

PROPOSED BY: EXECUTIVE
INTRODUCED: JANUARY 27, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**UPDATING THE WHATCOM COUNTY SECTION OF THE 2022 COMPREHENSIVE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) PROJECT LIST APPENDIX**

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Reform Act of 1998 identifies a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) as a requirement to apply for assistance under the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) economic adjustment and public works program; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 105-393, implemented in 1999, amends the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 and re-authorizes Economic Development Administration Programs for five years; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Port of Bellingham, through an interlocal agreement with the County, completed the work to update the document which Council approved through Resolution 2021-046; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Bellingham has maintained the CEDS and associated Project List as the designated Associate Development Organization (ADO) for Whatcom County, and the CEDS Project List is organized by jurisdiction with each jurisdiction having sole responsibility for adding, editing, or deleting projects within its section; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County has prepared updates to the Whatcom County section of the CEDS Project List to include critical County capital projects requiring addition to the list to meet statutory requirements under RCW 82.14.370 prior to project closing dates; and

WHEREAS, the updated Whatcom County section is included in Attachment "A", titled Updated Whatcom County CEDS Project List - January 2026; and

WHEREAS, RCW 82.14.370 requires that projects utilizing rural sales tax revenue (Economic Development Investment funds) must be contained in the County's officially adopted overall economic development plan; and

WHEREAS, this update to the Whatcom County section will be incorporated into the comprehensive CEDS Project List maintained by the Port of Bellingham as the designated Associate Development Organization for Whatcom County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council hereby accepts and adopts the updated Whatcom County section of the 2022 CEDS Project List Appendix as submitted in Attachment A.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026

ATTEST:

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Brandon Waldron 01/15/2026

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Whatcom County CEDS 2022-2026

Prepared by the Port of Bellingham's economic development division

Whatcom County								
Planning & Development Services (PDS) Building Acquisition (NEW)	Whatcom County	Acquisition of office building to consolidate Planning and Development Services operations	Public Safety, Public Works	\$8,056,584 (building purchase); additional TBD	EDI, County General Fund	Yes	Yes	
Maple Falls Water Board - Water Storage Tank Replacement (NEW)	Maple Falls	This project supports critical rural water infrastructure serving the Maple Falls community	Public Works, Water Supply	\$617,000	EDI grant (Whatcom County),	Yes	Yes	
Regional Multi-modal Paths (NEW)	Bay to Baker Trail (Kendall to Glacier)	Design and Construction of regionally-significant multi-modal paths	Public Works, Parks & Rec, Tourism	\$17,515,000	REET II, EDI, State and Federal Grants,	Yes	Yes	
Courthouse exterior	Whatcom County Courthouse	Repair failing roof and exterior	Public Works	6,000,000	EDI, REET I	Yes	Yes	
State Street remodel	1500 North State Street	WayStation Project	Public Works	9,467,000	Federal, state, local grants, EDI	Yes	Yes	
Civic Center remodel	322 N. Commercial Street	Remodel for reorganization	Public Works	7,700,000	Civic Center Fund	No	Yes	
Girard Street repair	509 Girard Street	Repair and upgrade building	Public Works	511,000	EDI	Yes	Yes	
New Jail	Whatcom County	Construct new jail	Public Works, Public Safety	87,000,000	Bonds	No	Yes	
New Sheriff's Office	Whatcom County	Construct new Sheriff's office	Public Works, Public Safety	13,000,000	REET I	No	Yes	
Existing jail remodel	Public Safety Building	New dayholding facility, life and safety improvements	Public Works, Public Safety	7,000,000	General Fund	No	No	

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Affordable Housing and Child Care	Forest St. Annex, 1000 North Forest St.	Construct Affordable Housing and Child Care	Public Works	20,000,000	EDI, Capital Funds, Grants	Yes	Yes
Whatcom County Emergency Operations Center Building	Whatcom County	Office space improvement	Public Works, Public Safety	150,000	REET I	No	No
South Fork Park Development	Whatcom County	Bridges and trail development	Public Works, Parks & Rec, Tourism	1,050,000	REET II, Park Improvement Fund, state grant	No	Yes
Birch Bay Beach Park Development	Whatcom County	Construct new waterfront park	Public Works, Parks & Rec, Tourism	4,750,000	REET II, EDI, capital funds, federal, state, local grants	Yes	Yes
Plantation Range HVAC and Roof	Plantation Range	Replace HVAC and roof, make improvements to building	Public Works	1,070,296	REET I, REET II, EDI, state grant	Yes	Yes
Silver Lake Park Improvements	Silver Lake Park	Utilities, road, day-use area, campground, restroom improvements	Public Works, Parks & Rec, Tourism	7,772,000	REET II	No	No
Emergency Management Radio System	Whatcom County	Whatcom County Integrated Public Radio Network Project builds a public safety radio system for use by all first responder agencies in Whatcom County, its political subdivisions, and interoperability with regional partners.	Public Works, Public Safety, Telecommunications	6,000,000	\$1 million invested, REET I, EDI, state and federal grants	Yes	Yes
Nesset Farm House Restoration	Nesset Farm	Restore historical home, restroom	Public Works, Parks & Rec, Tourism	690,000	Nesset Foundation	No	No
Lake Whatcom Trails	Lake Whatcom Park	Trail development	Parks & Rec, Tourism	4,000,000	REET II, state grant, donations	No	Yes

