

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods  
May 8, 2019 Kirkland City Hall, Peter Kirk Room

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	Lisa McConnell
Everest	
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Co-Chair)
Highlands	Debbie Ohman
Juanita Neighborhoods	Jennifer Salem (for Leo Gilbert)
Lakeview	
Market	Ken Mackenzie, Laura Harding
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt (KAN Co-Chair), Ramela Lewis, Heather Hendrix McAdams
North Rose Hill	Kevin Coomer
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Dave Asher, City Councilmember
- Jim Lopez, Assistant City Manager
- Kari Page, Senior Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Karissa Smith, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
- June Carlson, Transportation Strategic Advisor

Guests:

- Christiana Hanes, East Corridor Project Coordinator, Sound Transit
- Ivonne Rivera Martinez, Community Outreach Specialist, Sound Transit
- Cynthia Padilla, I-405 BRT Project Manager, Sound Transit
- Barrett Hanson, I-405 Team Engineering Manager, WSDOT
- Diana Giraldo, I-405/85th Team Design Manager, WSDOT
- Evelyn Pao, I-405/85th Construction Manager, WSDOT
- Drue Nyenhuis, I-405/85<sup>th</sup> Team Communications Lead, WSDOT

7:02 pm Introduction

- Co-Chair Janet Pruitt called the meeting to order
- April 20129 minutes accepted

7:05pm Public comments

- Annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast (Dave Asher)
  - \$10 tickets
  - May 18, 7am-12pm

- Profit goes to kids in Kirkland

7:06pm Kirkland Prepares ... in bite size chunks

- Karissa Smith, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
- Purpose: Planning and coordinating emergency response, in Kirkland and in regional cooperation
  - 87K population, with 25 firefighters on duty at any given time
  - Need to have community capacity and preparation as well
  - The most connected communities are the most resilient
- Traditional methods of raising awareness can be ineffective
  - People who show up at presentations/meetings/training often already have awareness and training
  - The best leverage is through personal relationships: “Have you determined your out-of-area contact yet?”
  - The City is giving tools to the Neighborhood Associations, to take the messages directly to the community members
  - This will be on the agenda for the next few KAN meetings and do small presentations, to bring to the community
- Water
  - Handout: “Storing Water”
  - 14 gallons/week for every person
  - Consider multiple storage methods
    - Flats of bottled water
    - Water in the fridge or freezer
    - Water purification method, for filtering standing water (lakes, pools, etc.)
- Emergency kits
  - Handout: “72-hour Comfort Kits”
  - Having a checklist is nice, but you really need to make a personal, conversational contact
- Do it before asking it – it has more weight if you speak from personal experience
- Q&A
  - How do you all feel about doing this in your neighborhoods?
    - Some are already scheduled
    - Karissa is happy to come to each neighborhood, but not every meeting
  - How do NAs get printed materials, like the handouts at today’s meeting?
    - Email Karissa ([kbsmith@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:kbsmith@kirklandwa.gov)) with the number of handouts, and she’ll get them to you
    - Materials are also available at <http://www.kirklandwa.gov/KirklandEM>
  - What is the City Preparedness Campaign?
    - Kirkland is trying to walk the talk
    - All staff members are getting training at staff meetings

7:28pm WSDOT NE 85<sup>th</sup> St./I-405 Interchange Project

- Cynthia Padilla (Sound Transit), Barrett Hanson (WSDOT), Drue Nyenhuis (WSDOT), and Diana Giraldo (WSDOT)
- I-405 Bus Rapid Transit is a cooperative project by WSDOT, Sound Transit, and Metro (Cynthia)
  - STRIDE is the name of the BRT system
  - ST board approved development in 2018
  - Principal engineering in 2019
- I-405 Master Plan (Barrett)
  - Regional consensus
  - Stakeholders:
    - Kirkland
    - Federal Highway Administration
    - Federal Transit Administration
    - King County Metro
    - Sound Transit
    - WSDOT
  - Items of importance
    - Transit connectivity
    - Nonmotorized mobility, connectivity
    - Kirkland Vision for the corridor
    - Compatibility with master plans
    - Traffic operations
    - Cost
  - Narrowed from 24 initial design concepts to one final concept
  - Design
    - Three-level interchange with inline BRT station, direct access ramps to ETLs, and local roadway improvements
    - Full funded by Sound Transit
    - Motorized access and mobility issues
      - “Kiss and ride” drop-offs
      - Automated vehicles
      - Existing local issues of traffic
    - Non-motorized access and mobility issues
      - Bike parking
      - Urban design
- Design (Drue)
  - Detail on design, showing current > proposed layout
  - Explained the benefits/trade-offs of signalized or non-signalized designs
    - The 114<sup>th</sup> Ave. x 85<sup>th</sup> St. intersection doesn’t work well today (just west of the freeway)
    - Switching to roundabout vastly improves flow and efficiency (“level of service”)
    - Signalized: bikes/peds have to cross 7 lanes, which calls for 40-60 seconds of light signaling

