



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010

Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2025-196

File ID:	AB2025-196	Version:	1	Status:	Adopted
File Created:	02/27/2025	Entered by:	LCumming@co.whatcom.wa.us		
Department:	Public Works Department	File Type:	Ordinance		
Assigned to:	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee	Final Action:	03/25/2025		
Agenda Date:	03/25/2025	Enactment #:	ORD 2025-014		
Related Files:					

Primary Contact Email: sdraper@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Ordinance temporarily amending the funding limit of cash flow loans from the Road Fund to North Lake Samish Bridge No. 107 Replacement Fund -3905 from \$2,000,000 up to \$6,656,262.32 for a term not to exceed two years

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

See memo

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
03/11/2025	Council	INTRODUCED	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee
		Aye: 5 Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler	
		Nay: 0	
		Abstain: 2 Buchanan, and Donovan	
03/25/2025	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION	
		Aye: 3 Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan	
		Nay: 0	
03/25/2025	Council	ADOPTED	
		Aye: 6 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Scanlon, and Stremler	

Nay: 0
Abstain: 1 Galloway

Attachments: Staff Memo, Proposed Ordinance, Notice of Action Proposed on 3.11.2025.pdf

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-014

**ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY AMENDING THE FUNDING LIMIT OF CASH FLOW
LOANS FROM THE ROAD FUND TO NORTH LAKE SAMISH BRIDGE NO. 107
REPLACEMENT FUND-3905**

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2013-022 was passed in order to provide inter-fund loans up to \$1,000,000 to Capital Project Funds from the Road Fund; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2024-022 was passed in order to increase the limit from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 per Capital Project Fund; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2025, the Federal Government issued an Executive Order titled "Regulatory Freeze Pending Review" which implemented a 60-day pause on federal funding and financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2025, the Office of Management and Budget issued memorandum "M-25-11" which clarifies that there will be an immediate pause on disbursement of funds appropriated under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-169) or the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58); and

WHEREAS, the North Lake Samish Bridge No. 107 Replacement Fund-3905 has received \$10,972,210 of federal funding through the Department of Transportation's Highway Planning and Construction grant (grant #LA-10509/BRS-37VV(001)); and

WHEREAS, the County has demolished and removed the old bridge and is in the process of constructing the new bridge, which is set to be completed in August of 2025; and

WHEREAS, the County has \$1,400,273.27 of outstanding grant invoices due from the Department of Transportation and \$3,505,989.05 in unexpended grant balance; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Road Fund has already contributed a \$1,500,000 cash flow loan to
2 allow for project continuation while grant invoices are processed by the Department
3 of Transportation; and
4

5
6
7 **WHEREAS**, the construction of the North Lake Samish Bridge No. 107 replacement
8 cannot be delayed and must be completed by August of 2025; and
9

10
11
12 **WHEREAS**, the County has determined it is vital to ensure there is adequate cash
13 flow to complete the project and pay all contractors on a timely basis, regardless of
14 the status of grant reimbursements from the Federal Government; and
15

16
17
18 **WHEREAS**, project-committed grant funds in the amount of \$4,906,262.32 are
19 currently at risk of not being distributed to the County as a result of federal
20 executive funding directives; and
21

22
23
24 **WHEREAS**, failure to sufficiently fund the project and complete bridge construction
25 in a timely fashion will result in significant cost increases and other damage to
26 Whatcom County tax payers; and
27

28
29
30 **WHEREAS**, it is necessary to provide for alternative and supplementay means of
31 funding the North Lake Samish Bridge No. 107 Replacement Fund-3905 in order to
32 ensure project completion, which is in the public interest; and
33

34
35
36 **WHEREAS**, the County has determined that increasing the current Road Fund loan
37 limit from \$2,000,000 to \$6,656,262.32 is the most efficient and cost effective
38 means to ensure sufficient cash flow to the North Lake Samish Bridge No. 107
39 Replacement Fund-3905 and completion of the project; and
40


1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that the
2 Whatcom County Treasurer is hereby authorized to make inter-fund loans from the
3 County Road Fund to the North Lake Samish Bridge No. 107 Replacement Fund-3905
4 for cash flow purposes. The authorized loans shall not exceed a total of
5 \$6,656,262.32 and shall not be for a term exceeding two years. No interest shall be
6 charged on the loans.
7
8
9

10
11 **ADOPTED** this 25th day of March, 2025.
12

13
14 ATTEST:

15
16 
17 Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council
18
19
20


WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

21 
Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair
22

23 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

24 approved via email by Christopher Quinn/LB
25 Christopher Quinn,
26 Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
27
28

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

29 
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
30

☒ Approved () Denied

Date Signed: 3/31/25