

COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP

January 29, 2020

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Council Chambers

6:00 Dinner

6:10 Welcome

- Agenda Overview
- New Resource Material Handouts

6:15 Follow up from Last Meeting

- Group Questions
- 12/19 Individual Project Rankings

6:30 Small Group Work

- Group Ranking of Projects
- Key Discussion Points

7:45 Break

8:00 Small Groups Report Out

8:30 Big Group Discussion

9:00 Wrap up and Adjourn

Overview

- Clarification of Training Options
- Capital v. Operating
- Calculating Property Tax Impact
- Small Group Work Instruction

Clarification of Training Building & Prop Options

Sizing

A
Small

B
Medium

C
Large

Training Building Variations: Pick One

- A – 1,000sq foot portable
- B – Meeting Room + restroom, and office
- C – Meeting Room + restroom, offices, kitchen, locker room, and storage



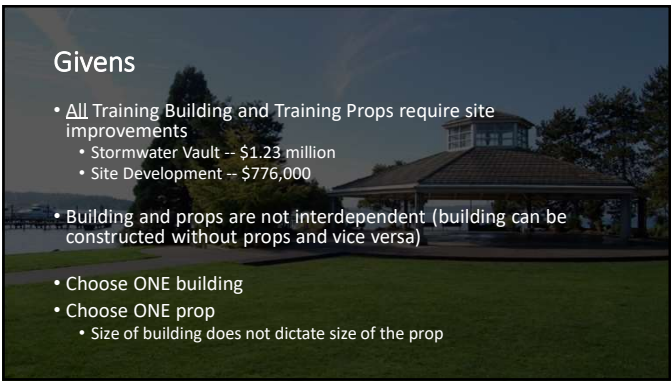
Training Prop Variations: Pick One

- A – Townhouse with live burn plus 3-story building with no live burn
- B – Townhouse with live burn plus 3-story building with live burn and two stairwells
- C – 2 townhouses with live burn plus 3-story building with live burn and two stairwells



Givens

- All Training Building and Training Props require site improvements
 - Stormwater Vault -- \$1.23 million
 - Site Development -- \$776,000
- Building and props are not interdependent (building can be constructed without props and vice versa)
- Choose ONE building
- Choose ONE prop
 - Size of building does not dictate size of the prop









Difference Between Operating and Capital Funding

Operating

- Annual income should be sufficient to cover ongoing daily expenses including debt (mortgage payment, car payments, credit cards)
- Using reserves or savings to cover daily expenses has limits
- Using debt to pay daily expenses can become expensive if you can't keep up

Capital

- Borrowing money helps spread the cost over a longer period time
- Makes it more affordable in the near term
- Appropriate for purchasing items with a longer life span (house, car, major remodel)

Fire Projects

Operating

- Employee wages, benefits and daily supplies
 - Cross-staffed aid car
 - 12hr hospital transport
- One additional firefighter
- Battalion Aide
- Public Information Staff
- Inspector

Capital

- Fire station renovations
- New fire station
- Training building
- Training props
- Ladder truck

How to Calculate Property Tax Impact on My Home



Follow These Steps

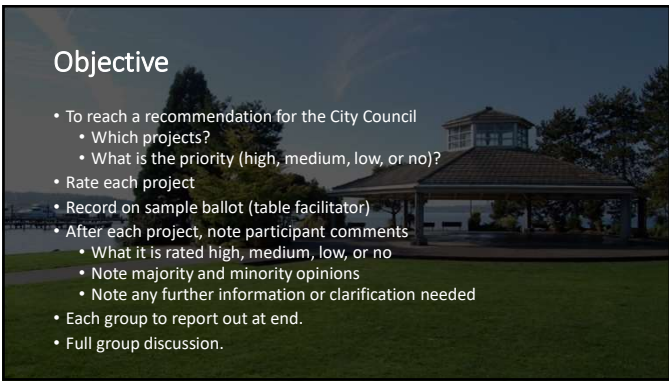
1. Find out the current assessed value of your property
2. Divide by 1,000 (i.e. lop off the last three digits)
3. Multiply the result by the rate (i.e. the cents per \$1,000)

Sample Calculation Assuming a Tax Rate of 20 cents per \$1,000 AV:

1. My Home Value: \$850,000
2. Divide by 1,000: \$850
3. Multiply by the rate:
 $\$850 \times \$.20 = \170 per year
4. Your annual tax is increase is \$170 (or \$14 per month)



Small Group Work



Objective

- To reach a recommendation for the City Council
 - Which projects?
 - What is the priority (high, medium, low, or no)?
- Rate each project
- Record on sample ballot (table facilitator)
- After each project, note participant comments
 - What it is rated high, medium, low, or no
 - Note majority and minority opinions
 - Note any further information or clarification needed
- Each group to report out at end.
- Full group discussion.

