



March 5, 2014

Pam Bissonnette
Public Works Director
City of Kirkland
123 Fifth Avenue
Kirkland WA 98033

RE: 100th Avenue NE Corridor Study – Community Input and Priorities

Dear Ms. Bissonnette:

On behalf of the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance (FHNA), we want to thank you and City staff for working to develop an overall master plan for the 100th Avenue NE corridor from NE 132nd Street to NE 145th Street. Several of our members were able to attend the January open house you held before the Juanita Neighborhood meeting, and also had the opportunity to sit down with your staff to discuss more of the details of the project. This letter is meant to follow-up on those discussions to clearly identify our project goals and priorities.

This is a key corridor for our community as it provides access to the northeast portion of our neighborhood and the North Juanita Business District. It is an important corridor for all travel modes and we are happy to see that the study is evaluating the opportunity to extend the “complete street” improvements found on the remaining segments of the corridor, essentially extending both pedestrian and bicycle facilities from the SR 520 Trail at the southern limits of the City to the Burke-Gilman/Sammamish River Trail in Bothell. FHNA strongly supports the identification and implementation of both near-term, actionable and affordable projects, and longer-term projects to improve this critical local and regional corridor.

FHNA community members have identified four key goals and priorities for this corridor, as follows:

1. Provide a continuous and safe walkway, with safe crossings, along the length of the corridor.
2. Address the safety problems and significant vehicle collision rates which appear to be dominated by left-turn crashes and conflicts, both along the corridor and at intersections.
3. Provide a continuous bicycle facility for north-south travel connecting Bothell and the Sammamish River Trail/Burke Gilman Trail with Kirkland and the SR 520 Trail. Look for ways to make high quality connections to the Cross Kirkland Corridor.
4. Address the vehicle demand and capacity needs for both current and future travel demand in the corridor to relieve congestion and maintain acceptable levels of service during peak times.

These priorities and goals should be evaluated in the master plan to provide a long-range vision and cross-section for the corridor. For example, combining these four priorities and goals for the project and corridor might result in a long-term vision of a five lane roadway with sidewalks and buffered bike lanes along the length, from NE 132nd Street to NE 145th Street, with the extra lanes dropping/adding at NE 145th Street.

In the near-term, we advocate for implementing projects that can be completed within the existing right-of-way – to address the safety, pedestrian walkway needs and high collision rates that are significant today. We are hopeful that the near-term projects will be integrated into your capital program to compete for available funding, while at the same time the City aggressively pursues regional and statewide funds through competitive grant funding proposals.

We ask that as the long-range vision and study is finalized, that near-term projects be clearly identified and prioritized to address the immediate needs along the corridor. To that end, we would like to have an opportunity to review the study recommendations before they are finalized, and ask that you seek input from FHNA when the study is available in draft form. It is important to us that the study clearly identifies how the community can reach the ultimate goals for the corridor.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding this letter. Thank you again for your efforts on this important project and we look forward to working with you to finalize the study recommendations.

Respectfully,
On Behalf of the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance Board of Directors



Scott Morris, President

cc: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
Dave Snider, Capital Projects Manager
Rod Steitzer, Capital Projects Supervisor
David Godfrey, Transportation Engineering Manager