



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Public Works Department
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3001
www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Commission

From: Kim Scrivner, Transportation Planner – Public Works
Doug McIntyre, Transportation Manager – Public Works
Truc Dever, Interim Director of Public Works

Date: January 24, 2024

Subject: TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC PLAN (TSP) UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Transportation Commission receive an update on the progress of the TSP project list development and prioritization framework.

BACKGROUND:

Transportation Plan Name Change

The City is updating outdated language that is not reflective of Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) such as "Master Plan." In accordance with being consistent with changes to other citywide plans based on the Council conversation on December 12, 2023, the new name for the transportation plan update will be the Transportation Strategic Plan (TSP).

Project List Development and Prioritization

A 20-year project list is a required component of the Transportation Element and of the Capital Facilities Element of the [Comprehensive Plan](#). It is a set of projects that is estimated at a high level to be funded within reasonably expected revenues. This will become the 'fiscally constrained' project list over the next 20-years and will be prioritized for local and external funding.

A major component of developing the project list is to incorporate projects identified by various plans and processes and reconcile any competing interests and overlaps. Project candidates are identified in the following categories:

- Projects yet to be completed from [plans and studies](#) completed since 2015, This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Kirkland Transit Implementation Plan (KTIP)
 - Active Transportation Plan (ATP)

- Vision Zero Action Plan
 - Safer Routes to School Action Plans (SRTS)
 - Intelligent Transportation System Plan
 - NE 85th ST Station Area Plan
 - Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan
 - Citywide Transportation Connections
 - Neighborhood Plans
 - External Plans (Sound Transit 3, King County Metro's MetroConnects, North Eastside Mobility Project)
 - Plus, many studies such as the Lake Washington Boulevard Promenade Study
- Unfunded projects in the 6-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - Other projects identified through safety analysis and from public comments or suggested projects that have been vetted by appropriate staff.

Together, all projects (often referred to as the 'universe' of projects) will be sorted and prioritized to develop the fiscally constrained 20-year project list that will be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan's Capital Facilities Plan. Those projects will be sorted in the following ways:

- Projects identified with a clear location and description
- Projects identified as part of a 'program' (with their own prioritization processes)
- Establishing which projects will not be subject to prioritization:
 - Those that are already funded (or partially funded)
 - Required projects for concurrency / system failures
 - Developer-driven projects such as new connections or those that require right-of-way that would otherwise not be acquired
 - Projects that are part of a larger program, e.g. ADA Transition Plan or sidewalk gap program

A webmap will be shared with the community for public comment. The goal is for the community to be able to easily see and respond to existing projects that have been identified as well as to be able to identify additional project ideas that have been missing.

Project Prioritization:

The project list is estimated to be almost 450 projects which are projects that are identified with a clear location and project description. Those will be evaluated through the TSP project prioritization process. Examples of projects are those that are transit-supportive, providing access as well as speed and reliability. There are also intersection and crossing improvements, multimodal roadway improvements, bicycle facilities, etc. Staff will share a high-level summary of the project list during the Transportation Commission meeting.

Those projects identified in a program (sidewalk gaps, neighborhood traffic control, neighborhood safety program, etc.) are not subject to the prioritization process but rather have their own internal prioritization specific to that program.

The intent behind prioritization is to demonstrate to the community and decisionmakers the highest priorities for investment over the next 20-years. Furthermore, the 20-year fiscally constrained prioritized project list will annually feed into the 6-year TIP and subsequently the 2-year budget as high priority projects move toward implementation. The city will not be able to include all projects in the 20-year fiscally constrained project list so the prioritization process will provide more information about how projects fit the goals of the TSP.

Purpose

- Prioritization helps identify which projects best implement the goals and policies of the TSP
- Helps the city make the best use of limited resources (funding)
- Prioritizes which projects should come first
- Assists decision-makers in budgeting, planning and making grant applications

Considerations

- Use readily available data
- Measures should be easy to replicate
- Measures should directly reflect the goals of the plan
- Measures should be transparent and easy to understand

Council Feedback:

Feedback from the Transportation Commission and from the joint meeting with the Transportation and Planning Commissions was shared with Council. Council then provided their feedback on the prioritization framework at the [November 21, 2024 study session](#). See Attachment B for a crosswalk of Council comments from both their November 9th Study Session and their [September 19, 2024](#) Study Session and how those comments have been addressed in the plan and in the prioritization process.

Prioritization Framework Application

Project prioritization will be an important element in the development of the recommended 20-year project list. However, there are other considerations that Council may consider such as developing project scenarios which prioritization will assist with.

NEXT STEPS:

Projects will be prioritized over the coming months and that information will be shared with City Council at their March 19th Study Session along with potential project scenarios/ groupings. Meanwhile, staff is putting together planning level cost estimates to compare those scenarios with the projection of revenue over the next 20-years. A project webmap will be released shortly and the community will be asked to weigh-in on projects, which will inform any revisions to the project list as it is refined.

Attachments:

1. Attachment A: Final Draft Prioritization Framework
2. Attachment B: Council comments crosswalk