

ORDINANCE NO.

ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO WHATCOM COUNTY CODE TITLE 20 (ZONING), UNDER THE 2025-2026 PERIODIC UPDATE OF THE WHATCOM COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, PURSUANT TO THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT

WHEREAS, every ten years as part of the periodic update, RCW [36.70A.130](#)(1)(a) requires Whatcom County to take legislative action to review and, if needed, revise its comprehensive plan and development regulations to comply with the requirements of Chapter [36.70A](#) RCW (the Growth Management Act); and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Planning and Development Services has proposed amendments to the Whatcom County Code Title 20 (Zoning) as part of the 2025-2026 periodic update to implement the Comprehensive Plan's updated goals and policies, fulfill the mandatory elements required for comprehensive plans under the GMA, and ensure internal consistency pursuant to RCW [36.70A.130](#)(1)(a), RCW [36.70A.070](#), and WAC [365-196-500](#); and

WHEREAS, the County Council docketed PLN2023-00001 to implement development regulation updates associated with the 2025-26 periodic update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the County Council hereby adopts the following findings of fact:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The zoning code amendments were studied under the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan [Environmental Impact Statement](#) (EIS) issued on August 22, 2025, under file number SEPA2024-00001.
2. Notice of Intent to Adopt Development Amendment was submitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce on each of the proposed zoning code amendments as detailed below:
 - a. Periodic Update Related Housing & Concurrent Code Amendments:
 - i. 60-Day Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendment emailed 3-31-2026.
 - ii. Assigned Submittal ID Number 2026-S-11662.
 - b. Additional Adequate Provisions Code Amendments:
 - i. Request for Expedited Review emailed 5-6-2026.
 - ii. Assigned Submittal ID Number 2026-S-12796.
 - iii. Granted 5-21-2026.

3. The Whatcom County Planning Commission held ~~a~~ duly noticed public hearings and work sessions regarding the proposed amendments on [April 9, 2026](#), [May 14, 2026](#), and [May 28, 2026](#).
4. The County Council held a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed amendments on _____.
5. The amendments are consistent with the current Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan. There are no policies that would be inconsistent with these amendments.
6. The amendments are consistent with the 2025-26 periodic update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, and implement the updated goals and policies of the plan pursuant to WAC [365-196-500](#).
7. Adoption of the zoning code amendments implements applicable requirements under the Growth Management Act pursuant to RCW [36.70A.130](#)(1)(a), RCW [36.70A.070](#), and WAC [365-196-500](#).
8. The State legislature found that order to meet the goal of 1,000,000 new homes statewide by 2044, and enhanced quality of life and environmental protection, innovative housing policies will need to be adopted and that increasing housing options that are more affordable to various income levels is critical to achieving the state's housing goals, including those established by the legislature in Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1220 (chapter 254, Laws of 2021).
9. The State legislature further found:
 - a. There is continued need for the development of housing at all income levels, including middle housing that will provide a wider variety of housing options and configurations to allow Washingtonians to live near where they work.
 - b. Homes developed at higher densities are more affordable by design for Washington residents both in their construction and reduced household energy and transportation costs.
 - c. The state has made historic investments in subsidized affordable housing through the housing trust fund, yet even with these historic investments, the magnitude of the housing shortage requires both public and private investment.
 - d. In addition to addressing the housing shortage, allowing more housing options in areas already served by urban infrastructure will reduce the pressure to develop natural and working lands, support key strategies for climate change, food security, and Puget Sound recovery, and save taxpayers and ratepayers money.

10. The proposed recommended zoning code amendments are consistent with the following GMA Planning Goals under RCW [36.70A.020](#):
- a. Number 1: *Urban growth. Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner;*
 - b. Number 2: *Reduce sprawl. Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development;*
 - c. Number 4: *Housing. Plan for and accommodate housing affordable to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock;*
 - d. Number 5: *Economic development. Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons, promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses and recruitment of new businesses, recognize regional differences impacting economic development opportunities, and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities;*
 - e. Number 11: *Citizen participation and coordination. Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process, including the participation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts; and*

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The development regulation amendments are consistent with the approval criteria in WCC 22.10.060(2).
2. The amendments are in the public interest.
3. The amendments implement and are consistent with the updated associated goals and policies of the 2026 Comprehensive Plan pursuant to RCW [36.70A.130](#), and WAC [365-196-500](#).
4. The amendments are consistent with the Washington State Growth Management Act (RCW [36.70A](#)) and its Planning Goals (RCW [36.70A.020](#)).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that amendments to the Whatcom County Code Title 20 (Zoning) are hereby adopted as shown in Exhibits 1 through 4; and

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that, should any part of this regulation be held to be illegal, unconstitutional, or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of the regulation shall apply.

ADOPTED this day of , 2026

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

() Approved () Denied
Date Signed:

Exhibit 1
Adequate Provisions Proposed Code Amendments
RCW 36.70A.070(2)(d)

Proposed Amendment A

Addition & Amendment of “Middle Housing” Definitions

Chapter 20.97 Definitions.

WCC 20.97.040 "D" definitions.

Duplex.

~~*“Duplex” means a residential building containing two attached dwelling units. Units can be built side-by-side or stacked. A single-family dwelling containing an approved attached or detached accessory dwelling unit is not a duplex. means a single building designed for occupancy by two families living independently of each other in separate dwelling units on one lot of record. Each dwelling unit is required to have a separate outside entrance.*~~

WCC 20.97.200 "T" definitions.

Triplex.

~~*“Triplex” means a residential building containing three attached dwelling units. Units can be built side-by-side or stacked.*~~

WCC 20.97.060 "F" definitions.

Fourplex.

~~*“Fourplex” means a building containing four attached dwelling units. Units can be built side-by-side or stacked.*~~

WCC 20.97.130 "M" definitions.

Multifamily Dwelling.

