

CHAPTER 1 – Introduction [Preliminary Planning Commission Version May 22, 2025 \(AB2025-438\)](#)

	Page	Section/Policy	Proposed Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting
1	1-1	How the Plan was Created	Are the goals set in GMA word for word (1) – (15)? Or can we make small edits? (5) replace “citizen” with “residents” (8) add “sustainably” before enhance (11) replace “citizen” with “community” (13) add “cultural” to “...have historical, <u>cultural</u> or archaeological significance.”	Galloway	
2	1-3	How the Plan was Created	“Third, extensive citizen <u>community</u> participation was facilitated through meetings, presentations, public hearings, and written comments made throughout this process, <u>consistent with the Public Participation Plan</u> .” 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	Galloway	Approved 6/24/25 COTW
3	1-3	Countywide Planning Policies	<u>During the Comprehensive Plan process, the</u> 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.	Donovan	Approved 6/24/25 COTW
4	1-3	Introducing Whatcom County	Do we want to add a land acknowledgement? Reference other indigenous populations?	Galloway	
5	1-4	Goal 1A	“Ensure that government activities, regulations and policies are transparent, accountable, <u>accessible</u> , and easy to understand.”	Galloway	Approved 6/24/25 COTW
6	1-8	Population Projections	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	Galloway	Approved 6/24/25 COTW
7	1-8	Population Projections	“This population projection is selected for planning purposes.”	Galloway	

			<p>Need help understanding the budget and policy implications of opting for a projection higher than OFM medium. Given RCW 36.70A.110, what are the County's obligations to designating new UGAs or areas within which urban growth shall be encouraged?</p> <p>How do we reconcile what we are hearing from jurisdictions, that infrastructure cost will be a significant financial barrier to accommodating growth even within the UGAs and that the cost of over-planning and building more infrastructure to accommodate a higher projection than actual growth experienced is ultimately passed on to tax payers and residents, and further impacts affordability and cost of living?</p>		
8	1-9	Table 4	Revert to OFM Medium for Birch Bay UGA (2,313 rather than 2,662) and Columbia Valley UGA (988 rather than 1,137)	Galloway	
9	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
10	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. <u>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 greatly exceed the "high" projections provided in the Technical Analysis (Leland Report).</u></p>	Donovan	6/24/25 COTW
11	1-10	Employment	<p>Need help understanding this sentence:</p> <p>"Due to the challenge in designating lands for commercial or industrial development, the allocation of employment allowed for these optimistic scenarios."</p>	Galloway	Resolved (see above)
12	1-11	Table 5	<p>Most of the employment projections/allocations are OFM high or above high. What are the implications? Are these reasonable? Do we want to consider something more reasonable or closer to OFM medium? Have we engaged Cherry Point industries/landowners to see if these projections are reasonable within their plans for industrial growth?</p> <p>And with these employment allocations being not proportionate to population growth allocations within the UGA, are there unintended consequences we should be tracking such as are we further</p>	Galloway	

			exacerbating the issues related to increased vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by increasing need for commute to other areas?		
13	1-12	Demographics	Should we add reference to college/university student populations?	Galloway	
14	1-13	Land Use History	Have we consulted with tribes on this language?	Galloway	
15	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
16	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 2 – Land Use Preliminary Planning Commission Version -----, 2025 (AB2025-----)

#	Page	Section/Policy	Proposed Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting

CHAPTER 3 – Housing Preliminary Planning Commission Version -----, 2025 (AB2025-----)

#	Page	Section/Policy	Proposed Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting

CHAPTER 4 – Capital Facilities [Preliminary Planning Commission Version July 24, 2025 \(AB2025-552\)](#)

