

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**



**Jon Hutchings**  
Director

**Joseph P. Rutan, P.E.**  
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## Memorandum

To: The Honorable Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive and  
The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

Through: Jon Hutchings, Director *JH*

From: Joseph P. Rutan, P.E., County Engineer/Assistant Director *JPR*

Date: August 27, 2019

Re: Ordinance Establishing a Speed Limit for portions of East Smith Road and  
Everson Goshen Road

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**Requested Action:**

Whatcom County Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council adopt the proposed ordinance to reduce the speed limit to 35 MPH for E. Smith Road, from 1000 feet west of Everson Goshen Road to 1000 feet east of Everson Goshen Road, and 35 MPH for Everson Goshen Road, from 1000 feet north of E. Smith Road to 1000 feet south of E. Smith Road, Sections 25, 26, 35, 36, Township 39 North, Range 3 East, W.M.

**Background and Purpose:**

Whatcom County Public Works reviewed the collision history after the installation of the roundabout at the intersection of E. Smith Road and Everson Goshen Road. It was determined that high speeds were a factor in a number of the collisions and that the speed limits should be reduced. Roundabout operation performance is depended on low, consistent vehicle speeds. Low and consistent operation speeds facilitate appropriate gap acceptance by an entering driver. Lower speeds and lower speed differentials at conflict points reduces the potential for collisions. This speed limit reduction is supported by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office.

**Information:**

This ordinance is necessary to comply with RCW 46.61.415.

Please contact Joe Rutan at extension 6219 with any questions regarding this ordinance.