



# Memorandum

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

**Through:** Elizabeth Kosa, Interim Director

**From:** James P. Karcher, P.E., County Engineer *gpk*

**Date:** January 17, 2023

**Re:** **Ordinance - Installation of Stop Signs on Certain County Roads**

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## Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council adopt the proposed ordinance to install stop signs at the intersection of Birch Point Road and Birch Bay Drive for southbound traffic on Birch Point Road and westbound traffic on Birch Bay Drive.

## Background and Purpose

Whatcom County Code Title 15 adopted the 2018 International Fire Code, including the provisions of Appendix D. Appendix D Section D107 requires that “Developments of one- and two-family dwellings where the number of dwelling units exceeds 30 shall be provided with two separate and approved fire apparatus access roads.” Birch Point Road, north of Birch Bay Drive, serves as the approved second fire apparatus access road to The Horizon at Semiahmoo Division 1. Recently the 30<sup>th</sup> building permit was issued in this development and as it continues to build out, Whatcom County is now in the position of having to open this portion of roadway to the public. Public Works is requesting that the Council adopt the proposed ordinance for stop control as the County Engineer has determined that traffic control will be necessary in order for the travelling public to safely traverse the intersection.

## Information

This ordinance will allow for the installation of stop signs and is necessary to comply with RCW 36.32.120 *Powers of legislative authorities* and 46.61.200 *Stop intersections other than arterials may be designated* to install traffic control signs.

Please contact Douglas Ranney II, Engineering Services Manager at extension 6255 if you have any questions regarding this ordinance.