#	Page	Section/Policy	Proposed 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	4-3	Goal 4D	Question: Are the law enforcement/jail facilities related goal/policies consistent with the Justice Project?	Galloway	
3	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	9/9/25 COTW
4	4-4	Goal 4G	Potential Amendment: “Coordinate with non-county facility providers such as cities, <u>tribes</u> , school districts, <u>fire districts</u> , and other special purpose districts...”	Galloway	
5	4-6	Policy 4J-2	Potential Amendment: Add “Where feasible, develop a strategy to mitigate harmful impacts and aim to achieve net ecological gain of salmon and other aquatic species habitat for all public projects and a voluntary incentive driven strategy for private projects.”	Galloway	
6		Add new policy	Develop an updated culvert inventory and prioritized list and proposed schedule for the removal of county owned fish passage barrier culverts (reference MOU with Tribes). Work with the cities, state, federal and tribal governments, and private landowners, to support investment in removal of fish passage barriers and installation of fish-friendly culverts and bridges.	Galloway	
7	4-6	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. 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. <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</i>	Donovan	9/9/25 COTW

			<i>construction and will result in new homes becoming even less affordable.” Council voted to remove this sentence, restoring the original language.</i>		
8	4-6	Goal 4K	<p>Potential Amendment: Strike “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”</p> <p>And replace with “<u>Establishing mitigation fees or impact fees must carefully balance the need to mitigate against the impacts of new development and fund critical capital facilities and infrastructure with the need for housing that is affordable to all economic segments of the community.</u>”</p>	Galloway	Resolved (See above)

CHAPTER 5 – Utilities Preliminary Planning Commission Version -----, 2025 (AB2025-----)					
#	Page	Section/Policy	Proposed Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting

CHAPTER 6 – Transportation Preliminary Planning Commission Version July 2, 2025 (AB2025-563)					
#	Page	Section/Policy	Proposed Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting
1	6-4	MMLOS	<p>Scrivener – add a period “...concurrency under GMA. It is, however...”</p>	Galloway	
2	6-4	Goal 6A	<p>Proposed Amendment – Climate Impact Advisory Committee</p> <p>Provide for the <u>long-term</u> safe and efficient movement of people and goods, <u>taking into consideration mitigation of climate impacts and natural hazards</u>, by establishing and maintaining...</p>	Galloway	
3	6-6	Policy 6A-7	<p>Question –Should incorporated and unincorporated UGAs have the same standards? (They already are for Policy 6A-8)?</p> <p>Proposed Amendment –</p> <p>Pedestrian LOS Standards on the countywide Active Transportation Network are listed below:</p>	Galloway	

