



## **CITY OF KIRKLAND**

### **Department of Public Works**

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#### **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Transportation Commission

**From:** Kim Scrivner, Transportation Planner  
Joel Pfundt, Transportation Manager  
Michael Lapham, KPG

**Date:** October 22, 2021

**Subject:** NE 128<sup>th</sup> STREET MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR STUDY – DRAFT RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Transportation Commission receive a briefing on the draft recommended improvements for this project and provide input on the draft improvements.

#### **Background:**

The Totem Lake area has been experiencing significant growth over the past several years with new urban high-density development. NE 128th Street is a key multimodal corridor that connects the Kingsgate Park and Ride, 1-405 direct access ramps and flyer bus stops, Totem Lake Transit Center, and Evergreen Health Medical Center.

The planned Stride Bus Rapid Transit is scheduled to arrive in 2025, increasing the demand for the 1-405 flyer bus stops. The stated goal of this project is to create an attractive, multimodal and transit-oriented corridor that allows NE 128th Street to facilitate needed transit connections and be an appealing and safe place for people walking, bicycling, taking transit and driving through this highly dense neighborhood.

This work is incorporating previous plans and studies including:

- Kirkland Transit Implementation Plan (2019)
- Evergreen Health/Totem Lake Traffic Study (2019)
- Totem Lake Urban Center Enhancement & Multimodal Transportation Network Plan (2018)
- Totem Lake Business District Plan (Updated 2015)
- Stride Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) plans and designs
- RapidRide K Line preliminary design
- Private development plans and designs

The Transportation Commission received a briefing on this project on April 28, 2021 which outlined the study area, scope of work and schedule. This information is included in this memo as a reminder of these elements of the project.

### Study Area:

This study will focus on how best to improve the multimodal environment on NE 128th Street and throughout the study area. The study area is in the north end of the Business District Core of the Totem Lake Urban Center and includes a primary study area, secondary study areas, and potential future street extensions.

Primary Study Area: NE 128th Street between 116th Avenue NE and 120th Avenue NE

### Secondary Study Areas:

- NE 128th Street between 120th Avenue NE and 124th Avenue NE
- NE 130th Lane between 120th Avenue NE and 124th Avenue NE
- 120th Avenue NE between NE 132nd Street and NE 128th Street
- 124th Avenue NE between NE 132nd Street and NE 128th Street

### Potential Street Extensions:

- NE 130th Place between Totem Lake Boulevard and 120th Avenue NE
- 118th Avenue NE between NE 132nd Street and NE 128th Street
- 121st Avenue NE between NE 132nd Street and NE 130th Lane



**Scope of Work Summary:**

The City has hired the firm KPG to lead the work on this project. The scope of work includes:

- Developing mobility and safety improvements for all travel modes.
- Developing cross sections for three potential street extensions.
- Developing Urban Design Guidelines for streets.
- Conducting a public and stakeholder outreach process to share information and receive feedback.

**Public Outreach Efforts:**

This Transportation Commission meeting kicks off the second round of public engagement.

Previous outreach efforts to date have include:

- Developing a project webpage
- Conducting public outreach meetings including:
  - WSDOT (bi-weekly meetings)
  - Juanita Neighborhood Association
  - Evergreen Hill Neighborhood Association
  - Transportation Commission
  - Evergreen Health Medical Center
  - Virtual public open house (6/23/2021)
  - King County Metro and Sound Transit

The next stages of outreach include:

- Evergreen Health Medical Center meeting – October 26th
- Stakeholder meetings – October, early November
- Second Virtual Public Open House – Early November

**Key Findings:**

KPG will present more detail regarding the improvements and proposed cross sections of the primary study area and proposed street extensions. They will also provide more context to the following key findings:

- Need to maintain 4-lanes on NE 128th St between Totem Lake Blvd and 120th Ave NE to maintain I-405 interchange operations and accommodate high volume of buses.
- Provide enhanced bus stops on NE 128th St to potentially reduce bus routes using Totem Lake Transit Center – improves bus travel times and intersection operations.
- Identified several multimodal safety and mobility improvements.
- Suggest to not recommend addition of westbound left turn at NE 128th Street and Totem Lake Blvd intersection.

**Schedule (2021):**

- February – April: Review existing planning documents, analyze existing conditions and model existing and future traffic operations.
- April – mid-November: Public involvement with community and stakeholders (adjacent neighborhood associations, Evergreen Health and the business community in Totem Lake); engagement with other partners (WSDOT, Sound Transit, King County Metro). Develop potential improvement alternatives.

- June – November: Analyze potential improvement projects and create graphics and preliminary designs for recommendations.
- October/ November: Complete analysis and preliminary design.
- December: Complete Report for Council review.