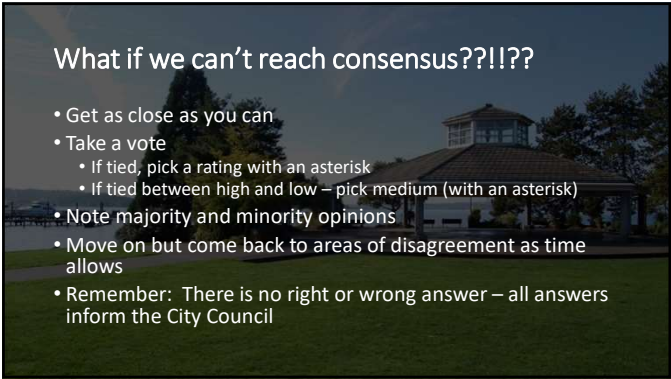
Roles

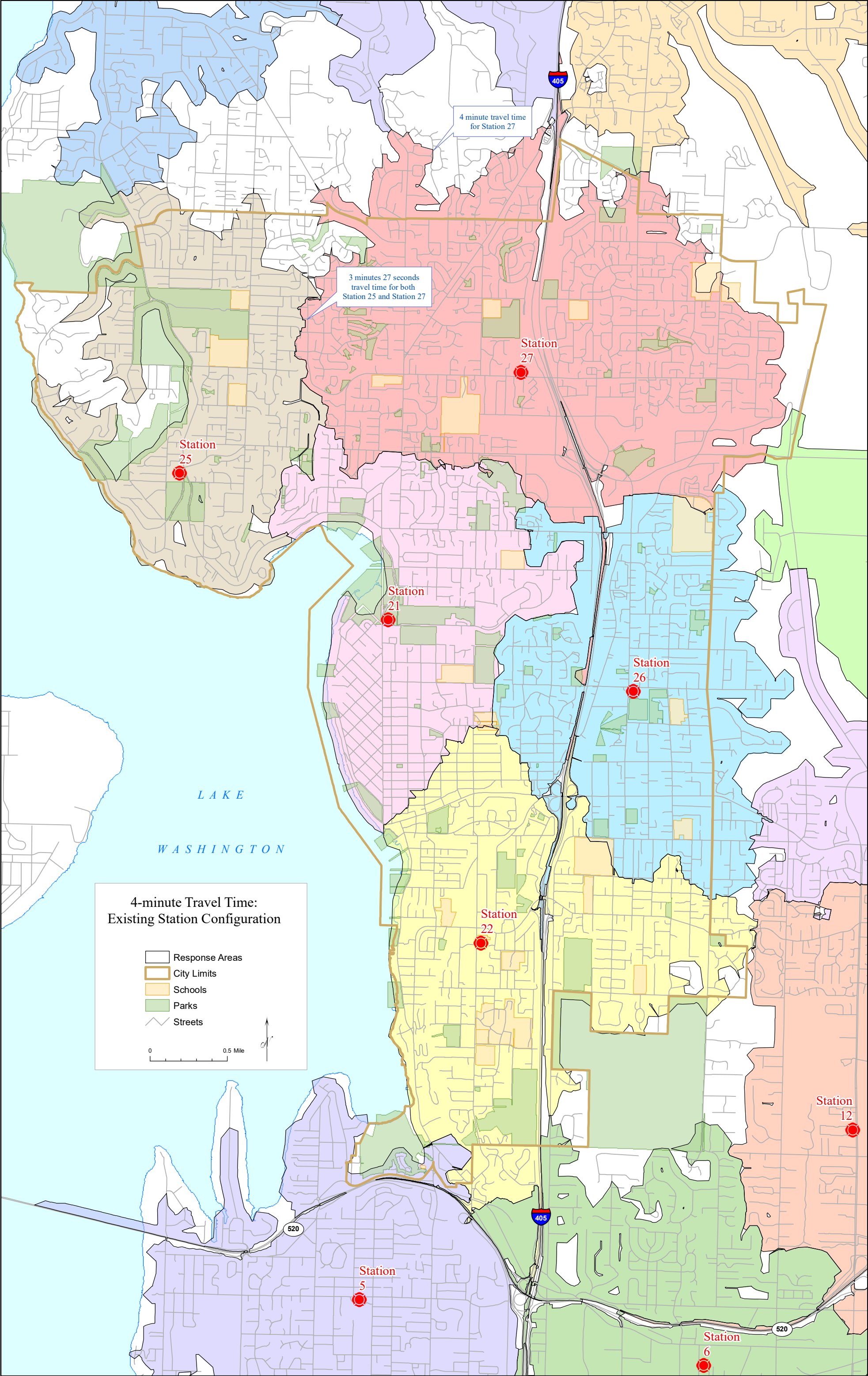
- Table facilitator
 - Track ratings on spreadsheet
 - Keep the conversation on track
 - Make sure everyone is heard
 - Makes notes of majority and minority opinions about each project
 - Note an additional information needed
- Group Reporter
 - Provide brief report out on group result
 - Highlight comments that provide context for results as needed

