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2044 Comprehensive Plan Update

City Council Study Session

July 18, 2023



Agenda

- Community engagement
- Draft Vision Statement
- Potential study issues and policy changes
- Next steps
- Questions for City Council



Where are we in the process?



2022 - 2023

2024



Outreach & Engagement continues throughout process



Community Engagement

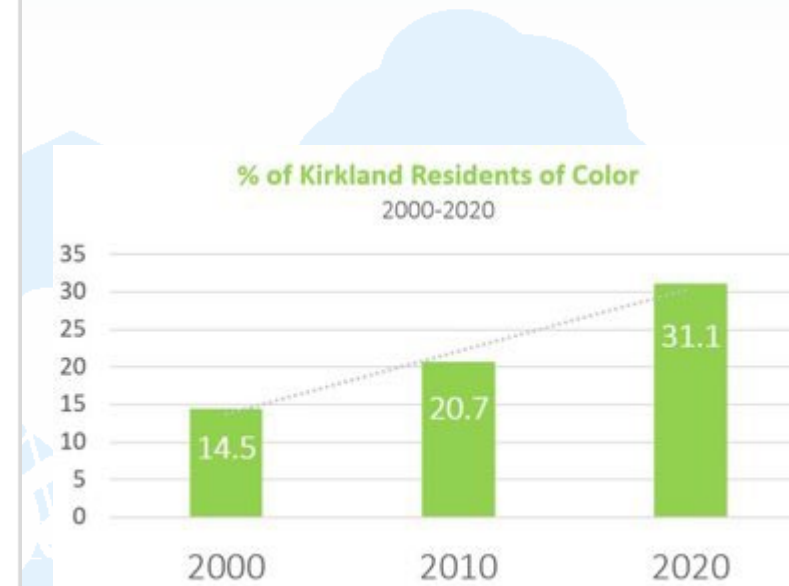
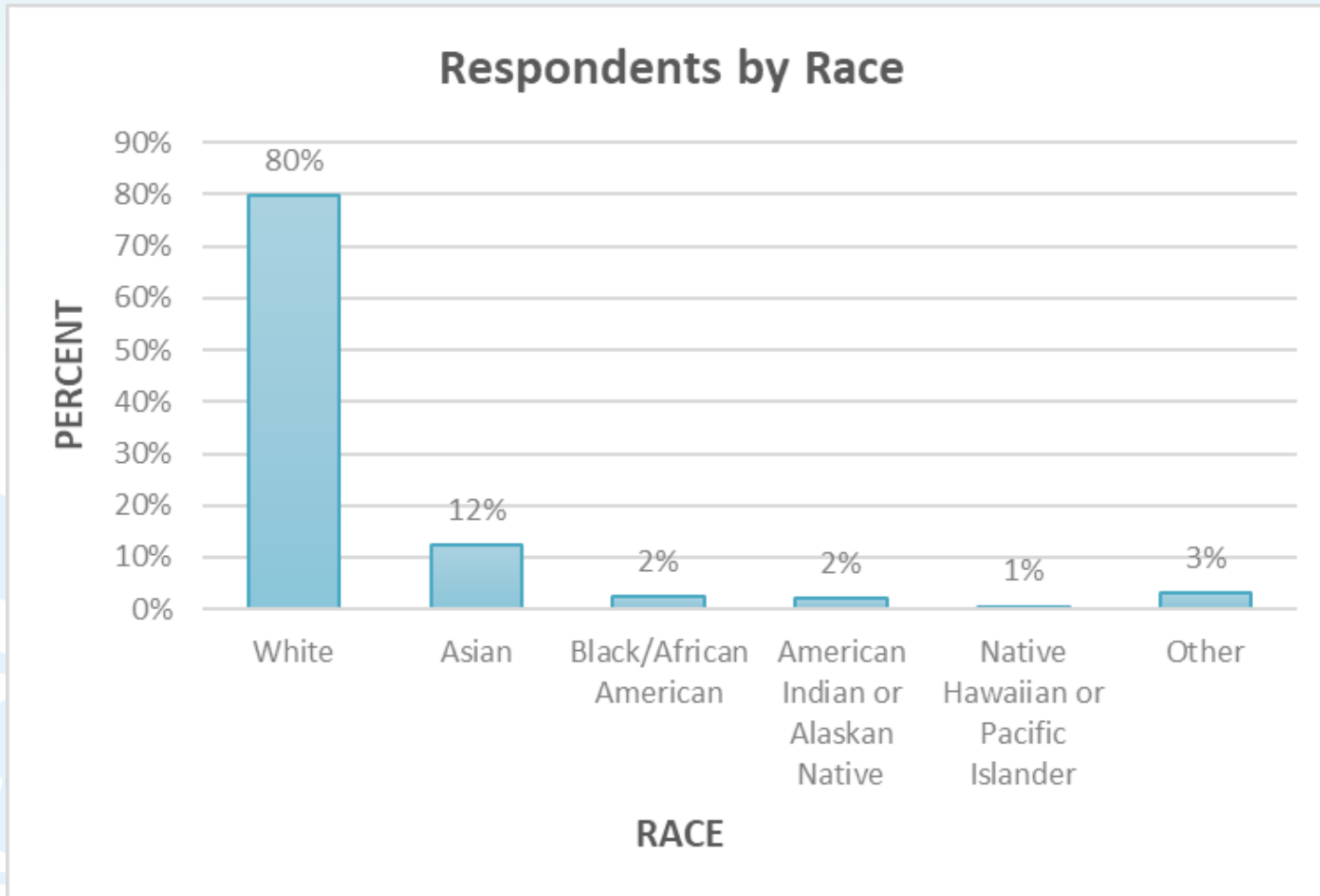