~~*“Multifamily dwelling” means a building containing more than two attached dwelling units, and for the purposes of this code, includes triplexes, fourplexes, apartment buildings, and residential condominiums. means a single building, or portion thereof, designed for or occupied by three or more families living independently of each other in separate dwelling units on one lot of record and, for the purpose of this code, includes triplexes, fourplexes, apartment buildings, and residential condominiums.*~~

Proposed Amendment B

Amendment of "Family" definition to comply with RCW 36.01.227

Chapter 20.97 Definitions.

WCC 20.97.060 "F" definitions.

Family.

~~"Family" means an individual or collection of individuals occupying the entire dwelling unit means a single person, family, or a household, of unrelated persons living together in a single dwelling unit, with no limitation on the number of occupants except as limited by health, building, or safety standards. The term "family" shall also include:~~

- ~~a) Any household arrangement protected under the Federal Fair Housing Act, Washington Housing Act, and applicable provisions of the Revised Code of Washington, including but not limited to living arrangements of persons with disabilities residing together in a dwelling unit in a family-like setting pursuant to RCW 36.70.990 and RCW 36.70A.410.~~

~~"Family" means one or more persons related by blood, marriage, or legal adoption, or a group of not more than five persons (excluding servants), not related by blood or marriage, or legal adoption, living together as a single housekeeping unit in a dwelling unit. The term "family" shall also include living arrangements of any number of disabled persons living in a family-like setting which are protected by the provisions of the Federal Fair Housing Act and the Washington Housing Act, RCW 36.70.990 and 36.70A.410.~~

Commented [MS1]: PC Motion 4/9/26 replacing a portion of the recommended language with the City of Bellingham's definition of "Household". The strike shows PDS original proposal.

Commented [MS2]: The current definition of "Family" is proposed to be replaced with the amended definition above, as recommended by the PC on 4/9/26.

Proposed Amendment C

Amendment of "Accessory Dwelling Unit" (ADU) definition to comply with RCW 36.70A.696

Chapter 20.97 Definitions.

WCC 20.97.010 "A" definitions.

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU).

~~"Accessory dwelling unit (ADU)" means an additional is a smaller, independent residential dwelling unit located on the same lot as a stand-alone (i.e., detached) single-family dwelling unit, duplex, triplex, fourplex, or other permitted housing type. ADUs go by many different names, including accessory apartments, secondary suites, and granny flats. ADUs can be converted portions of existing homes (i.e., internal ADUs), additions to new or existing homes with at least one shared wall (i.e., attached ADUs), or new stand-alone (i.e., no shared walls) accessory structures or converted portions of existing stand-alone accessory structures (i.e., detached ADUs).~~

Commented [MS3]: PC Motion 4/9/26 to remove.

Commented [MS4]: PC Motion 4/9/26 to remove.

Proposed Amendment D

Amendment of “Tandem Parking” definition to comply with RCW 36.70A.622

Chapter 20.97 Definitions.

WCC 20.97.200 "T" definitions.

Tandem Parking

“Tandem parking” means having two (2) or more vehicles, one in front of or behind the others, with a single means of ingress and egress

Proposed Amendment E

Allowance & Amendment of Middle Housing Standards in Urban Growth Areas (UGAs)

Chapter 20.20 Urban Residential (UR) District.

WCC 20.20.050 Permitted uses.

~~.052~~ Single-family attached dwellings, duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes; provided, that public sewer, water, and stormwater management facilities serve the site, with not more than four dwelling units per lot, are attached, and subject to the number of dwelling units conforms to the density requirements of the district.

Chapter 20.24 Urban Residential Mixed (UR-MX) District.

WCC 20.24.050 Permitted uses.

~~.052~~ Single-family attached dwellings, duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes; provided, that public sewer, water, and ~~where identified by the appropriate Comprehensive Plan policies,~~ stormwater management facilities collection and detention facilities serve the site, with not more than four dwelling units per lot, are attached, and subject to the number of dwelling units conforms to the density requirements of the district.

WCC 20.24.130 Administrative approval uses.

~~.132 Duplex, m~~ Multifamily dwellings with five or more attached dwelling units, and co-living housing dwellings, subject to the following density requirements of the zoning district, and served by public water, sewer, and stormwater management facilities. limitations and the developer has conducted at least one neighborhood meeting prior to application for the purpose of hearing neighborhood concerns and suggestions regarding the proposal. Where being developed in an existing neighborhood characterized by residential development at densities of one dwelling per acre or greater, the uses listed in this section shall be administered as conditional uses rather than administrative approval uses; and are subject to the same criteria, requirements, bonuses and restrictions as if they were administrative approval uses:

Council COTW 6/9/26 - EXHIBIT 1

~~(1) Duplex, multifamily dwelling and co-living housing units do not comprise more than 25% of the total dwelling units allowed for the entire site.~~

~~(2) Duplex, multifamily dwelling and co-living housing units are constructed at the same time as, or after, at least 50% of the single family units in an approved development.~~

~~(3) Multifamily and co-living housing development shall not be allowed within the UR-MX Zone located southeast of the Bellingham International Airport.~~

WCC 20.24.400 Height regulations.

Maximum height shall be limited to 35 feet for single-family development and 45 feet for duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, and multifamily developments. Height of structures shall also conform, where applicable, to the general requirements of WCC 20.80.675.

Proposed Amendment F

Allowance & Amendment of Middle Housing Standards in Limited Areas of More Intensive Rural Development (LAMIRDs)

Chapter 20.32 Residential Rural (RR) District.

WCC 20.32.050 Permitted uses.

~~.052 Reserved Duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes in the RR-2 and RR-3 zoning districts within the "Rural Community" Comprehensive Plan Designation, when served by provided that public sewer and water, and stormwater management facilities, with no more than four (4) dwelling units per lot, and subject to the density requirements of the zoning district; except prohibited within the Sandy Point "Rural Community" Comprehensive Plan Designation.~~

Commented [MS5]: Motion #2 by PC: Removes stormwater management facility language. Does not eliminate/change applicable stormwater code requirements, deleted to improve clarity of new code language.

Chapter 20.61 Small Town Commercial (STC) District.

WCC 20.61.050 Permitted uses.

.055 Residential type uses.

