



feet first

promoting walkable communities

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January 28, 2014

Mr. David Godfrey
Transportation Engineering Manager
Public Works Department
City of Kirkland
123 Fifth Ave, Kirkland WA 98033

Re: Cross Kirkland Corridor

Dear Mr. Godfrey:

Feet First commends the City of Kirkland's action to preserve the former BNSF rail corridor and convert it into the Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC) project. The opportunity to walk and bike along a path that connects so much of Kirkland is truly exciting. Our Neighborhood Walking Ambassador program has already led several walks that feature the CKC, and it has received rave reviews from the participants! We also compliment the city for proactively planning the future of the corridor through the Cross Kirkland Corridor Project Study.

We would like to make the following comments concerning the specifics of the proposed corridor design.

Separate People Who Walk and Bike

In designing the corridor it is essential that people who walk and bike feel safe and comfortable using it. We believe that the best way to achieve this is by separating the uses. The proposed design suggests a number of creative ways to achieve this separation. We believe that these strategies should be used throughout the entire length of the corridor; not just in certain sections. At the very least, painted markings on the path should separate the areas designated for people who walk and bike.

One only has to walk on sections of the Burke-Gilman Trail to get a sense for how uncomfortable and potentially dangerous it can be without the separation of uses. The continual announcement of "on your left" as bikes whiz by certainly detracts from the experience; not to mention those bikers who provide no warning. From the cyclist's perspective, having to weave in and out of pedestrians is certainly not desirable.

Wayfinding Signage, Lighting, Street Furniture, and Drinking Fountains

One of the CKC's greatest strengths is all the places that it connects to, ranging from city parks to neighborhood business districts. In addition to those directly on the trail, there are also a wide variety of interesting sites within a relatively short distance (e.g. Carillon Point, Carillon Woods Park, Houghton Beach Park, Downtown Kirkland, Juanita Bay Park, and Totem Lake to name just a few). An attractive and user-friendly system of wayfinding signage should be a key element of the CKC design. Information on the distance and walking time to these sites should be included. Pedestrian-scaled lighting is important to support safe, inviting, and accessible places. Lighting should be positioned for people walking and biking along the pathway, key road crossing points and intersections, and places where people gather allowing for use of the facility more months of the year. Additionally, benches should be installed at appropriate locations to provide people a place to rest and socialize during their time on the trail. And finally, a provision should be made to provide drinking fountains in public areas.

Public Restrooms

There is a need for public restrooms along the corridor. Currently, the number of restrooms is very limited at best, particularly during the winter months. Kirkland needs to establish year-round restrooms along the trail or within close proximity. For example, Terrace Park would be a good site for a designated public restroom.

Again, we commend the City of Kirkland for preserving the CKC and look forward to working with you to make this corridor a wonderful walking and biking experience.

Sincerely yours,



Lisa Quinn

Executive Director