Outreach-Engagement 2022-2023



- Project webpage updates, email announcements
- Sustainability, Climate, Environment, Parks, Housing and Human Services, Land Use and Transportation Elements
 - Surveys
 - Focus Group recruitment to priority populations; Focus Group meetings; stipends distributed
- Informational handouts (translated)
- Presentations to community groups
 - Boards and Commissions, Youth Council, Senior Council, Human Services Commission, neighborhood associations, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
- Event participation
- Tabling at community events
- Class projects with Lake Washington and Juanita High Schools and student surveys
- Visioning event and survey (December 2022-January 2023)

Focus Group Participants Race

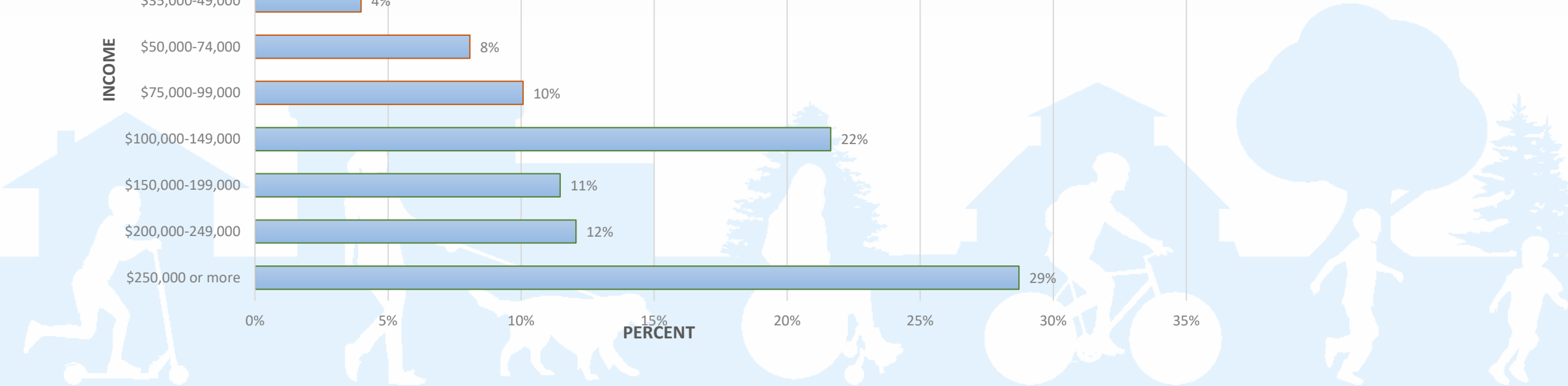
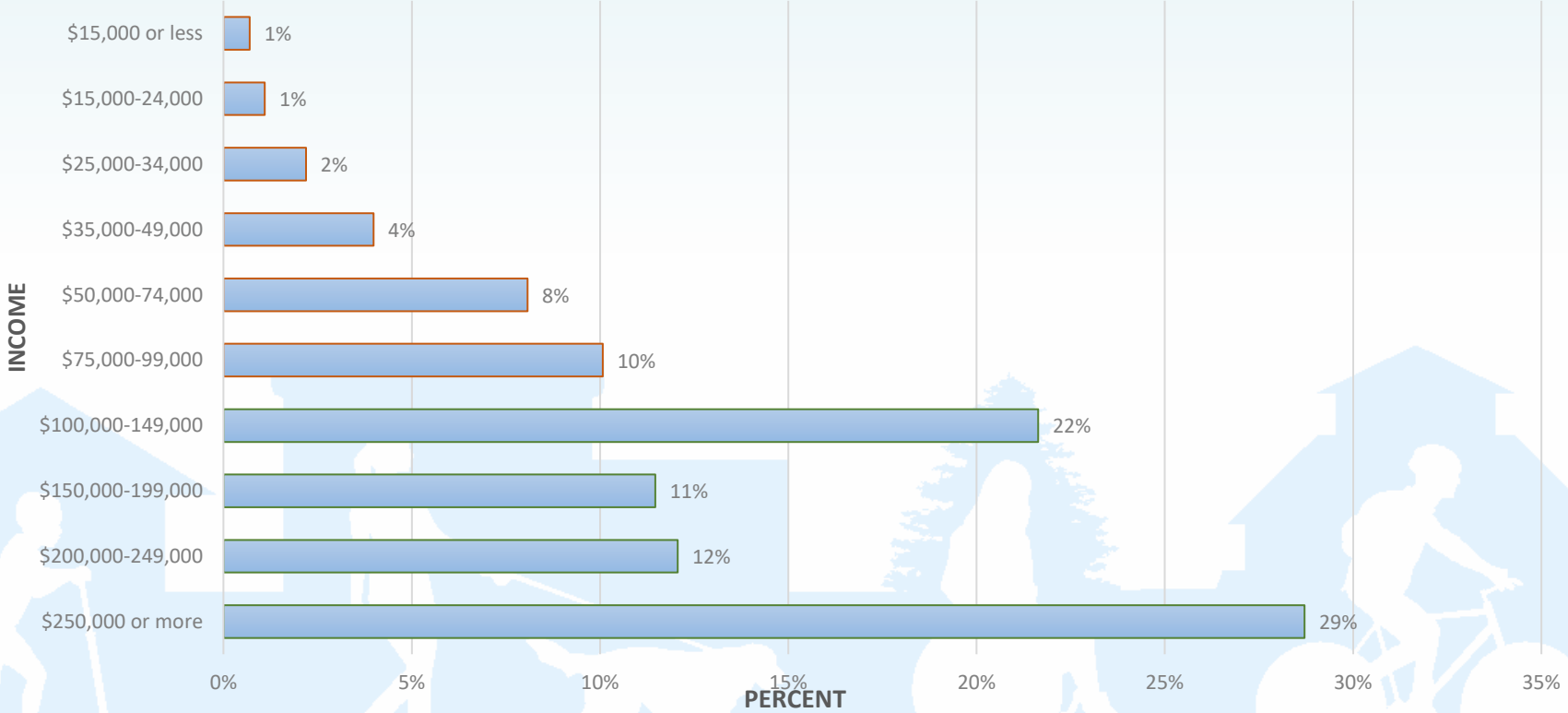


