





M E M O R A N D U M

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

Through: Jon Hutchings, Director 

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

Date: November 2, 2021

Re: **Ordinance Establishing a Speed Limit on a Portion of Alderson Road**

Requested Action

At the request of the Whatcom County Council, the Public Works Department respectfully submits the attached ordinance to establish a 25 mph speed limit on Alderson Road from East Loft Lane to Gemini Street, in the Birch Bay Area.

Background and Purpose

On April 27th, 2021 the Public Works Department received a request from the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce to extend the Golf Cart Zone on Alderson Road from its current terminus at East Loft Lane to the Gemini Street, which leads to the Birch Bay Activity Center and Bay Horizon Park. This ordinance will lower the speed limit on Alderson Road to 25 mph. It will effectively extend the Golf Cart Zone to Gemini Street because Ordinance 2018-023 *Creating a "Golf Cart Zone" on Certain Roads in the Birch Bay Area* included the following language when describing the zone: "all county roads posted 25 mph or less that lead to, and are contiguous with, Birch Bay Drive."

Information

Creation of golf cart zones is allowed per RCW 46.08.175, while "golf carts" are defined under RCW 46.04.1945, see attached. RCW 46.08.175 requires that a roadway designated as a "Golf Cart Zone" have a posted speed limit of 25 MPH or less. All roads within this zone will have posted speed limits of 25 MPH with the adoption of this ordinance.

Please contact Douglas Ranney at extension 6255 with any questions regarding this ordinance.