(1) One single-family dwelling, duplexes, triplexes, or fourplexes, with no more than four (4) dwelling units per lot, per lot of record, or duplexes subject to:

(a) Health department requirements regarding soil type and water supply, provided duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes must be served by public sewer and water, and stormwater management facilities.

(b) A deed restriction recorded with the Whatcom County auditor is attached to the lot(s) at the time of building permit issuance stating that the dwelling(s) is located in a Small Town Commercial Zone and buyers should be aware that commercial uses will be allowed on surrounding parcels and owners have no grounds for protest.

(c) This permitted use is only allowed on lots created as of the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section.

(d) Duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes are subject to the density provisions of WCC 20.61.350.

Commented [MS6]: Motion #2 by PC: Removes stormwater management facility language. Does not eliminate/change applicable stormwater code requirements, deleted to improve clarity of new code language.

Council COTW 6/9/26 - EXHIBIT 1

WCC 20.61.350 Maximum density.

.352 Duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes may not exceed a maximum gross density of six dwelling units/acre.

Proposed Amendment G

Allowance & Recategorization of “Mobile Home Parks” in UGAs

Chapter 20.20 Urban Residential (UR) District.

WCC 20.20.130 Administrative approval uses.

.136 Mobile home parks. See WCC 20.80.950 for mobile home and recreational vehicle park standards.

Chapter 20.22 Urban Residential-Medium (URM) District.

WCC 20.22.130 Administrative approval uses.

.135 Mobile home parks. See WCC 20.80.950 for mobile home and recreational vehicle park standards.

WCC 20.22.150 Conditional uses.

~~.156 Mobile home parks.~~

Chapter 20.24 Urban Residential Mixed (UR-MX) District.

WCC 20.24.130 Administrative approval uses.

.136 Mobile home parks. See WCC 20.80.950 for mobile home and recreational vehicle park standards.

WCC 20.24.150 Conditional uses.

~~.155 Mobile home parks. See WCC 20.80.950 for mobile home and recreational vehicle park standards.~~

Chapter 20.64 Resort Commercial (RC).

WCC 20.64.130 Administrative approval uses.

.134 Mobile home parks. See WCC 20.80.950 for mobile home and recreational vehicle park standards.

WCC 20.64.150 Conditional uses.

.153 Residential type uses.

~~(2) Mobile home parks. See WCC 20.80.950 for mobile home and recreational vehicle park standards.~~

~~(2 3)~~ Rooming, boarding, and co-living housing totalling more than six sleeping units.

Proposed Amendment H

Amendment of residential parking standards to comply with RCW 36.70A.070(2)(d) (Adequate Provisions) & RCW 36.70A.622 (Off-Street Parking & Loading Requirements)

Chapter 20.80 Supplementary Requirements.

WCC 20.80.210 Minimum Setbacks

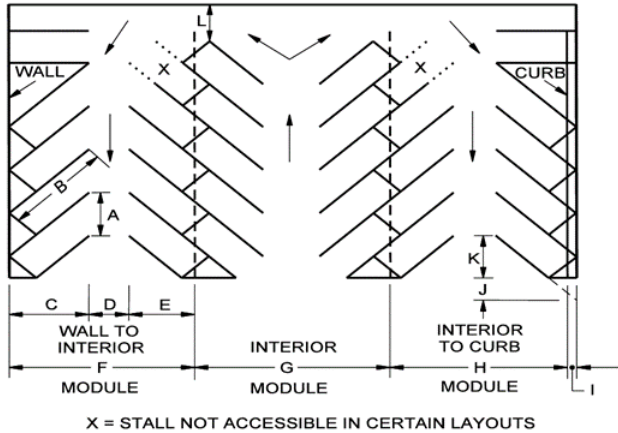
(5)(b) Setbacks Table.

Zoning District	Setback (in feet) from:						
	Right-of-Way Classification					Other	
	I-5, State Highways, Urban Principal, and Urban Minor Arterials	Urban Collector Arterials and Rural Major Collectors	Minor Collectors	Local Access Streets	Minor Access Streets	Side Yard	Rear Yard
Residential Setbacks							
Urban Residential Mixed Use (UR-MX)	45	35	25	10	10	5	5
Urban Residential Medium (URM)	45	35	25	10-25	10-20	5	5
Urban Residential (UR)	45	35	25	10-25	10-20	5 ¹	5

WCC 20.80.510 Parking space dimensions.

- (1) A parking space shall have minimum rectangular dimensions of not less than ~~nine~~ eight (8) feet in width and 18 feet in length; provided, however, that for any parking area of 12 or more spaces, 35 percent of all spaces may have minimum rectangular dimensions of not less than eight (8) feet in width and 15 feet in length; provided, that these spaces are marked for use by compact automobiles. All dimensions shall be exclusive of driveways, aisles, and other circulation areas. The number of required off-street parking spaces is established in WCC 20.80.580.
- (2) The following off-street parking diagram indicates the dimensions necessary to achieve the dimensions of subsection (1) of this section at various angles. Note that:
 - (a) If a parking lot section is designated for compact vehicles the stall may be eight (8) feet by 15 feet for a 90-degree parking angle...

Council COTW 6/9/26 - EXHIBIT 1



Dimension	Diagram Location	Parking Angle			
		45 Degrees	60 Degrees	75 Degrees	90 Degrees
Stall width, parallel to aisle	A	8.0 12.5	8.0 10.5	8.0 9.2	8.0 9.0
Stall length of line	B	25.5 27.6	20.8 23.6	18.6 21.0	18.0
Stall depth to wall	C	16.7 19.4	19.1 20.3	19.4 20.0	18.0
Aisle width between stall lines	D	12.1	12.8	23.0 23.0	20.0
Stall depth, interior	E	15.0 16.4	17.8 18.0	18.7 19.0	18.0
Module, wall to interior	F	43.8 47.9	49.7 55.1	61.1 62.0	56.0 63.0
Module, interior	G	42.0 44.9	48.4 53.1	60.5 61.0	56.0 63.0
Module, interior to curb face	H	43.8 45.9	50.6 52.5	62.9 59.4	58.5 60.0
Module, interior to curb face	I	1.8 2.0	2.2 2.3	2.4 2.5	2.5
Offset	J	5.7 6.6	4.0 2.5	2.1 0.7	0.0
Setback	K	12.7 13.1	9.0 9.2	4.7 4.9	0.0
Cross aisle, one-way	L	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1
Cross aisle, two-way	---	20.0	20.0	20.0	22.0

Council COTW 6/9/26 - EXHIBIT 1

WCC 20.80.520 Surfacing.

