WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
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M E M O R A N D U M

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

From: Elizabeth Kosa, Director EK

Date: March 28, 2024

RE: Ordinance Amending WCC 10.34 Ferry Rates

Requested Action

Approve the requested ordinance updating Whatcom County Code 10.34 Ferry Rates.

Background and Purpose

Chapter 10.34 of the Whatcom County code addresses the administration of the ferry rates. In 2022 an in-depth analysis of the code concerning fare box revenue needs and calculations, exposed errors and confusion in the calculation extending back to 2006 and highlighted the need for greater clarity in the definitions and calculations used to determine ferry rates. This analysis led to a total rewrite of sections of the code in order to provide clarification, clear direction, and a future of accurate and transparent calculation methods.

Whatcom County Public Works and the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee leadership worked on the initial code presented to the County Council in July 2023. That code amendment was subsequently vetoed to allow additional time to address community concerns.

The current proposed code is similar to the code presented in 2023. However, additional amendments and clarifications have been incorporated. These changes address comments and suggestions from the Lummi Island community, the new Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee, and the Whatcom County Council.

If you need any additional information please contact Elizabeth Kosa at extension 6282.