



## CITY OF KIRKLAND

City Manager's Office

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### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Transportation Commission

**From:** Kim Scrivner, Transportation Planner – Public Works  
Janice Swenson, Senior Planner - Planning and Building Department  
Julie Underwood, Director of Public Works

**Date:** May 19, 2023

**Subject:** TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE WORKSHOP

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Transportation Commission receive a briefing on the Transportation Master Plan update progress and provide feedback to staff.

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **Kirkland 2044 Comprehensive Plan (K2044) Update Process Overview**

The City of Kirkland is in the process of conducting a State-mandated update of the Kirkland Comprehensive Plan with a target completion date of mid-2024 (the State deadline for City Council adoption is December 31, 2024). The Comprehensive Plan is the primary citywide guide for how we, as a community, manage growth over the next 20 years (with a horizon year of 2044) in terms of land use, transportation, and the public facilities and services necessary to support that growth. The Comprehensive Plan also includes goals and policies for how the City addresses housing, sustainability and climate change, economic development, parks and open space, transportation, and more.

The two-year [Comprehensive Plan Update](#) (referred to hereafter as K2044) process will be an opportunity to reflect on the kind of community we aspire to become, and to create a policy roadmap to achieve that vision. The process involves staff in each City department, City Council, City Boards and Commissions, and an extensive community outreach and engagement process focused specifically on reaching a wide diversity of perspectives as has been discussed with the Transportation Commission on the K2044 Community Engagement Plan at its [January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting](#). The [Transportation Master Plan](#) is being updated in conjunction with the K2044 process, and will be used to inform the Transportation Element in the Comprehensive Plan.

The last major (periodic) update to the Kirkland Comprehensive Plan was in 2015. The [existing Comprehensive Plan](#) contains the City's 2035 [Vision Statement](#) and [Guiding Principles](#), which form the foundation for the goals and policies contained in the General Elements (chapters of the

Comprehensive Plan). These two components establish an overall goal of maintaining Kirkland as a livable, sustainable, and connected city, which is still relevant today.

The K2044 Plan update will need to be consistent with updated State, regional, and King County policies and plans, along with local goals; discussed further in the element subsections below. As part of the process to certify Kirkland's K2044 Plan, the State, Puget Sound Regional Council, and King County will review drafts and approve the final Plan, once adopted by City Council.

More general information about the update process can be found in the briefing memos from [Planning Commission's April 28, 2022](#) and [City Council's December 8, 2022](#) meetings. These meeting packets, presentations, other documents, and additional resources, are available on the City's K2044 Comprehensive Plan update webpage at [Kirklandwa.gov/K2044](http://Kirklandwa.gov/K2044).

### **Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Summary**

The purpose of the TMP is to address current and future conditions of Kirkland's transportation system that considers all the ways in which people travel (walking and rolling, bicycling, riding transit and driving – often referred to as 'modes of travel'). This will include goals and policies that guide what Kirkland will focus on over the next 20-years and will also include specific projects and programs that outline what is next for Kirkland's Capital Improvement Program. To get there, the plan will evaluate existing conditions (our existing sidewalks, bike lanes, transit service, travel patterns and volumes, areas where we may see traffic delay, pavement conditions, etc.). We also reach out to the public to ask what the community wants to see and what their priorities are. Then, the plan will look at future conditions (projected travel patterns, future growth and land use, etc.) This information put together forms the goals and policies that will help the city prioritize which projects and programs to focus on. We look at how to accommodate all modes of travel and to make sure that this aligns with where and how the city is growing.

The 2015 TMP was developed based on guiding principles derived from a body of work called [Transportation Conversations](#) which was conducted prior to the development of the TMP. Those guiding principles are:

- Safely Move People: Support a transportation system and related government and private actions that promote all viable forms of transportation.
- Link to Land Use: Ensure consistency between land use, transportation planning and implementation.
- Be Sustainable: Support a transportation system that can be sustained over the next 50 years.
- Be an Active Partner: Actively build and maintain partnerships locally, regionally and nationally, to further our transportation goals.

Through the public engagement process and in particular, working with the focus groups and the Transportation Commission, these guiding principles will also be updated to ensure that as the goals and policies are revised, they reflect the current direction from the community.

### **Relationship Between the TMP and the Comprehensive Plan**

The TMP is its own 'stand-alone' planning document that looks at the broad, 20-year vision for the future of transportation but also gives more detail, context and background to the goals and

policies in the plan. This includes detailed analysis, maps, etc. Then, the TMP's goals and policies used as the primary content in the TMP will be carried over into the Transportation Element (chapter) of the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan also helps to inform the development of the TMP. For example, the land use forecasts from the Land Use Element in the Comprehensive Plan are used in the TMP to predict traffic volumes.

### **Community Outreach and Engagement Activities**

Beginning in early 2023, Staff conducted a substantial number of public outreach and community engagement activities to implement the community engagement plan. Below is a summary of community engagement activities accomplished to date, or in progress as of May 2023:

- [Community Engagement Plan](#), prepared by Broadview Planning consultants
- [Equity Review Report](#) of existing Comprehensive Plan elements, prepared by EcoNorthwest
- Project webpage updates and listserv email announcements
- Surveys (317 responses have been received so far for the Transportation and Land Use survey). The survey closes June 30, 2023.
- Focus Group recruitment focused on priority populations
- Focus Group meetings for Transportation and Land Use elements
- Publication of informational handouts (included introduction materials translated into the four most common languages in the City besides English)
- Presentations to community groups, Boards and Commissions (City Council, Planning Commission, Transportation Commission, Youth Council, Senior Council, Human Services Commission), neighborhood associations, and Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
- Community events (Town Hall on Bikes, Eastside for All event, Kirkland City Hall for All event)
- Tabling events (seasonal events, Evergreen Health Fair)
- Class projects with Lake Washington and Juanita High Schools and student surveys
- Community-wide visioning event (January 2023)

### **PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF WORKSHOP:**

The purpose of the workshop is to discuss the TMP in detail and provide the Transportation Commission the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions.

The structure of the meeting will be organized by starting with an overview of both the Comprehensive Plan and the Transportation Master Plan progress and elements. We'll discuss the difference between the TMP and the Transportation Element in the Comprehensive Plan and talk about the relationship between the TMP and other plans that the city has developed, such as the Active Transportation Plan, Vision Zero, etc. This overview will include how the planning process, such as the TMP, relates to other more regulatory elements such as codes, ordinances, etc.

From there, we'll discuss what we've heard from the public so far and share how that will inform the TMP update. This will lead into a discussion about updating the goals and policies in the TMP where staff expects to receive feedback from the Transportation

Commission. This will include a discussion of Complete Streets and folding that into the plan.

The final portion of this workshop will include reviewing the other elements in the TMP and share the overall schedule and potential check-ins with the Transportation Commission throughout the process.

**Attachments:**

1. TMP Informational Handout
2. TMP Goals and Policies Summary