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 – Engineering & Planning
Stephen Padua, Transportation Manager
Blair Daly, Transportation Program Coordinator

Date: August 24, 2026

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Mayor, on behalf of the City Council, proclaims October 2026 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.
- This year, the National Walk & Roll to School Day is Wednesday, October 7.
- The City encourages all Kirkland schools—elementary, middle, and high schools—to participate in Walk and Roll to School Day activities.
- This proclamation is part of the Council's adopted 2025-2026 proclamation schedule.

BACKGROUND:

The City is an active partner 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, all school zone speed camera fines beyond operating costs, and other funding sources are dedicated to pedestrian and bicycle 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 implementing the City Council-adopted Safer Routes to School Action Plans[1] developed for each school. Actions in those plans include funding, designing, and constructing the many capital projects identified in the plans; reviewing, funding, fabricating, and replacing or

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

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 Plan[2] and an update to the Active Transportation Plan[3] 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.

In 2024, the City Council approved a service package to review the Automated School Safety Camera Program and School Speed Zone Signing. Signs have been updated in all 17 school zones to improve clarity and consistency. In-street crosswalk signage has been installed at multiple school crosswalks to enhance the safety of children crossing the street. In 2026, the City Council approved the installation of 18 new school zone flashing beacons and upgrades for 8 existing beacons to increase visibility and drivers' awareness of speed limits around schools.

In 2025, the City Council approved the Kirkland Transportation Safety Action Plan (KTSAP),[5] which focuses on enhancing roadway safety. The plan advances the City's Vision Zero Goal to eliminate fatal and serious-injury crashes affecting roadway users, including people who walk, bike, use transit, or drive. The plan includes data-driven methodologies to prioritize safety needs, set new speed limits, and a toolbox of strategies to enhance safety for all roadway users. This plan guides the City in identifying safety improvements connecting to and around schools throughout Kirkland.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

In 2026, National Walk to School Day is being celebrated on Wednesday, October 7. Since the Council and the City supports 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 (PTSA) 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

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[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
[5] https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Department/Transportation/Plans-and-Studies-Transportation-Division/Kirkland-Transportation-Safety-Action-Plan

A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Walk and Roll to School Month
October 2026

WHEREAS, the National Center for Safe Routes to School, an organizations dedicated 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, in 2025, the City Council approved the Kirkland Transportation Safety Action Plan (KTSAP), which focuses on enhancing roadway safety for all users, advancing the City's Vision Zero Goal to eliminate fatal and serious-injury crashes affecting roadway users, including people who walk, bike, use transit, or drive. The plan includes methodologies and strategies to prioritize safety, set new speed limits, enhance safety for all roadway users, and help guide the City in identifying safety improvements connecting to and around schools throughout Kirkland; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, City staff improved signage in all 17 school zones and will soon install 18 new school zone flashing beacons to increase drivers' awareness of speed limits near schools; 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 automated 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 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, Mayor Kelli Curtis, on behalf of the City Council, proclaims October 2026 as "Walk and Roll to School Month" in Kirkland and encourages Kirkland residents to participate and to always consider the safety of people walking and rolling.

Signed this 6th day of October, 2026

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Kelli Curtis, Mayor