



ELIZABETH KOSA
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Elizabeth Kosa, Director *EK*

Subject: Resolution Providing Certification to the Public Works Board to Support Funding Application for the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project

Date: June 26, 2026

Enclosed for your review and approval is a resolution providing certification to the Public Works Board to pursue additional state funding for the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council approves this proposed resolution which is required to make application to the Public Works Board for \$10 million in state funding for the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project.

Background and Purpose

In July of 2018, the Whatcom County Council approved resolution 2018-026, which established a level of service for the Lummi Island Ferry System and included the Lummi Island Ferry Service Action Plan. Elements of the currently proposed project include construction of a new 20-car diesel-electric battery hybrid ferry, modifications to the existing Lummi Island terminal including construction of a passenger only float, upland improvements and other ancillary project elements.

Significant effort has gone into securing outside funding for this project; to date \$25 million in federal funds have been secured. From Washington State, \$5.3 million in state Move Ahead Washington funds and \$10 million in County Road Administration Board County Ferry Capital Improvement Program funds have been secured. Whatcom County has identified another potential funding source of up to \$10 million in a low interest loan via the Public Works Board. To be considered the application must include an applicant certification which is addressed via the attached resolution.

Funding Amount and Source

This project is eligible for up to \$10 million in state funds through the Public Works Board to be repaid over 20-years at a 2.31% interest rate. Applications are due July 31, 2026 with awards anticipated to be announced late this year.

Please contact Laura Frolich at 360-778-6205 or lfrolich@co.whatcom.wa.us if you have any questions or concerns regarding this agenda item.