- With roundabout, crossing one lane at a time (with safety refuge islands mid-road), and drivers pay more attention to the pedestrians rather than looking at a traffic control signal
    - Roundabout reduces 32 vehicle conflicts (opportunities to collide with something) down to 8; pedestrian conflicts go from 24 to 8
    - Federal Highway Administration data shows 37% reduction in collisions; 90% reduction in fatality collisions
- Neighborhood connections (Diana)
  - Showed map of non-motorized connections
  - Bike/Walkways along the N/S roadway are funded and planned
  - Other connections to the surrounding neighborhoods are proposed but not yet funded
  - Each quadrant gets a connection path
    - Lisa suggested shortening the SE quadrant path, punching through the freeway sound wall that the end of 118<sup>th</sup> Ave.
    - NE quadrant path connects to Costco and Slater
    - NW quadrant provides a direct connection to the Highlands, and could also include a “kiss-and-ride” drop-off area for Uber/Lyft-style connections (not currently funded)
  - Question: how do you get to this BRT station from downtown Kirkland? (Ramona)
    - It’s a “last-mile” question
    - Expect Metro to add service between these two points, implementation in March 2020
    - Lisa: disappointed that we don’t have a bus lane on 85<sup>th</sup> in this design; we’ll regret it
    - Cynthia: we do have bus lanes within the interchange; analysis showed that bus-only lanes wouldn’t add significant performance on 85<sup>th</sup> itself
- Timeline (Cynthia)
  - Open intersection in 2024
  - Outreach briefings over the last year, continuing in 2019
  - Kirkland City Council briefing 7/2/19
- Q&A
  - Lack of a Park&Ride puts mid-distance neighborhoods (like Bridle Trails) at a disadvantage
    - History: local cities find P&Rs low-performing (June)
    - Parked cars just sit there for 8-10 hours
    - Better to have alternate ways to get people to the transit hubs
  - How much traffic would come to that “kiss-and-ride,” proposed at the NW corner?
    - WSDOT will be conducting studies; currently just a conceptual design
  - How does this design affect I-405 onramp capacity? (Ken)
    - This design is better, will flow more freely
    - Ken: still have concern for what onramp backup will look like

- Ken: note that 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. is going to become a major bypass route for people getting off of 85<sup>th</sup>; this roundabout design at 114thx85th will encourage that even further
- Lisa: whom do we influence to get funding going for these unfunded improvements?
  - Janet: Please hold for the June feedback sessions; need to move on
- Comments/input
  - WSDOT I-405/SR 167 Program
    - Public Information
    - 425-456-8585
    - [I405SR167Program@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:I405SR167Program@wsdot.wa.gov)

### 8:25pm      Citywide Connections Map

- Jim Lopez, Assistant City Manager
- City staff will come to NA meetings with pre-built agendas for key City initiatives
- Safer Routes to School
  - Played video with Kari voiceover
    - Background
      - 89% of kids within a mile to school used to walk to school
      - 48% in 1969
      - 13% now (28% in Kirkland)
      - 2500 housing units in production
      - 2,000 more students by 2022
    - Action plans
      - Define popular routes
      - Safety improvements
      - Encourage walk/ride to school
      - Measure impact
    - Key considerations
      - Policy guidance from Master Transportation Plan
      - Prioritize projects that meet safety criteria
      - Learnings from other cities' Safe Routes programs
    - Join the conversation
      - June 15 Community Meeting at City Hall, 9-11am
      - [www.kirklandwa.gov/safer2school](http://www.kirklandwa.gov/safer2school) for more information, or email [saferroutestoschool@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:saferroutestoschool@kirklandwa.gov)
  - Q&A
    - Be sure to consider Rose Hill Middle School, which is in Redmond but has significant Kirkland attendance
    - Need to work with the school district to encourage bike/walk to school, because they don't currently support biking very well (in fact, they actively discourage it at times)
- Citywide Connections
  - Played video and gave manual voiceover

