



## Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Whatcom Council of Governments

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 3:15 p.m.**

Gordon W. Rogers Conference Room

314 East Champion Street

Bellingham, Washington

Join using Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82795247756>

Or phone: (253) 215-8782

### Agenda

#### Page(s)

- A. **Call to Order**
- B. **Public Comment**  
Citizens may speak informally to the Executive Committee on agenda items or other matters relating to the governance and/or business of the Whatcom Council of Governments. *Each speaker is allowed a maximum of three minutes.*
- C. **Additions to the Agenda**
- 2 D. **Approval of Minutes\***  
Meeting of March 12, 2025
- 3-5 E. **New Business**
  - 1. Recommendation to Council Board on Proposed 2026 WCOG Budget -- Ron Cubellis and Hugh Conroy\*
  - 2. Other new business (if any)
- F. **Adjourn**

\* *Action item*

Whatcom Council of Governments  
**DRAFT** Executive Committee Minutes  
March 12, 2025

In Attendance (In person or via Zoom)

Members      Voting: **Bellingham**: Michael Lilliquist (Vice Chair), Skip Williams; **Ferndale**: Greg Hansen (Secretary-Treasurer); **Nooksack**: Kevin Hester; **Port of Bellingham**: Bobby Briscoe; **Whatcom County**: Jon Scanlon

Staff            Hugh Conroy, Ron Cubellis, Melissa Fanucci.

A.      Call to order

Mr. Conroy determined that a quorum was present, and Vice Chair Lilliquist called the meeting to order at 3:17 PM.

B.      Consent Agenda: Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2024, and January 2025 claims.

**Motion**: Mr. Hansen moved, second by Mr. Scanlon, to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

**Motion Passed**

E.      Budget Report

Mr. Cubellis reviewed the 2025 budget to date. There were no questions.

F.      New Business

1. Considering approval of a professional services agreement with RSG for conducting a regional, household travel survey (HST).

Mr. Cubellis referred the committee to the subject memo and gave a brief description of the HST project (which the Policy Board voted to fund last year) and asked the committee to approve the director to enter into the services agreement to hire the consultant, RSG (required by WCOG's procurement policy for expenditures over \$100,000)

**Motion**: Mr. Briscoe moved, seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve the director to enter into the services agreement with RSG.

**Motion Passed**

G.      Other Business: Mr. Conroy informed the committee that The Opportunity Council has decided to not renew its membership on the Council Board.

Mr. Conroy recapped a discussion with Tom McBride (WCOG's lobbyist – Mc Bride & Benge Public Affairs). Mr. McBride recommended that Mr. Conroy send a letter to follow up on WCOG's legislative priority project list sent to our delegation in January. Because the state financial picture is particularly bad, Mr. McBride's advice was to use the letter to focus only on the five priority projects. Mr. McBride also agreed that it would be good for the letter to also highlight the deeper impact of proposed budget cuts on existing programs. While advocating for new projects is still a good long-term approach, in this session it seems the challenge is going to be more about keeping what we have.

H. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

**DRAFT**

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Greg Hansen  
Secretary-Treasurer

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Hugh Conroy  
Director

Approved Day Month



whatcom council of governments

## Memo

**To:** The WCOG Council Board

**From:** Hugh Conroy, Director *HC*

**Date:** December 3, 2025

**Subject:** Proposed 2026 Budget – Final Draft

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Attached to this memo please find the final draft of the proposed 2026 Budget for your review prior to the Council Board meeting next week. I draw your attention to the following:

### Dues

Dues are determined using both population and the average cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of the member jurisdictions, as is WCOG's adopted practice. Annual population change is drawn from Office of Financial Management estimates for Whatcom County, the seven cities and the Lummi Nation.

Based on the adopted methodology, COLA for 2026 is determined to be 2.9 percent. The Port's dues increase is the average increase of the nine jurisdictions.

