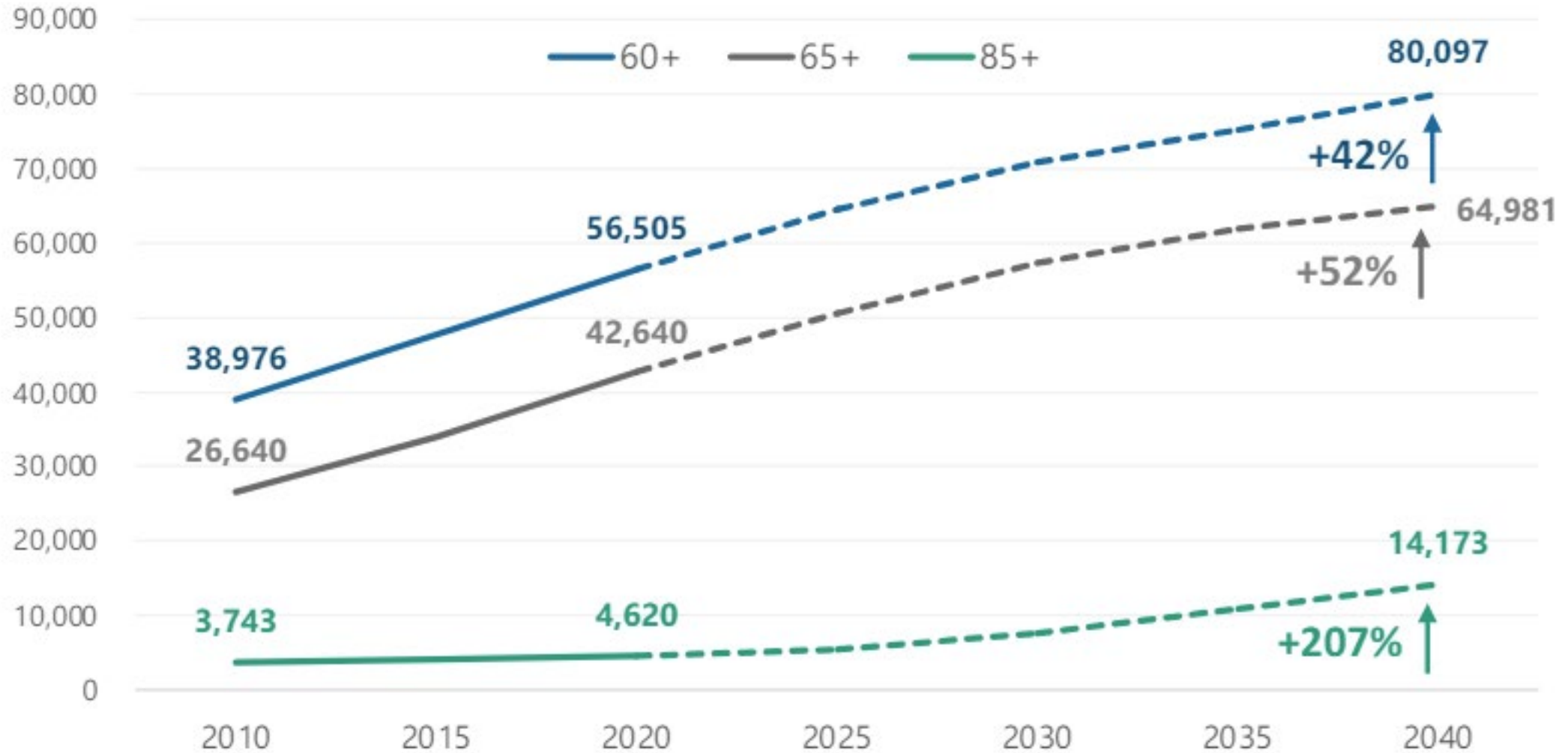


Aging Well Whatcom

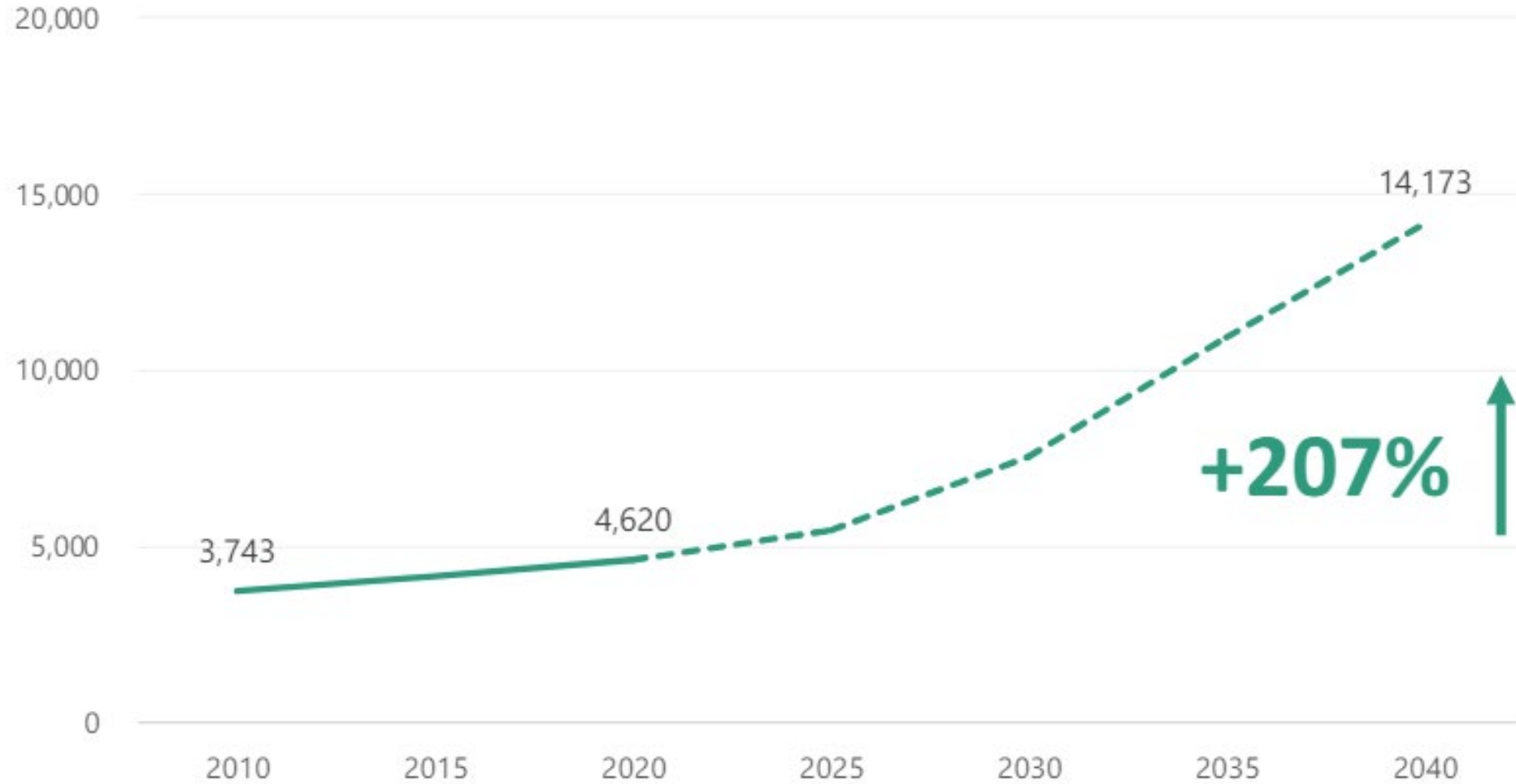
A community initiative that aims to make Whatcom County a place with the culture, physical infrastructure, social supports, and services for all of us to age well.



