

Jon Hutchings
Director



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Memorandum

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

Through: Jon Hutchings, Director *JH* SIGN FOR DIRECTOR

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

Date: September 16, 2020

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

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council adopt the proposed ordinance to install a stop sign for westbound traffic on Homesteader Road at the intersection with Standard Road.

Background and Purpose

A citizen request for a stop sign was received on 7/29/2019 and Public Works conducted an investigation of the location, including doing traffic counts during the height of the harvest season in June of 2020. It was determined that due to limited sight distance to the east, along with the current configuration of the intersection striping and signage, that traffic southbound on Standard Road to westbound on Homesteader Road, and eastbound on Homesteader Road to northbound on Standard Road, should have the right-of-way at the intersection. Furthermore, WAC 468-95-29005 *Traffic control devices for low-volume roads – Stop and yield signs* changes the Guidance of the MUTCD Section 5B.02 to allow for the installation of stop signs at an intersection of two low-volume roads where limited sight distance exists for the prevailing vehicle speeds. Given that the prevailing vehicle speeds for westbound traffic are in excess of 30 MPH and the speed limit is 35 MPH, the location does not meet sight distance requirements and a stop sign should be established.

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, Interim Traffic Engineering Manager at extension 6255 if you have any questions regarding this ordinance.