- Background
      - City has many cut-throughs and other connections
      - We're building more streets; Totem Lake will get three new streets under current plans
      - Neighborhood plans can contain connection information, but many are outdated
    - City-wide connections map
      - New map under development with residents, businesses, and other stakeholders
      - Kirkland's vision for a resilient network:
        - Emergency access
        - Support for bike/ped and people with mobility issues
      - Collect info/feedback over this summer, have a solid draft by October
    - Key considerations
      - Transportation Master Plan has guidance for "creating a system of streets and trails that form an interconnected network"
      - Fire and Police response times
      - Multiple route options for vehicles
      - Safer routes to school
      - Reducing congestion from new development
      - Concerns (examples):
        - Privacy
        - Peacefulness
        - Community character
    - Join the conversation
      - Neighborhood Association meetings, bringing paper maps for direct feedback collection
      - June 15 Community Meeting at City Hall, 9-11am
      - There will be a URL for accessing the map
  - Q&A
    - Bill: Is there a way to get visibility and input into this plan before June 15<sup>th</sup>? Finn Hill was up in arms during the last such effort
      - Yes, we'll have that online link soon, and we'll definitely be asking for community input on particularly difficult sections (e.g., Goat Hill)
    - Ken: the City has rolled right over neighborhood objections in the past, without regard for privacy or children's safety. How will this time around be different?
      - Jim: This is a good point. We do need a fair, equitable process. One improvement: we'll be considering the whole picture at one time, so no one neighborhood is singled out. Neighborhoods will have good notice and opportunity to be

heard. Ultimately, it does come to a Council decision; the City staff effort is to feed good information into the process. You are owed a multiple-month, transparent process.

- Lisa: several neighborhoods are going into their Plan Update process. How does this relate?
  - This document will represent the best knowledge that we have, as of its date of publication.
- Will the May publication include information on the criteria used for evaluation?
  - That's our goal. It may be general detail rather than exhaustive data tables.

8:55pm City Sustainability Master Plan

- David Wolbrecht presenting
- Sustainability Forum
  - June 22
  - Stitching together Master Plans from various City departments/functions
  - Layer in some additional elements, strategies, and actions
  - Look at environmental, social, economic sustainability – all intersectional
- Plan for Neighborhood Association events as well, for more visibility and access

8:57pm Neighborhood Services Report

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator
- State of the City
  - Mayor and Kurt Triplett presenting
  - Currently set for June 13, 7-9pm

9:05pm Hot Topics, Liaison Reports, Neighborhood Roundtable

- Liaison Reports
  - Transportation (Lisa)
    - Bike share: no one applied for the pilot program
    - Considering scooters as a pilot as well
    - Starting to tackle Vision Zero
- City Council Committee Reports
- Neighborhood Reports
  - Central Houghton
    - May 14: Houghton Community Council and City Council in joint session, considering NW University Master Plan
  - Everest
  - Evergreen Hill
    - Picnic in the Park 4-6pm on 5/9/19, at 132nd Square Park
    - City is hosting
    - Come discuss what improvements you'd like to see in the park
  - Finn Hill
  - Highlands

- Juanita
- Lakeview
- Market
- Moss Bay
- Norkirk
- North Rose Hill
- South Rose Hill / Bridle Trails
- Heather: \$40/person, 5/18, LW Schools Foundation, event re: student mental health
- Bea: Thanks for your prayers and thoughts; husband coming home from 4 weeks at hospital
- Bea: 5/15: IRS 990 is due. Many neighborhoods still need to submit ... Get it done!

9:10pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:10pm
- Next meeting: June 12, 2019

Upcoming agenda items, events, deadlines

- Agenda items
  - Housing strategies
  - Neighborhood Plan updates
  - Transportation – City, Metro
  - KC Metro Community Van program
  - Disaster Preparedness Coordination
  - CERT/Map Your Neighborhood
  - Parking reduction proposal from Totem Lake study
  - Parks Director – Lynn Zwaagstra
  - Community Conversations
  - Parking Survey – Part II
- Events
  - 6/13 7-9pm, State of the City address
  - 6/15/19 9am-11am, Citywide Connections public mtg, City Hall
  - 6/22, Sustainability forum