			<p>a) Incorporated UGA: Urban standard sidewalks both sides or shared two-way multiuse pathway one side.</p> <p>b) Unincorporated UGA: Urban standard sidewalk one <u>both</u> sides or shared two-way multiuse pathway one side.</p> <p>c) Rural County: 5-foot-wide shoulder on roadway</p> <p>Green = Complete Network Link, meets County standards</p> <p>Yellow = Incomplete Network, doesn't meet County standards</p> <p>Red = Missing Network Link, doesn't meet County standards</p>		
4	6-8	Planning and Design	Scrivener – should it be Chapter <u>6</u> Transportation?	Galloway	
5	6-9	Policy 6B-3	<p>Proposed Amendment - add federal and tribal agencies and CIAC amendments</p> <p>“Increase the resilience of the transportation system against <u>climate impacts, natural hazards, and</u> disaster, develop prevention and recovery strategies, and plan for coordinated responses with <u>relevant federal</u>, state, regional, and local, <u>and tribal</u> agencies.”</p>	Galloway	
6	6-10	Policy 6C-8	Question – Would there be any need to add reference to federal transportation agencies?	Galloway	
7	6-10	Policy 6D-2	<p>Proposed Amendment – Climate Impact Advisory Committee</p> <p>“Promote land use strategies and transportation investments that reduce single occupant vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled while discouraging transportation <u>investments improvements</u> that would trigger development that is premature or not consistent with applicable comprehensive plans, policies, or zoning.”</p>	Galloway	
8	6-11	Policy 6D-6	<p>Proposed Amendment – Climate Impact Advisory Committee</p> <p>Replace Policy 6D-6 with</p> <p>“Locate new housing developments in urban growth areas to foster a sense of community, and provide safe, efficient transportation to community facilities and public transit nodes.”</p>	Galloway	
9	6-11	Multimodal Approach	Question – Do we need to add reference to air travel in intro paragraph? Given public and private airports? (Airplanes are also later referenced in policy 6E-1)	Galloway	
10	6-13/14	Policy 6F-4	<p>Proposed Amendment – Climate Impact Advisory Committee</p> <p>Add reference to climate impacts and natural hazards.</p> <p>Galloway suggested language:</p>	Galloway	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases public safety and resilience to climate impacts and natural hazards 		
11	6-14	Policy 6F-5	<p>Proposed Amendment – Climate Impact Advisory Committee</p> <p>Update the existing (2011) Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to be included in the Active Transportation Network (Map 6-2) improvement planning that identified and prioritizes future pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Give priority to the construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities on streets within and between urban growth areas and rural communities where practical, <u>and not at risk from climate impacts or natural hazards</u>, and give priority to walkways and crosswalks along roadways within a one-mile radius of schools.</p>	Galloway	
12	6-15	Policy 6G-2	Question – how can we ensure designation of truck routes is considering nearby land uses?	Galloway	
13	6-15	Policy 6G-3	Question – should we consider truck size and weight?	Galloway	
14	6-15	Intergovernmental	Question – Add reference to Whatcom County Public Works? Any need to reference Federal agencies?	Galloway	
15	6-18	Goal 6J	<p>Proposed Amendment</p> <p>“Construction and operation of transportation systems should seek to avoid, <u>or mitigate against</u>, adverse environmental impacts, including impacts to wildlife, water quality, and to adjacent residential areas while also <u>balancing the need acknowledging unavoidable (but mitigatable) impacts will likely occur in order</u> to provide an appropriate level of service.”</p>	Galloway	
16	6-20	Policy 6K-5	<p>Proposed Amendment – Climate Impact Advisory Committee</p> <p>“Support multimodal use by encouraging, for example, provision of secure bicycle storage facilities at park-and-ride lots and other transit facilities, and allowing providing for the transporting transportation of bicycles on public transit vehicles.”</p>	Galloway	
17	6-20	Policy 6K-9	<p>Question – Does rapid charging include Level 2 and Level 3? All EVs allow L2, only some allow L3. So, we may want to consider language that ensures both L2 and L3 charging is allowed.</p> <p>Proposed Amendment – strike “rapid”</p> <p>Encourage the development and installation of a comprehensive electric vehicle rapid-charging network, including the following opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow rapid-charging stations in commercial parking lots and other convenient locations; 	Galloway	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a streamlined and expedited permitting process for rapid-charging stations; • Provide incentives to developers, employers, and organizations that provide rapid-charging stations; • Consider requirements to include infrastructure for rapid-charging stations in multifamily and commercial developments; and <p>Pursue partnerships with Puget Sound Energy to consider voluntary development of rapid-charging stations to reduce costs.</p>		
18	6-21	Policy 6L-3	<p>Proposed Amendment – Retain language as recommended by staff (“Adopt” rather than “Consider”)</p> <p>Adopt a transportation Consider establishing impact fees ordinance requiring new development 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	
19	6-21	Funding	<p>Question – There has been concern that bike/ped infrastructure improvements are contingent on funding availability (e.g. “subject to funding availability” referenced in 6A policies), yet there is nothing that dedicates any percentage of the TIP to those projects. Should we set a goal for a minimum % of TIP to fund bike/ped? How can we set multimodal/MMLOS as a priority and not adequately fund projects that help us achieve it?</p>	Galloway	
20	NA	General	<p>Questions –</p> <p>Can we further discuss the strategy for building out the active transportation network and connecting county communities? How can we plan for low-stress active transportation corridors between population centers, small cities, and urban centers (as recommended by BPAC) rather than high-stress alternatives? Should we consider high-stress as complete?</p> <p>Can we review the changes to and public concern over the trail corridors?</p> <p>Should we add a policy for prioritizing projects that can use Public ROWs for developing active transportation connections?</p>	Galloway	

