

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
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MEMORANDUM

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

From: Elizabeth Kosa, WCPW Director

Date: April 10, 2026

RE: Ordinance to establish a Ferry District

Requested Action

Whatcom County Public Works Department (WCPW) is requesting the Council to approve an ordinance to establish a Ferry District. The purpose of the district is to fund and manage the Lummi Island ferry system.

Background and Purpose

The unincorporated county residents have historically carried the financial burden of the Lummi Island ferry system. Washington State Chapter 36.54 RCW allows a County to establish and impose a county-wide ferry district. This ordinance does not establish any tax levy at this time. The purpose of this ordinance is to establish the District governing board, similar to that of the Flood Control Zone District. Once the county-wide district and the governing board are established, WCPW will meet with the board in one or more work sessions to review the myriad of budget decisions that will inform an adequate levy rate.