Survey Participants Income



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Respondents by Income



Upcoming activities 2023-2024



- Farmers markets booth
- City Hall for All event – fall 2023
- Economic Development engagement and outreach, focus group, surveys, business organizations - September-October 2023
- Additional seasonal tabling events
- Open houses/forums at Imagine Housing facilities
- Open Houses on draft Plan, study sessions, public hearing and other meetings with Planning Commission
- Coordination with Juanita and Kingsgate Neighborhood Plan updates



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Draft Vision Statement

Current Vision Statement 2015



Kirkland is one of the most livable cities in America. We are a vibrant, attractive, green and welcoming place to live, work and play. Civic engagement, innovation and diversity are highly valued. We are respectful, fair and inclusive. We honor our rich heritage while embracing the future. Safe, walkable, bikeable and friendly neighborhoods are connected to each other and to thriving mixed use activity centers, schools, parks and our scenic waterfront. Convenient transit service provides a viable alternative to driving. Diverse and affordable housing is available throughout the city. Kirkland strives to be a model, sustainable city that values preserving and enhancing our natural environment for our enjoyment and future generations.



Vision Statement Process

Process- Community Outreach (December 2022 – January 2023)

- K2044 Community Survey
- Virtual Visioning Event

Resources

- Comprehensive Plan Equity Review report (2022 ECONorthwest)
 - Puget Sound Regional Council VISION 2050
 - King County's 2021 Countywide Planning Policies
- Local Land Acknowledgement, adopted by Kirkland City Council (2021)



Draft Vision Statement Themes



Councilmember Curtis Option



Kirkland is a vibrant, attractive, and welcoming place to live, work, play, and visit. Safe, walkable, bikeable, and friendly neighborhoods are connected to each other and to thriving commercial centers that provide jobs and services, schools, parks, and our scenic waterfront.

(Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB))

Kirkland is a place where all people are valued. We honor our rich heritage, including the First People who have reserved treaty rights and continue to live here since time immemorial, while embracing our future. We are dedicated to celebrating, protecting, and encouraging diversity and inclusion, and we commit to combating systemic institutional racism and discrimination.

(Accessibility and Housing)

Kirkland has connected communities through dependable local and regional transit services, and extensive walk and bike routes. Jobs and housing are clustered around transit routes and trails creating an equitable and walkable community. Neighborhoods have diverse housing to accommodate residents in every stage of life.

(Growth (Economy, Public Services, Capital Infrastructure))

Kirkland is innovative and economically resilient, providing public services and capital infrastructure that serve multiple objectives: accommodating growth, providing opportunities for the community to connect and help each other, and promoting sustainability.

(Sustainability and Environment)

Kirkland is a sustainable city that values preserving and enhancing our natural and built environment for our enjoyment and for future generations. The city is filled with **green roofs**, community gardens, tree-filled streets, daylighted streams and stormwater swales, and connected open spaces that make Kirkland more resilient and livable in the face of climate change.