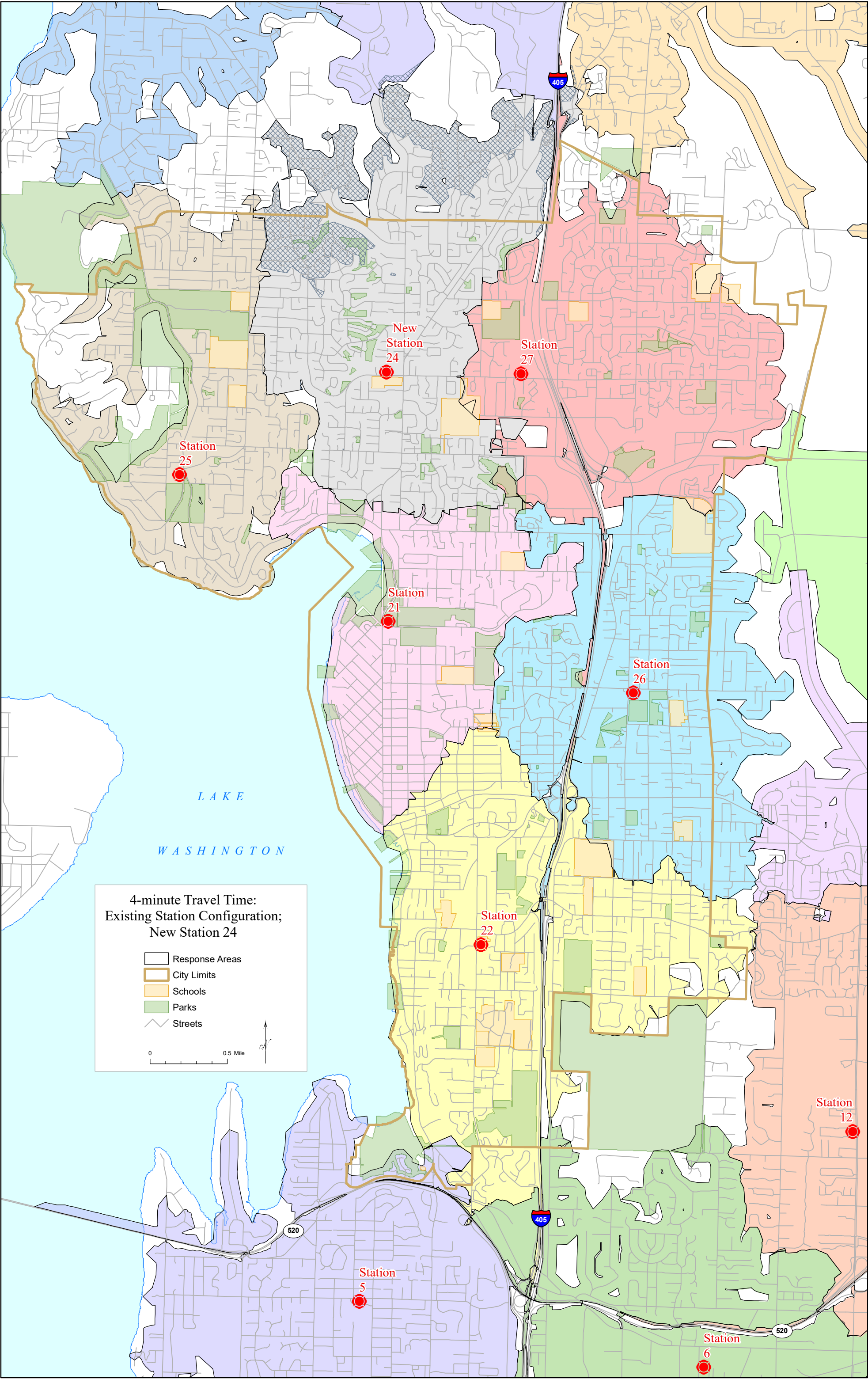


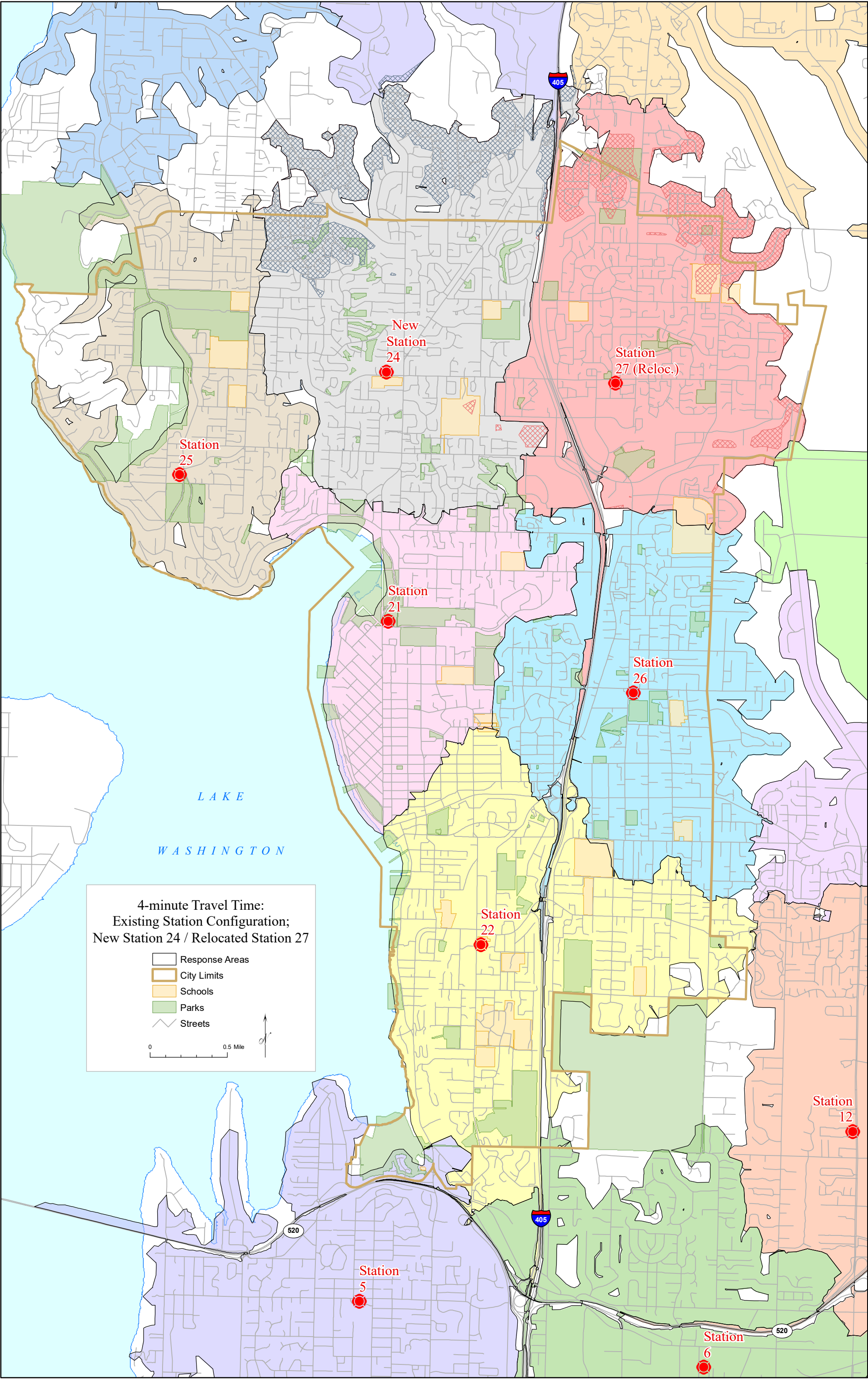
What if we can't reach consensus??!!??

