



M E M O R A N D U M

To: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu
From: Jake Logan, Administrative Services Coordinator – Executive Staff
Subject: Resolution to add 3 projects to the 2022-2026 CEDS Project List
Date: 1/2/2026

BACKGROUND: CEDS AND RCW 82.14.370 REQUIREMENT

The Whatcom County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a federally-required planning document that guides the region's economic development strategy and serves as a prerequisite for federal and state funding eligibility. The CEDS includes a Project List organized by jurisdiction, with each municipality maintaining responsibility for its own section. The Port of Bellingham serves as the Associate Development Organization (ADO) for Whatcom County, a designation determined by Whatcom County government. In that role, the Port maintains the master CEDS document and coordinates periodic updates across all jurisdictions.

Of relevance to this effort is RCW 82.14.370, which establishes that any public facility funded with rural county sales tax revenue—specifically from the **Economic Development Investment (EDI) program**—must be listed in the county's officially adopted economic development plan, which in our county is the aforementioned CEDs list.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED

The Executive's Office requests that the Whatcom County Council approve the attached resolution updating the Whatcom County section of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Project List to include three priority capital projects requiring Economic Development Investment (EDI) funding. This action satisfies RCW 82.14.370 statutory requirements for public facilities funded with rural county sales tax revenue.

PDS BUILDING ACQUISITION AND CONSOLIDATION

Acquisition of office building to consolidate Planning and Development Services operations and development-related Public Works staff, improving operational efficiency and customer service delivery. Building located at 333 32nd Street with approximately 25,000 sq ft. County will also sublease second floor to Western Washington University during transition period. Purchase from Western Washington University. Closing February 12, 2026 or sooner.

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MAPLE FALLS WATER BOARD PROJECT

Whatcom County EDI grant (\$555,300) to Maple Falls Water Cooperative (MFWC) for construction of 47,000-gallon reinforced concrete water storage tank to replace a decommissioned 30,000-gallon tank. Project includes demolition of existing tank, site grading and utility work, construction and testing of new tank, upsizing 225 feet of water main from 8" to 12", and connection to existing water system. Restores adequate water storage and fire flow capacity to meet current building and fire code requirements, enabling both residential and commercial development, as well as wildfire resilience. Total project cost is estimated to be \$617,000; the Cooperative contributing \$61,700 (10% local match) through reserve funds and member surcharges. The EDI Board unanimously approved the MFWC application 13-0 on August 5, 2025. County Council approved the recommendation to fund this project September 9, 2025 via AB2025-612. County Council's consideration of the subsequently developed contract is planned for the January 27th council meeting as **AB2026-067**. The Maple Falls Water Board Project will be Contract No. 202510037.

REGIONAL MULTIMODAL PATHS

The County is advancing design and construction of regionally-significant multi-modal paths. This project is a collaborative effort to create recreational and transportation infrastructure that serves both residents and visitors. The multi-modal paths support regional connectivity and economic development through enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities and regional trail connectivity.

TO FOLLOW

This resolution represents an interim update to the Whatcom County section of the CEDS Project List. The Port of Bellingham expects to bring a more comprehensive update to the full CEDS list before the end of the first quarter of 2026. That comprehensive update will address all jurisdictions in the region and will incorporate this County resolution alongside any other jurisdictional updates from Whatcom County that may have occurred in the interim.

Please contact Jake Logan at Extension 5211 with any questions or concerns on this proposed resolution