Projected Older Adult Population, Whatcom County 2010-2040



Projected Population Age 85+, Whatcom County 2010-2040





2022 Blueprint

Second Edition
Presented June 2022



Aging Well Whatcom Blueprint

A community vision for Whatcom County

Six Focus Areas:

- Cultural Shift
- Information & Navigation
- Housing
- Intergenerational Community
- **Transportation**
- Wellness & Healthcare

www.agingwellwhatcom.org/blueprint



Transportation is critical to community members' well-being, as it impacts housing options, access to services, social activities, and many other aspects of life.

More options are needed to meet the needs of all members of our community, especially those who are unable or choose not to drive.

What things do you feel are the **most important** to your quality of life?

- **“Safe and comfortable transportation.”**
- **“Ability to get healthcare without a car.”**
- **“Access to transportation - especially outside of Bellingham”**
- **“Good sidewalks. I do not drive so being able to walk allows me to be independent.”**

What **challenges or concerns** do you have in regards to your health and well-being?

- **“Getting around as driving becomes harder.”**
- **“I can't walk to where the bus stops are.”**
- **“No shoulders on the roads near our home make it unsafe to walk.”**
- **“Unable to drive at night and I feel unsafe in an Uber or Lyft.”**

If you could **add or change** one thing that is available for older adults, what would that be?

- **“More public transportation to outlying county areas.”**
- **“Better transportation for those not living directly on a bus route.”**
- **“Sidewalks in areas currently lacking them.”**
- **“More benches in downtown.”**
- **“Ride sharing.”**

Transportation in the Blueprint

Desired Outcomes

- 1** Everyone in Whatcom County has access to viable transportation options, regardless of their location.
- 2** Expanded, robust walkable neighborhoods, with a focus on areas with a high percentage of older adults.
- 3** Older adults, families, and advocates are aware of all the transportation options available in Whatcom County.

Five Community Based Strategies

Four Policy Strategies

What Do You Think?

- Do some of the survey responses reflect your experiences or concerns about transportation?
- What are your biggest transportation-related needs?
- If you could make ONE change related to transportation in Whatcom County, what would it be?



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Community Based Strategies

- ★ **1 Increase outreach, education and community engagement about existing transportation options** to older adults, their family members, and in-home caregivers (bus rider education and training, easier-to-read materials, maps of ADA accessible features such as unobstructed sidewalks, crosswalks, bus stops, and information about the cost of driving and the impact of transportation decisions on climate change.)
- 2** Create an online platform that centralizes information about existing Whatcom County transportation options.
- 3** Explore innovative transportation models such as shared mobility (coordinated car-sharing and ride-sourcing), partnerships with taxi services and Transportation Network Companies such as Lyft and Uber, volunteer assisted transportation, scheduled shuttle trips from key locations such as apartment buildings to grocery stores, medical centers, or theaters, and other best practices.
- **4 Develop more service models that go to where older adults are**, reducing the need for transportation to access programs and services.
- **5 Address the disproportionate rate of traffic-related fatalities and injuries among older adults** and people with disabilities by partnering with the WA Department of Transportation (Active Transportation Plan) and the Washington State Strategic Highway Safety Plan (Target Zero and Older Drivers).

Policy

- 1 Prioritize the mobility and other access needs of seniors and people with disabilities by advocating for funding to implement the Whatcom County and City of Bellingham ADA Transition Plans for the Public Right-of-Way.
- 2 Work with jurisdictions within Whatcom County to adopt a Complete Streets policy to improve accessibility and safety for people of all ages and abilities.
- 3 Ensure that all local jurisdictions' transportation plans (including the transportation chapters of comprehensive plans, and bicycle and pedestrian plans) engage older adults and people with disabilities and highlight policies and projects that prioritize their mobility and other access needs.
- 4 **Advocate for planning that connects transportation, land use, and housing**, such as siting housing for older adults in close proximity to services, and developing neighborhood infrastructure and services that support older adults to age in place.