

Jon Hutchings
Director



Joseph P. Rutan, P. E.
County Engineer/Assistant Director
322 N. Commercial Street, Ste 301
Bellingham, WA 98225-4042
Phone: (360) 778-6210
Fax: (360) 778-6211

Memorandum

To: The Honorable Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive and
The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

Through: Jon Hutchings, Director

From: Joseph P. Rutan, P.E., County Engineer/Assistant Director

Date: January 11, 2019

Re: **Ordinance Establishing a Temporary Speed Limit for Birch Bay Drive until
the repair work is completed.**

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council adopt the proposed ordinance to temporarily lower the speed limit on Birch Bay Drive, from the intersection of Harborview Road to 300-feet past the intersection of Cottonwood Drive, to 10 MPH due to the special hazard of erosion to the southbound lane, until the road repairs are completed.

Background and Purpose

Due to recent storms, there was severe erosion to portions of Birch Bay Drive, requiring a one road roadway between Harborview Road and Shintaffer Road. RCW 46.61.400 allows the County Council to reduce the maximum speed limit on a county road to below the provision of RCW 46.61.415, if a special hazard exists. The County Engineer has determined through his engineering judgement that a special hazard does exist. The expected repair time is currently unknown. Upon completion of the repair work Birch Bay Drive will be returned to 25 MPH pursuant to Ordinance No. 2009-043.

Information

This ordinance will allow for the temporary installation of speed limit signs and is necessary to comply with RCW 46.61.400 and 46.61.415.

Please contact Joe Rutan at extension 6219 with any questions regarding this ordinance.