus routes that provide frequent all day service and have bike lanes and sidewalks nearby. Other than Juanita Village, these centers are currently developed with one story buildings and surface parking lots.
2. 6th Street LIT and Totem Lake: Consider a broader range of uses in certain identified areas to respond to current and future market trends. A consultant is currently preparing the Industrial Lands Study to consider policy issues for these areas to be completed by the end of this month.
 - Area 1 – 6th Street LIT (east and west of Cross Kirkland Corridor/CKC)
 - Area 2 – Parmac (TL 10B-TL 10E)
 - Area 3 – -TL 7 and TL 9A
 - a. TL 7 - north of NE 124th Street and south of CKC
 - b. TL 7 – east of 132nd Place NE and north of CKC
 - c. TL 9A
3. Cross Kirkland Corridor: Look at the properties along the corridor to determine if any changes should be made to the permitted uses, intensities and densities to encourage uses that support and promote use of the corridor.
4. Near transit stations and along transit corridors: Consider increases in intensities and densities that support transit ridership.

These four topic issues would make up the growth alternative studied in the EIS. The environmental impacts of potential changes to these four study areas need to be assessed if amendments are proposed. The Plan Update EIS would be an appropriate and timely environmental document to assess those impacts. Scoping will be done to identify potential issues to be addressed with the EIS.

Does the Transportation Commission have any comments on the growth concept alternative?

IV. Approach to Review of the Element Chapters of the Plan

The Planning Commission has completed its review of the Vision Statement and Framework Goals Chapter and has now begun its review of the remaining Elements Chapter, starting with the Land Use Element and then moving onto the other Element Chapters.

As part of its review of the 14 Element Chapters, the Planning Commission must consider the requirements of the [GMA Comprehensive Plan Update](#) for consistency with:

- The State Department of Commerce’s [Comprehensive Checklist](#) for GMA statutory requirements adopted since 2003;
- Puget Sound Regional Council’s [Vision 2040](#) and [Transportation 2040](#); and
- King County [Countywide Planning Policies](#)

The Planning Commission will also consider the comments from the 2035 Visioning Conversations, the [City Council Goals](#), Smart [Growth Principles](#) and other planning principles. In addition, the latest annexation area will be considered in review of the existing policies and any new policies.

The approach for the Planning Commission’s review of the Element Chapters in the Plan is to allocate three to four meetings over three months for each of the more complex elements that involve policy issues (Land Use, Transportation, Economic Development, and Housing) and two to three meetings over two months for the less complex elements (Natural Environment, Parks, Public Services, Utilities, and Human Services). Review of several elements would occur at the same time.

Revisions to the Transportation Element Chapter will reflect the new Transportation Master Plan. City staff, the Transportation Commission and the Planning Commission will work together on the revisions.

V. Comprehensive Plan Update Schedule

Planning staff has developed a general overall **timeline** for the Plan Update that began in the summer of 2013 and will end in the late spring of 2015.

Below is the **schedule** for review the elements, amendments to the neighborhood plans and potential Zoning Code amendments in preparation of the Draft Plan (schedule is subject to change):

2014

Element Chapter	PC Review	CC	HCC	Trans C	Parks B
Vision/Framework Goals	Dec-Jan	Feb	Feb	Feb	March
Land Use (and Growth Alternatives/G.A.)	Feb-April	April	April	Feb and April	
Economic Development	April-June		June		
Natural Environment	April-June		June		
Housing	April-June		June		

Parks	June		July		July
Community Character	June-July		Aug		
Introduction	June-July		Aug		
General	June-July		Aug		
Human Services	July-Aug		Sept		
Public Services	Sept-Oct		Oct		
Utilities	Sept-Oct		Oct		
Transportation	Aug-Oct	Oct	Sept-Oct	Sept	
Capital Facilities	Sept-Oct	Oct	Oct	Sept	
Totem Lake Plan	Jan-Oct	Oct	N/A		
Neighborhood Plan edits	March-Oct	April check in	Aug-Sept		
Code Amendments	April-Oct		Sept-Oct		

Below is a **description of the overall process** for development and approval of the Plan Update:

- Planning Commission discusses the issue papers prepared by staff and then provides direction to staff.
- Staff prepares draft revisions to each element and Planning Commission provides comments.
- Joint meeting with the Planning Commission and Transportation Commission on Transportation Element.
- Houghton Community Council reviews draft revisions from the Planning Commission.
- Check-ins with City Council on Vision Statement/Framework Goals, Land Use and Transportation Elements, EIS land use alternatives, neighborhood association issues and other policy issues.
- Staff prepares final drafts of each element based on City Council, Planning Commission and Houghton Community Council direction. This becomes the Draft Plan.
- Once the **Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement** are issued, public comments are accepted on the documents. Planning Commission and Houghton Community Council hold hearings on the Draft Plan and the SEPA Official (Planning Director) holds hearing on the Draft EIS.
- Planning Commission and Houghton Community Council make recommendations on Draft Plan and applicable Zoning Code amendments.
- **Final EIS** is prepared that responds to comments on the Draft EIS and may include revisions to the Draft Plan.
- Planning Commission and Houghton Community Council review public comments addressed in Final EIS and make recommendations on Final Draft Plan to City Council.
- City Council considers **Final Draft Plan** and applicable Zoning Code amendments.

The State deadline for completion of the Comprehensive Plan Update is **June 30, 2015**, which may be extended provided that a jurisdiction has made progress on the Plan Update.