



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
Department of Public Works  
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**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Julie Underwood, Director of Public Works  
Joel Pfundt, Transportation Manager  
Blair Daly, Transportation Program Coordinator

**Date:** September 22, 2022

**Subject:** WALK AND ROLL TO SCHOOL MONTH PROCLAMATION

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Mayor proclaim October 2022 as "Walk and Roll to School Month" in Kirkland.

**BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

The City is active in partnering with the Lake Washington School District to develop safer routes to school. A portion of the Streets Levy funding, along with other funding sources, are dedicated to pedestrian safety, benefitting students walking and biking to school. The City has installed over 60 rapid flashing beacons (RFBs) at uncontrolled crosswalks, and over 20 of those RFBs have been installed on school walk routes to make crossings safer. These safer street crossings benefit students walking or biking to school and increase overall pedestrian safety in Kirkland.

The City also is committed to implement the Safer Routes to School Action Plans developed for each school and adopted by the City Council in 2020. Actions in those plans include funding, designing, and constructing the many capital projects identified in the plans; reviewing, funding, fabricating, and replacing/adding school zone signage; and working with the schools to develop and implement circulation study recommendations that will reduce vehicle congestion and improve safety for people walking and biking. In 2022, the City Council also adopted the City's *Vision Zero Plan* and an update to the *Active Transportation Plan* as further commitment to safer walking, biking, and rolling.

In 2022, "International Walk to School Day" is being celebrated on both Wednesday, October 5 and Wednesday October 12. Because the Council and the City support school safety and healthy, active lifestyles, staff recommends that the Council proclaim October as "Walk and Roll to School Month in Kirkland." The City has made similar proclamations since 2008.

Walk and Roll to School Day events are planned and carried out at schools primarily by Parent, Teacher, Student Association volunteers with City staff providing support. Currently, schools have events scheduled on October 5th, October 12th, and October 13th. Council Members are invited to participate by visiting any of the schools' events,

which are held in the morning before school begins. The City encourages all Kirkland schools—elementary, middle, and high schools—to participate in Walk and Roll to School activities.

Representatives of Kirkland’s schools have been invited to accept the proclamation during the October 4 City Council meeting.

Proclamation



# A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

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## Proclaiming October 2022 as “Walk and Roll to School Month” in Kirkland, Washington

**WHEREAS**, the National Center for Safe Routes to School, a group working to improve safety and walking and biking conditions for children, encourages local communities to support International Walk to School Day and similar activities; and

**WHEREAS**, walking and biking to school supports an active, healthy lifestyle through common and enjoyable forms of exercise; teaches children the skills to walk and bicycle safely; and trains children to identify safer routes to school, including portions of the Cross Kirkland Corridor, as designated by the Lake Washington School District; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council adopted *Safer Routes to School Action Plans* in 2020 for each public elementary school in Kirkland; and to further advance safety and encourage walking and biking the City Council adopted a *Vision Zero Action Plan* and updated *Active Transportation Plan* in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the City recognizes the importance of safety for people walking and biking and has constructed multiple improvements to school walk routes across the City, including rapid flashing beacons at crosswalks and school zone photo enforcement cameras at certain schools; and

**WHEREAS**, children and parents in Kirkland are encouraged to walk, bike, or ride the bus to school every day, but particularly during the month of October 2022;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Mayor Penny Sweet, on behalf of the City Council, does hereby proclaim the month of October as “Walk and Roll to School Month” in the City of Kirkland, Washington and encourage Kirkland residents to participate in this annual event and to always consider the safety of people walking and biking.

Signed this 4th day of October, 2022

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Penny Sweet, Mayor