



**CITY OF KIRKLAND
PUBLIC WORKS**

123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Julie Underwood, Interim Director of Public Works and Deputy City Manager
Sarah R. Olson, Public Works Deputy Director - Engineering & Planning
Stephen Padua, Transportation Manager
Blair Daly, Transportation Program Coordinator

Date: September 26, 2025

Subject: **Walk and Roll to School Month Proclamation**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Mayor, on behalf of the City Council, proclaims October 2025 as “Walk and Roll to School Month” in Kirkland.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The City has made similar Walk and Roll to School Month proclamations since 2008, and this proclamation is part of the City Council’s adopted 2025-2026 proclamation calendar.
- This year, the National Walk & Roll to School Day is Wednesday, October 8.
- The City encourages all Kirkland schools—elementary, middle, and high schools—to participate in Walk and Roll to School Day activities.

BACKGROUND:

The City is active in partnering with the Lake Washington School District to develop safer routes to schools. A portion of the City’s Streets Levy funding, the City’s Transportation Benefit District funding, as well as other funding sources are dedicated to pedestrian safety, which benefits students walking and rolling to school. This funding has been used to install over 80 rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) at uncontrolled crosswalks, and over 20 of those RRFBs have been installed on school walk routes to make crossings safer. Those safer street crossings benefit students and their caregivers walking or rolling to school and increase overall pedestrian safety in Kirkland.

The City is also committed to implementing the Safer Routes to School Action Plans¹ developed for each school and adopted by the City Council in 2020. Actions in those plans include funding,

¹ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Department/Transportation/Plans-and-Studies-Transportation-Division/Safer-Routes-to-School-Action-Plans>

designing, and constructing the many capital projects identified in the plans; reviewing, funding, fabricating, and replacing or adding school zone signage; and working with the schools to develop and implement circulation study recommendations that will reduce vehicle congestion and improve safety for people walking and rolling. In 2022, the City Council adopted the City's Vision Zero Plan² and an update to the Active Transportation Plan³ as further commitments to safer walking, biking, and rolling throughout the city. In 2024, the City Council adopted an updated Transportation Strategic Plan,⁴ which emphasizes safe walking and rolling as a high priority.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

In 2025, National Walk to School Day is being celebrated on Wednesday, October 8. Since the Council and the City support school safety and healthy, active lifestyles, staff recommends that the entire month of October be proclaimed as "Walk and Roll to School Month" in Kirkland, to support walking and rolling to school for more than just a day. The City has made similar proclamations since 2008.

Walk and Roll to School Day events are planned and carried out at schools primarily by Parent, Teacher, and Student Association volunteers with City staff providing support. With the issuance of this proclamation, the City encourages all Kirkland schools to participate in Walk and Roll to School Day activities.

NEXT STEPS:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Walk and Roll to School Month Proclamation

² <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Department/Transportation/Plans-and-Studies-Transportation-Division/Vision-Zero>

³ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Department/Transportation/Plans-and-Studies-Transportation-Division/Active-Transportation-Plan>

⁴ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Department/Transportation/Plans-and-Studies-Transportation-Division/Transportation-Strategic-Plan>



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Walk and Roll to School Month October 2025

WHEREAS, the National Center for Safe Routes to School, a group working to improve safety and walking and biking conditions for children, encourages local communities to support National Walk to School Day and similar activities; and

WHEREAS, walking and rolling to school supports an active, healthy lifestyle through common and enjoyable forms of exercise; teaches children the skills to walk and roll safely; and trains children to identify safer routes to school, including portions of the Cross Kirkland Corridor as designated by the Lake Washington School District; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Safer Routes to School Action Plans in 2020 for each public elementary school, middle school and high school in Kirkland and, to further advance safety and encourage walking and rolling, the City Council adopted a Vision Zero Action Plan; updated the Active Transportation Plan in 2022; and updated the Transportation Strategic Plan in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the importance of safety for people walking and rolling and has constructed multiple improvements to school walk routes across Kirkland, including dozens of rectangular rapid-flashing beacons at crosswalks and school zone speed reduction photo-enforcement cameras at certain schools; and

WHEREAS, children and parents in Kirkland are encouraged to walk, roll, or ride the bus to school every day, but particularly during the month of October 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, Mayor Kelli Curtis, on behalf of the City Council, proclaims October 2025 as “Walk and Roll to School Month” in the City of Kirkland and encourages Kirkland residents to participate and to always consider the safety of people walking and rolling.

Signed this 7th day of October 2025

Kelli Curtis, Mayor