




Memorandum

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

Through: Elizabeth Kosa, Director

From: Douglas W. Ranney P.E., County Engineer
James E. Lee, P.E., Engineering Manager 

Date: July 12, 2023

Re: Ordinance Establishing the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement & System Modernization
Fund and Project Based Budget

Enclosed for your review and approval is an ordinance establishing the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project Fund, project based budget and accompanying supplemental budget request.

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council approves this proposed ordinance to establish the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and Modernization Fund and project based budget. The ordinance will be introduced at the July 25 Council meeting with the public hearing and action occurring at the August 8 Council meeting.

Background and Purpose

In July of 2018, the Whatcom County Council approved resolution 2018-026, which established a level of service for the Lummi Island Ferry System and included the Lummi Island Ferry Service Action Plan. Elements of the action plan include construction of a new hybrid diesel-electric ferry vessel, modifications to the existing terminals to accommodate the new vessel, and upland improvements at the Lummi Island terminal including modified queuing and loading lanes, new ADA compliant restrooms and other ancillary improvements.

This \$50+ million project has been awarded funding from multiple sources including \$25 million from the United States Department of Transportation, \$5.3 million in state Move Ahead Washington Funds and \$10 million through the state County Ferry Capital Improvement Program. Additionally, more than \$10 million in local funding contribution is expected. The creation of this fund will be used to account for the revenues and expenditures of this proposed project.

Funding Amount and Source

This project fund will be established with an initial budget of \$4,237,575.00 as described in the proposed ordinance. This project is listed as Item No. 44 on the 2023 Annual Construction Program.

Please contact James Lee at extension 6264 or Randy Rydel at extension 6217 if you have any questions regarding this agreement.