

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Elizabeth Kosa
Interim Director



Roland Middleton, LEG
Project Development Group
322 N. Commercial Street, Ste 410
Bellingham, WA 98225-4042
Phone: (360) 778-6212

MEMORANDUM

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

Through: Elizabeth Kosa, Interim Director *EK*
James P. Karcher, P.E., County Engineer *JBK*

From: Roland Middleton, L.E.G., Special Programs Manager *RM*

Date: February 2, 2023

Re: Amending Whatcom County Code 12.36; Load limits for bridges and roads

Requested Action:

The Department of Public Works requests that the proposed amendment to the Load Limits Code (WCC 12.36) and Permanent Weight Limitations Code (WCC 10.30) be introduced at the February 21, 2023 Council meeting. We then request that a Public Hearing be advertised and held March 7, 2023 at the evening County Council meeting with the amendment ordinance adopted at said meeting.

Background and Purpose:

Chapter 36.75.270 of the Revised Code of Washington authorizes the County Council to limit loads on county roads or bridges. Restrictions must be processed by amending Chapters 12.36 and 10.30 of the Whatcom County Code.

The Department of Public Works recommends the amendment of WCC 12.36 and WCC 10.30 for the following reasons:

- Conditions of bridges and roads within Whatcom County's inventory are dynamic and always changing. These changes sometimes result in the need to load restrict expeditiously.
- Currently the County Road Engineer restricts bridges and roads as conditions dictate in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations.
- The number of bridges and roads in Whatcom County's inventory can fluctuate over time. Bridges and roads can leave the inventory due to annexations or new structures added when built.

The County Council may delegate the authority to perform administrative functions and may define and consider load limit restrictions and weight limitations as an administrative duty. For example, the County Council determined the closing of any road or bridge to be an administrative duty (ordinance # 2016-020).

To better serve the needs of the community Whatcom County Public Works is requesting the proposed ordinance amending WCC 12.36 and eliminating WCC 10.30.

Please contact Roland Middleton at extension 6212 if you have any questions related to this matter.