The required number of parking and loading spaces as set forth in WCC § 20.80.515 and § 20.80.580, together with driveways, aisles and other circulation areas, shall be improved with a material acceptable to the county engineer. In some instances:

(1) ~~G~~ gravel rather than paving may be acceptable.

(2) Grass block pavers are an acceptable material for all residential development projects, pursuant to applicable stormwater requirements.

(3) Up to six (6) parking spaces in legally nonconforming gravel parking areas can count toward the minimum number of parking stalls required for a residential development.

WCC 20.80.525 Location of parking spaces.

The following regulations shall govern the location of off-street parking spaces and areas:

(1) Parking spaces for all one and two-family dwellings shall be located on the same lot as the dwelling which they are intended to serve ~~with no more than two parking spaces included within the front yard setback~~; unless otherwise approved by the zoning administrator. Use of shared parking spaces for overflow parking is encouraged.

(2) Tandem parking stalls are allowed for all residential development projects at a rate of one (1) space for every 18 linear feet, subject to access standards of WCC 20.80.565 and Whatcom County development standards.

WCC 20.80.590 General interpretations.

In the interpretation of WCC 20.80.500 et seq., the following rules shall govern...

(4) The provisions of WCC 20.80.500 do not apply if complying with the tree retention requirements of the Point Roberts Special District (WCC 20.72), Water Resource Protection Overlay District (WCC 20.71) and Lake Whatcom Watershed Overlay (LW/O) District (WCC 20.51) would otherwise make a proposed residential development or redevelopment infeasible.

Commented [MS7]: PC Motion 4/9/26 to remove.

Exhibit 2

Limited Areas of More Intensive Rural Development (LAMIRD) Amendments RCW 36.70A.070(d)

Proposed Amendment

Amendment of LAMIRD standards to comply with RCW 36.70A.070(5)(d)

Chapter 20.80 Supplementary Requirements

WCC 20.80.100 LAMIRD requirements.

(1) Building Size in Rural Communities. Within areas designated in the Comprehensive Plan as rural community, which are limited areas of more intensive development as described in RCW 36.70A.070(5)(d)(i), permitted maximum building sizes shall be in accordance with building sizes that existed in each area on July 1, 1990, as shown in the following table.

a) A public community facility that serves a predominantly rural area may exceed the maximum floor area and maximum combined floor area given for public/community uses in subsection (1) of this section, subject to a conditional use permit per WCC 22.05.026.

b) In the Newhalem, Point Roberts, and Diablo LAMIRDs, an essential rural retail service that serves a predominantly rural area may increase the stated maximum floor area or maximum combined floor area to 10,000 square feet. For the purposes of this section, essential rural retail services' means services including grocery, pharmacy, hardware, automotive parts, and similar uses that sell or provide products necessary for health and safety, such as food, medication, sanitation supplies, and products to maintain habitability and mobility.

~~(2) Within areas designated in the Comprehensive Plan as rural community, a public community facility that serves a predominantly rural area may exceed the maximum floor area and maximum combined floor area given for public/community uses in subsection (1) of this section, subject to a conditional use permit per WCC 22.05.026.~~

~~(23)~~ Within a rural business designation, a larger building size for new nonresidential development is permitted if a conditional use permit is granted per WCC 22.05.026. A conditional use permit for a larger building size shall be subject to a finding that:

- a) The larger building size will not cause the need for additional public facilities to be provided in the area;
- b) The proposal is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan policies regarding the rural business designation; and
- c) The proposed small-scale business conforms to the rural character of the area.

Table 1.

Council COTW 6/9/26 - EXHIBIT 2

LAMIRD	Retail/Office/ Restaurant/ Lodging	Storage/ Warehouse	Auto/ Equipment Repair	Public/ Community <u>(1a)</u>	Manufacturing/ Fabrication
Acme	<u>5,000</u> 2,734 <u>(5,000)</u> <u>(2,734)</u>		2,070 (2,070)	17,784 (21,896)	
Axton & Guide Meridian	<u>5,000</u> 4,800 <u>(5,000)</u> <u>(4,800)</u>		2,160 (2,160)		
Birch Bay- Lynden & V.V.	<u>5,000</u> 2,784 <u>(5,000)</u> <u>(3,684)</u>				
Cain Lake	<u>5,000</u> 2,060 <u>(5,000)</u> <u>(2,060)</u>			2,473 (4,825)	
Custer	<u>5,000</u> 3,968 <u>(5,000)</u> <u>(3,968)</u>		3,300 (3,300)	46,451 (46,451)	
Deming	11,790 (18,757)	2,400 (2,400)	1,392 (1,392)	30,099 (79,512)	
Diablo*	513 <u>5,000</u> (513) <u>(5,000)</u>			10,872 (10,872)	
Glacier	<u>5,000</u> 3,500 (7,888)	3,584 (3,584)		3,150 (3,150)	
Hinotes Corner	6,636 (9,036)		1,500 (1,500)	19,856 (19,856)	
Kendall	7,000 (7,000)			3,340 (3,340)	
Laurel	10,700 (11,000)		10,260 (10,260)	21,950 (63,360)	17,670 (23,590)
Lummi Peninsula	<u>2,500</u> <u>(2,500)</u>	7,800 (18,540)			7,280 (7,280)
Maple Falls	8,020 (8,020)	4,620 (4,620)		8,822 (10,082)	
Newhalem* <u>(1b)</u>	<u>5,000</u> 3,218 <u>(5,000)</u> <u>(3,218)</u>			4,810 (12,981)	16,284 (28,924)
Nugents Corner	18,221 (19,499)			3,240 (3,240)	