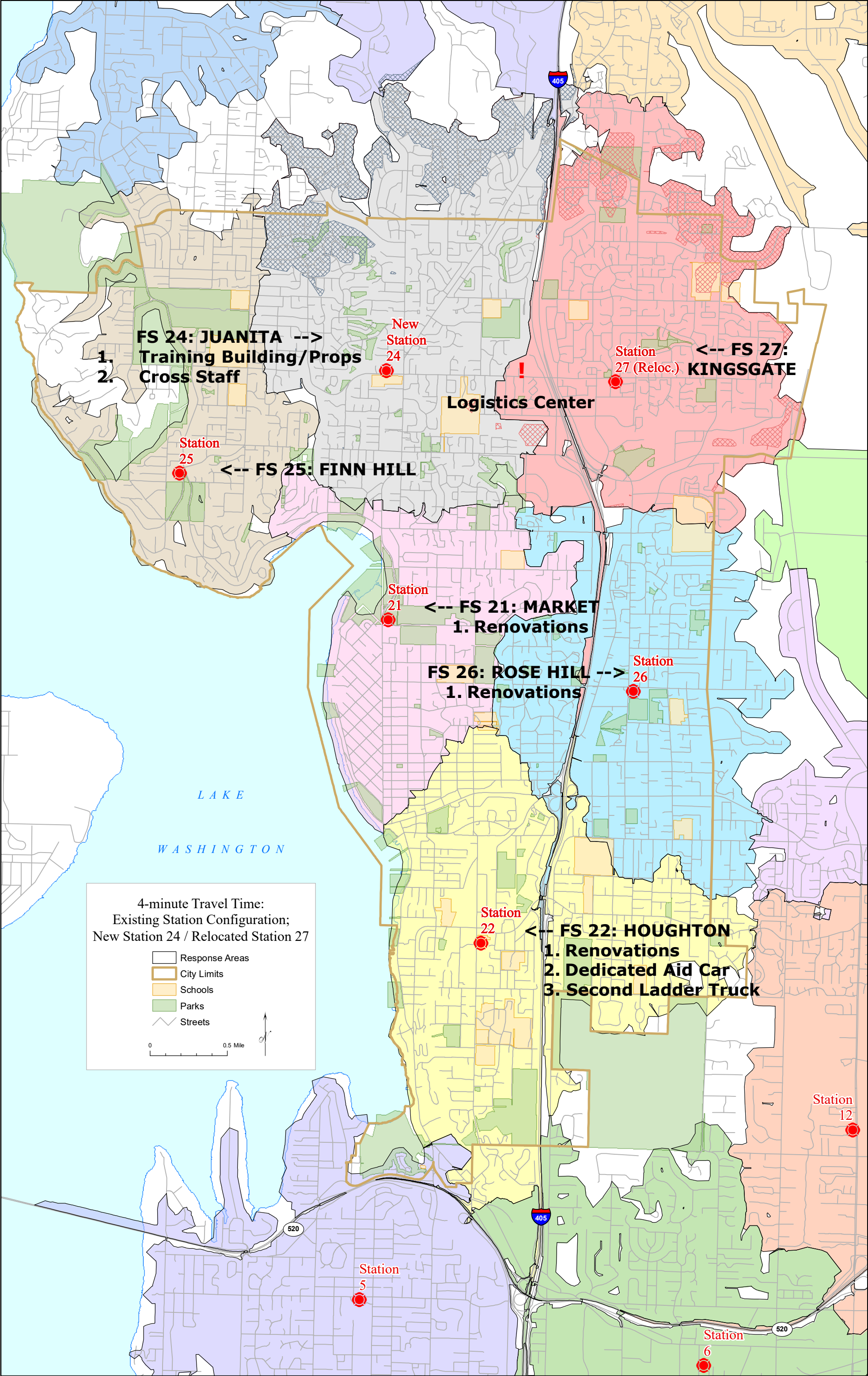
- Get as close as you can
- Take a vote
 - If tied, pick a rating with an asterisk
 - If tied between high and low – pick medium (with an asterisk)
- Note majority and minority opinions
- Move on but come back to areas of disagreement as time allows
- Remember: There is no right or wrong answer – all answers inform the City Council





