



## Memorandum

October 14, 2020

To: The Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive  
The Honorable Whatcom County Council

From: Matt Aamot, Senior Planner

Through: Mark Personius, Director

RE: Capital Facilities Planning – Comp Plan Amendments (PLN2020-00002)

The subject proposal is to modify the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan as follows:

- Adopt the new Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Whatcom County Facilities 2021-2026, which is Appendix F of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan (Exhibit A).
- Repeal the existing Six-Year CIP for Whatcom County Facilities 2019-2024 (Exhibit B).

The Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Whatcom County Facilities addresses County parks, trails, activity centers, maintenance & operations, general government buildings and sites, Sheriff's Office, emergency management, adult corrections, juvenile detention, transportation, and stormwater facilities. The Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan indicates that the Six-Year CIP should be updated every two years. The last CIP update was approved by the County Council in 2018. Therefore, the CIP is being updated in 2020.

The Whatcom County Planning Commission issued recommendations on the Six-Year CIP on September 24, 2020. The Planning Commission made the following changes to Exhibit A from the version proposed by the Executive branch of County government:

- Added the following description of the Birch Bay Drive & Pedestrian Facility: beach restoration and berm project (p. F-7).
- Change "New Jail" to "Public Health, Safety, and Justice Facilities" (p. F-15).

- Change funding sources for the Public Health, Safety, and Justice Facilities from debt and new sales tax to “Investigate alternative funding sources outside of debt and sales tax” (p. F-15).

The Planning Commission also added Finding 25 stating: “The Planning Commission recommends that the County Council carefully consider sources of funding and budgetary restraints.”

The County Administration requested adding the Real Estate Excise Tax as a funding source for the Central Shop Roof Replacement after the Planning Commission process. This change has been made on p. F-9 of the draft Six-Year CIP. Additionally, the “Total Cost” for Transportation on p. F-22 was updated to reflect the approved Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 2020-034).

The County Council’s Public Works & Health Committee recommended introduction on October 13, 2020. It is anticipated that the County Council will hold a public hearing and make a final decision on these amendments with approval of the biennial budget in November.

Thank you for your review and consideration of this matter. We look forward to discussing it with you.