### Expenses

Consultants and Contracts in 2026 will include updates to the regional travel demand model (including base year updates and forecasts of 2050 for the 2027 regional plan update. Whatcom Smart Trips will also conduct an expanded outreach campaign with WTA. Two projects started in 2025 will also be wrapping up in 2026: the Household Travel Survey and the IMTC cross-border Passenger Vehicle Survey.

Ron and I look forward to discussing the draft 2025 Budget with you next week.

Whatcom Council of Governments  
2026 Budget Draft #2 12-03-2025

	2026	2026	2026
<i>CONSOLIDATED</i>	Draft #1 10/1/2025	Changes 10/1/25 to 12/3/25	Draft #2 12/3/2025 for Adoption 12/10/2025
<b>Beginning Net Cash and Investments</b>	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 400,000
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<b>Programs &amp; Projects</b>			
Local	\$ 130,386	\$ 3,033	\$ 133,419
State	399,560	14,665	414,225
Federal	1,199,631	(960)	1,198,671
Canadian	0	-	0
Miscellaneous (foundations, classes, rebates)	3,000	-	3,000
Total Programs & Projects	\$ 1,732,577	\$ 16,738	\$ 1,749,315
<b>Dues</b>			
Bellingham	\$ 72,772	\$ -	\$ 72,772
Blaine	4,873		4,873
Everson	2,401	-	2,401
Ferndale	12,595	-	12,595
Lummi Nation	4,310	9	4,319
Lynden	12,462	-	12,462
Nooksack	1,351	-	1,351
Sumas	1,358	-	1,358
Whatcom County (unincorporated)	65,850	(9)	65,841
Port of Bellingham	32,156	-	32,156
Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer	250	-	250
Opportunity Council	150	-	150
Public Utilities District #1	150	-	150
Sudden Valley Association	150	-	150
Western Washington University	150	-	150
Total Dues	\$ 210,978	\$ -	\$ 210,978
<b>Other Revenue</b>			
Interest Income	7,000	-	7,000
Total Other Revenue	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ 7,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,950,555</b>	<b>\$ 16,738</b>	<b>\$ 1,967,293</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>			
Salaries	\$ 993,141	\$ 938	\$ 994,079
Benefits:			
Dental Insurance	11,269	(589)	10,680
Disability Insurance	4,201	4	4,205
Health Insurance	141,761	6	141,767
Life Insurance	810	-	810
Retirement Contributions	55,417	53	55,470
Social Security Equivalent & Medicare	76,625	332	76,957
Vision Insurance	2,002	-	2,002
Workers Compensation Premiums (L&I)	4,176	-	4,176
Total Benefits	\$ 296,261	\$ (194)	\$ 296,067
Total Salaries & Benefits	\$ 1,289,402	\$ 744	\$ 1,290,146

Whatcom Council of Governments  
2026 Budget Draft #2 12-03-2025

<i>CONSOLIDATED</i>	2026	2026	2026
	Draft #1 10/1/2025	Changes 10/1/25 to 12/3/25	Draft #2 12/3/2025 for Adoption 12/10/2025
<b>Other Expenses</b>			
Communication Services	\$ 31,600	-	\$ 31,600
Consultants & Contracted Services	399,472	17,060	416,532
Incentives	20,000	-	20,000
Insurance - Property & Liability	13,000	-	13,000
Office Equipment & Software	43,651	950	44,601
Pass Through to Partners	30,000	-	30,000
Printing	10,000	-	10,000
Professional Development	8,900	-	8,900
Rent	77,000	-	77,000
Repair & Maintenance	2,000	-	2,000
Supplies	11,500	-	11,500
Travel	28,600	-	28,600
Utilities	8,000	-	8,000
Total Other Expenses	\$ 683,723	\$ 18,010	\$ 701,733
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,973,125</b>	<b>\$ 18,754</b>	<b>\$ 1,991,879</b>
<b>Ending Net Cash and Investments</b>	<b>\$ 377,430</b>	<b>\$ (2,016)</b>	<b>\$ 375,414</b>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/Treasurer

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Executive Director