



MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Commission

From: Thomas Valdriz, Principal Transportation Planner
Daniel Rawlings, Senior Transportation Engineer

Date: April 22, 2026

Subject: 84th Ave NE Improvements Study Scope & Engagement Approach

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Transportation Commission review and provide feedback on the proposed scope of work and public engagement approach for the 84th Ave NE Improvements Study.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The City is initiating the 84th Ave NE Improvements Study to evaluate and refine roadway design concepts that improve safety and multimodal comfort on the 84th Ave NE corridor (between NE 132nd Street and NE 141st Street). The study is expected to begin in late Q2 2026 and conclude in Q1 2027.
- After reviewing preliminary concepts, Council directed Staff to further study feasibility and develop refined corridor design alternatives. To carry out this work, Staff proposes hiring a transportation engineering consultant team to prepare three conceptual alternatives. The consultant would also conduct a safety analysis, prepare cost estimates, and provide implementation timelines for each alternative.
- Staff prepared a draft approach to community engagement to guide engagement activities from project initiation through recommendation of a preferred alternative.
- Staff requests Commission feedback on the proposed scope of work and public engagement approach.

BACKGROUND:

On Monday, January 6, 2025, just before 3 p.m., Kirkland Police responded to a collision in the Finn Hill area, which involved motor vehicle and two pedestrians. The motorist traveling southbound in the 13700 block of 84th Avenue NE left the roadway and struck two juveniles, one of whom sustained serious injuries.

Given the unique circumstances of the collision and the roadway's proximity to three public-school campuses (Carl Sandburg Elementary School/Discovery Community School, Finn Hill Middle School (FHMS)/ Environmental Adventure School, and Henry David Thoreau Elementary School), City leadership directed Staff to gather and review relevant background information and develop an initial set of potential corridor safety concepts. The intent of these concepts is to identify ways to slow vehicular speeds and/or increase separation between motor vehicles and people walking, rolling, and bicycling on 84th Ave NE between NE 132nd Street and NE 141st Street.

Staff briefed City Council on February 4, 2025¹, summarizing existing corridor characteristics, crash history, and previously implemented or planned improvements along 84th Ave NE. Staff also presented a preliminary menu of conceptual safety projects for discussion. Council discussed these concepts and directed Staff to conduct a feasibility analysis and further develop conceptual design alternatives for future Council consideration and potential inclusion of a preferred alternative in the six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Scope of Work

As part of the 2025-2030 CIP adoption, Council approved \$75,000 from the City's General Fund to support this study, which is anticipated to kick-off in late Q2 2026 and conclude by Q1 2027. Staff proposes procuring a transportation engineering consultant team to develop three conceptual roadway design alternatives for the 84th Ave NE corridor between NE 132nd Street to NE 141st Street. The alternatives will focus on enhancing the safety and comfort of people walking, biking, and rolling. The proposed scope includes:

1. An analysis of pros and cons for each alternative.
2. Data on the efficacy of the safety countermeasures included in each alternative.
3. Conceptual (10%) plan design drawings for each alternative.
4. Engineer's estimate of probable construction costs.
5. Planning-level implementation timelines.
6. Support with public engagement to inform and refine alternatives

Public Engagement Approach

Public engagement is central to ensuring that the preferred roadway design concept represents community needs and aligns with the City's goals.

Staff will engage with corridor residents, community members, schools, the Transportation Commission, City Council, and other interested parties to gather feedback and refine design alternatives. A draft community engagement approach is included as Attachment 1.

Roles are proposed as follows:

- The consultant team will lead the development of 3 corridor concepts and support public outreach activities.
- City Staff will lead public engagement efforts and guide the development and refinement of corridor concepts.

Feedback Requested

Staff requests Transportation Commission feedback on:

- Does the Commission have any questions or concerns about the scope of work?
- Are there any interested parties missing from the proposed engagement approach that should be included?

NEXT STEPS:

Based on Commission feedback, Staff will develop a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and a

¹ Link to Council Agenda Item:

https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-council/agenda-documents/2025/february-4-2025/9b_business.pdf

tailored community engagement plan to match. City staff will then release the RFQ and select a consultant team in Q2 2026, and the study is anticipated to kick-off in late Q2 2026.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1. Draft Public Engagement Approach