

Kirkland Transportation Master Plan Planning Day Approach (DRAFT)

Updated September 23, 2013

Background

As part of the Kirkland 2035 Comprehensive Plan Update, the City is holding a Planning Day on Oct. 19, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Peter Kirk Community Center.

The Comprehensive Plan visioning discussion activity will be the focal point of the event, by involving the public in drawing a verbal picture of what kind of community Kirkland should be in 2035, given the various changes anticipated in the coming years. There will be two Comprehensive Plan visioning sessions, each about an hour long.

There will also be two 75 minute long presentation and activity sessions involving the Cross Kirkland Corridor that will be happening at the same time as the Plan visioning sessions.

While the update of the Comprehensive Plan and the CKC will be the primary focus of Planning Day, other City projects, including the Transportation Master Plan (TMP), will be provided space to share project information and seek public input.

TMP Outreach at Planning Day

Planning Day will provide a valuable opportunity to engage the public in a conversation about the TMP and the future of Kirkland's transportation system. The overall goals for TMP-related outreach at Planning Day are to gain information that will help us shape the Goals and Policies for the Plan. At the same time the outreach should be simple, interactive, fun and informative.

Three activities are proposed, as described below:

1. Wordle

- *Description:* Participants will be asked to provide the one word (or phrase) that describes the transportation system they'd like to see in Kirkland in 2035.
- To spur thought, participants will be provided with a starter list of potential words or phrases they could select (although coming up with their own original words or phrases will be encouraged). Examples would be balanced and could include: mobility, multimodal, fast, environmentally-friendly, bikes, options, etc.
- During the Wordle exercise, words will be collected and entered into a laptop and turned into a word cloud. The word cloud can then be used in other project materials, such as fact sheets and presentations.

- *Advantages:*
 - Simple introductory activity
 - Provides users with a degree of anonymity
 - Support identification of overall transportation vision and goals



Figure 1: Sample word cloud

2. Goal statements

- *Description:* Participants will be asked to read and rate a variety of statements related to 8 key areas. Participants will rate their support of various statements by placing a dot sticker next to the 5 point level of agreement that best matches their views. Each statement will be on its own board, with a picture and space for comments.
- *Advantages:*
 - Helps further define how broad transportation goals might actually be applied
 - Participants will be able to see which statements/views are most popular, which can generate questions and discussion.

The eight areas are:

1. Maintenance
2. Operations
3. Traffic Congestion
4. Walking
5. Biking
6. Transit
7. Safety
8. Funding

DRAFT statements for consideration. People would note their approval on a 5 point scale from strong agree to strongly disagree. Each area would be a separate board. The Commission should discuss these statements and make sure that they are covering the appropriate areas at the appropriate level.

1. Maintenance

- A. Overall, Kirkland’s traffic signs, road striping, street pavement, sidewalks, etc. are well maintained compared to other nearby cities.

- B. The maintenance of traffic signs, road striping, traffic signals or pavement is an important factor to me as I travel around Kirkland.

2. Operations

- A. Overall, I feel that Kirkland's traffic signals work well compared to those in other nearby cities.
- B. When I consider coming to downtown Kirkland, lack of free parking is an important factor in my decision.
- C. Speeding is a problem in my neighborhood
- D. Parking is a problem in my neighborhood
- E. Kirkland should be aggressive in adopting new technology and new ideas that will help us travel more easily.

3. Traffic Congestion

- A. Traffic congestion could be reduced if roads and intersections were expanded
- B. I'm planning that there will be less traffic congestion in the future
- C. Not counting I-405, I frequently find myself in traffic congestion in Kirkland
- D. Roads and intersections should be expanded to help solve traffic congestion
- E. Traffic congestion is a major factor as I choose when and where to travel
- F. Cars will continue to be important for everyday mobility, but less important than they are today

4. Walking

- A. A lack of safe or convenient sidewalks limits the number of places I walk around Kirkland
- B. Build sidewalks first on main streets and on streets that connect to schools.
- C. In the future, I would like the option of making more of my trips in Kirkland by walking
- D. Sidewalks are often obstructed (by branches, garbage carts, etc.) where I walk in Kirkland

5. Biking

- A. If there were a network of bicycle routes off of busy streets I would be likely to use them
- B. In the future I would like the option of making more of my trips by bicycle.
- C. Current bicycle routes should have better signs and markings
- D. Lack of bicycle parking in Kirkland causes me to use my bicycle less than I would like

6. Transit

- A. The primary focus for bus routes should be frequent, all day routes on major streets serving high-ridership destinations, even if fewer households are close to bus routes.
- B. Bus routes should serve neighborhoods more, even if it means less frequent service that is less cost-effective.
- C. Getting light rail to Totem Lake is an important goal

7. Safety

- A. Traffic safety is important to me
- B. Traffic safety should improve in the future
- C. Pedestrians often walk out into the street without looking for cars
- D. We should have more flags, flashing lights, crosswalks etc. to help keep pedestrians safe
- E. Considering overall traffic safety, Kirkland is as safe or safer than most nearby cities.
- F. Kirkland should aggressively pursue new ideas and technology to improve traffic safety

8. Funding

- A. Kirkland should spend more on transportation.
- B. Kirkland should spend less on transportation.
- C. Depending on the idea, I'm open to voting for more taxes to improve transportation in Kirkland
- D. Transportation is a public good that should be funded by all, regardless of use.

3. Transportation Priorities Activity

- *Description:* Participants will be asked to provide input on the types of expenditures the City should prioritize in the next transportation plan. Similar to the preference activity, participants will be asked to read and rate a variety of statements about how the City should invest its transportation dollars. Participants will rate the statements they like best by placing a dot sticker next to the top three statements that best match their views.

- *Advantages:*
 - Helps to illustrate tradeoffs
 - Helps to identify overall priorities
 - Participants will be able to see which statements/views are most popular, which can generate questions and discussion

Priorities (Participants Pick 3)

In an environment of limited funding, what projects are the highest priorities for funding? Please indicate your highest 3 priorities for funding by putting a dot next to them.

1. Invest in high-tech solutions that improve the efficiency of our existing system.
2. Maintain what we have (filling pot holes, replacing older infrastructure).
3. Construct projects that will improve bus stops, access to new transit
4. Expand our system by adding lanes to intersections or other road widening projects. Some of these projects will also include sidewalks and on-street bike lanes.
5. Build sidewalks, connect missing sidewalk segments, add crosswalk improvements
6. Improve cycling routes. Develop routes on quiet streets along with on-street bike lanes on busier streets. Make routes for “all ages and all abilities”.
7. Invest in projects that address known safety issues and spend more on enforcement. These projects would improve safety for various modes of travel.

Other TMP Materials

Additional TMP-related materials that will be provided include:

- Maps where people can highlight problem areas
- Poster with City Council’s adopted transportation vision
- Project fact sheet
- iPads with access to the Kirkland 2035 IdeasForum page
- Comment forms (with questions related to visioning and goals)