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M E M O R A N D U M

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

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director

FROM: Samantha Murdoch, Program Specialist

DATE: 11/1/2023

RE: Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 3.72 to align with RCW
39.04.320

Washington State amended RCW 39.04.320 to include municipalities. This amended ordinance will align Whatcom County Code 3.72 with the RCW to create consistency and clarity for apprenticeship requirements.

Background:

On November 19th, 2019 the Whatcom County Council adopted Ordinance 2019-079, and later amended December 12th, 2022, establishing apprenticeship utilization requirements on public works projects. In February of 2005, Substitute Senate Bill 5097 passed, establishing apprenticeship utilization requirements throughout Washington State and establishing sections to chapter 39.04 of the RCW. On April 20, 2023 Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1050 passed, amending RCW 39.04.320 to include municipalities effective July 1, 2024.

Information:

Aligning with the RCW 39.04.320 will increase consistency and clarity for contractors to include apprentices on public work projects. Allowing the code to be implemented on July 1, 2024 to align with the RCW will provide opportunities to work with contractors newly establishing apprentices in their organization, and utilize the templates and training provided by the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. Prior to July 1, 2024, Whatcom County Public Works Department will pilot this Construction Apprenticeship Program on two public work projects.

Action Requested:

We ask that you approve the proposed ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 3.72 to align with RCW 39.04.320 as outlined.

Attachment:

Staff report summarizing changes to the Whatcom County Code 3.72.