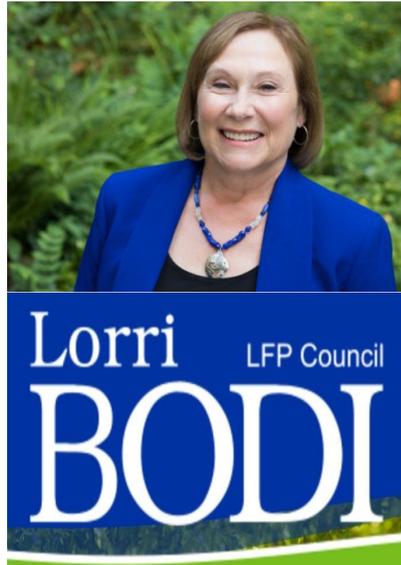


Lines from Lorri AUGUST 2022



GREETINGS, NEIGHBORS!

It's been an interesting and busy spring into summer, as we've all started to emerge from the Covid pandemic. (I'm not sure I'd call it normal yet.) Almost everyone I know has had the virus in 2022, even my vaccinated friends and relatives, but somehow I have escaped it – so far. I know it's probably bad luck to say that though!

City Council and other public meetings are now using a hybrid format. Most Council members and staff are attending in person, and citizens/presenters can attend in person or via Zoom. Masks are optional, a matter of personal choice. You are always welcome!

AROUND LFP CITY HALL

The collaborative work to run our City and address our challenges goes on. As I hear about other cities in conflict, I realize we are lucky that our Council members work well together, and that Council and City staff do as well. We do not always agree, but we discuss issues respectfully. This results in decisions that position LFP for our future – as a small city that prizes community connections and cares for our land and water environment.

*Speaking of the future, our new **Climate Action Committee (CAC)** is up and running. They are a talented and dedicated group of citizen volunteers, including technical and communication experts and two impressive high school students. The CAC will be engaging with the community and working to develop and recommend an affordable Climate Action Plan for LFP. They join our many citizen volunteers who also serve on the Planning Commission, the Tree Board, and the Parks and Recreation Board. Given LFP's limited resources, we couldn't progress without them.*

Here are some recent accomplishments. The Planning Commission just recommended updates to LFP's 20+ year old sign code, to keep it current with constitutional law on regulation of speech; Council discussion and action will take place this fall. The Commission is now hard at work on recommendations to improve our Reasonable Use Exemption code provisions that regulate construction in critical areas. The Tree Board recommended clarifications to our tree conservation and mitigation code requirements; almost all of their recommendations were adopted by the Council this month. And the Parks and Recreation Board successfully organized and hosted several Saturday morning sessions of a new event, Yoga and Stretch in the Parks; every session drew 30-50 participants, a great success!

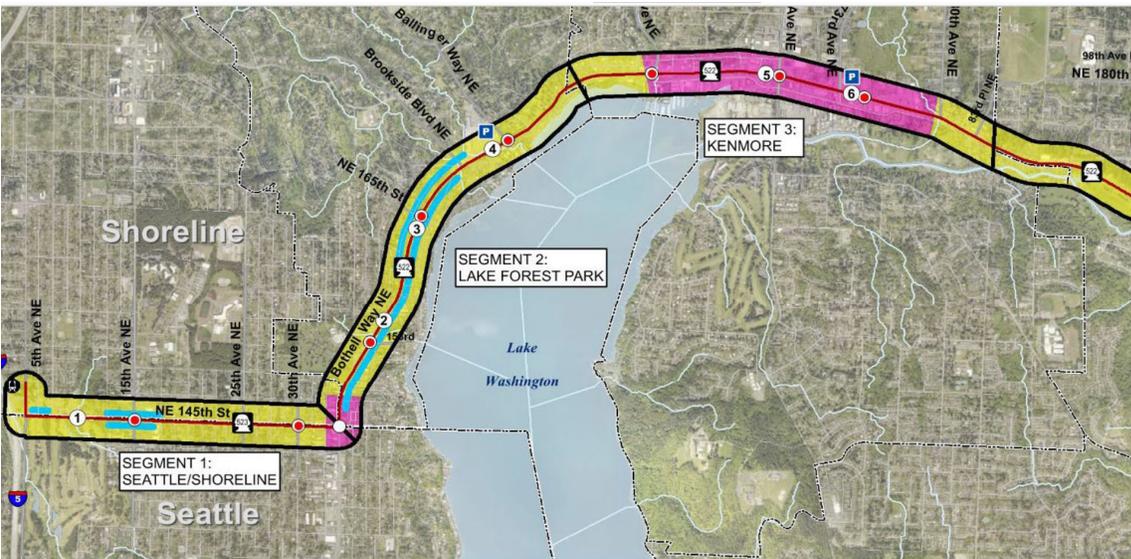


Please consider volunteering for one of these important groups when you see a notice go out on the LFP email system. And even if you can't volunteer, you may want to sign up for their monthly agendas on the LFP website, attend one of their meetings, or submit written or oral comments. As the Council liaison to both the Planning Commission and Parks Board, I hope to see you there.

TOWN CENTER AND SOUND TRANSIT PLANS IN LFP

Just a reminder that our updated Town Center code – drafted by the Planning Commission, the subject of helpful community comments, and adopted by the Council in 2021 – remains in effect, even though new development proposals have not yet materialized. Our updated code reflects LFP values and a vision of balanced growth for our TC community hub (one reason I ran for City Council). We are well-positioned for the future: our current zoning code actually exceeds the Growth Management Act allocations to LFP for future housing growth, and in a way that reflects our community's goals and values.