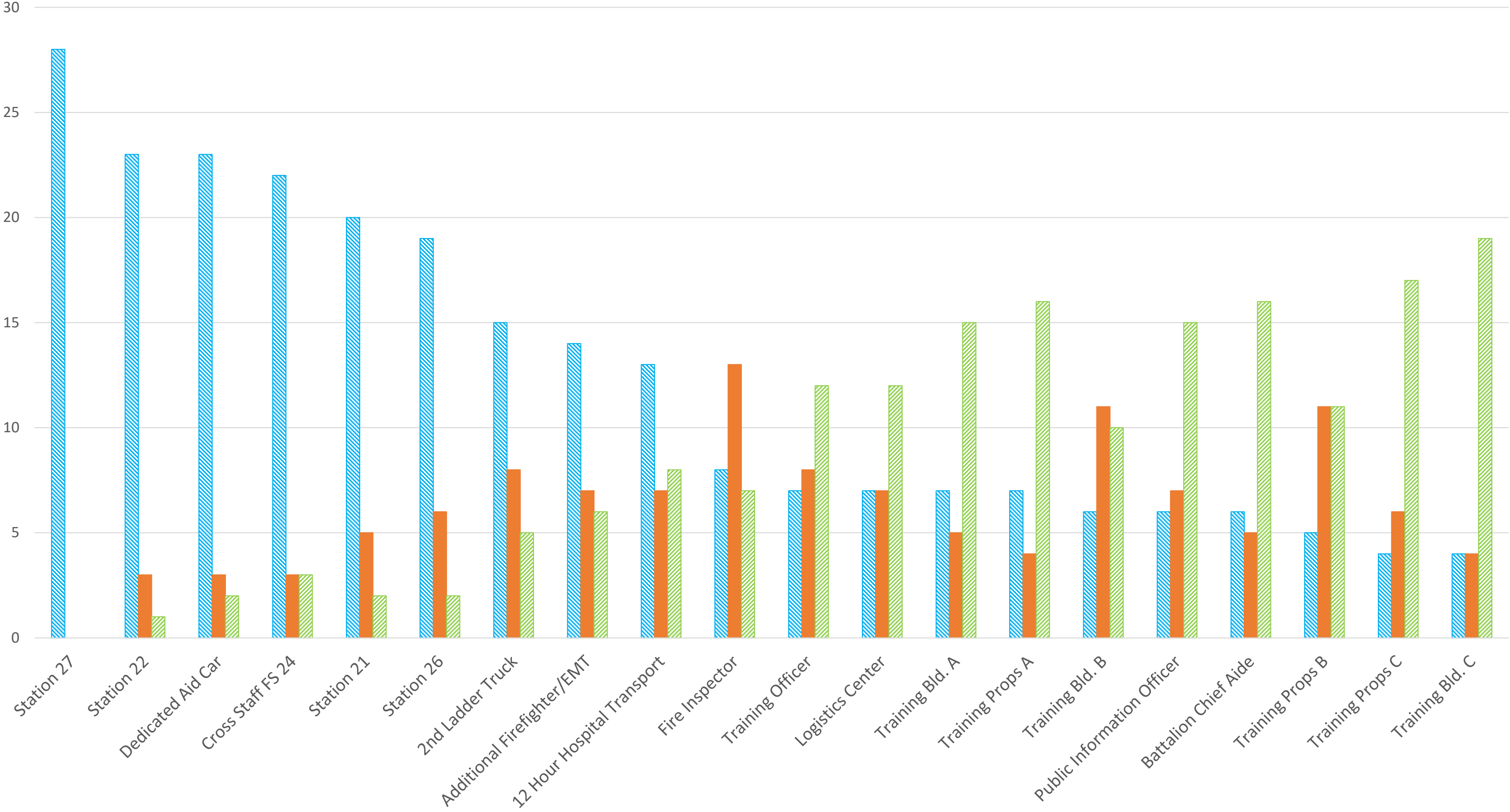






Potential Ballot Measure Element Prioritization
From Highest to Lowest Support

High Medium Low



**COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FROM DECEMBER 19, 2019**

TRAINING

1. Are there any zoning issues or constraints for training props?

The Fire Station 24 site is subject to development standards and other regulations per zoning designation BC1 based on the proposed use as a "Government Facility." In simple non-planner terms, this means that the zoning code identifies a number of parameters that relate to the design and use of the site – these include such things as structure height, setbacks from property lines, lot coverage, landscape buffers, etc. Although temporary in nature, training props/facilities will likely be treated like any other structure on the site (i.e. they're considered buildings and regulated as such).

2. What is the difference between training props and training buildings?

Training props are physical reconstructions of the outside environment for Firefighter/EMTs to train on with different scenarios. They can range from townhouses to commercial buildings. Often these structures have the ability to be set on fire multiple times without compromising the structure of the building. The training building provides a central area for classroom style training and a meeting location for the community to use as well.

3. What is the impact of training facilities/props on neighbors?

The impact should be minimal. We utilized radio transmissions so there should be no loud voices. We don't use sirens for training drills. Apparatus will be in gear and running so there might be sounds of engines running which are not loud. And we seldom train after dark so there should be minimal disruption in the evening.

4. How many training officers does the Kirkland Fire Department have now?

We have one Training Battalion Chief and one Training Captain.

5. Does an in-city training facility reduce number of firefighter/EMTs required?

The short answer is no. It doesn't reduce the number of firefighter/EMTs, but it does reduce response times by keeping vehicles and firefighters in Kirkland rather than training in Bellevue, Kenmore and Renton.

6. Is there any potential to share the cost of training facilities and props? Can we rent them to other jurisdictions, or coordinate to have each city purchase a prop?

We already do some cost sharing of training facilities and have potential for even greater savings to the training budget with a training prop and/or training building in the future. There are offsetting costs for providing training officers and/or training facilities.

EMS

7. Is the dedicated aid car expensive because of staffing?

Yes, the City already has an aid car in reserve that could be used. The cost comes from having to hire 10 additional firefighter/EMTs to fill the two positions.

8. Does a dedicated 12-hour transport reduce the number of firefighter/EMTs required?

Potentially. Because it is only staffed for 12 hours a day, it could be staffed 7 days a week with 4 additional firefighters rather than the 10 additional required for a dedicated aid unit. In contrast, the dedicated aid unit would be staffed 24 hrs. per day.

9. Can a private ambulance service be used?

Private Ambulances are currently utilized when Kirkland Fire units are very busy or for long transports into Seattle. Private ambulances transports about 450-500 patients per year. Currently there are not enough ambulances in the region to rely solely on Ambulances. In addition, they only provide transportation. They are not cross trained as firefighters as our EMT's are.