Council COTW 6/9/26 - EXHIBIT 2

LAMIRD	Retail/Office/ Restaurant/ Lodging	Storage/ Warehouse	Auto/ Equipment Repair	Public/ Community <u>(1a)</u>	Manufacturing/ Fabrication
Point Roberts*	34,704 (34,704)	3,286 (3,286)	6,732 (6,732)	11,246 (11,246)	
Pole & Guide Meridian	6,400 (6,400)		4,548 (5,556)	4,000 (4,000)	
Sandy Point	<u>2,500</u> <u>(2,500)</u>			1,428 (1,428)	
Smith & Guide Meridian	5,866 (7,068)	5,900 (5,900)	9,600 (17,100)		22,042 (22,042)
Sudden Valley	6,348 (10,320)			30,140 (44,945)	
Van Wyck	<u>5,000</u> ^{3,480} <u>(5,000)</u> ^(3,480)	1,904 (1,904)			
Wiser Lake	24,690 (24,690)	11,222 (12,374)		2,130 (2,130)	6,368 (6,368)

Key:

- a) The upper number indicates the maximum floor area in square feet per building per category on any one lot.
- b) The lower number indicates the maximum combined floor area in square feet for all buildings per category on any one lot.
- c) Superscript numbers refer to the following subsections that pertain to that particular use or LAMIRD.
- d) Blank cells indicate that that particular use type did not exist in that particular LAMIRD on July 1, 1990, and therefore is not allowed.
- e) An asterisk (*) indicates that the designated LAMIRD is located at least 10 miles from an existing urban growth area.

Exhibit 3
Essential Public Facility (EPF) Amendments
RCW 36.70A.200

Proposed Amendment A

Amendment of Essential Public Facilities (EPF) Definitions

Chapter 20.81 Pipeline Safety

WCC 20.81.020 Definitions.

"**Essential public facilities**" are those facilities typically difficult to site, such as airports, state education facilities and state or regional transportation facilities as defined in RCW 47.06.140, state and local correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities, and inpatient facilities including substance abuse facilities, mental health facilities, group homes, and secure community transition facilities as defined in RCW 71.09.020 (RCW 36.70A.200, Siting of essential public facilities). The county has also designated telecommunication towers, water treatment plants, sewer treatment plants, and water storage facilities as essential public facilities; however, telecommunication towers are exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

"**Hazardous liquid**" means petroleum, petroleum products, or anhydrous ammonia.

"**High consequence land use**" means a land use that, if located in the vicinity of a hazardous liquid or gas transmission pipeline, represents an unusually high risk in the event of a pipeline failure due to characteristics of the inhabitants or functions of the use. High consequence land uses include:

1. Land uses that involve a high density on-site population that is more difficult to evacuate. These uses include schools, hospitals, multifamily housing or other facilities exclusively for the elderly or handicapped housing or facilities, stadiums, and day care centers. Day care centers do not extend to family day care or adult family homes.

2. Land uses that serve critical lifeline or emergency functions, such as fire and police facilities.

"**Pipeline corridor**" means the pipeline pathway defined by rights of way and easements in which the pipelines and facilities of a hazardous liquid or gas transmission pipeline operator are located, including rights of way and easements over and through public or private property.

"**Transmission pipeline**" means a pipeline carrying hazardous liquids, and all natural gas pipelines equal to or larger than 12 inches in diameter that operate at over 500 psi.

"**Pipeline corridor**"

means the pipeline pathway defined by rights of way and easements in which the pipelines and facilities of a hazardous liquid or gas transmission pipeline operator are located, including rights of way and easements over and through public or private property.

"**Transmission pipeline**"

means a pipeline carrying hazardous liquids, and all natural gas pipelines equal to or larger than 12 inches in diameter that operate at over 500 psi.

Commented [MS1]: PC Motion 4/9/26, correction to show all definitions from 20.81.020 (Pipeline Safety-Definitions) proposed to be moved to appropriate sections of WCC 20.97 (Definitions).

Council COTW 6/9/26 - EXHIBIT 3

Chapter 20.87 Definitions

WCC 20.97.030 "C" definitions.

Community facility.

"Community facility", as defined by RCW 72.05.020, means a group care facility operated for the care of juveniles committed to the department under RCW 13.40.185. A county detention facility that houses juveniles committed to the department under RCW pursuant to a contract with the department is not a community facility."

WCC 20.97.050 "E" definitions.

Essential Public Facilities

"Essential public facilities" are those facilities that are typically difficult to site, such as airports, state education facilities and state or regional transportation facilities as defined in RCW 47.06.140, regional transit authority facilities as defined in RCW 81.112.020, improvements to high capacity transportation systems as defined in RCW 81.104.015, bus rapid transit routes and stops or improvements to such routes and stops, state and local correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities, opioid treatment programs including both mobile and fixed-site medication units, recovery residences, harm reduction programs excluding safe injection sites, and inpatient facilities including substance use disorder treatment facilities, mental health facilities, group homes, community facilities as defined in RCW 72.05.020, and secure community transition facilities as defined in RCW 71.09.020 (RCW 36.70A.200, Siting of essential public facilities). The County has also designated telecommunication towers, water treatment plants, sewer treatment plants, and water storage facilities as essential public facilities.

WCC 20.97.080 "H" definitions.

Hazardous Liquid

"Hazardous liquid" means petroleum, petroleum products, or anhydrous ammonia.

High-Consequence Land Use

"High-consequence land use" means a land use that, if located in the vicinity of a hazardous liquid or gas transmission pipeline, represents an unusually high risk in the event of a pipeline failure due to characteristics of the inhabitants or functions of the use. High-consequence land uses include:

- a) Land uses that involve a high-density on-site population that is more difficult to evacuate. These uses include schools, hospitals, multifamily housing or other facilities exclusively for the elderly or handicapped housing or facilities, stadiums, and day care centers. Day care centers do not extend to family day care or adult family homes.
- b) Land uses that serve critical lifeline or emergency functions, such as fire and police facilities.

WCC 20.97.150 "O" definitions.