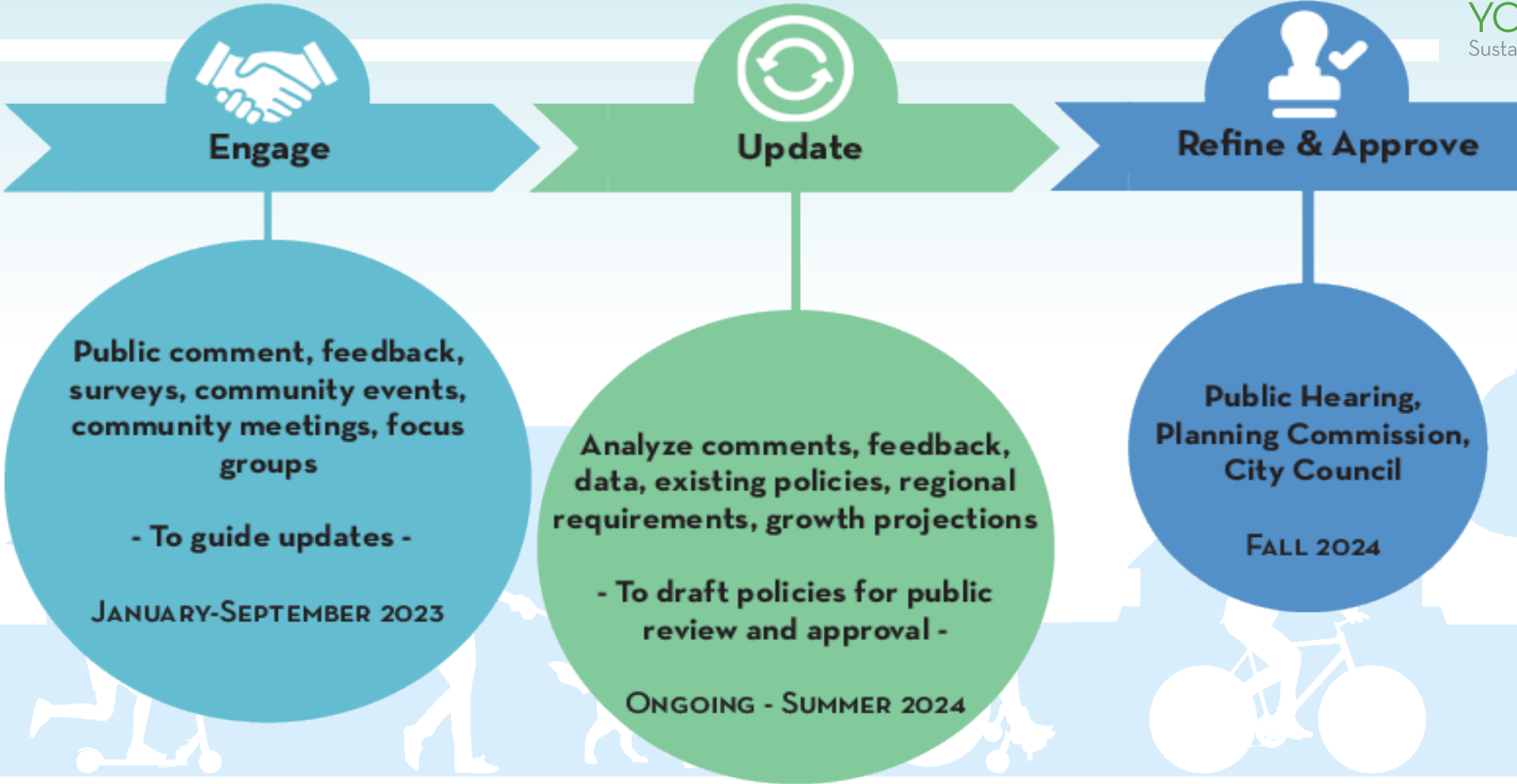
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Study Issues Potential Policy Changes

Schedule



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Questions for City Council



- Do you have suggestions for additional community engagement ideas to increase participation?
- Do you have suggested revisions to the draft Vision Statement?
- Do you have additional specific study issues, policy changes, or major land use changes that staff should analyze?



Land Use Element



- Citywide affordable housing requirements; potential for requirements in low-density zones;
- Policies to stimulate production of missing middle housing types;
- Consolidating low-density residential zones for more uniform development regulations in similar zones citywide;
- Potential density increases in existing neighborhood commercial-oriented sites, along transit corridors; Community-initiated Amendment Requests
- Introducing small-scale neighborhood commercial uses and/or home-based businesses in low-density residential neighborhoods;
- Exploring appropriate uses and densities on sites such as the Houghton Shopping Center;
- Reducing and/or restructuring parking standards;
- Increasing public access to Lake Washington and other natural areas;
- Concepts that will enable Kirkland to become a more “Complete City” (e.g., completing sidewalks, undergrounding overhead utilities, integrating arts into the community);
 - Planning Commission notes the 2044 Comp Plan update should define “Complete City” or perhaps focus more on “Complete Neighborhoods.”
- Updates to incorporate new legislative requirements for middle housing, affordable housing, and climate change;
- Establish policies to mitigate restrictive covenants or homeowners association restrictions that may be contrary to City policies like encouraging ADUs and middle housing.