10. Dedicated aid car vs 12-hour transport?

A dedicated Aid Unit requires the hiring of 10 firefighters to fully staff 24 hours a day/seven days a week. A dedicated Aid Unit also has cross trained firefighters on it who could respond to fire calls in the event they were not on aid calls. A 12 hour peak transport unit works from 8am to 8pm with 2 firefighter EMT's on it. They would respond to incidents in Kirkland where transport to the hospital was likely and allow the Firefighters from a particular station to become available at the scene for a subsequent call instead of remaining out of service during transport, transition at the hospital and travel back to their fire station.

11. Which stations would a 12-hour hospital transport most benefit?

It would most benefit any of the stations that didn't have a dedicated Aid Unit. Currently we have no dedicated Aid Units. But depending on recommendations from ComSAG and decisions by City Council, we could have one in the north and one in the south (Stations 27 and Station 22). If that occurred, Stations 21, 25 and 26 would receive the greatest benefit.

WASHINGTON STANDARDS & RATING BUREAU

12. What is the impact on insurance costs of adding an additional ladder truck?

Hard to give a dollar value. A second Ladder Truck reduces the overall penalty points received by WSRB. As our score decreases, the cost of insurance in the City decreases. But this is not tagged to one recommendation. There are many recommendations that contribute to decreasing our overall rating.

13. How many times was second ladder truck needed?

We have two ladder trucks dispatched on every structure fire call and on every technical rescue. Currently the second ladder responds from a neighboring jurisdiction.

In 2018, 69 calls required the ladder truck

In 2017, 78 calls required the ladder truck

However, there are really two separate questions here. The first is how many times the actual "ladder" of the second Ladder Truck was utilized. Not all structure fires require elevated hose streams or rescue of occupants. This can be due to the fact that the building is not tall enough to

require a ladder or that Fire Department notification was early in the fire stage and crews were able to arrive quickly and stop the fire before the use of ladders was required. The second question is about utilizing a "Ladder Company" (the personnel and skills of the firefighter/EMTs assigned to the Ladder Truck). Those who respond in the Ladder Truck have specialized technical rescue training and certifications to provide advanced search and rescue and building ventilation tactics to assist in life safety and fire extinguishment. The Ladder Company would be used on most, if not all of the confirmed structure fires in some capacity whether it includes using the "ladder" or not.

14. Where would the second ladder truck be located?

Most likely it would be located at Station 22 in Houghton. This would provide ladder coverage to Kirkland Urban and the downtown core.

15. How can we improve WSRB rating?

There are a number of improvements and recommendations from WSRB that would improve our ratings. The most deficiency points were received in Fire Prevention and the biggest impact would be seen by investments in prevention activities.

16. What is the estimated impact on WSRB score for – PIO, Inspector, 12-hour transport?

Difficult to quantify each of these. The largest deficiency was in Fire Prevention so a PIO and additional inspectors would have the greatest impact on the WSRB scoring. The 12-hour transport was recommended in the Strategic Plan so it would have minimal impact on the WSRB rating but a large impact on response times.

17. Who does PIO duties now?

Usually the on-scene commander or a designee communicates with the media at an emergency scene. The risk reduction and public education piece is done as resources are available, but this is rare.

TAX

18. Property tax is confusing. Is there any way the city can get a larger percentage?

The authority to levy property taxes is granted through state and local laws to public entities eligible to use property tax a funding source. Each jurisdiction has its own levy that is established by its own governing body (e.g. city councils, school boards, county commissioners, hospital commissioners, etc.). Each governing body is accountable to their own own populations that reside with their taxing district which almost always have different boundaries and different voters. As a result, a city can't directly impact another jurisdiction's levy which is the purview of the elected body and/or the voters.

The property tax "pie" is a representation of the relative amount of property taxes paid by a property in a jurisdiction. This pie will look different in each city depending on which jurisdictions have overlapping boundaries with other taxing jurisdictions and which taxing jurisdictions levy taxes in a city as part of their overall levy. For a city to receive a "larger piece of the pie" the city would need to raise taxes at a faster rate than the other jurisdictions in the pie. This would generally occur through a voted debt issue or levy lid lift. Otherwise, most other jurisdictions are subject to the

same limits as the city. In addition to the one percent limit, there is a maximum aggregate rate that is established by the Washington State Constitution

In summary, each jurisdiction establishes their own levies within the limits and rules established by state law. The resulting pie reflects those decisions once they have been made. As you have learned, many factors can affect a jurisdictions levy rate and tax revenue including changes in assessed value, new construction, voter-approved measures and city council decisions.

