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Mark Personius
Director

Memorandum

May 19, 2023

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

From: Matt Aamot, Senior Planner

Through: Steve Roberge, Assistant Director

RE: Six-Year CIP Amendments (PLN2023-00006)

Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Appendix F is the Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Whatcom County Facilities. The Six-Year CIP 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 2022. The next comprehensive update, scheduled for 2024, will cover the time period from 2025-2030. However, the County has identified park and government facility projects it wants to start and/or complete in 2023-2024. In order to use real estate excise tax (REET) dollars, these projects must be in the Six-Year CIP.

Therefore, the subject proposal is to amend the following chapters of the Six-Year CIP:

- Parks, Trails, and Activity Centers;
- General Government Buildings and Sites; and
- Total Costs.

The Whatcom County Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed CIP amendments on May 11, 2023. Planning & Development Services is requesting discussion at Council's Public Works & Health Committee and introduction of an ordinance relating to these amendments on June 6. A public hearing and final Council action is anticipated on June 20. Pursuant to RCW 36.70A.130(2) final action on the CIP must be at the same meeting as a budget amendment, as CIP approval will not take place concurrently with the other Comprehensive Plan amendments. We understand associated budget amendments will also be coming to Council for final action on June 20.

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