CHAPTER 7 – [Economic Development Preliminary Planning Commission Version](#) August 28, 2025 (AB2025-632)

#	Page	Section/Policy	Proposed Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting
1	7-1	GMA Goals...	Scrivener in nature Replace “citizen” with “resident”	Galloway	
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	
3	7-5		Question re construction job growth: do we have data for county funding leveraged to support construction jobs?	Galloway	
4	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	
5	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 (spell this out) 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 (clarify who) programs go on to serve as educational mentors, instructors, or venture capital investors.	Galloway	

6	7-11	Policy 7A-3	Galloway Proposed Amendment: Foster a diverse, private-sector job base <u>including those that contract with government, as well as facilitate public sector jobs</u> , which will provide living wage jobs at the state median income level or greater, and facilitate the retention and expansion of existing businesses.	Galloway	
7	7-11	Policy 7A-5	Galloway Proposed Amendment: In addition to stimulating living wage employment and jobs in diverse sectors including <u>renewable energy and green industry and</u> infrastructure, ensure we retain entry level and service-related jobs such as those necessary to support tourism, recreation, retailing, <u>manufacturing</u> , and other industries.	Galloway	
8	7-11/12	Policy 7A-6	Galloway Proposed Amendment: Support public-private partnerships to develop training and technology solutions relevant to current industry needs with local education resource providers to develop an educated and skilled work force as a key factor for economic success. Such partnerships should include Western Washington University, Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Technical College, Northwest Indian College, Northwest Workforce Council, <u>Northwest Career and Technical Academy, career and technical education programs in K-12 schools, apprenticeship programs</u> , and businesses and industries.	Galloway	
9	7-12	Policy 7A-7	Galloway Proposed Amendment: <u>Partner with the Western Washington University Small Business Development Center, Port of Bellingham, Chambers of Commerce, and other stakeholders to</u> support business start-up operations and entrepreneurship to facilitate growth of businesses.	Galloway	
10		Policy 7A-11	Galloway Proposed Amendment: Establish a competitiveness review of <u>county</u> policies, <u>regulations</u> , taxes/fees, <u>and other</u> processes, <u>to help promote affordable</u> housing that is affordable , child care, <u>high-speed internet, modern infrastructure</u> , and other influences that impact county businesses.	Galloway	
11	7-13	Public/Private Partnerships	Current PC Proposed language: The ability of Whatcom County to bring living wage jobs to the community depends on leveraging the significant expertise of our business community and our willingness to eliminate the significant barriers we have created to building affordable new homes and establishing “shovel ready” industrial land which are preventing our other economic development initiatives from having a meaningful impact.	Galloway	

			Galloway Proposed Amendment: Collaboration between public and private entities can help promote and prioritize responsible industry that balances both the need for living wage jobs and protection of our environment and natural resources. Whatcom County should craft policy and allocate resources that support local economic and workforce development initiatives, an adequate industrial lands base, and the sustainable development of affordable housing in the Cities and UGAs.		
12	7-13/14	Add policy to Goal 7B	Galloway Proposed Amendment: <u>Facilitate opportunities for government entities to stimulate the local economy including leveraging public funding to create local, living wage jobs for local workers and workforce development opportunities such as apprenticeship utilization in public work.</u>	Galloway	
13	7-17	Policy 7D-1	Galloway Proposed Amendment: Work with state, and federal, <u>and tribal</u> agencies to coordinate and streamline environmental review.	Galloway	
14	7-17	Policy 7D-2	Galloway Proposed Amendment: Consider conducting in-depth environmental analysis for comprehensive plans and subarea plans to limit the need for future analysis by the private sector to a few issues that are unique to a specific project and cannot be reasonably analyzed at a subarea level.	Galloway	
15	7-18	Policy 7D-3/ Policy 7D-4	Consider combining policies and clarifying intent Galloway Proposed Amendment: Integrate, streamline, and simplify regulations to make them more understandable and user-friendly and in an effort to facilitate planned development. Utilize <u>accessible language and</u> graphic illustrations to explain choices-land-use and development codes and regulations which that cannot be clearly conveyed in a few words.	Galloway	
16	7-20	Business Retention and Expansion	Galloway Proposed Amendment: Businesses <u>support the local community and economy by paying taxes (property, sales, and B&O), often reinvesting profits into business and infrastructure improvements and expansion, investing in philanthropic endeavors,</u> and paying wages <u>enabling workers to live, learn, work and play in the local community</u> Whatcom County.	Galloway	