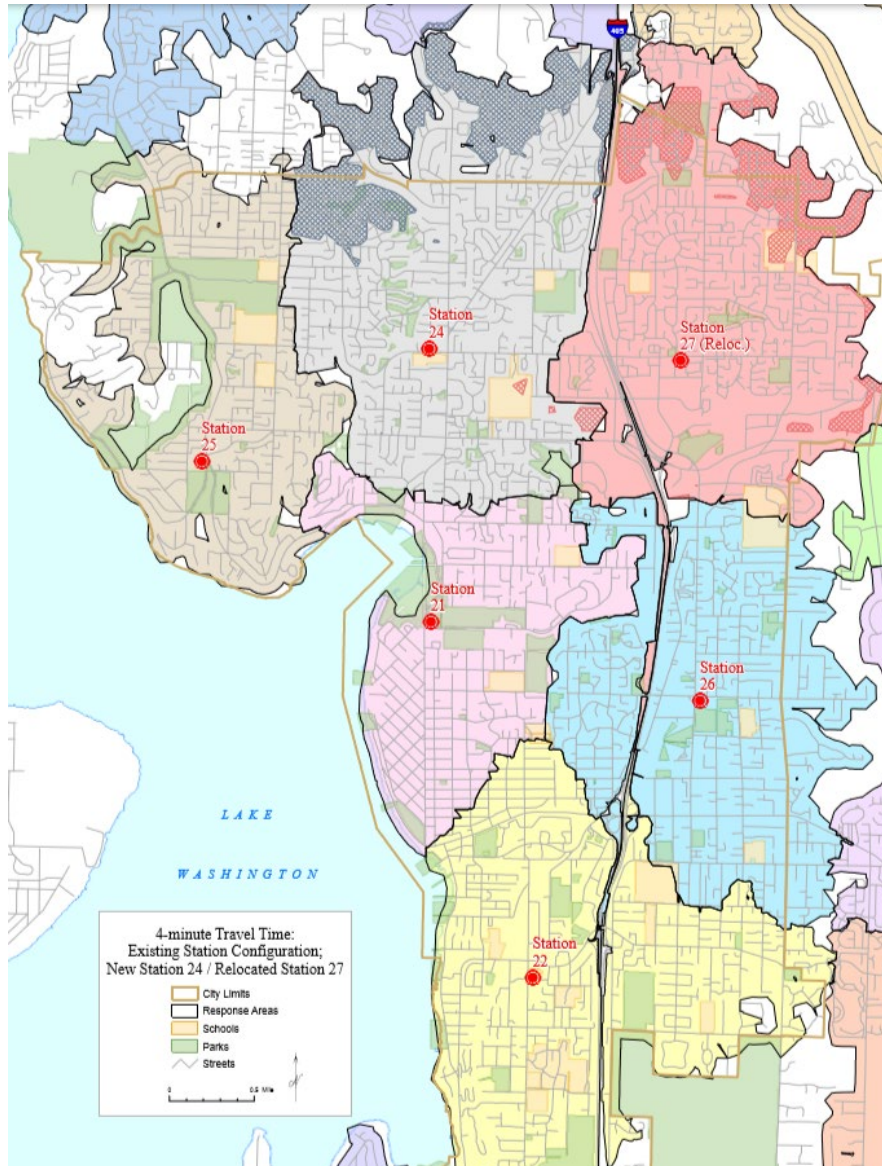
19. Why do property taxes go to the hospital? Is it a business?

Evergreen Health is a public hospital. Public Hospital Districts are authorized by RCW 70.44 to provide funding for capital and operating costs. Hospital Districts are through a petition or vote of the voters residing within the boundaries of the district. Hospital District is subject to similar limitations as other local jurisdictions (e.g. capital bond measures must be passed by 60% and validated by the number of voters who voted in the last general election). The boundaries of a public hospital district are not required to be contiguous with city boundaries. Although Public Hospital Districts largely provide patient services through private physicians and groups such as Virginia Mason and Swedish, they are subject to certain rules by virtue of using public funds.

STATION 27

20. Map of impact of moving station 27?

A larger map also included in additional binder materials.



The impact of relocating station 27 is the areas shaded in darker red. These areas are now accessible within the four-minute response time.

21. Is an update to 27 necessary?

In any outcome, station 27 was built in the early 1970s and is nearing the end of its useful life. The station will need renovations to accommodate firefighter health and safety upgrades, a new roof, and general updates to bring the building up to code. The City has purchased a site to build a new station 27 east of I-405, in which case station 27 would be renovated as a logistics center, and still require some of the mentioned updates.

STATIONS 21 & 26

22. What is the current seismic endurance of station 21/26?

Both Stations 21 and 26 were built in the early 1990s. It wasn't until 1996 that the idea of 'critical infrastructure' standards were introduced. After September 11, 2001, the Patriot Act was passed, strengthening requirements. Finally, after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, we saw another leap in the construction standards of fire stations. All stations with the exception of newly renovated station 25 need to be renovated to the higher standards.

23. Which station is most susceptible to natural disasters? 21 or 26?

Both are built close to wetlands. It would be difficult to say without asking a geotechnical engineer to evaluate.

MISCELLANEOUS

24. What is the difference between capital and operational?

Operating expenses represent the day-to-day costs of providing services to the public. Major categories of operating expenditures include employee wage and benefits, supplies, services (such as professional service contracts and insurance), intergovernmental payments made for services provided by other governments and small capital investments such as the purchase of computers. The operating budget pays for the annual cost of services. Operating expenses are paid for from a variety of income (revenue) sources that are received every year such as taxes, charges for services and permits.

Capital expenditures represent large investments in buildings, large equipment and infrastructure improvements for roads, utility systems and parks. Capital improvements may be financed on a "pay as you go" basis from revenue sources available for capital purposes. "Pay as you go" financing means the city pays cash for the improvements from capital reserves or available capital revenue sources. Some large capital improvements are financed by issuing debt where the City borrows money to spread the cost over a long period of time. Debt-financed improvements usually have a longer life span so that current and future residents who will benefit from the improvement such as a new park help pay for it. Debt financing is similar to a mortgage where a home purchaser borrows money to purchase a house. The cost is spread over a long period of time to make purchase of a house affordable. As a homeowner, you make monthly mortgage payments to pay off the loan.

