



## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Whatcom County Council

**FROM:** Satpal S. Sidhu, County Executive

**RE:** Acceptance of Jail Program and Request for Motion

**DATE:** August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

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After years of public engagement around the new Justice facilities and significant effort from our project team, the County is ready to deliver the new jail project into the design phase.

**On behalf of the project team, the Executive is requesting a motion from Council to accept the jail program.** While there will be future financial actions required by the Council, this is the motion that provides the necessary direction to construct the new jail.

The jail program was developed over the last several months based on the priorities provided by Council and community, the financial constraints of the project, and professional experience of County staff and national experts. After rigorous review and questioning, the Executive and the Finance and Facilities Advisory Board have proposed no alterations to the program.

The Justice Project Finance and Facilities Advisory Board recommended approval at their June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Recommended language for the Council motion is as follows, "The Council accepts the jail program as presented and requests the Executive to move forward with design and construction."