



CITY OF KIRKLAND
PUBLIC WORKS
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Julie Underwood, Director of Public Works
Sarah R Olson, Deputy Director of Public Works
Stephen Padua, Transportation Manager
Blair Daly, Transportation Program Coordinator

Date: May 18, 2026

Subject: **Proclaiming June 2026 as Ride Transit Month**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Mayor Curtis, on behalf of the City Council, proclaims June 2026 as Ride Transit Month in Kirkland.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- By proclaiming June 2026 as Ride Transit Month, the City encourages all community members to enjoy the benefits of riding transit to meet their transportation needs.
- This proclamation is part of the City Council's adopted 2026 proclamation schedule.

BACKGROUND:

The City is committed to the vision of building and sustaining a thriving community by creating a livable, walkable, vibrant, accessible, and sustainable Kirkland for all residents. Transit is a key part of this vision by providing a transportation mode that improves community health and mobility, provides economic benefit, and reduces air pollution and road congestion.

To better implement this vision, the City has supported the following activities:

- Adopted the 2019 Kirkland Transit Implementation Plan (KTIP).¹
- Adopted the 2024 Transportation Strategic Plan (TSP).²
- Supported the construction of the Washington State Department of Transportation and Sound Transit ST3-funded I-405/NE 85th Street Interchange and In-line Stride Bus Rapid Transit Station.

¹ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Department/Transportation/Plans-and-Studies-Transportation-Division/Kirkland-Transit-Implementation-Plan-KTIP>

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

- Supported King County Metro’s RapidRide K Line design with an anticipated start of service in 2030.
- Adopted the NE 85th Street Station Area Plan³ around the I-405/ NE 85th Street Interchange.
- Initiated a Transit Needs Study to identify gaps in the existing transit network and potential solutions to address those gaps.
- Coordinated with King County Metro to modify the Metro Flex service around the Totem Lake Transit Center.
- Provided ORCA cards to all benefited City employees to access regional transit agencies, Sound Transit Link light rail, the Sounder train, Seattle Monorail and Streetcar, and King County Water Taxi and Kitsap Transit Foot Ferry.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

By proclaiming June as Ride Transit Month, the City of Kirkland is encouraging all community members to consider taking transit for more of their trips around the community and region. This proclamation supports the City Council’s goals pertaining to achieving balanced transportation and a sustainable environment. Throughout the month of June, to celebrate Ride Transit Month, transit advocacy organizations are promoting greater public awareness of the benefits of taking transit.

The City encourages all residents to take more trips with transit in June and beyond. Kirkland community members have access to reliable transit that travels throughout the Eastside and across Lake Washington. Community members are welcome to contact the City’s Transportation Program Coordinator, Blair Daly, if they would like assistance planning their use of transit or use the King County Metro website⁴ trip planning tool.

NEXT STEPS:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Ride Transit Month Proclamation

³ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Planning-and-Building/Planning-Projects/NE-85th-Street-Station-Area-Plan>

⁴ <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/metro>



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Ride Transit Month June 2026

WHEREAS, transit is an economical, healthy, and environmentally sound transportation mode that accesses destinations such as schools, shopping, restaurants, parks, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, regional transit agencies and active transportation organizations are promoting June as “Ride Transit Month” to encourage alternatives to driving; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has adopted “Balanced Transportation” as one of its Council Goals to reduce the community’s reliance on single-occupancy vehicles and improve connectivity and multimodal mobility in Kirkland; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted the Kirkland Transit Implementation Plan in 2019 and updated the Transportation Strategic Plan in 2024, both of which have the goal of enhancing the speed, reliability, and accessibility of transit for all users; and

WHEREAS, City staff are embarking on a Transit Needs Study to identify gaps in the existing transit network and potential solutions to address those gaps; and

WHEREAS, City staff coordinated with King County Metro to modify the Metro Flex services around the Transit Center in Totem Lake; and

WHEREAS, the City provides a free ORCA card for all benefited City employees through the ORCA Business Passport Program to encourage employees to use transit; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Transportation and Sound Transit are constructing the I-405/NE 85th Street Interchange and In-line Stride Bus Rapid Transit Station to be served by a Stride bus rapid transit line between Bellevue and Lynnwood and by King County Metro’s planned RapidRide K Line; and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted a station area land use plan that supports the creation of a walkable, equitable, sustainable, and complete transit-oriented neighborhood that leverages the I-405/NE 85th Street Bus Rapid Transit Station; and

WHEREAS, the Sound Transit 2 Line light rail service now connects the Eastside with destinations in Seattle and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland encourages everyone to explore using transit this month and year-round and to plan trips by visiting www.kingcounty.gov/en/dept/metro

NOW, THEREFORE, Mayor Kelli Curtis, on behalf of the City Council, proclaims June 2026 as “Ride Transit Month” in Kirkland encourages community members to ride transit and advocate for safe, accessible, frequent, and convenient transit service for our region.

Signed this 2nd day of June, 2026

Kelli Curtis, Mayor