



MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Commission

From: Jennifer Palmer, PE, Transportation Engineering Supervisor

Date: May 23, 2025

Subject: KIRKLAND SAFETY ACTION PLAN AND SPEED LIMIT POLICY UPDATE

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended that the Transportation Commission receives a presentation on the status and next steps for the Kirkland Safety Action Plan and Speed Limit Policy Update.

Background

The City of Kirkland is currently developing a Kirkland Safety Action Plan (KSAP) that will help staff and City leadership make data-driven decisions to enhance road safety. The KSAP aims to reduce fatal and serious-injury crashes affecting all roadway users by analyzing data to determine roadway problems and identify potential safety projects.

The KSAP and Speed Limit Policy Update have been brought to Transportation during three previous meetings:

- March 2024: https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/boards-and-commissions/transportation-commission/2024/03_mar-27/20240327_staff-report_citywide-speed-study-and-speed-limit-policy-update.pdf
- December 2024: https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/boards-and-commissions/transportation-commission/2024/11_dec-11/20241211_staff-report_kirkland-safety-action-plan-and-speed-limit-policy-update.pdf
- March 2025: https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/boards-and-commissions/transportation-commission/2025/03_mar-26/kirkland-safety-action-plan-and-speed-limit-policy-memo.pdf

Since then, the City's consultant has been making progress on the work items of the project.

Project Elements

Updates to each work item for the KSAP along with a status update for each item are shown in the table below.

Task	Description	Status Update
Near-miss analysis	<p>Obtain video-based near-miss analytics and produce a summary report at six (6) selected signalized intersection locations. Analytics will include vehicle and bicyclist turning movement counts, pedestrian and bicyclists counts at crosswalks, and information on near-misses and travel speeds through the intersection.</p> <p>Intersections to be evaluated include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100th Ave NE and NE 132nd Street • NE 128th and Totem Lake Blvd • Juanita Drive and 98th Ave NE • NE 80th Street and 120th Ave NE • 132nd Ave NE and NE 132nd Street • NE 70th Street and 132nd Ave NE 	Analysis has been completed by the consultant. In-depth insights are being presented to the City's project team throughout the month of May 2025.
Citywide Crash Analysis and Evaluation	<p>Analyze crash data for Citywide trends for the five-year period 2019-2023, specifically identifying trends in crash severity, type, location, contributing factors, road user type, etc.</p> <p>Analyze crash data on a per segment bases for the five-year period 2019-2023 for approximately 90 arterial and collector segments throughout the City.</p> <p>Analyze intersection crashes for ten intersections and develop recommendations for safety countermeasures aligned with the Safe System Approach.</p>	<p>Crash rate calculations have been completed along the selected 90 segments of City arterial and collector roadways.</p> <p>Additionally, ten segments and four intersections have been selected based on crash rates. A toolbox of safety countermeasures is being developed based on crash trends.</p>
Operating Speed Data Collection and Analysis	Collect and analyze vehicle operating speed data on 70 arterial and collector roadway segments via pneumatic tubes.	This task has been completed.
Speed Limit Policy and Speed Limit Setting Tool Development	Review the current state of practices and research on speed limit setting to determine the appropriate policy and procedure that best suits the City of Kirkland. Develop a speed limit setting tool and perform pilot evaluation of selected roadway segments to ensure a	<p>The literature review of current methodologies and practices has been completed.</p> <p>Policy Development The consultant is working with City staff to determine appropriate factors:</p>

Task	Description	Status Update
	robust and acceptable tool has been constructed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bicycle Activity - use of Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress Tool Development Continuing work on draft tool. Example case to be presented.
Develop Kirkland Safety Action Plan: Summary Report and Gap Analysis	Summarize the findings/recommendations resulting from the activities described in the above tasks. Include a review of the Safe Streets for All Self Certification Worksheet and determine where gaps may be and provide a summary of needs.	The first draft of this item is underway by the consultant team.
Engagement and Outreach	Consultant will assist the City to develop stakeholder, elected body, and community engagement materials, and attend in-person events and meetings as needed. Engagement and outreach are meant to be educational in nature and will occur throughout the project. Includes online engagement platform to be used on City's website.	<p>The project webpage is live at these links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://bit.ly/kirkland-safety-action-plan https://dks-engage.com/KirklandSafety <p>The KSAP "Tea with Transportation" in-person open house occurred on Wednesday, May 14, from 6 to 7:30pm in Council Chambers at City Hall. A summary of the event will be presented.</p> <p>The online engagement map will remain open and accepting feedback through June 11, 2025. After that date, feedback will be summarized in the KSAP report.</p>

During the May Transportation Commission meeting, staff and the consultant team plan on presenting:

- Summarized feedback from "Tea with Transportation" Open House from May 14, along with other public engagement and outreach efforts to date
- A live demonstration of the speed limit setting tool
- A brief walk through of the plan elements

Anticipated Schedule

The tentative timeline of the KSAP is as follows:

- May 2025 – Presentation to the Transportation Commission
- **July 1, 2025** - City Council First Touchpoint on KSAP and Speed Limit Policy Update - Study Session
- **June 2025** – Draft speed limit policy review with Transportation Commission and potential recommendation to Council
- **TBD Q3 2025** – Incorporate Council Feedback, and Adoption of KSAP and Speed Limit Policy Update

Next Steps

The consultant team will continue making progress on the KSAP work items.