



City of Kirkland
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MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Commission

From: Kim Scrivner, Transportation Planner – Public Works
Doug McIntyre, Transportation Manager – Public Works
Truc Dever, Director of Public Works

Date: June 18, 2024

Subject: **2044 Comprehensive Plan Update Public Hearing - Transportation Element, File No. CAM22-00032**

RECOMMENDATION

Hold a public hearing to receive public testimony on the 2044 Comprehensive Plan Update Public Hearing - Transportation Element. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Planning Commission should deliberate and make a recommendation to City Council on the proposed Comprehensive Plan chapter.

BACKGROUND

The Transportation Strategic Plan (TSP¹) covers a 20-year planning horizon of 2024 – 2044 and is being updated in coordination with the K2044 Comprehensive Plan Update. While the TSP is a stand-alone plan that will be adopted independently, primary components of it are identified in the Transportation Element within the K2044 Comprehensive Plan. The Transportation Element (see Attachment A) comprises the required components identified in the Growth Management Act (GMA).

More specifically, the TSP is different from the Transportation Element of the K2044 Comprehensive Plan in that it:

- Includes greater detail and context, such as narrative pieces, more detailed mapping, performance monitoring, and more.
- Includes the ‘universe’ of project needs for the city, both funded and unfunded.
- Will point to modal and corridor plans and studies for greater detail and context but will supersede all other plans for project prioritization and updated policies.

The Transportation Element of the K2044 Comprehensive Plan includes the required elements under the Growth Management Act (GMA) such as land use assumptions, a forecast of transportation needs, level of service analysis, fiscal analysis, and recommended projects included in the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP), among other

¹ Transportation Strategic Plan webpage: <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Department/Transportation/Plans-and-Studies-Transportation-Division/Transportation-Strategic-Plan>

requirements. The Capital Facilities Element includes the CFP which will house the fiscally constrained 20-year transportation capital projects list.

OVERVIEW

The Transportation Element articulates the vision for the future of Kirkland's transportation system and considers how people get around today and how that may change in the future. The vision for Kirkland's transportation system is safe, connected, and multimodal. With limited roadway space, Kirkland's transportation system must accommodate people walking, rolling, bicycling, riding transit, and driving. The element reviews existing conditions in the City's transportation system and outlines a vision for Kirkland's transportation future. This element also charts a course for the city to accommodate future growth and supports the Land Use Element to keep people in Kirkland moving safely and equitably regardless of their mode of choice.

Investments in Kirkland's transportation system, which are incorporated in the Capital Facilities Element, are designed to make travel in Kirkland safer, more comfortable, and more reliable. The citywide transportation goals and policies in the Transportation Element support Kirkland's land use vision and planning to accommodate growth through 2044. As mentioned prior, a complementary piece of the transportation vision is the TSP, which is dynamically referenced within the Transportation Element.

The lead body reviewing the TSP and Transportation Element is the Transportation Commission, which will provide a recommendation on the draft TSP and Transportation Element to the City Council for their review and consideration later in 2024. Staff has been working closely with the Transportation Commission at each of their monthly meetings spanning over a year and has also made several briefings with both the Planning Commission and Council on the Transportation Element and TSP. Transportation Commission briefings and discussions in 2023 and 2024 included overviews of community engagement, guiding principles, goals and policies, and prioritized projects². Other specific Commission and Council meetings include:

- Planning Commission, June 22, 2023 – Community engagement and goals and policies³
- City Council study session, September 19, 2023 – Community engagement and goals and policies⁴
- Planning Commission, September 28, 2023 – Update to goals, community engagement results⁵
- Joint Planning and Transportation Commission meeting, October 25, 2023 – Land Use related polices and measures⁶

² Transportation Commission Materials - <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Department/Transportation-Commission>

³ June 22nd Planning Commission Materials - <https://kirklandwa.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=451>

⁴ September 19, City Council Study Session Material - https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-council/agenda-documents/2023/september-19-2023/3b_study-session.pdf

⁵ September 22, 2023 Planning Commission Materials - <https://kirklandwa.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=529>

⁶ October 25, 2023 Joint Planning and Transportation Commission Materials - <https://kirklandwa.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=583>

- City Council study session, November 21, 2023 – project prioritization⁷
- Planning Commission, March 7, 2024 – project development, prioritization and outreach⁸
- City Council study session, March 19, 2024 – project development, prioritization and outreach⁹
- City Council study session, May 21, 2024 – fiscally constrained project list¹⁰

Details about the discussion topics for each meeting, summaries of community outreach and engagement activities and relevant attachments can be accessed in the linked meeting materials for each date in the footnotes below.

KEY THEMES FOR TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT AMENDMENTS

The Draft Transportation Element accomplishes many important things in support of achieving the City of Kirkland’s vision for transportation over the next 20 years, including:

- Update of the land use assumptions and resulting transportation projects to be concurrent with future growth.
- Establish a new project prioritization framework to identify high priority investments in the transportation system.
- Update of the transportation goals and policies.
- Refresh of action items to implement the goals and policies.
- Incorporation of the Safe System Approach and Complete Streets policies.
- Update of the inventory of transportation facilities.
- Review of multi-modal level of service.
- Incorporate equity and sustainability as key components of the goals, policies, and actions.

NEXT STEPS

Following the collection of public testimony, Planning Commission should deliberate and make a recommendation to City Council on the draft Transportation Element.

The Transportation Commission will continue to work with staff to refine the TSP. The Transportation Commission is also expecting to hold a public hearing on the TSP at their September 25th meeting, with a planned date of adoption of the full Transportation Element by City Council in December 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Transportation Element

⁷ November 21, 2023 City Council Study Session Materials - https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-council/agenda-documents/2023/november-21-2023/3a_study-session.pdf

⁸ March 7, 2024 Planning Commission Materials - <https://kirklandwa.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=1105>

⁹ March 19, 2024 Council Study Session Materials - https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/2/city-council/agenda-documents/2024/march-19-2024/3b_study-session.pdf

¹⁰ May 21, 2024 Council Study Session Materials - https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-council/agenda-documents/2024/may-21-2024/3b_study-session.pdf