

CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION					
#	Page	Section/Policy	Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting
1	1-3	How the Plan was Created	<p>“Third, extensive citizen-community participation was facilitated through meetings, presentations, public hearings, and written comments made throughout this process, <u>consistent with the Public Participation Plan.</u>”</p> <p>Hyperlink Public Participation Plan or add to the appendix: https://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/85488/Approved-Public-Participation-Plan-June-4-2024---2025-Update</p>	Galloway	Approved 6/24/25 COTW
2	1-3	Countywide Planning Policies	<p><u>During the Comprehensive Plan process, T</u>he Whatcom County Council, in conjunction with the cities, previously adopted a set of Countywide Planning Policies (see Appendix C). The framework provided by the adopted Countywide Planning Policies ensures that local planning efforts will be consistent with one another and supportive of regional goals.</p>	Donovan	Approved 6/24/25 COTW
3	1-4	Goal 1A	<p>“Ensure that government activities, regulations and policies are transparent, accountable, <u>accessible</u>, and easy to understand.”</p>	Galloway	Approved 6/24/25 COTW
4	1-8	Population Projections	<p>The County's 2045 population projection of 303,438 is within OFM's range and therefore requires no further justification. The rationale for using this figure, which is above OFM's medium projection, include: ensuring an adequate land supply to accommodate growth, the need to plan for growth, and the need to protect the quality of life and natural resources in Whatcom County</p>	Galloway	Approved 6/24/25 COTW
5	1-10	Employment Projections	<p>Employment <u>Projections</u></p> <p><i>The title to this section used to say Employment Projections, in the preliminary planning commission draft, the word projections is removed. Councilmember Donovan moved to preserve the word “projections.”</i></p>	Donovan	Approved 6/24/25 COTW
6	1-10	Employment Projections	<p>Employment allocations were based largely on the local request recognizing the incentives that cities have for larger employment areas (sales tax, property tax). Due to the challenge in designating lands for commercial or industrial development, the allocation of employment allowed for these optimistic scenarios. Most of the employment projections displayed in Table 5 shows the allocation of employment to for the Urban Growth Areas and the area outside UGAs <u>greatly exceed the “high” projections provided in the Technical Analysis (Leland Report).</u></p>	Donovan	Approved 6/24/25 COTW

7	1-14	Current Land Use	The majority of single-family homes are concentrated in the cities, <u>Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), Limited Areas of More Intense Rural Development (LAMIRDS), and the major urban and intensely developed unincorporated rural portions of the county</u> such as Sudden Valley, Columbia Valley, Glacier, Lake Samish, Lake Whatcom (north end), Cain Lake, Birch Bay, <u>and Sandy Point, and Lummi Island</u> . Lower density residential development is scattered throughout the rural areas of the County. As may be expected, single-family homes are also located along the valley floors of the three forks of the Nooksack. The Cherry Point industrial area, the agriculturally dominated area north of Lynden and the forested foothills in the eastern part of the county have very low to zero residential density.	Galloway	Approved 6/24/25 COTW
8	1-14	Current Land Use	A prominent characteristic of Whatcom County housing is the high number of vacation, resort, and second-home units found throughout the county. In 2020, approximately 50% of the "vacant" units were occupied part of the year for seasonal, recreational or occasional use (2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B25004). <u>Over 1000 single-family housing units in the unincorporated areas are used as short-term vacation rentals (cite the study PDS provided Council).</u>	Donovan	Approved 6/24/25 COTW

CHAPTER 4 – CAPITAL FACILITIES					
#	Page	Section/Policy	Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting
1	4-2	Policy 4A-2	“Provide County facilities and services in a manner that supports future urban growth in urban growth areas (UGAs) <u>and facilitates potential city annexation.</u> ”	Galloway	Approved 9/9/25 COTW
2	4-4	Policy 4F-2	Seek non-capital opportunities to acquire, enhance and maintain park lands, trails, and other recreational facilities. Consider partnering with <u>tribes</u> , cities, school districts, park & recreation districts, <u>non-profit stakeholders</u> , and others when planning and implementing park and trail projects. <u>Make a good faith effort to consult with Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe on relevant land acquisitions and the development of new trails and other recreational facilities that may have an impact on their cultural resources.</u>	Galloway	Approved 9/9/25 COTW
3	4-4	Goal 4G	“Coordinate with non-county facility providers such as cities, <u>tribes</u> , school districts, <u>fire districts</u> , and other special purpose districts...”	Galloway	Approved 10/7/25 COTW
4	4-6	Goal 4K	Goal 4K: Enable school districts and fire districts to receive mitigation fees or impact fees to fund a proportionate share of system improvements reasonably related to new development by adopting into this plan their capital facilities plans. <u>Notwithstanding the above, recognize the mitigation and</u>	Donovan	Approved 9/9/25 COTW