17	7-20	Policy 7F-3	Galloway Proposed Amendment: Encourage firms to contribute financially as partners with the public <u>and non-profit</u> sectors in sharing costs for civic, and cultural, <u>and philanthropic</u> needs of the community-at-large.	Galloway	
18	7-20	Policy 7F-4	Galloway Proposed Amendment: Enhance opportunities for <u>increased-sustainable</u> resource-based (agricultural, forest, fisheries, and mining products) value added industries.	Galloway	
19	7-20	Economic Growth and Environmental Quality	Galloway Proposed Amendment: The tourism industry relies on these same attributes, as well as having naturally beautiful vistas, <u>trails</u> , and shorelines for recreation. Quality of life and the amazing natural environment are also reasons that businesses <u>and employees</u> are attracted to Whatcom County in the first place.	Galloway	
20	7-21	Policy 7G-3	Galloway Proposed Amendment: Provide support to Whatcom County's tourism industry to maintain, <u>promote</u> , and enhance <u>responsible tourism and recreation, which should a</u> balance between the economic benefits of tourism and <u>protection of</u> the local <u>environment, natural resources, and</u> quality of life.	Galloway	
21	7-21	Policy 7G-5	Question: Should we clarify who is coordinating? Galloway Proposed Amendment: Coordinate environmental and economic planning efforts <u>with Port of Bellingham, cities, county, state, federal, and tribal governments and business, industry, and tourism stakeholders.</u>	Galloway	
22	7-21	Policy 7G-7	Galloway Proposed Amendment: Support <u>living wage</u> job opportunities <u>that are sustainable, responsible, and meet the future needs of the community and economy. This could include the clean-renewable</u> energy and renewable industries (including such as manufacturing hardware -(such as for solar panels, batteries, and heat pumps, <u>biofuels, and hydrogen</u>), professional services, and biofuels, <u>technology, alternative transportation, green infrastructure, and affordable housing, childcare, and health care. by</u> e <u>Ensuring there is adequate</u> affordable workforce housing and "shovel ready" retail, commercial, <u>and</u> industrial land to support investment in <u>local business and workforce</u> these industries to be located within Whatcom County.	Galloway	

23	7-23	Policy 7H-2	Galloway Proposed Amendment: Work with state and federal agencies, Tribal governments, and other groups to improve the condition of the tribal treaty protected fishing rights and fishery resources, including <u>water quality and quantity</u> , habitat maintenance, <u>restoration</u> , and enhancement, especially for <u>estuaries, riparian areas, and other</u> habitats utilized by threatened and endangered fish species, <u>and removal of fish passage barriers</u> .	Galloway	
24	7-23	Policy 7H-3	Galloway Proposed Amendment: Maintain the commercial forestland base of Whatcom County to assure the industry's continued economic viability and sustainable harvest. <u>Whatcom County should continue to work with state and federal agencies, Tribes, private timber industry, and other relevant stakeholders to balance the economic interest with climate resilience and managing forestland for multiple benefits including jobs, wood products, recreation, carbon capture and sequestration, ecosystem services, and wildfire resilience. In an effort to protect Lake Whatcom, the drinking water source for nearly half of Whatcom County's population, public and private management of forestland in the watershed should follow more stringent regulations, forest practice rules, and compliance monitoring to ensure consistency with the Lake Whatcom Management Program and compliance with the Landscape Plan, Clean Water Act, forest management plans, and other relevant state and federal laws.</u>	Galloway	
25	7-23	Policy 7H-4	Galloway Proposed Amendment: As part of a broad-based economy, foster productive timber, agriculture, and fisheries industries in a sustainable manner that aligns with County Comprehensive Plan Climate chapter, <u>Climate Action Plan, Forest Resilience Plan, Lake Whatcom Management Program Work Plan, Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan, forest management plans, and other relevant county plans.</u>	Galloway	
26	7-23	Policy 7H-4	Galloway Proposed Amendment: Support <u>sustainable</u> mining operations, which is compatible with other land use and environmental policies, including surface mining of sand, gravel, and rock and subsurface mining of other minerals found in Whatcom County, such as gold and silver.	Galloway	
27	7-26	Policy 7J-3	Galloway Proposed Amendment: Focus on absorbing and retraining displaced and discouraged workers and addressing the skills gap through grants, training by the Northwest Workforce Council, <u>Western Washington University</u> ,	Galloway	

