

EASTSIDE RAIL CORRIDOR/CITY OF KIRKLAND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Facilitator Interview: March 31, 2010

Facilitator: Marie Stake

Interviewees: Donald Samdahl, Chair and Joel Pfundt, Vice Chair

Staff: Ray Steiger, Interim Public Works Director; Dave Godfrey, Transportation Engineering Manager, Public Works Dept.

What decisions have been made?

- Public use of right-of-way
- Port of Seattle to sell corridor property; it not be owned by BNSF
- Non-motorized use/access will be available

What decisions will be made? (full corridor vs. portion in Kirkland)

- Type of use
- Ownership
- Payment

What can Kirkland influence?

- What kind of uses along portion of corridor that lies within Kirkland city limits
- Trail design
- Rail or public transit use/ Not allowing rail
- Environmental processes
- Street crossings
- Access stations
- Once use(s) are established, city can influence operations

Who are the decision makers?

- Kirkland City Council
- Houghton Community Council
- Kirkland Transportation Commission
- King County
- Sound Transit

Who are the stakeholders?

- Kirkland City Council
- Houghton Community Council
- Kirkland Transportation Commission
- Kirkland Planning Commission
- Kirkland Park Board
- King County
- Sound Transit
- Users
 - trail & rail users
- City & non-city users
- Adjacent property owners
- Area neighbors
- Businesses
- Cascade Water Alliance
- Puget Sound Energy
- Advocacy groups
- GNP Railway

What are the controversial issues between stakeholders?

- Rail vs. Trail use
- Who gets what portion of right-of-way
- Co-locate rail & trail vs. separate them
- Width of trail
- Timing: who gets what now; what has to wait
- Should existing rails be removed now

Who are the leading community groups?

- Cascadia Institute (rail advocates)
- Eastside Trail Advocates (ETA)
- Eastside Rail Now
- Google
- Cascade Bicycle Club

Who are the opinion leaders?

- Lisa McConnell, Central Houghton neighborhood, ETA
- Tom Jones, Cascadia Inst.
- Doug Engle, GNP

What would make public participation credible?

- Balance: balanced information, equal "floor time" for all voices
- Getting the right people at the (conversation) table

What concerns do you have about the public participation process?

- Transportation Commission resources – cannot manage an advisory commission
- Staff resources – what can city afford to do for public participation?