



MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Commission

From: Stephen Padua, Transportation Manager

Date: June 24, 2026

Subject: Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC) Closure Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Transportation Commission receives a presentation and provides feedback on the development of a CKC Closure Policy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- On May 3, 2026, staff presented to Council on the Legislative Request Memorandum, requesting more information about partial and full closures, specifically for the Cross Kirkland Corridor.
- Council provided direction to develop a new closure policy for the CKC, which will be incorporated as part of the 2026 pre-approved plans update.

BACKGROUND:

Effective traffic control policies allow all users of the right-of-way to successfully travel through work zones while construction improvements are occurring. The implementation of traffic control requirements must strike a balance between providing a safe work zone for construction workers and limiting impacts to the traveling public.

Construction projects that impact the City's rights-of-way can be associated with private development projects, City capital improvement projects, public utility district capital improvement projects, maintenance work, private utilities, and communication companies.

The City's Capital, Transportation, and Development Engineering Divisions currently use the following to review and approve all traffic control plans for work within the City's right-of-way:

- Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
- Engineering judgement and experience
- Pre-Approved Plans Policy R-27, Long-term Street Improvement Closure
- Pre-Approved Plans Policy R-29, Temporary Traffic Control Plan Preparation

Most cities use the MUTCD as reference guidelines since it establishes standard and uniform criteria for the use of traffic control devices for transportation users..

There are currently no CKC-specific policies. Introducing a new policy specific to the Cross Kirkland Corridor intends to provide clarity for requirements of construction on the corridor and

how to minimize impact on the users and the surrounding property owners. New language could include clear definitions on the type and duration of closures that strike the balance between construction timelines, safety and community expectations. This sets consistent expectations of the users of the trail system and sets up consistent conditions for construction sites to maximize the safety of workers and users of the trail.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Construction of transportation projects requires a thoughtful approach that prioritizes maintaining the quality of life for users of the system and who may live adjacent to a project. It often is not possible to eliminate every inconvenience, but project teams work hard to reduce environmental impacts, traffic delays, and impacts on access wherever they can. This includes scheduling disruptive activities during less active periods of the day, coordinating timelines with other projects, and keeping construction zones as safe and organized as possible. The goal is to deliver essential improvements while respecting the day-to-day routines of the community and being good stewards with public funds.

With these goals in mind, it's important to understand that some construction impacts are unavoidable if the project is going to be built safely, correctly, and within the allocated budget. Crews need adequate space to work, oftentimes, certain materials can only be installed under specific conditions, and some activities cannot be done safely or without closures. Project teams continuously work to find ways to innovate to minimize disruptions, but they must also follow safety standards, engineering requirements, state requirements for public works and environmental protections.

The proposed draft CKC closure attempts to balance these considerations by addressing the following topics:

- Setting expectations for CKC closures,
- Establishing closure limits by defining long-term closure,
- Identifying allowed exceptions, and
- Detour guidance.

Questions:

For this discussion, staff is seeking feedback on the content of the policy.

- Is there feedback on the long-term definition language?
- Is there feedback on the exceptions criteria?
- Is there feedback on the detour language?
- Are there any topics not addressed in the policy?

Next Steps:

Following discussion with the Transportation Commission, staff will initiate an extensive update process which includes review by representatives from all divisions in Public Works and multiple Departments at the city, who may be impacted by the policy. Once the process ends, the Kirkland Roadways Pre-Approved Plan Policies will be updated to include a new policy specific to CKC Closures.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Draft CKC Closure Policy