



WHATCOM COUNTY

WASHINGTON

Planning & Development Services
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Memorandum

October 24, 2024

To: The Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive
The Honorable Whatcom County Council

From: Lucas Clark, Planner I

Through: Steve Roberge, Assistant Director

RE: Capital Facilities Planning/Seven-Year CIP (PLN2024-00001)

The subject proposal is to modify the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan as follows:

- Adopting a new Seven-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Whatcom County Facilities 2025-2031 (Appendix F of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan); and
- Repealing the existing Six-Year CIP for Whatcom County Facilities 2023-2028.

The CIP for Whatcom County Facilities addresses County parks, trails, activity centers, maintenance and operations, general government buildings and sites, Sheriff's Office, emergency management, adult corrections, juvenile detention, transportation, and stormwater facilities. The Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan indicates that the CIP should be updated every two years. The last comprehensive CIP update was approved by the County Council in 2022. Therefore, the CIP is being updated in 2024.

For the 2025 CIP update it is proposed to use a Seven-Year planning period to better align the CIP with other planning reports in the future. The GMA requires a minimum six-year CIP, which would need to go through the year 2031 for the 2025 Comp Plan Update (normally, the CIP formulated for 2024 would only go through the year 2030). The CIP is intended to be updated every other year (along with the budget). Developing a 7-year CIP in 2024 would (potentially) avoid the need to update it again in 2025 along with the Comp Plan update.

Planning & Development Services is requesting that the County Council introduce an ordinance relating to the CIP on November 6. It is anticipated that the County Council will hold a public hearing and make a final decision on the CIP with approval of the biennial budget.

Thank you for your review and consideration of this matter. We look forward to discussing it with you.