Opioid Treatment Programs

"Opioid treatment programs" as defined by RCW 71.24.590, means both mobile and fixed-site medication units, recovery residences, and harm reduction programs excluding safe injection sites. Harm reduction programs means programs that emphasize engaging directly with people who use drugs to prevent overdose and infectious disease transmission, improve the physical, mental, and social well-being of those served, and offer low threshold options for accessing substance use disorder treatment and other services.

Council COTW 6/9/26 - EXHIBIT 3

WCC 20.97.160 "P" definitions.

Pipeline Corridor.

"Pipeline corridor" means the pipeline pathway defined by rights-of-way and easements in which the pipelines and facilities of a hazardous liquid or gas transmission pipeline operator are located, including rights-of-way and easements over and through public or private property.

WCC 20.97.190 "S" definitions.

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Abuse Facilities.

"Substance use disorder treatment abuse facilities" mean buildings and accessory uses primarily utilized to provide services to persons addicted to alcohol and/or other drugs, persons incapacitated by alcohol and/or drugs, and intoxicated persons. These services include detoxification, outpatient care, residential, and inpatient services.

WCC 20.97.200 "T" definitions.

Transmission Pipeline

"Transmission pipeline" means a pipeline carrying hazardous liquids, and all natural gas pipelines equal to or larger than 12 inches in diameter that operate at over 500 psi.

Proposed Amendment B

Substitution of "Substance abuse" with "Substance use disorder" & substitution of "Opioid substitution treatment clinic" with "Opioid treatment program" throughout Title 20 (Zoning)

Chapter 20.20 Urban Residential (UR) District

WCC 20.20.050 Permitted uses.

.091 Substance use disorder treatment abuse facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.20.150 Conditional uses.

.151 Public ~~and~~ community facilities including police and fire stations, libraries, community centers, recreation facilities, and other similar noncommercial uses, excluding correctional facilities other than those listed in WCC [20.20.184](#).

.184 Transitional correction facilities for juveniles and adults with 10 or less residents. These facilities include "community facilities" and "juvenile rehabilitation administration" (JRA) facilities run by the state, and residential adult work release facilities.

.191 Substance use disorder treatment abuse facilities that provide residential treatment and are larger than other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.20.200 Prohibited uses.

.204 Substance use disorder treatment abuse facilities that provide crisis care.

206 Outpatient substance use disorder abuse treatment facilities, including opioid treatment programs, opiate substitution treatment clinics.

Council COTW 6/9/26 - EXHIBIT 3

Chapter 20.22 Urban Residential – Medium (URM) District

WCC 20.22.050 Permitted uses.

.091 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.22.150 Conditional uses.

.151 Public ~~and~~ community facilities including police and fire stations, libraries, community centers, recreation facilities, and other similar noncommercial uses, excluding correction facilities other than those listed in WCC [20.22.184](#).

.184 Transitional correction facilities for juveniles and adults with 10 or less residents. These facilities include “community facilities” and “juvenile rehabilitation administration” (JRA) facilities run by the state and residential adult work release facilities.

.191 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are larger than other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.22.200 Prohibited uses.

.204 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide crisis care.

.206 Outpatient substance ~~use disorder abuse~~ treatment facilities, including opioid treatment programs.
~~opiate substitution treatment clinics.~~

Chapter 20.24 Urban Residential Mixed Density (UR-MX) District

WCC 20.24.050 Permitted uses.

.091 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.24.150 Conditional uses.

.151 Public ~~and~~ community facilities including police and fire stations, libraries, community centers, recreation facilities, and other similar noncommercial uses outside of centers, excluding correction facilities other than those listed in WCC [20.24.184](#).

.184 Transitional correction facilities for juveniles and adults with 10 or less residents. These facilities include “community facilities” and “juvenile rehabilitation administration” (JRA) facilities run by the state and residential adult work release facilities.

.191 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are larger than other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.24.200 Prohibited uses.

.204 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide crisis care.

.206 Outpatient substance ~~use disorder abuse~~ treatment facilities, including opioid treatment programs.
~~opiate substitution treatment clinics.~~

Council COTW 6/9/26 - EXHIBIT 3

Chapter 20.32 Residential Rural (RR) District

WCC 20.32.050 Permitted uses.

.091 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.32.150 Conditional uses.

.151 Public ~~and~~ community facilities including police and fire stations, libraries, community centers, recreation facilities, and other similar noncommercial uses, excluding correction facilities. *

.191 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are larger than other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.32.200 Prohibited uses.

.204 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide crisis care.

.206 Outpatient substance ~~use disorder abuse~~ treatment facilities, including opioid treatment programs.
~~opiate substitution treatment clinics.~~

Chapter 20.34 Rural Residential-Island (RR-I) District

WCC 20.34.050 Permitted uses.

.091 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.34.150 Conditional uses.

.151 Public ~~and~~ community facilities including police and fire stations, libraries, community centers, recreation facilities, and other similar noncommercial uses, excluding correction facilities.

.191 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are larger than other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.34.200 Prohibited uses.

.204 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide crisis care.

.206 Outpatient substance ~~use disorder abuse~~ treatment facilities, including opioid treatment programs.
~~opiate substitution treatment clinics.~~

Chapter 20.34 Eliza Island (EI) District

WCC 20.35.050 Permitted uses.

.091 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

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Chapter 20.36 Rural (R) District

WCC 20.36.050 Permitted uses.

.091 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.36.150 Conditional Uses

.151 Public ~~and~~-community facilities including police and fire stations, libraries, community centers, recreation facilities, and other similar noncommercial uses, excluding correction facilities. *

.191 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are larger than other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

.193 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide crisis care.

.195 Outpatient substance ~~use disorder abuse~~ treatment facilities, including opioid treatment programs, ~~opiate substitution treatment clinics~~.

Chapter 20.37 Point Roberts Transitional Zone (TZ) District

WCC 20.37.050 Permitted uses.

.091 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.37.150 Conditional Uses

.151 Public ~~and~~-community facilities including police and fire stations, libraries, community centers, recreation facilities, activity centers, and other similar noncommercial uses. *

.191 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are larger than other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

.193 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide crisis care.

