



Memorandum

To: The Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive and
The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

Through: Elizabeth Kosa, Interim Director *Eak*

From: James P. Karcher, P.E., County Engineer *JPK*

Date: March 15, 2023

Re: **Ordinance Establishing a Temporary Speed Limit for Hannegan Road**

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council adopt the proposed ordinance to establish a temporary speed limit of 35 MPH on Hannegan Road from Smith Road E to the Bellingham City Limits.

Background and Purpose

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has requested the use of Hannegan Road as part of a detour route for SR-542 traffic during the construction of their SR-542 Squalicum Creek to Bellingham Bay – Fish Passage Project. The County Engineer has agreed to this use and signed a formal Haul/Detour Agreement with WSDOT for this project. As part of recommended safety measures due to the increases in traffic that this detour will cause, a temporary 35 MPH speed limit is proposed during the construction. The project will require a **full roadway closure** of SR-542 Mt. Baker Highway for up to 129 calendar days (90 working days). The working days will start no later than May 1st, 2023. Per WSDOT, the 2020 Average Daily Traffic of SR-542 in this area was measured at 11,100 vehicles, with 7.8% being trucks. Following the completion of construction, the speed limit will expire and the signs will be removed.

Information

This ordinance will allow for the installation of speed limit signs and is necessary to comply with RCW 46.61.415 to establish speed limits on certain County roads.

Please contact Douglas Ranney II, P.E., Engineering Services Manager at extension 6255 with any questions regarding this ordinance.