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East Whatcom Regional Resource Center expansion project	Kendall	Expand facility to include food bank distribution center and additional multiuse space	Public Works	2,300,000	REET I, state grants	No	Yes
Selder Road	Birch Bay	Drainage improvement	Public Works	110,000	BBWARM, REET I	No	Yes
Smith Road / Northwest Road roundabout	Whatcom County	Install roundabout	Public Works	5,000,000	Road Fund	No	Yes
Canyon Lake Community Forest	Whatcom County	Access road repair	Public Works, Parks & Rec, Tourism	135,000	REET II	No	No
Lake Whatcom Park	Lake Whatcom Park	Construct trailhead and amenities, including parking, shelter, restrooms	Public Works, Parks & Rec, Tourism	2,305,000	REET II, state grants	No	Yes
Birch Bay Drive Pedestrian Facility	Birch Bay Drive	Construct a 1.58 mile berm to provide soft-shore erosion protection, habitat enhancement, and to encourage pedestrian use along Birch Bay Drive	Public Works, Parks & Rec, Tourism	13,000,000	REET II, BBWARM, Road Fund, Flood Fund, federal grant	No	Yes
BBWARM Harborview Road	Harborview Road	Culvert replacement	Public Works	2,400,000	BBWARM, REET II, Road Fund	No	Yes
BBWARM Lora Lane	Birch Bay	Drainage and water quality improvement	Public Works	2,100,000	BBWARM, REET II	No	Yes
LW Wooldridge/Hillsdale	Lake Whatcom	Drainage and water quality improvement	Public Works	2,100,000	LWSU, REET	No	Yes
Eagle Ridge/Austin Ct	Lake Whatcom	Drainage and water quality improvement	Public Works	1,200,000	LWSU, REET	No	Yes
Sudden Valley stormwater	Sudden Valley	Drainage and water quality improvement	Public Works	565,000	LWSU, REET II	No	Yes
Sudden Valley stormwater	Lake Whatcom	Stormwater improvements	Public Works	640,000	REET II	No	Yes
Relocate morgue	Whatcom County	Relocate and replace morgue	Public Works	2,000,000	REET	No	Yes
NW Annex	Whatcom County	Building replacement	Public Works	8,388,000	EDI	Yes	No

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Maple Falls Park & Trail Corridor	Maple Falls Park	Construct restrooms, parking, trail improvements	Public Works, Parks & Rec, Tourism	900,000	REET II, state grants	No	Yes
Lighthouse Marine Park Launch	Point Roberts	Repair boat launch (2018 storm damage)	Public Works, Parks & Rec, Tourism	50,000	REET II	No	No
Hovander Park Farm Animal Exhibit	Hovander Park Homestead	Reconstruct farm animal exhibit	Public Works, Parks & Rec, Tourism	240,000	REET II, donations	No	No
Hovander Park Roadway & Access Improvements	Hovander Park Homestead	Road and parking lot improvements	Public Works, Parks & Rec, Tourism	2,430,000	REET II, state grants	No	Yes
Hovander Park & Tenant Lake Sign Improvements	Hovander Park Homestead	Destination and wayfinding signage to Whatcom County Park attractions	Public Works, Parks & Rec, Tourism	100,000	EDI, City of Ferndale	Yes	No
Birch Bay-Lynden Road / Blaine Road Intersection	Whatcom County	Construct roundabout	Public Works	4,300,000	Road Fund, federal grant	No	Yes
Pavement Rehabilitation	Whatcom County	Replace arterial road surfaces on four commercially important routes.	Public Routes	6,500,000	Road Fund, state or federal pass through	No	Yes
Marine Drive Bike & Pedestrian Facilities-Phase 2	Whatcom County	Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety between Locust and Alderwood; improve recreational access	Public Works	3,000,000	Road Fund, EDI, state or federal grant	Yes	Yes
Slater Road / I-5 Interchange improvements	Slater Road	Construct five roundabouts on Slater Road at its intersections with Northwest Road, Pacific Highway, northbound and southbound 1-5 on ramps, Rural Avenue to improve channelization and stop control	Public Works	30,000,000	Federal, state, local funds; developer contributions	No	Yes

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Ferry System Modernization and Preservation	Gooseberry Point	Replace obsolete ferry and upgrade terminals	Public Works	40,000,000	fare surcharge, Road Fund, bonds, CRAB, state budget, federal BUILD grant, federal Ferry Boat Program	No	Yes
Birch Bay Vogt Community Library	Birch Bay	Construct building, parking	Public Works, Parks & Rec, Tourism	3,000,000	EDI, REET I	Yes	No
Hovander Maintenance Building	Hovander Park Homestead	Construct maintenance building	Public Works, Parks	275,000	EDI, REET II	Yes	No
Hovander Maintenance Building	Hovander Park Homestead	Construct maintenance building	Public Works, Parks	275,000	EDI, REET II	Yes	No
Wayfinding Project	Whatcom County	Countywide signage project	Economic Development	2,754,000	EDI, LTAC	Yes	Yes