

Kirkland Transportation Commission
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, May 22, 2019

An audio recording of the meeting is available on the [Transportation Commission Page](#) of the City website.

Call to Order

Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.

Members Present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kurt Ahrensfeld	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brayden Brackett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Dueker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faith DeBolt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Jacobson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terry Marpert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa McConnell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Perlic

Kirkland Staff Present: Kathy Brown, Joel Pfundt, Kimberly Scrivner, June Carlson and Rod Steitzer, Public Works Department

Other Staff Present: Kay Taylor, Evergreen Health; Jeffrey Hee and Victor Salemann, Transportation Solutions, Inc; Grace Carlson and Vic Stover, King County Metro; Diana Giraldo, Barrett Hanson, and Karl Westby, WSDOT; and Cynthia Padilla, Sound Transit

Review of past meeting notes

Notes from the April 24, 2019 meetings were unanimously approved.

Items from the Audience

Troy Thiel – Proposed creating, and volunteered to participate on, a committee that would identify ways that the City of Kirkland could become a League of American Bicyclists “Platinum” Bicycle Friendly City. Troy noted he believed that Kirkland had what it takes to make this happen. (NOTE: Commissioner DeBolt noted in a follow-up email that it is important that our planning efforts related to bicyclists are inclusive of all vulnerable road users, including people on e-bikes.”

Totem Lake/EvergreenHealth Traffic Study

Kathy Brown, Public Works Director and Kay Taylor, Senior Vice President, Marketing, Communications & Customer Experience, EvergreenHealth introduced the topic and spoke about the partnership that was formed between the City of Kirkland and EvergreenHealth in order to complete this study. Jeffery Hee and Victor Salemann the consultant team from Transportation Solutions, Inc. then presented the study findings, as well as outline recommended next steps. Overall it was noted that the study indicated that current plans and projects are on-track to address transportation challenges noted in the area related to growth.

The Commission asked about future development plans for the Evergreen campus and assumptions that went into the future year of the planning study. Evergreen stated their current plans include more than 1,000 additional employees and associated patients. The 2035 model was based on land use forecasts from the City of Kirkland Comprehensive Plan with some updates related to know development projects.

The Commission noted support for charging for parking at the Evergreen Campus as a way to manage the demand of a fixed supply of parking. The Commission also encouraged EvergreenHealth to look in more detail at modal access preferences of patients and employees and noted that many patients and employees may be interested in traveling to the campus using alternatives to driving a car.

The Commission also had questions about project details and how EvergreenHealth identified its priorities moving forward. It was agreed that this would be addressed in the final report.

RapidRide Route 1075 and NEMP Update

Vic Stover, Project Manager, and Grace Carlson, Transit Service Planner, from King County Metro Transit presented an update on the status of the implementation of the North Eastside Mobility Project (NEMP), as well as an introduction to RapidRide arterial bus rapid transit (BRT). Metro is planning implementation of RapidRide Route 1075 on the eastside. This route will represent a significant investment in service

hours and capital improvements to ensure high quality service and facilities. The alignment included in the Metro Connects plan shows that RapidRide Route 1075 is planned to serve Kirkland and Bellevue between Totem Lake and Bellevue College, and as a first step Metro is reviewing an alternative endpoint in downtown Redmond as opposed to Totem Lake. Once this is determined, specific route details will be evaluated.

Commissioners asked about the process to evaluate the alternative endpoint for the route. Metro staff indicated that they will be deciding in the coming months. The Commission requested that City staff return in June with an evaluation of the alternatives, so the Commission can provide feedback on the alternatives.

I-405/NE 85th St Interchange Inline BRT Station and Interchange

Diana Giraldo, Project Manager, WSDOT; Cynthia Padilla, Project Manager, Sound Transit; Barrett Hanson, Engineering Manager, WSDOT; and Karl Westby, Traffic Engineering Manager, WSDOT, presented the latest update on the project. The presentation included a review of project objectives; project overview; design development; funded and unfunded design, access and mobility project elements; and next steps.

Commissioners had a variety comments and questions. Commissioners asked about transit priority treatments, such as bus only lanes, at the NE 85th St and 114th Ave NE intersection. WSDOT staff noted that bus only lanes would make a signalized or roundabout intersection huge. This would not be very ped or bike friendly, but since the roundabout option operates well it can remain a relatively small footprint and keep ped crossing lengths manageable.

Commissioners had a number of other questions about the operation of the proposed roundabout at NE 85th St and 114th Ave NE, including impacts it will have on adjacent intersections, how it will operate, and how pedestrians and bicyclists use the roundabout safely. Commissioners requested some real examples of similar roundabout treatments from elsewhere.

Commissioners also commented on the critical importance of funding the neighborhood connections that link the BRT station to the surrounding neighborhoods as part of the project. This was important because this is where many of the transit riders will start or end their trip, particularly because there is no park and ride at this station. There was also an interest from the Commission in how to use any excess land in the interchange for transit oriented development opportunities.

Bike Share and Scooter Share

Kimberly Scrivner, Transportation Planner, presented city staff's proposed approach for bike share based on the lack of interest from private operators to acquire a right of way use permit to operate in the City of Kirkland during the City's first round of requesting proposals. Also, the presentation provided information on city staff's recommendations for City Council discussion related to scooter share.

Commissioners were very concerned about the safety of scooter share. They were particularly concerned about the impacts scooter share operating in the City would have on pedestrian comfort and safety. Based on this they unanimously recommended not moving forward with permitting scooter share in Kirkland.

The majority of the Commission also felt that, based on the initial problem statement presented to the community during community outreach during late 2018/early 2019 ("Bike share bikes are showing up in Kirkland. How should the City respond to the introduction of bike share on the Eastside?"), there was no hurry to permit bike share operators in Kirkland. Instead, it was recommended that the City take a pause and see how the industry shakes out in the coming months.

Annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Because of time constraints, it was decided to email the annual TIP update to the Commission for their information and review. A public hearing will be held, and the Council will take action on the TIP update at their June 18, 2019 City Council meeting.

Updates from Commissioners/Staff

Staff reported on the following:

- Bike Everywhere Month - May
- Ride Transit Month – June
- ORCA To-Go Mobile Sales & Service – First and third Wednesday 1:30-3:30 at Kirkland City Hall
- Other items?

Commissioners reported on the following:

- NA

Meeting adjourned unanimously approved to adjourn at approximately 9:30 PM.