



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Agenda Bill Report

File Number: AB2023-837

File ID:	AB2023-837	Version:	1	Status:	Substitute Amended and Approved
File Created:	12/04/2023	Entered by:	DBrown@co.whatcom.wa.us		
Department:	Council Office	File Type:	Resolution		
Assigned to:	Council Committee of the Whole			Final Action:	12/05/2023
Agenda Date:	12/05/2023			Enactment #:	RES 2023-055
Related Files:					

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TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution encouraging the County Executive to pursue opportunities for property acquisitions that promote conservation, economic development, and tourism associated with Bellingham to Mt. Baker trails

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

See resolution.

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
12/05/2023	Council Committee of the Whole	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT(S)	
		Aye: 6 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner	
		Nay: 1 Elenbaas	
12/05/2023	Council	SUBSTITUTE APPROVED AS AMENDED	
		Aye: 6 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner	
		Nay: 1 Elenbaas	

Attachments: Proposed Resolution, AGENDA REVISION NOTICE FOR 12.5.2023, Substitute Resolution Amended in Committee 12.5.2023

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-055

**ENCOURAGING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR
PROPERTY ACQUISITION THAT PROMOTES CONSERVATION, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM ASSOCIATED WITH BELLINGHAM TO MT. BAKER
TRAILS**

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Whatcom County Council adopted a Comprehensive Plan that included goals and policies to promote opportunities to link trails from Bellingham to Mt. Baker; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 9 of that Plan includes goals and policies that support parks and recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 9 of that Plan includes Goal 9C: Expand outdoor recreation opportunities for county residents by providing enjoyable trails for hiking; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 9 of that plan also includes Policy 9C-2: Incorporate existing and proposed trails into a comprehensive and integrated system of looped and interconnected trails which give users a wide choice of routes and environments; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 9 of that plan also includes Policy 9C-3: Trails should link other recreational uses in the Foothills area and connect to existing trail systems in the National Forest and state land; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 9 of that plan also includes Policy 9C-27: Nooksack River Trail – Develop and implement a plan to acquire Rights of Way for a trail corridor and picnic areas along the Nooksack River between Ferndale and Glacier, to provide recreation opportunities, inter-community transportation, and tourism development; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 10 of that plan includes Goal 10A, Protect natural resources and systems, life, and property from potential hazards; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 10 of that plan also include Policy 10A-10 Support acquisition, conservation easements, open space, and other such programs to protect high-value natural areas as identified through the GMA planning process, the Natural Heritage Plan, the state Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) program, the Lake Whatcom Management Program, and other sources; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 10 of that plan also includes Policy 10A-11: Designate high-value open space and natural areas for acquisition, conservation easements, open space, and other such programs to protect these natural areas upon request or consent of the property owner; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 7 of that plan states the goals and policies related to prompting tourism as a means for economic development; and

WHEREAS, Policy 7H-7 of the that plan states: Encourage growth of tourism, recreational activities, and businesses that provide for diversity of the natural resource industry, provided they comply with County regulations and, when located in a rural area, preserve the rural character; and

1 **WHEREAS**, on February 23, 2016, the Whatcom County Council approved Resolution
2 2016-005, adopting the 2016 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan
3 (CPROS); and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space (CPROS) Plan
6 outlines goals and policies to protect the environment, preserve historic lands, and
7 encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities,
8 natural resources, and parks; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, in 2016 Whatcom County Council added the Bellingham-Mt. Baker trail
11 to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, Conceptual Trail Corridors Map; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the County remains committed to its stated goals of acquiring land to
14 further these Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, on November 21, 2023 Whatcom County Council approved Resolution
17 2023-049 requesting that the Whatcom County Executive and staff pursue public access
18 opportunities for trails on all county owned land and easements;
19

20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Council requests that the Executive
21 pursue opportunities for property acquisition and/or acquisition of easements that promotes
22 these stated goals related to conservation, economic development, tourism, as related to
23 Bellingham to Mt. Baker trails.
24

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Council requests that the Executive consider
26 property acquisition and/or acquisition of easements opportunities that promote connectivity
27 near properties that have access existing easements with the County; and
28

29 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Council requests the County Executive approach
30 willing sellers who may be interested in promoting these goals and policies.
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32 **APPROVED** this 5th day of December, 2023.
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34
35 **ATTEST:**

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39 Dana Brown Davis, Clerk of the Council

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

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42 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**
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45 /s/Karen Frakes approved via email on 12/6/2023/MR

46 **Civil Deputy Prosecutor**