			Bellingham Technical College, Whatcom Community College, Northwest Indian College, apprenticeship programs , and other opportunities.		
28	7-27	Geographic Diversity	Question: Regarding economic development in East County, there elements of the East Whatcom Health Equity Zone work we should be including here?	Galloway	

CHAPTER 8 – Resource Lands Preliminary Planning Commission Version -----, 2025 (AB2025-----)					
#	Page	Section/Policy	Proposed Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting

CHAPTER 9 – Parks and Recreation Preliminary Planning Commission Version July 10, 2025 (AB2025-601)					
#	Page	Section/Policy	Proposed Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting
1	TBD	New Section/Tribal Consultation	Add new section before “Issues, Goals, and Policies”, that outlines commitment to tribal consultation across this whole chapter. Alternative is to add a standalone goal or incorporate tribal consultation throughout the chapter (particularly Trails and Pathway Systems and Shoreline Access Areas). Rationale: many parks and recreation issues overlap with tribal treaty rights, their role as co-manager of public lands, and potential impact to cultural resources and areas of cultural significance.	Galloway	
2	9-10	Policy 9C-4	“The wet climate of Whatcom County may preclude development, expansion, and/or extensive multi-use of some trails or require seasonal limitations. Development, expansion, and use of Trails routes should consider soil conditions, steep terrain, surface drainage, watershed health, natural and cultural resources , and other physical limitations that could negatively impact the area environments from overuse. ”	Galloway	
3	9-10	Policy 9C-11	Spell out Army Corp of Engineers rather than ACOE	Galloway	Staff will address scrivener

4	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
5	9-14/15	ORV Riding Areas	"Recognizing that it is better to The County should regulate and manage where off-road vehicle (ORV) riding may occur, <u>prioritizing community and user safety and the protection of property, environment, and natural and cultural resources.</u> T he County twice attempted to develop an area for exclusive ORV use, <u>but</u> -B both proposals were met with controversy and not pursued. However Unfortunately, ORV riding still occurs and in many instances on land not suitable for that use and without the owner's permission. The end result is that ORV riding is impacting neighbors, and <u>harming</u> the land <u>and environment</u> in which riding occurs, and is in general creating a problem for conflict with less intrusive recreational activities."	Galloway	
6	9-15	Goal 9F	"Coordinate with Federal, and State, <u>and Tribal</u> agencies to evaluate the feasibility of providing <u>additional</u> ORV opportunities in Whatcom County <u>that are safe to various user groups and do not damage the land, environment, and natural and cultural resources.</u> "	Galloway	
7	9-15	Policy 9F-1	"Recognizing that there will continue to be a demand for ORV riding, the County should, as resources allow, coordinate with federal, and state, <u>and tribal</u> agencies to better <u>educate user groups</u> , enforce existing ORV restrictions, and evaluate the feasibility of providing <u>safe and appropriate</u> ORV opportunities in Whatcom County."	Galloway	
8	9-16	Policy 9G-4	"In light of lead contamination at the Plantation Rifle Range engage the public and relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement, to develop a plan for future use of the facility that protects the environment, meets community expectations for <u>safe</u> recreation, and provides for an acceptable level of cost recovery for operations."	Galloway	
9	9-18	Policy 9H-7	"Continue to plan for full use of existing senior/community centers and explore partnerships to help <u>expand and</u> absorb future need."	Galloway	
10	9-18	Policy 9H-10	"In collaboration with <u>cities, county, state, federal, and tribal governments, Tribes, County Agencies,</u> and stakeholders, develop long-term forest management plans to meet community management goals, protect the County's financial interest, and foster responsible recreation within the Lake Whatcom Watershed, Stewart Mountain Community Forest, and Canyon Lake Community Forest. <u>Forest management goals should balance the County's interest in supporting a sustainable local timber economy and safe recreation opportunities with enhancing carbon sequestration, ecosystem services, wildlife habitat, watershed health, forest health, climate resilience and reducing risks from wildfire and other natural hazards.</u>	Galloway	