.195 Outpatient substance ~~use disorder abuse~~ treatment facilities, including opioid treatment programs, ~~opiate substitution treatment clinics programs~~.

Chapter 20.40 Agriculture (AG) District

WCC 20.40.050 Permitted uses.

.091 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.40.150 Conditional Uses

.191 Substance ~~use disorder treatment abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are larger than other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

Council COTW 6/9/26 - EXHIBIT 3

Chapter 20.42 Rural Forestry (RF) District

WCC 20.42.050 Permitted uses.

.091 Substance ~~use disorder treatment~~ ~~abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

Chapter 20.59 Rural General Commercial (RGC) District

WCC 20.59.050 Permitted uses.

.056 Public and community type uses.

(8) Substance ~~use disorder treatment~~ ~~abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.59.200 Conditional uses.

.206 Public and community type uses.

(8) Substance ~~use disorder treatment~~ ~~abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are larger than other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

(10) Substance ~~use disorder treatment~~ ~~abuse~~ facilities that provide crisis care.

(12) Outpatient substance ~~use disorder~~ ~~abuse~~ treatment facilities, including ~~opioid treatment programs~~ ~~opiate substitution treatment clinics programs~~.

Chapter 20.60 Neighborhood Commercial Center (NC) District

WCC 20.60.050 Permitted uses.

.053 Public and community type uses.

(2) Public ~~and~~ community facilities including police and fire stations, libraries, community centers, recreation facilities, and other similar noncommercial uses, excluding correction facilities.

(7) Substance ~~use disorder treatment~~ ~~abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

Chapter 20.61 Small Town Commercial (STC) District

WCC 20.61.050 Permitted uses.

.056 Public and community type uses.

(3) Public ~~and~~ community facilities including police and fire stations, libraries, community centers, museums, public parks and recreational facilities identified in an adopted city or county Comprehensive Plan or Park Plan, activity centers, tourist information offices and other similar noncommercial uses, excluding correction facilities.

(9) Substance ~~use disorder treatment~~ ~~abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

Council COTW 6/9/26 - EXHIBIT 3

WCC 20.61.200 Conditional uses

.206 Public and community type uses.

(5) Substance use disorder treatment abuse facilities that provide residential treatment and are larger than other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

(7) Substance use disorder treatment abuse facilities that provide crisis care.

(9) Outpatient substance use disorder abuse treatment facilities, including opioid treatment programs ~~opiate substitution treatment clinics.~~

Chapter 20.62 General Commercial (GC) District

WCC 20.62.050 Permitted uses.

.063 Public ~~and~~ community facilities including police and fire stations, libraries, community centers,

recreation facilities, and other similar noncommercial uses; provided, that such uses require a conditional use permit if located within airport overlay zone 2 or 3 as shown in Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Appendix H.

.091 Substance use disorder treatment abuse facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.62.150 Conditional uses.

.191 Substance use disorder treatment abuse facilities that provide residential treatment and are larger than other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

.193 Substance use disorder treatment abuse facilities that provide crisis care.

.195 Outpatient substance use disorder abuse treatment facilities, including opioid treatment programs ~~opiate substitution treatment clinics.~~

Chapter 20.63 Tourist Commercial (TC) District

WCC 20.63.050 Permitted uses.

.055 Public and community type uses.

(8) Substance use disorder treatment abuse facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

Chapter 20.64 Resort Commercial (RC) District

WCC 20.64.050 Permitted uses.

.055 Public and community type uses.

(7) Substance use disorder treatment abuse facilities that provide residential treatment and are similar in size, facilities and occupancy to other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

Council COTW 6/9/26 - EXHIBIT 3

WCC 20.64.150 Conditional uses.

.155 Public and community type uses.

(1) Public ~~and~~ community facilities including police and fire stations, libraries, activity centers, community centers, recreation facilities and other similar noncommercial uses, excluding correction facilities.

(9) Substance use disorder treatment ~~abuse~~ facilities that provide residential treatment and are larger than other residential structures permitted in the zoning district.

WCC 20.64.200 Prohibited uses.

.204 Substance use disorder treatment ~~abuse~~ facilities that provide crisis care.

.206 Outpatient substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ treatment facilities, including opioid treatment programs, ~~opiate substitution treatment clinics~~.

Chapter 20.66 Light Impact Industrial (LII) District

WCC 20.66.050 Permitted Uses

.077 Public ~~uses and~~ community facilities including police and fire stations, libraries, activity centers, community centers, park and recreation facilities identified in an adopted city or county Comprehensive Plan or Park Plan, and other similar noncommercial uses, excluding state education facilities.

WCC 20.66.150 Conditional Uses

.193 Substance use disorder treatment ~~abuse~~ facilities that provide crisis care.

.195 Outpatient substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ treatment facilities, including opioid treatment programs, ~~opiate substitution treatment clinics~~.

Chapter 20.67 General Manufacturing (GM) District

WCC 20.67.050 Permitted Uses

.052 Public/community type uses.

(1) Public ~~uses and~~ community facilities including police and fire stations, libraries, activity centers, community centers, park and recreation facilities identified in an adopted city or county Comprehensive Plan or Park Plan, and other similar noncommercial uses, excluding state education facilities and correction facilities.

Chapter 20.68 Heavy Impact Industrial (HII) District

WCC 20.68.050 Permitted Uses

.062 Public ~~uses and~~ community facilities including police and fire stations, libraries, activity centers, community centers, park and recreation facilities identified in an adopted city or county Comprehensive Plan or Park Plan, and other similar noncommercial uses, excluding state education facilities and correction facilities.

Exhibit 4

Other Concurrent Periodic Update Related Code Amendments

Proposed Amendment A

To align with the Cherry Point UGA proposal and prevent the 660' buffer standard of the HII zoning district from encroaching into BP's main plant area at Cherry Point.

Chapter 20.68 Heavy Impact Industrial (HII) District

WCC 20.68.550 Buffer area.