Sound Transit continues to actively advance its work on the **Bus Rapid Transit stops and road widening for Bothell Way**, now planned for 2024 completion. This includes platforms large enough for 2 busses at Town Center, as well as at 165th, and 153rd. The ST plan includes removing 500 trees (!), 400 shrubs, and taking large parts of private back yards, which will require both tree mitigation and compensation to landowners. A sidewalk will extend along the lake side of the road. There will also be a concrete retaining wall along the uphill side. ST's track record of responsiveness to LFP concerns is spotty at best (remember they filed a legal challenge to LFP's parking garage code). Our City staff will need to be vigilant and assertive to make sure storm drains, tree mitigation, and retaining wall design/soundproofing all fit in with LFP's environmental values. ST should not take a cookie-cutter approach to the LFP "gateway."



As ST announced in 2021, it will not be developing its planned parking garage at Town Center until 2044. This raises the concern that, when bus ridership picks up in the future, there will be increased informal "park and ride" impact on neighborhoods near Bothell Way bus stops. The new waterfront park might also create neighborhood parking problems when it opens. I am proposing that the Council address this proactively, by adopting procedures that would allow a majority of affected neighbors to request **residential parking zones (RPZ)**. RPZs are a common way to establish flexible commuter parking restrictions and a residential permit program to address parking congestion at peak usage times on neighborhood streets. The goal is to ensure that commuters do not crowd out residents from parking on

the streets where they live. Look for information on the proposed RPZ process options in the next few months. And of course, your comments and suggestions are welcome.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Have you seen the major improvements to Logboom Park that were funded through a Kenmore levy lift? We are still awaiting significant funds from a King County Conservations Futures grant to develop both an overall **Parks Master Plan** and a **Master Plan for the Lakefront Park**. Both will require extensive community engagement and input. Starting sometime in early 2023, the Parks Board and the Council will work together as partners to ensure that we hear from the community on what you want and what we might be able to afford. This process will take at least a year, maybe two.

Important master plan issues include desired recreation types and facilities, tree preservation, environmental protection and compliance, public safety and security, parking and disabled access, neighborhood privacy and impacts, and ways to acknowledge tribal and other history. Stay tuned for more information in 2023.

The return of LFP's Picnic in the Park is around the corner, on September 10. In connection with this fun family event, the LFP Stewardship Foundation and ShoreLake Arts will be hosting a "paint by numbers" salmon mural painting project. This is an exciting opportunity with a very cool outcome. You can get more information and sign up on the Stewardship Foundation website: <https://lfpsf.org>



BUDGET AND FINANCE

This fall, the Mayor will propose and the Council will adopt a new biennial budget for 2023 and 2024. Major challenges include economic uncertainty, our limited financial revenues that are falling well behind inflation, and increased costs of supplies, equipment, and services (all of which are tracking 10% and more over previous levels). The Biennial Budget proposals and adoption will be open and transparent for your review and comment. To see the Budget calendar, including the public hearing date, [click here](#).

You may recall that, even as housing values increase, the Council can only increase total revenues from property taxes 1% per year. That means that as housing values go up, your LFP levy rate actually goes down. Unlike surrounding jurisdictions, which have raised levy rates multiple times with voter approval, a 1% per year increase is all we've been accruing for the last twenty plus years. I have been surprised to learn that, off my total \$7000 in property taxes, only about 10% or \$700 per year goes to LFP for city services.

As a fiscal conservative, I am impressed with LFP's past efforts to find efficiencies, such as frequently purchasing used equipment and vehicles from other more affluent jurisdictions. We have also successfully applied for available state and county grants and taken full advantage of federal Covid response funding. Our annual audits have received consistently high ratings for accuracy and accountability. Still, we may be hard-pressed to maintain the current level of city services and staffing going forward. We will see. . .

Each year, LFP provides modest amounts of funding for local social services and community non-profit organizations. Earlier this month, the Council received annual reports on accomplishments from the Center for Human Services, the Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Senior Center, ShoreLake Arts, and Friends of Third Place Commons. I am incredibly impressed by what these local partners are able to do to serve our community with their own limited resources, and with the help of community volunteers. They are all worthy of your strong support!

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

With crime trending up in LFP, we are very fortunate to have our own City-controlled and professionally led and staffed LFP Police Department. It may surprise you to know that our officers respond regularly to dozens, even hundreds of traffic incidents, welfare checks, domestic violence, disturbances, theft, burglaries, trespassing and more. Our department continues to be on the cutting edge of training and police reform, including our RADAR program, which matches officers with social work professionals in mental health crisis situations. LFP is in a consortium with other North End cities (Shoreline, Kenmore, Bothell, Kirkland) to study and establish a North End Crisis Center, most likely located in Kirkland. It looks promising.

Our police officers get to connect and have fun too. In July, they hosted a Safety Day for Kids, complete with a bicycle obstacle course, an officer dunk tank, and a give-away of bicycle helmets and life jackets. Many LFP officers also attended the National Night Out, with dozens of LFP neighborhoods participating.



YOUR VOICE ON CITY COUNCIL

Did you know that the Council established city-wide requirements and incentives for affordable housing for new multi-family housing, at the same time it adopted the TC code in 2021? We would all like to see LFP stay affordable, keep its older residents, and welcome younger and more diverse families, but it's extremely challenging to do that in the Puget Sound region.

Have you taken advantage of the new, more flexible requirements adopted by the Council recently for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in LFP? Have you considered an ADU but been deterred? Please pass on any experience you have.

Once again, don't forget to sign up for the LFP e-newsletter and other City alerts to know what your LFP Council, Mayor, and staff are up to. <https://www.cityofflp.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1205> Please feel free to forward this email to a neighbor or email bodi4lfp@gmail.com to add your name, or reply "unsubscribe" to opt out of this mailing list. And please continue to let me hear from you.

Warm wishes,

Lorri Bodi