



Memo

To: Whatcom Transportation Policy Board

From: Lethal Coe, Principal Planner

Date: January 8, 2025

Subject: WCOG 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Amendment #1 (25-01) of the WCOG 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes the following:

1. Add City of Bellingham project *Pine/Wharf St. Rail Crossing Improvement Project* that will upgrade the BNSF crossing to include four quadrant gates, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and travel lane channelization. The project was awarded \$950k in Highways Safety Improvement Program funds and the total project cost is \$4,329,955. Construction is planned for 2026.
2. Amend City of Bellingham project *Downtown Signalized Intersection Accessibility & Safety Improvements* to add federal funds. Recently awarded federal Highway Safety Improvement Program funds will replace the portion of local funding for preliminary engineering and construction, and the total project cost remains at \$3.5 million. The project will begin later this year.
3. Add Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) project *Concrete Roadway Preservation Whatcom Council of Governments* to replace concrete to extend the life of the highways and provide a smoother ride. The project is funded through federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and state Motor Vehicle Account (MVA), and the total amount of funds programmed for preliminary engineering and construction phases is \$1,217,856. Construction in 2026.
4. Amend WSDOT project *Asphalt/Chip Seal Preservation Whatcom Council of Governments* to increase the funding for the preliminary engineering and construction phases. The program has increased to a total cost of \$30,980,264. The project is federal funded through National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and state funded through Motor Vehicle Account (MVA). The current program's construction is scheduled for 2025-2027.
5. Amend Lummi Nation's *Elevate Slater Rd* project to update the preliminary engineering estimate. The current \$2.35 mil will likely increase beyond the 30% threshold for an amendment. A current PE estimation of \$4.35 has been provided in the meantime and an updated estimation is planned to be provided in time for the policy board meeting.

Formal TIP Amendments require review and resolution from the Policy Board to amend the current TIP and make federal funding accessible.

Suggested Policy Board Action

Approve Amendment #1 of the Whatcom Council of Governments 2025 Transportation Improvement Program.

WCOG TIP Amendment #1 (25-01) Table

#	Agency	Project Title	Amended TIP Action	Added Funds	Total Cost	Source
1	Bellingham	<i>Pine/Wharf St. Rail Crossing Improvement Project</i>	Add new project	4,329,955	4,329,955	HSIP
2	Bellingham	<i>Downtown Signalized Intersection Accessibility & Safety Improvements</i>	Amend to HSIP funds and add PE phase	521,000	3,500,000	HSIP
3	WSDOT	<i>Concrete Roadway Preservation Whatcom Council of Governments</i>	Add new project	1,217,856	1,217,856	STBG, MVA
4	WSDOT	<i>Asphalt/Chip Seal Preservation Whatcom Council of Governments</i>	Amend to increase funding	25,391,700	30,980,264	NHPP, STBG
5	Lummi Nation	<i>Elevate Slater Rd</i>	Amend to increase funding – amount to be confirmed at WTPB	~2 mil	~4.35 mil	STBG, MAW

Recent or Upcoming Administrative Modifications - Administrative modifications are less substantial project changes and are administered by WCOG staff. No Policy Board Actions are required.

Agency	Project	Modification Administered	Total Costs	Source
Bellingham	<i>Potter and Lincoln St Roundabout</i>	Add Safe Routes to School funds awarded by WA	\$2.35 mil	SRTS