Cross Kirkland Corridor Project
Kirkland, WA

Description and purpose
The Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC) Project includes re-development of a 5.75-mile rail corridor from the South Kirkland Park & Ride to the City’s northern boundary in the Totem Lake Business District. The city has embraced the community’s vision of a multi-modal transportation corridor for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit-uses, such as light rail or bus service, to serve the transportation needs of the region. The Cross Kirkland Corridor project contains a construction of a short-term Interim Trail and a long-term Master Plan. The Interim Trail will provide important pedestrian and bicycle connections to schools, parks, businesses, neighborhoods, and trails within other cities. The City’s Master Plan envisions a future regional paved trail and a regional transit pathway, and establishes goals to bring connectivity, uniqueness, natural sustainability and vitality to all neighborhoods along the CKC.

Mission
who we are - what we do
Feet First promotes walkable communities and envisions people walking every day for their health, transportation, environment, community, and pleasure.
Costs and funding
The interim trail costs about $3 million, with $1 million funded by the CMAQ federal grant, $1,969,000 million funded by Legislature State Grant, and $559,000 funded by Local Levy, REET (The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient Technologies) grant, and Surface Water Improvement Fund. In the CKC master plan, the city provided draft cost projections of $63-$79 million for the construction of the entire corridor, to be used as budgeting figures.

Implementation time-frame
This section of the corridor was purchased by the City of Kirkland in 2012 from King County’s previous Eastside Rail Corridor. The final master plan was adopted on June 18th, 2014 and construction of the Interim Trail began in mid-July, 2014, with anticipated completion in December 2014. This construction phase includes rail removal and placement of compacted crushed gravel, occasional fencing for safety and protection of sensitive areas, as well as new paving and rapid flashing bacons to improve street crossings. The Interim Trail will provide connections to schools, parks, businesses, neighborhoods in Kirkland, as well as surrounding regions such as Lake Washington and Issaquah.

Community involvement
The vision for Cross Kirkland Corridor resulted from years of planning and investment from the city and its residents. In May 2013, the City of Kirkland began developing a set of long-term goals and a Master Plan for the Cross Kirkland Corridor. The public played an essential role: hundreds of individuals made comments and participated at community meetings, brown bag sessions, and walking tours. People of all ages contributed their vision for the future of the Cross Kirkland Corridor in person, by email, and via social media.

The Master Plan divides the corridor into eight “Character Zones”, with unique attributes and opportunities in each zone identified by extensive research and public input. Design suggestions for these zones are laid out in the plan. Financially, Kirkland residents and business have shown their support of the Corridor by approving a permanent property tax parks levy in 2012, which provided funding for the maintenance and operation of the Corridor, as well as the construction of the interim Trail.

Benefits and results
The CKC master plan will guide the vision to reality, and the Interim Trail is the first step to achieving those visions. The role of the master plan is to craft a common vision and inspire and build support around realizing that vision. Though the current plan is not yet a full design, upon funding it would be the city’s next step in furthering the vision.

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Resources
Cross Kirkland Corridor
http://www.kirklandwa.gov/Residents/Community/Cross_Kirkland_Corridor.htm
Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan
http://www.kirklandwa.gov/Residents/Community/Cross_Kirkland_Corridor/Corridor_Master_Plan/CKCMasterPlan.htm
Interim Trail
http://www.kirklandwa.gov/Residents/Community/Cross_Kirkland_Corridor/Interim_Trail.htm

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