

Whatcom Council of Governments
DRAFT Board Minutes
October 14, 2026

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In Attendance (In person or via Zoom):

Members *Voting:* **Bellingham:** Kim Lund; **Everson:** John Perry; **Ferndale:** Greg Hansen (Secretary/Treasurer); **Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District:** Jeff Knakal; **Lynden:** Scott Korthuis (Chair) **Nooksack:** Dave Finet; **Whatcom County:** Jessica Reinstra, Jon Scanlon.
Ex-officio: **Public Utilities District No. 1:** Edy Ury. **Whatcom Transportation Authority:** Les Reardanz

Staff Lethal Coe, Hugh Conroy, Ron Cubellis, Melissa Fanucci
Guests Ed, Jen Everett

- A. **Call to Order**
Mr. Conroy determined that a quorum was present and Chair Korthuis called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.
- B. **Public Comment**
None
- C. **Agenda Additions**
None
- D. **Consent Agenda**
The Consent Agenda included the minutes of the December 10, 2025 Executive Committee; the minutes of the May 13 meeting; and April-August expenditures.
Motion: Mr. Scanlon moved, seconded by Ms. Lund, to approve. **Motion passed** with none opposed.
- E. **Budget Report**
Mr. Cubellis reviewed his budget report for the period ending August 31, 2026.
- F. **Business**
 - 1. **Draft 2027 Budget and COLA to be used in 2027 Final Budget.**
Mr. Conroy introduced the draft budget (for information) and, referring to the memo, noted that the needed board action was to confirm the 2.9% COLA based on the CPI-U West index.
Motion: Mr. Scanlon moved, seconded by Mr. Hansen to approve. **Motion passed** with none opposed.
 - 2. **Consideration of adoption of an updated Language Access Plan**
Ms. Fanucci referred to the memo and introduced the updated Language Access Plan.
Motion: Mr. Scanlon moved, seconded by Ms. Reinstra, to adopt the updated Language Access Plan as presented. **Motion passed** with none opposed.

3. Consideration for adoption of a WCOG Policy and Procedures Manual.

Mr. Cubellis, referring to the memo, reviewed the reasons for drafting a Policy and Procedures Manual.

Aside from the new policies related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Ms. Lund asked is any of the policies or procedures in the Administrative and Financial Policies section were new or different from existing or past practice. Mr. Cubellis explained that the structure of this section was based on good examples from other cities in Washington but that the content of each subsection reflected WCOG's existing practices for each policy or procedure topic. This will align with the state auditors' and agency program monitors' preference that these policies be documented in one place and reduce the need to review individual topics each year – e.g. internal controls.

Motion: Mr. Scanlon moved, seconded by Mr. Hansen, to adopt the WCOG Policy and Procedures Manual as presented. **Motion passed** with none opposed.

G. Director's report:

Mr. Conroy announced that he would soon be sending out the 2026 Legislative Priority Project List for the Board to review and update for 2027. The goal is to have an updated document for consideration at the December 9 meeting.

Mr. Conroy will be working with WCOG's lobbyist (McBride & Benge Public Affairs) and meeting with our region's state legislative delegation following the Nov. 3 election. While, like last year, there is little expectation that new project-funding will be available for the legislature to direct toward projects during the upcoming session, it is WCOG's typical approach to keep the priority-list updated for whenever the next opportunity emerges. Additionally, requests for other legislative action can also be included in the annually updated document.

Lastly Mr. Conroy noted recent workshops hosted by House Transportation Committee Chair Jake Fye on discussions around a highway user fee (HUF). This is a somewhat new discussion following on the last few years of discussion of a road usage charge (RUC). Given the declining revenues from the state's fuel tax (due to electric vehicles and generally increasing vehicle fuel economy) a different revenue model is needed to keep operating the state's highway system in a state of good repair. It is not clear yet how regional elected officials might be asked to participate in developing and or supporting corresponding legislation.

I. Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Korthuis adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Greg Hansen
Secretary-Treasurer

Hugh Conroy
Director

Approved December 9, 2026