			<p>impact fees will only apply to new construction and will result in new homes becoming even less affordable.</p> <p><i>The Planning Commission voted to add the following sentence to Goal 4K on 7/24/25: “...notwithstanding the above, recognize the mitigation and impact fees will only apply to new construction and will result in new homes becoming even less affordable.” Council voted to remove this sentence, restoring the original language.</i></p>		
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CHAPTER 5 – UTILITIES					
#	Page	Section/Policy	Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting
1	5-20, 5-21	Policies 5S-5, 5S-6, 5S-7	Strike policies 5S-5, 5S-6, 5S-7	Donovan	Approved 10/21/25 COTW
			(staff proposed alternative - <u>Policy 5S-5: Evaluate water management strategies to address insufficient instream flows and out-of-stream water needs</u>)		

CHAPTER 6 – TRANSPORTATION					
#	Page	Section/Policy	Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting
1	6-4	MMLOS	Scrivener – add a period “...concurrency under GMA. It is, however...”	Galloway	Approved 10/7/25 COTW
2	6-8	Planning and Design	Scrivener – should it be Chapter <u>6</u> Transportation?	Galloway	Approved 10/7/25 COTW
3	6-21	Policy 6L-3	<p>Amendment – Retain language as recommended by staff (“Adopt” rather than “Consider”)</p> <p>Adopt a transportation Consider establishing impact fees <u>ordinance requiring new development</u> to fund a proportionate share of the costs of <u>multimodal</u> transportation system improvements that benefit and are reasonably related to new development.</p>	Galloway	Approved 10/7/25 COTW

CHAPTER 7 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
#	Page	Section/Policy	Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting
1	7-1	GMA Goals...	Scrivener in nature Replace “citizen” with “resident”	Galloway	Approved 10/7/25 COTW
2	7-1	GMA Goals...	Scrivener in nature Introduce the acronym “BR&E” then don’t consistently use it. Would recommend removing the acronym and spelling out “business retention and retention” throughout the chapter.	Galloway	Approved 10/7/25 COTW
3	7-9	Current County Economic Development Activities	Scrivener in nature Whatcom County delegated job creation activities to the Port of Bellingham, which serves as the County’s “Associate Development Organization” (ADO). The Port of Bellingham was designated as the Associate Development Organization (ADO) in Whatcom County by the County Executive in 2012. An ADO is intended to serve as a point of contact for local economic development activities by supporting business retention, expansion of existing businesses, and new business development. ADOs are also the local arm of the Washington State Department of Commerce and are supported by a small financial contract with quarterly and annual deliverable requirements related but not limited to: BR&E, recruitment , startup assistance, and export assistance.	Galloway	Approved 10/7/25 COTW
4	7-10	Issues, Goals, and Policies	Scrivener in nature Established domestic businesses that offer living wages (or better), recruit skilled graduates from local educational institutions (such as cyber security and CNC <u>(spell this out)</u> technicians). However, due to limited affordable workforce housing and a shortage of developable industrial land, these businesses typically relocate these new hires to other counties where such resources are more accessible. Traditionally, as skilled professionals advance in their careers, some choose to establish startup enterprises, with a portion achieving success as living-wage employers for future generations. Similarly, certain graduates from our <u>(clarify who)</u> programs go on to serve as educational mentors, instructors, or venture capital investors.	Galloway	Approved 10/7/25 COTW

CHAPTER 9 – PARKS AND RECREATION					
#	Page	Section/Policy	Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting
1	9-10	Policy 9C-11	Spell out Army Corp of Engineers rather than ACOE	Galloway	Scrivener
2	9-13	Policy 9C-28	“Ensure adequate education and enforcement of County regulations to minimize activities such as illegal trail building, off-leash dogs in on-leash areas, and improper disposal of pet waste, <u>and incompatible uses that damage the environment.</u> ”	Galloway	Approved 9/9/25 COTW

CHAPTER 12 - CLIMATE					
#	Page	Section/Policy	Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting
1	12-1	Purpose	Scrivener/Style Amendment The Climate Element is a required element of comprehensive plans under RCW 36.70A.020, <u>which RCW 36.70A.020</u> requires cities and counties to use their comprehensive plan to build resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. The update to the <u>Growth Management Act (GMA)</u> passed in HB 1181 integrates climate planning into the <u>Growth Management Act (GMA)</u> ...	Galloway	Approved 10/7/25 COTW
2	12-7	Policy 12.4.1	Scrivener/Style Amendment Assist property owners regulated under the Clean Buildings Performance Standard <u>in</u> accessing incentives to reduce building energy use and meet early compliance deadlines for Tier 1 and 2 buildings.	Galloway	Approved 10/7/25 COTW
3	12-18	Policy 12.14.4	Scrivener in nature Evaluate the vulnerability and sensitivity of culturally significant roads, trails, and landscape features <u>prone</u> to damage or alteration from climate change.	Galloway	Approved 10/7/25 COTW
4	12-23	Transportation	Scrivener in nature Climate change is expected to adversely impact transportation infrastructure, including increased road surface damage from higher temperatures, <u>and</u> additional maintenance requirements for roadside vegetation and infrastructure damage from rain, freeze, and thaw cycles. Increasing temperatures and flooding may cause road closures, delays in ferry, transit, and air travel delays , and risks to routes, roads, bridges, sidewalks, trails, rail, and airport infrastructure.	Galloway	Approved 10/7/25 COTW