.552 To implement the buffer requirements of this district, minimum setbacks for heavy industrial buildings and accessory structures shall be established consistent with the following options:

- (5) In no case shall the setback from the northern and western boundaries of the Cherry Point Heavy Industrial Area, which are west of Safsten Road and not contiguous to another industrial zone, be less than 660 feet, nor the natural vegetation removed except for parking and security or protective uses.

.555 Required buffers may be provided off-site by written agreement in the form of a deed restriction on the off-site parcel that runs with the land and shall be filed with the County Auditor. The off-site buffer agreement shall be written so that it may be revised or rescinded in the event that land use or zoning designations are changed in such a way that the buffer becomes no longer necessary.

Proposed Amendment B

To comply with RCW 36.70A.142, to allow for the siting of organic materials management facilities in the areas identified in Whatcom County's Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP).

WCC 20.72 Point Roberts Special District

WCC 20.72.150 Conditional uses

All conditional uses in the underlying zone districts shall remain conditional uses unless expressly prohibited by this chapter. In addition, the following uses may be conditionally permitted:

.152 In the Rural District:

- (1) Surface and subsurface mining including the extraction of sand and gravel pursuant to the provisions of WCC § 20.36.159 (Rural District, Conditional Uses).
- (2) Private commercial recreation facilities and clubs.

(3) Commercial composting and mulching facilities other than commercial mushroom substrate production facilities, as provided for in Chapter 20.15 WCC.

**WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Findings of Fact, Reasons for Action, Conclusions &
Recommendations**

**Whatcom County Zoning Map & Code Amendments under
the 2025-2026 Periodic Update of the Whatcom County
Comprehensive Plan Under the Growth Management Act**

WHEREAS, every ten years as part of the periodic update, RCW [36.70A.130](#)(1)(a) requires Whatcom County to take legislative action to review and, if needed, revise its comprehensive plan and development regulations to comply with the requirements of Chapter [36.70A](#) RCW (the Growth Management Act); and

WHEREAS, Zoning Code and Maps are an official control and therefore constitute development regulations pursuant to RCW [36.70A.030](#); and

WHEREAS, the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) requires that development regulations be consistent with and implement the Comprehensive Plan pursuant to WAC [365-196-500](#); and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Planning Commission reviewed and considered GMA requirements, Whatcom County Planning and Development Services (PDS) recommendations, and public comments; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission hereby adopts the following Findings of Fact and Reasons for Action:

FINDINGS OF FACT AND REASONS FOR ACTION

1. The County Council docketed PLN2023-00001 to implement development regulation updates associated with the 2025-26 periodic update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan as required pursuant to RCW [36.70A.130](#); and
2. A "Notice of Intent to Adopt Development Regulations" requesting expedited review was submitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce on May 6, 2026, for the proposed amendments. It was assigned Submittal ID Number 2026-S-12796 and granted expedited review on May 21, 2026; and
3. The Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed zoning code and map amendments on May 14, 2026; and

4. The recommended amendments associated with the 2025-2026 periodic update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan were studied under the associated [Environmental Impact Statement](#) issued on August 22, 2025, under file number SEPA2024-00001; and
5. The proposed amendments are part of the 2025-2026 periodic update pursuant to RCW [36.70A.130](#), and are consistent with the goals and policies of the current Comprehensive Plan and those proposed for adoption under the update.
6. The State legislature found that order to meet the goal of 1,000,000 new homes statewide by 2044, and enhanced quality of life and environmental protection, innovative housing policies will need to be adopted and that increasing housing options that are more affordable to various income levels is critical to achieving the state's housing goals, including those established by the legislature in Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1220 (chapter 254, Laws of 2021); and
7. Adoption of the Zoning Code amendments implements the Growth Management Act's mandatory housing element for Comprehensive Plans, pursuant to RCW [36.70A.070](#) and RCW [36.70A.130](#); and
8. The proposed amendments are consistent with the following GMA Planning Goals under RCW [36.70.020](#):
 - a. Number 1: "*Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner*"; and
 - b. Number 2: "*Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development*"; and
 - c. Number 4: "*Plan for and accommodate housing affordable to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock.*"
 - d. Number 5: "*Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons, promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses and recruitment of new businesses, recognize regional differences impacting economic development opportunities, and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities*"; and
 - e. Number 9: "*Retain open space and green space, enhance recreational opportunities, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities.*"; and

- f. Number 10: "Protect and enhance the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water."; and
- g. Number 11: "Citizen participation and coordination. Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts".

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

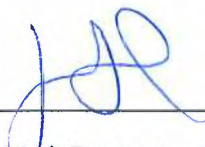
1. The recommended code and map amendments are in the public interest.
2. The recommended amendments do not include or facilitate spot zoning.
3. The recommended map amendments are consistent with applicable approval requirements for zoning map amendments under WCC [22.10.060](#).
4. The recommended code amendments implement and are internally consistent with the updated associated goals and policies of the 2025-2026 Comprehensive Plan pursuant to RCW [36.70A.070](#), RCW [36.70A.130](#), and WAC [365-196-500](#).
5. The recommended amendments are consistent with the Washington State Growth Management Act (RCW [36.70A](#)) and its Planning Goals (RCW [36.70A.020](#)).

RECOMMENDATIONS

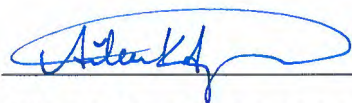
The Planning Commission makes the following recommendations to the County Council:

1. Approval of the proposed Zoning Code Amendments, relating to additional adequate provisions for housing availability, as shown in Exhibit 1:
 - a. Vote was 8 (Ayes) – 0 (Nays); and
2. Approval of the proposed Lummi Island Zoning Map Amendment, to remove a 25-acre area of the "Mineral Resource Special District Overlay" as shown in Exhibit 2:
 - a. Vote was 8 (Ayes) – 0 (Nays); and

WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



Daniel Dunne, Chair



Aileen Kogut-Aguon, Coordinator

Members present at the meeting when the votes were taken, as documented above: Selena Knoblauch, Matthew Berry, Rud Browne, Daniel Dunne, Dominic Mocerri, Scott Van Dalen, Jeremy Thompson, and Jim Hansen.