Housing Element



- Encourage more middle housing in compliance with new State requirements;
- Reduce the number of residential zoning districts to encourage regulatory consistency citywide;
- Simplify development standards; incorporating Form-Based Code principles; increase predictability and encourage more development;
- Study how to encourage more housing near existing and planned future transit:
 - Compact development: medium to high density (anticipate return of transit-oriented development (TOD bill)) and upper middle housing (up to 12-unit multiplex);
 - Eliminating maximum densities (in terms of numbers of units per acre) in multifamily and mixed-use districts (i.e., densities would be governed by building envelopes);
- Study minimum densities for more efficient use of available land;
- Up-zone key residential areas (near transit and to build out 10-minute neighborhoods) to increase housing choices affordable to a wider range of incomes (mixed use/mixed income);
- Rezone or incentivize the redevelopment of religious organization-owned properties to increase affordable housing;
- Reduce parking requirements to reduce housing costs;
- Anticipate increased density with Community-Initiated Amendment Requests
- Study city-wide inclusionary zoning requirements;

Sustainability, Climate, Environment Element



- Analyze impacts on the electrical grid of policies moving the entire community towards electrification and elimination of the use of fossil fuels in homes, businesses and vehicles including public transit (electric buses);
- Encourage more intense water conservation measures that reduce the impact on our potable water supply and transitioning to black, grey and reclaimed water supplies for non – drinking water uses;
- Update policies for installing charging stations for electric vehicles at public facilities, parks, public rights-of-way (adjacent to sidewalks), along major transportation corridors, and near freeway entrances/exits;
- Update climate policies that promote mitigating impacts related to climate change (for example: higher temperatures and more heat days and wildfire smoke days) – required by current legislation;
- Update climate polices that make the community more resilient to climate change – required by current legislation.



Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element



- Update policies to ensure consistency with relevant functional plans:
 - Update the Level of Service (LOS) standards per the 2022 PROS Plan
 - Update 10-year projects/facilities list per the 2022 PROS Plan and Capital Facilities Plan;
- Improve ADA accessibility at parks;
- Improve pedestrian/bicycle/transit connections to parks;
- Preserve and enhance the tree canopy;
- Increase the resiliency of the City's parks, open spaces, and natural areas to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing climate;
- Support equitable distribution of parks and recreation opportunities throughout the city.



Human Services Element



- Update policies to ensure consistency with relevant plans;
- Encourage siting of childcare facilities (issue of affordability) – may also be addressed in the land use element;
- Encourage siting of grocery stores in areas that are lacking them – may also be addressed in the land use element;
- Supportive policies for affordable housing and housing for seniors that will be addressed in the housing element update.



