



Memorandum

To: The Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive and
The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

Through: Elizabeth Kosa, Director *EK*

From: Douglas W. Ranney II, P.E., County Engineer *DR* Acting County Engineer

Date: June 16, 2025

Re: **Ordinance Amending Whatcom County Code 10.04.095 to Establish 20 MPH School Speed Zones on Bennett Drive and Alderwood Avenue for Alderwood Elementary School**

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council adopt the proposed ordinance to establish School Speed Zones on Bennett Drive from 300 feet north of Alderwood Avenue to 300 feet south of Alderwood Avenue, and on Alderwood Avenue from Bennett Drive to Hollywood Avenue.

Background and Purpose

In collaboration with the Bellingham School District and Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Traffic Sergeant, Whatcom County Public Works is proposing to establish "20 Miles Per Hour, When Children are Present" School Speed Zones on Bennett Drive and Alderwood Avenue. The establishment of these school speed zones, where children walk or bike to school, would allow for safer travel for both the students and the traveling public. These low cost improvements are part of a wider partnership with the Bellingham School District to improve students travel under the Safe Routes to Schools program within the normal one mile radius walk/bike zone. Letters of support have been provided by: Superintendent of Bellingham Public Schools, Greg Baker; Sgt. Anthony Paz, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Traffic Sergeant; and the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Information

This ordinance will allow for the installation of school zone speed limit signs and is necessary to comply with RCW 46.61.440 to establish school speed zones on certain County roads.

Please contact Ryan Morrison, P.E., Engineering Services Manager – Traffic at extension 5904 with any questions regarding this ordinance.

News Flash

Public Works communications staff published a [News Flash](#) on this ordinance on June 16th and July 7th, in advance of the public hearing to be held on July 22nd, 2025.

Enclosure: Bellingham School District Letter of Support
WCSO Letter of Support
BPAC Letter of Support – Alderwood School Zones