

Whatcom County Council Public Works & Health Committee

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010**



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

11:45 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY - ADJOURNS BY 12:00 P.M.
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Ben Elenbaas
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Committee Chair Jon Scanlon called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Jon Scanlon, Mark Stremmler, and Ben Elenbaas

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, and Kaylee Galloway

Announcements

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2025-677](#) Discussion of a resolution to adopt the Six-Year Water Resources Improvement Program (WRIP) for 2026-2031

Scanlon stated they talked about this two weeks ago, then the Public Works Department and the Executive's Office asked Council to hold it for two weeks because there were some edits that were needed.

Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Department Director, stated there were discrepancies with source funding for 2026 (specifically with the Road Fund and the use of approved real estate excise tax (REET). The substitute resolution addresses the discrepancies and also incorporates the financial restraints and financial climate we are currently facing. She read from the summary of changes (on file).

She and the following additional speakers answered questions:

- Kraig Olason, Public Works Department
- Aly Pennucci, Executive's Office

They discussed with councilmembers that the first column of the Six-Year Water Resources Improvement Program represents "Previous Expenditures" so no changes were applied there, funds that will be used for stormwater projects around Lake Whatcom and a concern about not retaining the intended additional capacity of the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility, who would be responsible for stormwater projects around Birch Point if the City of Blaine expands their urban growth area (UGA) there and if the area upstream of it gets developed, that a cost of such projects has not yet been analyzed or taken into account in discussions around the Comprehensive Plan, that the list of projects is longer than what the County has money for and that it is just going to get worse, the strategy around

changing the funding source for Lake Whatcom Projects and whether they are trying to protect the Road Fund, and that the mix of funding for some of these projects will change once the Administration has a better sense of some of the other major capital facilities they are working on this year and what REET funds will be available.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

Scanlon asked whether councilmembers want to see anything on the remaining Public Works and Health Committee agendas for the year.

Elenbaas stated he would think about it and get back to him.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Jon Scanlon-via email 10/23/2025

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Jon Scanlon, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger

SIGNED COPY ON FILE