



## **CITY OF KIRKLAND**

### **City Manager's Office**

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Planning Commission

**From:** Kim Scrivner, Transportation Planner – Public Works  
Julie Underwood, Director of Public Works

**Date:** June 14, 2023

**Subject:** TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Planning Commission receive a briefing on the Transportation Master Plan update process and progress.

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **Kirkland 2044 Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Update Process Overview**

The City of Kirkland is in the process of updating the [Transportation Master Plan](#), in coordination with the State-mandated update of the [Kirkland Comprehensive Plan](#), for the next 20-year horizon. The target completion date will be mid-2024, prior to the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, in order to have the Council adopted TMP inform the Transportation Element in the Comprehensive Plan (the State deadline for City Council adoption of the Comprehensive Plan is December 31, 2024). The TMP is its own 'stand-alone' comprehensive planning document for transportation that considers all the ways in which people travel (walking and rolling, bicycling, riding transit and driving – often referred to as 'modes of travel').

The TMP evaluates both existing and future conditions which includes current assets of the transportation system, the full transportation network including future projects, as well as data reflecting walk, bike, transit and automobile counts and volumes throughout the city. This information is combined with land use data and, through a variety of analytic tools, will assess future needs for the transportation system. In addition to this analysis, transportation staff has been working with planning staff on a coordinated community outreach effort. Feedback from the community, along with the analytic tools will be used to inform the plan update.

The updated TMP elements will include:

- Assessment of existing and future conditions;
- Updated goals and policies;
- A prioritized list of projects and programs for Kirkland's next 20-year capital program
- A financial strategy that will frame the implementation of the 20-year project list;
- A multimodal concurrency program that will define how to support the city's mode-split goals; and,

- An updated set of performance measures to better track progress and successes.

The prioritized 20-year project list from the TMP will be incorporated into the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) in the Comprehensive Plan. This will become the transportation element of the CFP. This will be the basis for developing and updating the 6-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

### **Relationship between the TMP and the Transportation Element in the Comprehensive Plan**

As stated above, the TMP is a 'stand-alone' comprehensive planning document for transportation that includes detailed analysis and greater context to the various goals and policies. The existing conditions maps, goals and policies, 20-year project list and other relevant details will be summarized in the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan also helps to inform the development of the TMP. For example, the land use forecasts from the Land Use Element in the Comprehensive Plan are used in the TMP to predict traffic volumes.

### **TMP Plan Development Process**

The approach to updating the plan will begin with reaffirming our modal priorities which are already affirmed in the 2015 TMP where the focus is to prioritize: 1. Pedestrians, 2. Bicyclists, 3. Transit, 4. Motor Vehicles. This plan update will frame the plan around a [safe systems approach](#) noted in Kirkland's [Vision Zero Plan](#) and will also better incorporate Kirkland's [Complete Streets policy](#) which is an approach to ensure streets balance the needs of different modes and are safe for people of all ages and abilities.

In addition, this plan will integrate planning efforts that have been completed since 2015 including:

- Kirkland Transit Implementation Plan (KTIP)
- Active Transportation Plan (ATP)
- Vision Zero Action Plan
- Safer Routes to School Action Plans
- NE 85th St Station Area Plan
- Intelligent Transportation System Plan
- Sustainability Master Plan
- Citywide Transportation Connections
- External Plans (Sound Transit 3, King County Metro's MetroConnects, North Eastside Mobility Project)
- Other project and corridor studies

The plan will also incorporate or expand on topics such as equity and inclusiveness, better alignment with smart cities and technology needs, parking and curb management, micro-mobility and shared or on-demand transportation services, etc.

The 2015 TMP was developed based on guiding principles derived from a body of work called [Transportation Conversations](#) which was conducted prior to the development of the TMP. Those guiding principles are:

- Safely Move People: Support a transportation system and related government and private actions that promote all viable forms of transportation.

- Link to Land Use: Ensure consistency between land use, transportation planning and implementation.
- Be Sustainable: Support a transportation system that can be sustained over the next 50 years.
- Be an Active Partner: Actively build and maintain partnerships locally, regionally and nationally, to further our transportation goals.

Through the public engagement process, working with the focus groups and the Transportation Commission, these guiding principles will also be updated to ensure that as the goals and policies are revised, they reflect the current direction from the community. This will then be used as a guide to develop a prioritization process for identifying the 20-year project list.

Parametrix Consultants has been hired to manage the bulk of the work for the TMP update and analytic tasks as well as for the environmental review for the Comprehensive Plan which evaluates both the land use and transportation elements.

### **Community Outreach and Engagement Activities**

Beginning in early 2023, Staff conducted a substantial number of public outreach and community engagement activities to implement the community engagement plan. Below is a summary of community engagement activities accomplished to date, or in progress as of May 2023:

- [Community Engagement Plan](#), prepared by Broadview Planning consultants;
- [Equity Review Report](#) of existing Comprehensive Plan elements, prepared by EcoNorthwest;
- Project webpage updates and listserv email announcements;
- Surveys (503 responses have been received so far for the Transportation and Land Use survey; the survey closes June 30, 2023);
- Focus Group recruitment focused on priority populations;
- Focus Group meetings for Transportation and Land Use elements;
- Publication of informational handouts (included introduction materials translated into the four most common languages in the City besides English);
- Presentations to community groups, Transportation Commission, Youth Council, Senior Council;
- Community events (Town Hall on Bikes, Eastside for All event, Kirkland City Hall for All event);
- Tabling events (seasonal events, Evergreen Health Fair);
- Class projects with Lake Washington and Juanita High Schools and student surveys; and,
- Community-wide visioning event (January 2023).

### **Next Steps:**

The [Transportation Commission](#) held a retreat style event to discuss the TMP update on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The next step is to summarize the TMP update process, progress to date and feedback from the engagement process and from the Transportation Commission to Council at their July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 study session. Staff will have several more check-ins with the Transportation Commission, as well as the Planning Commission if desired, prior to the joint Transportation Commission/ Planning Commission meeting scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. At this meeting, staff will share the various alternatives that have been evaluated for feedback and will then bring that information to Council for further direction.

A draft plan will then be developed in early 2024 for further engagement and ultimately adoption anticipated by late summer or early fall 2024.

**Attachments:**

1. TMP Informational Handout
2. TMP Goals and Policies Summary