

WHATCOM COUNTY
Parks & Recreation
3373 Mount Baker Highway
Bellingham, WA 98226-7500



Bennett Knox, Director
Christ Thomsen, Parks Operations Manger

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Rod Lamb, Design and Development Manager

THROUGH Bennett Knox, Parks Director

DATE: March 24, 2026

RE: Bay to Baker Trail – Sandy Williams Connecting Communities, Local Programs Grant

Enclosed for your review and signature is the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Local Programs State Funding Agreement for the Bay to Baker Trail planning effort to connect the communities of Kendall and Glacier.

- **Requested Action**

Parks requests County Council to authorize County Executive Sidhu to enter into a reimbursement grant agreement with Washington State Department of Transportation to complete a multimodal path connecting the communities of Kendall and Glacier along the SR542 highway.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

This agreement is funded by the WSDOT 25-27 Transportation Budget Supplemental ESSB 5161. This is a reimbursement grant through the Sandy Williams Connecting Communities, Local Programs specifically targeted to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, and to improve community connectivity.

- **Background and Purpose**

The state legislature passed, as part of the 2025-2027 transportation budget a \$425,000 grant through the Sandy Williams Connecting Communities, Local Programs to Whatcom County for the purpose of studying the segment of the Bay to Baker Trail, a multimodal path connection between the communities of Kendall and Glacier. This effort is part of a larger initiative that the Parks Department, in collaboration with Public Works, Tribal Partners, and local multimodal trail advocates is embarking on to further advance multimodal regional trail connectivity throughout Whatcom.

- **Differences from previous Contract**

This is a new grant agreement

Please contact Rod Lamb at extension 5858, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.