



TO: Members of the Whatcom County Council

THROUGH: Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive

FROM: Mike Hilley, EMS Manager

RE: County Vehicles Code Amendment

Date: January 20, 2021

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**Requested Action:**

Consider and approve proposed amendments to Whatcom County Code Chapter 2.66 which provides for and outlines the authorized use of County vehicles. The proposed Code amendment would expand the category of authorized drivers under the Code to include non-employees who are engaged in County business and who are specifically authorized by the County Executive's Office ahead of time. All authorized drivers would be required to comply with the County's automobile operation policy whether or not they are County employees.

**Background and Purpose:**

This proposed amendment and the corresponding County motor vehicle policy provide sufficient limitations, restrictions, and requirements to protect County interests related to non-employee drivers. Certain provisions in the existing code mitigate the opportunity to utilize existing resources to provide transportation necessary to deliver services for clients of county health programs. fulfill the need for transportation services. This amendment is intended to allow limited access for non-county employees to drive county vehicles while preserving appropriate driving policies. The amended ordinance:

- will allow the County to utilize contracted providers such as Community Paramedics, GRACE/SEAMAR employees and authorized County volunteers to provide the transportation necessary to deliver services utilizing County vehicles
- will allow for the limited authorized use of County vehicles by non-employees for County government purposes is an efficient, cost effective, and practical means for providing necessary transportation related to County services and business
- will ensure safe and reliable medical navigation for service clients utilizing existing resources

Medical Navigation transportation is an integral part of the Administration's effort to ensure access for mobile health services and address the COVID impacts. Allowing existing resources to provide those transports addresses this timely issue.

**Financial Implications:**

These amendments provide limited allowances for non-employees to transport clients of Whatcom County Mobile Health clients for medical navigation utilizing existing resources available.

Please contact Mike Hilley at (360) 927-1155 for questions or concerns regarding this amendment.