

**WHATCOM COUNTY**

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**Mark Personius**  
Director

Memorandum

Sept 13, 2021

To: The Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive  
The Honorable Whatcom County Council

From: Matt Aamot, Senior Planner

Through: Mark Personius, Director

RE: Six-Year CIP Amendment (PLN2021-00013)

The Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Whatcom County Facilities addresses County parks, trails, activity centers, maintenance & operations, general government buildings and sites, Sheriff’s Office, emergency management, adult corrections, juvenile detention, transportation, and stormwater facilities.

The Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan indicates that the Six-Year CIP should be updated every two years. The last CIP update was approved by the County Council in 2020. The next comprehensive update is scheduled for 2022. However, the County has identified a Public Defender Office tenant improvement project it wants to complete before the next CIP update in 2022. Therefore, the subject proposal is to amend the Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Whatcom County Facilities 2021-2026 (Appendix F of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan) as follows:

- Add the Central Plaza Public Defender Tenant Improvement project.

The Whatcom County Planning Commission recommended approval of the Six-Year CIP amendment on September 9, 2021.

Under the Growth Management Act, Comprehensive Plan amendments such as the subject proposal can only be adopted by the County Council at concurrent review. However, there is an exception for capital facility amendments. Specifically, RCW 36.70A.130(2)(a)(iv) allows “The amendment of the capital facilities element of a comprehensive plan that occurs concurrently with the adoption or amendment of a county or city budget.” Therefore, this amendment will either have to be adopted with the other Comprehensive Plan amendments at concurrent review or with a budget amendment. We understand that a budget amendment will be introduced on September 28 for potential Council action on Oct 12.

Thank you for your review and consideration of this matter. We look forward to discussing it with you.