11	9-19	Policy 9I-6	“...locally sourced goods and services (e.g. farm tours, farmers market, Nordic Fest , etc...”	Galloway	
12	9-20	Policy 9J-1	Designate high-value greenspaces and greenways for acquisition, conservation easements, or other reservation programs to enhance carbon sequestration and provide community benefits. Prioritize areas that provide co-benefits such as biodiversity, <u>watershed health, climate resilience</u> , recreation, and connectivity between habitats.	Galloway	

CHAPTER 10 – Environment Preliminary Planning Commission Version -----, 2025 (AB2025-----)					
#	Page	Section/Policy	Proposed Amendment	Sponsor	Meeting

CHAPTER 12 – Climate Environment Preliminary Planning Commission Version -----, 2025 (AB2025-----)					
#	Page	Section/Policy	Proposed 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 Growth Management Act (GMA) ...	Galloway	
2	12-5	Add policy to goal 12.2	<u>Review bidding and procurement policies to prioritize lower-carbon building processes, sustainable and/or reclaimed building materials, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and alternative and active transportation infrastructure (such as EV charging and bicycle storage) in County funded capital projects.</u> <i>Note: similar to Policy 12.8.15, which focuses on transportation</i>	Galloway	
3	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	
4	12-8	Policy 12.4.8	Partner with Western Washington University, Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Technical College, Northwest Indian College, <u>K-12 schools and skills centers</u> , Northwest Workforce Council,	Galloway	

			the Port of Bellingham, the Whatcom Working Waterfront Coalition, cities, <u>unions and apprenticeship programs</u> , and local businesses to address workforce skill gaps in emerging sectors that support climate action.		
5	12-8	Ecosystems	These nature-based solutions to greenhouse gas reduction can also <u>build resilience by mitigating against natural hazards and climate impacts</u> , protect <u>ing</u> biodiversity <u>and fish and wildlife habitat</u> , <u>and-improving</u> e water and air quality.	Galloway	
6	12-8	Policy 12.5.5	Discourage the conversion of forests, <u>agricultural land</u> , grasslands, <u>wetlands, critical areas, riparian areas, estuaries</u> , and other high carbon storage areas for uses that are incompatible with habitat preservation and carbon sequestration goals.	Galloway	
7	12-9	Policy 12.7.2	Prioritize investments to reduce vehicle emissions <u>and miles travelled</u> in neighborhoods disproportionately affected by air <u>and water</u> pollution. <i>Note: 6PPD-q is a highly toxic byproduct from tires that contaminate waterways through stormwater runoff.</i>	Galloway	
8	12-9	Transportation	Greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies for the transportation sector include electrification, switching to lower carbon fuels, and -reducing travel demand, <u>and promoting alternative multimodal transportation and infrastructure</u> .	Galloway	
9	12-9	Transportation	Improving <u>active</u> transportation options and multimodal connectivity for all residents reduces emissions, <u>improves public health</u> , and advances equity.	Galloway	
10	12-10	Policy 12.8.3	Coordinate with WSDOT, Whatcom Council of Governments, <u>tribes</u> , and cities to update the regional transportation plan to estimate and track transportation related greenhouse gas emissions by jurisdiction in Whatcom County.	Galloway	
11	12-11	Policy 12.8.15	Review bidding and procurement policies to prioritize lower-carbon materials and processes in County funded transportation <u>and infrastructure</u> projects.	Galloway	