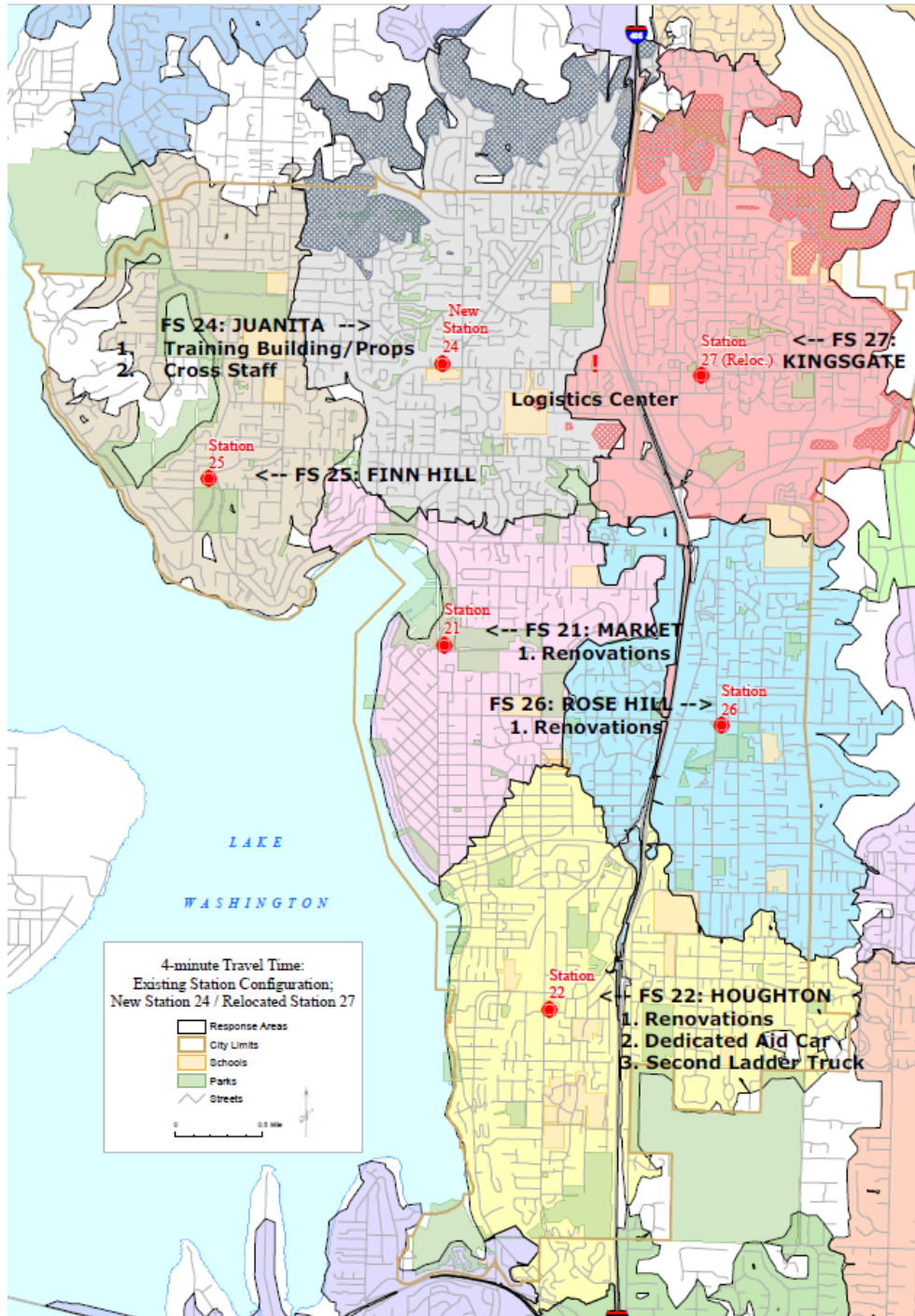
The City's operating costs are like your own ongoing living expense such as food, utilities and insurance. Your monthly income should be sufficient to cover your ongoing living expense and your mortgage payment. The City's annual income, much like yours, needs to be sufficient to cover everyday expenses.

When voters approve a tax measure for capital investments, they agree to tax themselves through an increase in the property tax levy to provide a revenue stream (annual income) to pay off the debt. Again, this makes large projects more affordable for the community and allows for current and future residents to help pay for the improvements. Once the debt is paid off, the extra property tax levy is ended.

For the fire ballot measure projects, the operating projects are primarily to pay for the wages and benefits of new employees to provide enhanced services. The fire capital projects are for investments in building and equipment.

25. Indicate location/neighborhood of stations on card and where each project is located.

A larger map also included in your additional binder materials.



26. What metrics will be used to assess success and effectiveness of Fire prevention inspector - asked

It is hard to quantify “fires prevented” as an outcome of fire-prevention activities. So, we measure inputs as an analog for outcomes. Fire Prevention has been working on completing a risk assessment for the entire City. This involves cataloging all of the buildings and occupancies within those buildings. Once the risk assessment is complete, we will prioritize higher risk occupancies for more frequent inspections, while all occupancies will be inspected at least annually. This is based on best practices in fire prevention and guidance from the Washington Survey and Ratings Bureau for scoring fire prevention operations. Inputs we are currently tracking:

- New construction permits issued / completed (Fire)
- New construction inspections (Fire)
- Fire operational permits issued / completed
- Existing-building inspection completed by Operations staff
- Existing-building inspections completed by Fire Prevention staff
- Code enforcement cases opened / completed (Fire)
- Fire investigation cases completed

This is a partial list of our internal measures, but covers the core of our operations. As we develop capacity to deliver additional public information / education programs, we will develop appropriate measures to track those efforts.

27. Is the Battalion Aide on a 48-hour shift?

Yes. Battalion Chief Aides are on the same duty sequence or shift as all other firefighters.

28. What is the percent of calls that occur when firefighters/EMT are on a call – concurrent calls.

Based on 2018 data:

- Station 21 – occurs 19.40% of the time
- Station 22 – occurs 14.78% of the time
- Station 25 – occurs 10.61% of the time
- Station 26 – occurs 16.38% of the time
- Station 27 – occurs 23.89% of the time

29. How much does an additional firefighter impact response times?

An additional firefighter as outlined in the ComSAG tiers would provide a fourth firefighter at a station that currently has three. This allows for two firefighters to respond on an EMS call (which are 75% of our call types) and leave two behind with the fire engine to respond to a subsequent EMS call. Response times are reduced for subsequent calls because an available EMS crew would respond from the closest station and not have to be called from a neighboring station or neighboring jurisdiction.