



Memorandum

October 10, 2022

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

From: Matt Aamot, Senior Planner

Through: Steve Roberge, Assistant Director

RE: Capital Facilities Planning/Six-Year CIP (PLN2022-00001)

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

- Adopting a new Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Whatcom County Facilities 2023-2028 (Appendix F of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan); and
- Repealing the existing Six-Year CIP for Whatcom County Facilities 2021-2026.

The Six-Year 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 Six-Year CIP should be updated every two years. The last comprehensive CIP update was approved by the County Council in 2020. Therefore, the CIP is being updated in 2022.

The Whatcom County Planning Commission held a public hearing and issued recommendations on the Six-Year CIP on September 29, 2022. The Planning Commission modified the proposed CIP developed by the Executive branch of County government, as follows:

Birch Bay Beach Park – Added the following language in the Parks, Trails, and Activity Centers Chapter: “. . . Prioritize funding for restroom facilities at the Birch Bay Beach Park. . .” (p. F-6); and

New Justice Facility - Changed a project name in the Adult Corrections Chapter from “New Corrections Facility” to “Public Health, Safety, and Justice Facilities,” which is consistent with the CIP adopted in 2020 (p. F-17).

The County Council approved the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on September 27 (Resolution 2022-040). Based upon the final TIP, staff has updated figures in the Transportation Chapter of the Six-Year TIP:

- Changed the North Lake Samish Rd. Bridge Replacement from \$9.7 million to \$10.6 million (p. F-19); and
- Changed the Total Transportation Costs from \$113 million to approximately \$114 million (p. F-20). Additionally, the revised figure was inserted in the Total Costs Chapter (p. F-24).

Planning and Development Services is requesting that County Council's Public Works & Health Committee review the proposed Six-Year CIP on October 25, 2022. 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 in November.

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