



## CITY OF KIRKLAND

Planning and Community Development Department

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### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** March 19, 2007

**To:** Houghton Community Council

**From:** Paul Stewart, Deputy Planning Director *PS*

**Subject:** Draft 2007-2009 Planning Work Program (File No. CC-99-84)

#### Introduction

Each year the Planning Department prepares a work program setting forth the proposed tasks, schedule and staffing for the major long range planning projects and programs. Staff discussed the draft work program with the Planning Commission at their retreat in December, 2006. The work program is then revised and is the subject of a joint meeting between the Commission and City Council which took place on February 6, 2007.

Based on that meeting, the work program is brought back to the City Council for adoption by resolution. This is scheduled to occur on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Usually this occurs earlier, but we wanted to wait until after the City Council concludes their retreat which is scheduled for March 23-24. One of the major topics for discussion at the retreat is affordable housing which might result in changes to the work program.

#### Work Program

The proposed work program is attached along with a summary description of each of the tasks.

Key topics that involve the Community Council include:

- Comprehensive Plan Update (Task 1)
- Lakeview and Houghton Neighborhood Plan Update (Task 2)
- Miscellaneous Code Amendments (Task 5)
- Housing (Task 7)
- Natural Resource/Environmental Stewardship (Task 9).

The update to the Comprehensive Plan (Task 1) may include a revised approach to our transportation level of service standard. The Transportation Commission is looking at this with the idea of incorporating multi-modal considerations and encouraging alternatives to single-occupancy

vehicle use. This task also includes requests from the public to amend the comprehensive plan and zoning (Private Amendment Requests). One such request is within the HCC jurisdiction along 116<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The request is to allow office, multi-family or storage units adjacent to I-405. The process to review these will begin in April or May.

The neighborhood plan updates (Task 2) for the Lakeview and Houghton neighborhoods is scheduled to begin this summer after completion of the zoning regulations for the Market and Norkirk neighborhoods. At the joint meeting with the City Council, the idea of a focused citizen advisory group was discussed and whether or not it made sense to do both neighborhoods at the same time. When we initiate this project we will be discussing the approach and roles of the Community Council, the Planning Commission and advisory groups with the idea of completing this as expeditiously as possible.

Housing, particularly affordable housing, is a top priority for the City (Task 7). It is a main topic of the City Council's retreat in March. The Innovative Housing regulations (cottage and compact housing) are already in process and will be discussed with the HCC in the near future. Other housing programs and tasks will be discussed at the City Council retreat with a ranking of priority projects. One area that is being explored is the potential for transit oriented development at the South Kirkland Park and Ride lot.

Task 9 has various sub-tasks related to natural resources, sustainability and environmental stewardship. The city has an interdepartmental team that coordinates these efforts. The Shoreline Master Program (SMP) is a major multi-year project to update our shoreline polices and regulations along Lake Washington. It is required by the Department of Ecology which has authority over the SMP. This effort is underway and will be coming before the HCC in the next few months. As part of this process, the City's critical area regulations will also need to be updated.

Of special note is Task 13 – Annexation. This is a place-keeper until the City Council gives the go ahead to place it before the voters. The City Council will be discussing this at a March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### Attachments

Draft 2007-2009 Planning Work Program  
2007-2009 Planning Work Program Summary of Tasks