

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**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-26: Bay to Baker Trail – Develop and implement a plan to secure Rights of Way for trail segments along the abandoned RR R/W in conjunction with the Nooksack River Trail to achieve a contiguous trail system between communities and recreation areas; 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