12	12-13	Policy 12.11.4	Review Whatcom County code for opportunities to discourage conversion of forestland for non-forestry uses <u>and agriculture land for non-agriculture uses</u> .	Galloway	
13	12-13	Add policy to goal 12.11	<u>Work with the State and tribes to evaluate a framework and strategy for achieving net ecological gain of salmon and other aquatic species habitat for all public projects and a voluntary incentive driven framework and strategy for private projects.</u> Note: consistent with RES2022-036	Galloway	
14	12-14	Ag and Food Systems	As <u>weather becomes less predictable, and</u> suitable seasonal windows for planting and cultivation shift, producers may need to adopt climate-adaptive agricultural practices, including regenerative agriculture, modified crop and livestock selection, soil carbon enhancement, and water conservation.	Galloway	
15	12-17	Policy 12.13.8	Prioritize <u>relocation</u> or retrofitting of essential infrastructure, including undergrounding <u>utilities such as</u> electrical lines, <u>communication cables, water pipelines</u> , and gas pipelines, in high-risk wildfire zones to enhance safety and recovery capabilities.	Galloway	
16	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	
17	12-19	Economic Development	Due to climate change, the regional economy risks employment disruption, <u>supply chain challenges</u> , and decreased productivity in key sectors such as the <u>manufacturing, construction, transportation, energy</u> , maritime, tourism, agriculture, and forestry sectors, and reduced recreation opportunities. Whatcom County is expected to experience increasing costs related to relocation and damage to property and infrastructure due to coastal and riverine flooding, in addition to <u>production</u> losses due to extreme heat, drought, wildfire, and ocean acidification. There is expected to be increasing price volatility for business inputs, loss of operational continuity, <u>shifts in resource availability, shipping-transportation</u> disruptions, and increased unavailability of insurance in some areas.	Galloway	
18	12-19	Policy 12.15.7	Develop economic innovation strategies to minimize workforce displacement <u>and supply chain disruptions</u> caused by climate-related impacts on key industries.	Galloway	

19	12-20	Policy 12.16.8	Promote ecosystem restoration and protection projects that prioritize the recovery of habitats for critical endangered, threatened, and priority <u>fish and wildlife</u> species.	Galloway	
20	12-21	Emergency Management	Climate hazards such as drought, extreme <u>weather events</u> temperature fluctuations , wildfire, and flooding are expected to increase costs and demands for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery services, and could strain or overwhelm local emergency response capacity. These climate risks include increased demand for shelter, <u>damaged buildings and infrastructure</u> , additional pressure on energy grids <u>and communications systems</u> , and disruption to emergency management facilities, medical services, and critical <u>equipment and</u> supplies due to impossible or unsafe travel conditions and the potential magnitude of emergency events.	Galloway	
21	12-21	Policy 12.17.7	Increase community awareness and preparedness for climate-related emergencies by conducting regular tests of evacuation and other emergency alerts and providing accessible public information, <u>including in multiple languages</u> .	Galloway	
22	12-22	Add new policy to 12.17	<u>Policy 12.17.14- Assess potential ferry service disruptions and create plans to maintain ferry reliability during extreme weather events.</u>	Galloway	
23	12-22	Add new policy to 12.17	<u>Policy 12.17.XX- Coordinate with Fire Departments, Fire Districts, Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, and other first responders to ensure timely and unified emergency response, minimize disruption of services, and support workplace safety and volunteer and professional workforce protection.</u>	Galloway	
24	12-23	Policy 12.18.6	Establish contingency plans and train to execute them with community partners for maintaining critical health services, including mobile health units, and telemedicine, <u>and Fire/EMS response and transport</u> , during extreme weather events and infrastructure failures.	Galloway	
25	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	