



Meeting of the Whatcom Transportation Policy Board

Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 3:30 p.m.

314 East Champion Street, Bellingham, Washington

Join using Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87542507276>

Or phone: (253) 215-8782

Agenda

Pages

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Public Comment**
Citizens may speak informally to the Board on matters pertinent to its statutory responsibilities and which are not the subject of a public hearing. *Each speaker is allowed a maximum of three minutes.*
- C. Additions to the Agenda (if any)**
- 2-3 **D. Approval of the Minutes -- Meeting of January 21, 2026***
- E. Business**
- 4-5 **1. Public Hearing: Amendment #2 (26-03) of the WCOG 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
 - i) Staff Presentation – Lethal Coe
 - ii) Open Public Hearing – Members of the public may address the Board about the subject of the hearing for a maximum of three minutes each.
 - iii) Close Public Hearing*
 - iv) Board Discussion
 - v) Vote on Proposed TIP amendment*
- F. Obligation Status Update – Lethal Coe**
- G. Director’s Report – Hugh Conroy**
- H. Correspondence (if any)**
- I. Board Open Forum**

* Action item

DRAFT Whatcom Transportation Policy Board
Minutes
January 21, 2026

In Attendance (In-person or via Zoom)

Members *Voting:* **Bellingham:** Jace Cotton; **Blaine:** Richard May; **Everson:** John Perry;
Ferndale: Greg Hansen (2nd Vice Chair); **Nooksack:** Kevin Hester; **Sumas:** Bruce
Bosch; **Whatcom County:** Jessica Rienstra, Satpal Sidhu; **WSDOT:** Melissa Ambler;
Whatcom Transportation Authority: Michael Lilliquist (1st Vice Chair).
Ex-officio -- Whatcom Public Utilities District No. 1: Atul Deshmane.

Staff Lethal Coe, Hugh Conroy (Secretary), Ron Cubellis, Melissa Fanucci.

Others Whatcom Transportation Authority: Les Reardanz; McBride & Benge Public Affairs:
Intisar Benge, Riley Benge; City of Bellingham: Tim Homan; WSDOT: Justin Resnick;
Eukia.

A. **Call to Order**

Hugh Conroy determined that there was a quorum, and Vice Chair Lilliquist called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

B. **Public Comment**

None

C. **Approval of the minutes**

Motion: Mr. Hester moved, second by Mr. Hansen, to approve the minutes of the meetings of October 8, 2025. **Motion passed** with no opposing votes.

D. **Old Business**

Nones

E. **Public hearing: Amendment #1 (26-01) of WCOG’s 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Coe reviewed the requested amendments. Vice Chair Lilliquist opened the public hearing at 3:35. No members of the public being present, Mr. Lilliquist closed the public hearing at 3:35.

Motion: Mr. Hansen moved, second by Mr. Hester, to approve Amendment #1 (26-01). **Motion passed** with no opposing votes.

G. **Obligation Status Update**

Mr. Coe reviewed the status of our region’s obligation of awarded federal funding. As this point, WCOG is on track to be about \$500,000 short of its target of \$4.3 million.

Mr. Coe also presented a summary of WCOG’s obligation performance over the last decade. Because of repeated successes in meeting its target early in most years, WCOG has qualified for (and successfully applied for) extra funds made available when other states don’t obligate their federal transportation funds on time and must return them.

I. **Director’s Report**

Mr. Conroy asked Ms. Benge and Mr. Benge to share any updates from Olympia. Mr. Benge reviewed some of the recent legislative activity early into the short session. Mr. Benge also noted that the Governor’s proposed budget does include restoration of funding for WSDOT’s Regional Mobility Grant Program and that they will be working with legislators to support that recommendation.

Mr. Conroy asked Mr. Coe to give a brief update on the Household Travel Survey which he did. Mr. Lilliquist asked about the resulting data dashboard and who would be able to access that. Mr. Coe responded that the dashboard will be public-facing on WCOG's website.

Mr. Conroy gave updates on the cross-border Passenger Vehicle Intercept Survey and the Advanced Border Information System projects.

Mr. Conroy gave a more detailed overview of WCOG's schedule for the upcoming 5-yr update of the Regional/Metropolitan Transportation Plan (R/MTP) and proposed ways staff could work with the Policy Board to consider any issues or regional objectives that should be discussed more or differently as compared to the current R/MTP.

Board members suggested reviewing the current plan's prioritized regional transportation goals and the strategies identified to advance those goals. Mr. Conroy reviewed both and answered clarifying questions.

There was discussion about public engagement strategies. Mr. Lilliquist suggested that instead of /along with requesting feedback on the plan overall that feedback on a few key issues could be emphasized. Mr. Deshmane proposed that I-5 operations and future improvements could be one such issue simply due to the persistent community discussion.

J. Mr. Lilliquist adjourned the meeting at 4:28.

.

Hugh Conroy
Secretary

Scheduled for approval on March 11, 2026



Memorandum

To: Whatcom MPO/RTPO Transportation Policy Board (WTPB)
Date: March 3, 2026
From: Lethal Coe, Principal Planner
Subject: Review and consideration to approve WCOG 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Formal TIP Amendments require review and resolution from the Policy Board to amend the current TIP and make federal funding accessible. **Amendment #2 (26-03)** of the WCOG 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes the following:

1. Amend City of Bellingham project - *Electric Avenue Bridge Reconstruction* – to replace the multimodal bridge over Lake Whatcom. This project was awarded federal Bridge funds of \$10,460,000. The preliminary engineering is scheduled to begin later this year and construction phase in 2028.
2. Amend Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) project – *SR 20/Tributary to Thornton Creek - Culvert Replacement* – to increase construction phase funding by \$819,213 and remove the preliminary engineering phase. The project is federally funded through Western Federal Lands, Surface Transportation Block Grant, and state funded through Motor Vehicle Account.

Suggested Policy Board Action

“Approve Amendment #2 of the Whatcom Council of Governments 2026 Transportation Improvement Program.”

WCOG TIP Amendment #2 Table

#	Agency	Project Title	TIP Action	Added Funds	Total Cost	Source(s)
1	Bellingham	<i>Electric Avenue Bridge Reconstruction</i>	Add Federal funds and increase CN	4,145,600	11,845,600	Bridge
2	WSDOT	<i>SR 20/Tributary to Thornton Creek - Culvert Replacement</i>	Amend to increase CN and remove PE	665,169	2,047,493	STBG, WFL, MVA

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
Lynden	<i>Liberty Street Sidewalk Gap Removal</i>	Adjust the PE and CN phases	543,360	TA
Whatcom	<i>Birch Bay Lynden Rd/Kickerville Rd Intersection Safety Improvements</i>	Change project description to a roundabout	1,325,000	HSIP