

PROPOSED BY: Executive
INTRODUCED: January 27, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE GLACIER RESTROOM IMPROVEMENTS FUND AND
ESTABLISHING AN INITIAL BUDGET**

WHEREAS, Mt. Baker Highway (State Route 542) serves as a vital artery for travelers, residents, and commerce; and

WHEREAS, the existing Glacier Public Restroom is an integral part of this gateway for the community; and

WHEREAS, the current condition of the public restroom has deteriorated and has become inadequate to serve the needs of the community and visitors; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive series of improvements are designed to transform the facility into a clean, safe, and attractive rest stop for both residents and visitors including parking lot and paving restoration, landscaping and site beautification, and enhancement of roadside signage; and

WHEREAS, this project qualifies as a tourism related activity under RCW 67.28.1816 and the Whatcom County Council has pledged their support using lodging tax dollars through resolution 2025-037; and

WHEREAS, funding is needed to accomplish the Glacier public restroom improvements; and

WHEREAS, funding is available in the Convention Center Fund (lodging tax revenues); and

WHEREAS, Section 6.80 of the Whatcom County Home Rule Charter allows for project-based capital budget appropriation ordinances that lapse when the project has been completed or abandoned or when no expenditure or encumbrance has been made for three (3) years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that a new fund is hereby established effective immediately, titled the Glacier Restroom Improvements

Fund. This fund shall be used to account for the revenues and expenditures of the improvements described above; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that the Glacier Restroom Improvements Fund is approved with an initial project budget of \$475,750 as described in Exhibit A.

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

Approved by email/B Waldron/A Tan
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

() Approved () Denied

Date Signed: _____

EXHIBIT A

Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

Parks & Recreation

Suppl ID # 5316 Fund Cost Center Originator: Rod Lamb

Expenditure Type: One-Time Year 2 2026 Add'l FTE ☐ Add'l Space ☐ Priority 1

Name of Request: Glacier Restroom Improvements Project

X

Christ the

12/29/2025

Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)

Date

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	6190	Direct billing rate	\$33,700
	6630	Professional services	\$65,000
	7199	Other miscellaneous-interfund	\$12,050
	7380	Other improvements	\$365,000
	8397 S.12441 000	Transfers in	(\$475,750)
	Request Total		\$0

1a. Description of request:

Situated alongside Mt. Baker Highway (SR 542) that serves as a vital artery for travelers, residents, and commerce, the Glacier Public Restroom is an integral part of the gateway district to the community. Despite its strategic location, the current condition of the site and restroom building neither inspires comfort nor adequately represents the welcoming spirit of the Glacier Community.

This project will implement a comprehensive series of improvements designed to transform the facility into a clean, safe, and attractive stopover for both residents and visitors. The project's core objectives are to elevate the standards of hygiene, safety, and accessibility, enrich the visual appeal of the site, and simultaneously strengthen the connection between highway travelers and our local economy. Funding for this project was approved by the Whatcom County Council through resolution 2025-037, the 2026 recommended convention center allocations for tourism-related facilities and activities as defined through RCW 67.28.1816, in the amount of \$475,750.

1b. Primary customers:

Whatcom County Residents and visitors of Whatcom County are the primary beneficiaries of this effort.

2. Problem to be solved:

The Glacier Restroom is an important stop along SR 542, providing relief to thousands transiting through the town of Glacier. However, current conditions of the facility are less than welcoming. The access road is riddled with potholes which trap stormwater and further degrade the roadway conditions. Highway directional signage alerting travelers of the facility is faded, and inconspicuous. Once a visitor has arrived at the restroom facility, site conditions are similarly in poor condition and not particularly welcoming.

This project will focus on three primary improvement objectives:

Parking Lot and Paving Restoration - Pothole infill and pavement restoration, parking lot striping including compliance with accessibility regulations.

Landscaping and Site Beautification - Removal of debris, invasive species, planting of low-maintenance native vegetation, creating outdoor seating areas for visitors, and improving walkways and accessibility within the restroom site area.

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Informational and Roadside Signage - Installation of high-visibility highway signage, and onsite informational kiosk highlighting area attractions and business promotion.

3a. Options / Advantages:

There are few other options available to making the targeted, but modest proposed improvements. No action is an option, however doing nothing will only allow current conditions to continue to deteriorate which wouldn't be responsive to the local community's desire for improvements to improve the facilities appeal to the traveling public, and to entice them to linger in the town of Glacier to patronize local businesses and eateries.

3b. Cost savings:

Completing the project now, will eliminate possible price escalation due to inflation if the project is delayed.

4a. Outcomes:

Outcomes of this project will be to complete final plans and specifications and bid documents, and ultimately construct the proposed site improvements outlined above. Once approved, it is anticipated that the project would be completed by Summer of 2027.

4b. Measures:

The final measure of success of this project will be upon completion of the proposed site improvements and the facility is once again welcomed by the local community, and traveling public.

5a. Other Departments/Agencies:

Yes, Planning & Development Services will be responsible for project review and regulatory permit approval. Washington State Department of Transportation will also be engaged to review and approve any proposed modifications to wayfinding signage along SR 542.

5b. Name the person in charge of implementation and what they are responsible for:

Rod Lamb, Design & Development Manager

6. Funding Source:

LTAC (RES 2025-037). Requesting to setup a project budget

Companion supplemental 5314.