

Kirkland Transportation Commission
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, June 26, 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:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kurt Ahrensfield | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brayden Brackett | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Dueker | <input 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, Laura Drake, Iris Cabrera and Kari Page, Public Works Department

Other Staff Present: Diana Giraldo, Barrett Hanson, and Karl Westby, WSDOT; Cynthia Padilla, Sound Transit and Erin Ehlinger, Smart City Traffic.

Review of past meeting notes

Notes from the May 22, 2019 meetings were unanimously approved.

Items from the Audience

None.

I-405/NE 85th St Interchange Inline Bus Rapid Transit (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 an overall introduction and update on the BRT program, an overview of the project, a community outreach update and a detailed explanation and analysis of the roundabout operations.

Commissioners asked questions about the overall operating characteristics of the I-405 BRT. They then focused their comments on the NE 85th St interchange project.

Commissioners commented on the importance of providing bike lanes on the approach ramps to the transit (e.g. middle) level of the interchange. They also reinforced the importance of providing connections to downtown and other surrounding neighborhoods, and requested more information on the downtown connection along NE 85th St at a future meeting. They also emphasized the importance of providing accommodations for bikes in the roundabout, including make the median islands wide enough for a bike to wait when crossing at the roundabout. The Commission appreciated the additional analysis, examples and treatments proposed for the roundabouts and was generally supportive of including the roundabout at 114th Ave NE and NE 85th St as the preferred option going into the environmental analysis. Some concern remained about the roundabout being able to handle future traffic volumes.

ITS Strategic Plan Update

Erin Ehlinger, consultant project manager, and Laura Drake, City project manager, presented on overview of the contents of the City's draft Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Strategic Plan. The ITS Strategic Plan updates the 2008 ITS Strategic Plan; focuses on operations; and provides a prioritized list of capital projects, staffing recommendations, policies/procedures, and ongoing/annual operations cost estimates. The presentation discussed the goals and guiding principles, current operations metrics, maintenance and operations staffing levels, and operations needs.

The Commission asked about the cost/benefit of investing in ITS and the frequency of incidents described in the current operations metrics. The Commission also encouraged City staff to work with our partners in the community, and at the regional and state level to improve coordination between WSDOT and City traffic signals. It was also suggested that partnership opportunities might exist between the City and

Lake Washington Institute of Technology. Also, Commissioners noted the importance of taking advantage of ITS to collect travel time and count information within the City of Kirkland.

RapidRide Route 1027

Kim Scrivner, Transportation Planner, presented a preliminary analysis of RapidRide Route 1027 Options provided by King County Metro that consider alternative endpoints and routing for this new RapidRide Route. The analysis looked at the three options that are being analyzed in detail by King County Metro:

1. Totem Lake – Eastgate via Juanita
2. Redmond – Eastgate
3. Totem Lake – Eastgate via Rose Hill

The analysis reviewed pros and cons for each option developed by City staff.

The Commission unanimously supported maintaining Totem Lake as the northern endpoint because it provided better connections for the Kirkland community. They also identified serving the NE 85th St Inline BRT Station and Kirkland Transit Center as being priorities, as well as considering having the new RapidRide line serve the 6th St/108th Ave NE Corridor and shifting route 255 to State St/Lake Washington Blvd. The Commission stated that current and planned land use density should drive the routing of the new RapidRide line and felt that the routing illustrated in option 3 reflect the best option, but that more technical analysis needs to be done on the specific routing between Totem Lake and Eastgate.

Safer Routes to School Program

Kari Page, Senior Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator, provided a presentation kicking off the Safer Routes to School Program. The presentation included background information on the program, information on the goal of the program to create action plans for all public schools in Kirkland, key considerations for the program, and community engagement information.

The Commission was supportive of the effort. They had questions about the role of the school district in this program and asked about the growth in school enrollment in Kirkland. Also, the Commission discussed if private schools should be included in the program, but there was not agreement among Commissioners that they should be added. Additionally, the Commission had specific suggestions about solutions that should be considered and the importance to collect trip data as part of the program. Staff will return in September with the results of the first round of community outreach.

Updates from Commissioners/Staff

Staff reported on the following:

- Bike Share Update – Working with Gotcha
- SR 520 Montlake Freeway Transit Station Closure June 21, 2019

Commissioners reported on the following:

- None

Meeting adjourned unanimously approved to adjourn at approximately 9:00 PM.