



# Memorandum

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

**Through:** Jon Hutchings, Director

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

**Date:** August 13, 2021

**Re:** **Ordinance - Installation of a Stop Sign on Northshore Road**

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## Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council adopt the proposed ordinance to install a stop sign for northbound traffic on Northshore Road (County Road Number 47051) at the intersection with Northshore Road (County Road Number 47052).

## Background and Purpose

This issue was originally brought to Engineering Services – Traffic by Bruce Parelskin and Fred Miller, both residents of Northshore Rd, south of the intersection, in August of 2019. They then saw unprecedented use of the Lake Whatcom Park in the summer of 2020, due to the closure of almost all other forms of recreation because of the Covid-19 Pandemic; approximately 86% of the traffic at the intersection was headed to/from the Lake Whatcom Park area. In 2021, this percentage fell to approximately 80% and the total number of Average Daily Trips fell by more than half, but given the percentages it would still be worthwhile to revise the stop control at the intersection. Benefits of the final configuration include improved traffic flow, less pollution from westbound vehicles no longer having to stop and then accelerate, reduced noise from stopping and accelerating vehicles and less drivers mistakenly heading to the dead end portion at the north end of Smith Creek and being forced to turn around. This intersection traffic study consisted of 3 traffic counts performed at the same location in 2020 and 2021; a review of collision reports received from the Washington State Patrol; and associated roadway information. It was also determined that the stop sign for westbound traffic on Northshore Rd (47052) was never established via ordinance or resolution and is not codified in the Whatcom County Code.

## Information

This ordinance will allow for the installation of a stop sign 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.