Public Services Element

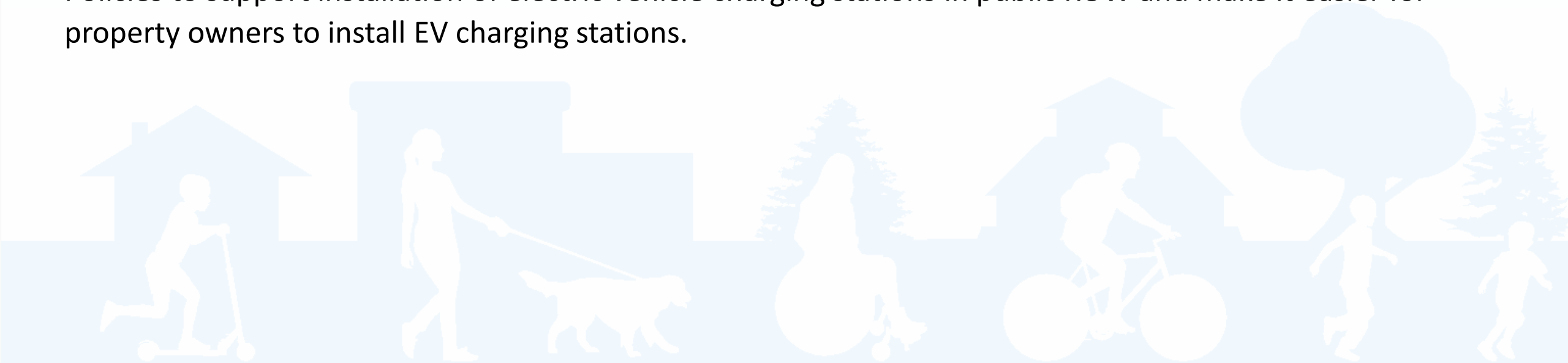


- Update policies to ensure consistency with relevant functional plans;
- Increasing public school capacity – 2022-2024 Planning work program includes working with the Lake Washington School District on increasing school capacity and related code amendments. For example:
 - Adopt an incentive zoning program that creates development bonuses for new development to provide school space;
 - Adopt development standards that can provide Lake Washington School District with more development capacity to build additional school space or workforce housing on current district-owned sites;
 - Remove potential development barriers in current regulations that might preclude siting of school facilities on private properties as part of mixed-use developments;
 - Encourage publicly-accessible rooftop or ground level recreational facilities on school properties
 - Conduct a Citywide assessment of zoning regulations to remove potential barriers to Lake Washington School District capacity projects on current district-owned sites and possible public/ private partnership sites.

Utilities Element



- Update policies to ensure consistency with relevant functional plans;
- Ensure consistency with the 2025 Comprehensive Water System Plan – if information is available during EIS & K2044 Comp Plan work;
- Strengthen water conservation policies regarding construction of new buildings and retrofitting of existing buildings;
- Consider the impacts of climate change and fisheries protection on the region’s water supply;
- Policies to support installation of electric vehicle charging stations in public ROW and make it easier for property owners to install EV charging stations.



Capital Facilities Element

- Update to incorporate long- range capital and transportation projects



Transportation Element



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The Transportation element updates will be informed by the City’s planning process to update the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) led by the Transportation Division and Transportation Commission. See the May 24, 2023, Transportation Commission meeting materials for more detail about the TMP update process.

<https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Department/Commission-Transportation/TC-Meeting-Archive>



Economic Development Element



- Incorporate the City Manager’s Office Economic Development Strategic Action Plan goals and actions into the Element;
- Policies to support women and minority owned businesses and other diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging goals (incorporate Equity report by EcoNorthwest recommendations);
- Explore allowing small-scale commercial uses in residential neighborhoods (in tandem with Land Use Element);
- Consider zoning changes to allow light manufacturing in Downtown. Allow for “make” retail experiences which draw people to shop in person (jewelry making, coffee roasting, open kitchens, brewing, distilling, etc.);
- Restructure parking requirements for retail and change of use to reduce required stalls (designate downtown as a “mall”; allow accessing public city lots after hours, the library lot, etc.);
- Study changing nature of home-based businesses and potential code amendments to support a variety of home-based businesses (2023-2025 Planning Work Program);
- Study Zoning constraints to encourage and support urban farming.



Community Character Element



- Incorporate recommendations from the Equity Review of the Comp Plan (prepared by ECONorthwest), such as:
 - Incorporate more accurate recounting of histories of discrimination and Kirkland Native History; and
 - Revise language to be more inclusive (see examples in Equity Review Report);
- Explore renaming the element to more clearly reference the intent of the chapter;
- Identify ways to celebrate Native history and culture through landscape design and protection;
- Review historic preservation policies.

<https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/planning-amp-building/kirkland-2044-comp-plan/equity-review-report-kirkland-comprehensive-plan-econorthwest-final20221108.pdf>

