



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE
WHATCOM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Gordon W. Rogers Conference Room
314 East Champion Street, Bellingham

Join using [Zoom](#)
Or by phone: (253) 215-8782

AGENDA

PAGES

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| | A. | CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Korthuis |
| | 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. <i>Each speaker is allowed a maximum of three minutes.</i> |
| | C. | ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA |
| | D. | CONSENT AGENDA* |
| 3-5 | | 1. Minutes of the Meeting of October 12, 2022 |
| 6-8 | | 2. October and November 2022 Claims |
| 9 | | 3. Proposed 2023 WCOG Meeting Calendar |
| | E. | BUDGET REPORT
Budget Report for the Period Ending October 31, 2022 – Ron Cubellis |
| 10 | | |
| | F. | OLD BUSINESS (if any)
Draft 2023 Legislative Transportation Priorities – Bob Wilson* |
| 11-16 | | |
| | G. | NEW BUSINESS |
| 17-19 | | 1. Final Draft 2023 WCOG Budget – Messrs. Wilson and Cubellis* |
| | | 2. Other new business (if any) |
| | H. | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Mr. Wilson |
| | I. | CORRESPONDENCE |
| 20 | | |
| | J. | BOARD OPEN FORUM |
| | K. | ADJOURN |

* Action item

Persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation for this meeting, please contact the WCOG office at (360) 676-6974, at least six (6) days prior to this meeting to receive assistance. Para asistencia en español, por favor enviar un correo electrónico a espanol@wcog.org.



Notice to the Public Regarding Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

WCOG hereby gives public notice that it is the policy of the agency to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, Executive Order 13166 on Limited English Proficiency, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Title VI requires that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which WCOG receives federal financial assistance.

Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with WCOG. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with the WCOG Title VI Coordinator within one-hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. Title VI Discrimination Complaint Forms may be obtained from the WCOG at no cost and are available on WCOG's website.

Aviso al Público Sobre Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964

Por medio de la presente, el WCOG notifica de manera pública que la política del organismo es garantizar el pleno cumplimiento del Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, la Ley de Recuperación de Derechos Civiles de 1987, el Decreto Presidencial 12898 sobre Justicia Ambiental, el Decreto Presidencial 13166 sobre Dominio Limitado del Idioma Inglés, así como los estatutos y reglamentos relacionados en todos los programas y actividades. De acuerdo con lo estipulado en el Título VI, ningún individuo de los Estados Unidos de América deberá, con fundamento en su raza, color, sexo o nacionalidad, ser excluido de participar en, que se le nieguen los beneficios de, o ser víctima de discriminación en virtud de cualquier programa o actividad por el cual el WCOG reciba fondos federales.

Toda persona que se considere agraviada por una práctica discriminatoria e ilícita en virtud del Título VI tiene derecho a presentar una denuncia formal ante el WCOG. Cualquier denuncia de este tipo debe presentarse por escrito ante el coordinador del Título VI del WCOG en un periodo de 180 días naturales a partir de la fecha de la presunta discriminación. El WCOG pone a disposición del público los formularios de denuncia del Título VI de manera gratuita en su página web.

WHATCOM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD MINUTES – **DRAFT**
OCTOBER 12, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE (IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM):

MEMBERS VOTING: **Bellingham:** Seth Fleetwood, Michael Lilliquist, Kristina Martens;
Ferndale: Greg Hansen (Secretary-Treasurer); **Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District:** Todd Citron; **Sumas:** Bruce Bosch; **Whatcom County:** Satpal Sidhu, Kathy Kershner EX-OFFICIO: Christine Grant, PUD No. 1; Les Reardanz, WTA

GUESTS Intisar Surur, McBride Public Affairs

STAFF Bob Wilson, Ron Cubellis, Hugh Conroy, Melissa Fanucci

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Wilson determined that a quorum was present, and Chairman Korthuis called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present, either in the conference room or online.

C. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of January 19 and May 11, 2022, and January – September 2022 Claims

The consent agenda included the minutes of the meetings of January 19 and May 11, 2022, and the list of claims from January 1 through September 30, 2022, in the amount of \$1,072,025.12, which was emailed to the representatives on October 6, 2022, and which was audited and certified by the Executive Director, acting as the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.090.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

E. BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Cubellis presented the budget report for the period ending August 31, 2022.

F. OLD BUSINESS

None

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Draft 2023 WCOG Budget

Messrs. Wilson and Cubellis presented the draft budget to the Board and answered questions posed by the representatives. Mr. Wilson reminded the Board that the final draft would be presented for adoption at the December 2022 meeting, and that no action was necessary at this meeting.

2. Draft 2023 Legislative Transportation Priorities

Mr. Wilson indicated that, to date, he had received only one legislative funding request from the members, which was from Sumas. However, the legislative agenda can be adopted at the December 2022 meeting, and he asked the members to start developing their requests as soon as possible.

3. 2022 WCOG Budget Amendment

Mr. Cubellis described the proposed budget amendment, as follows:

- a. The Smart Trips program received funding from the Port of Bellingham to update the program's digital platform. Fiscal impact: revenue +\$40,000; expense +\$20,000.
- b. The International Mobility & Trade Corridor program received funding from Transport Canada, the BC Ministry of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration to conduct a border-related Commercial Vehicle Operations Study. Fiscal impact: revenue +\$69,000; expense +\$54,000.
- c. The regional transportation planning program will be receiving funding from the City of Bellingham and Washington State DOT to assist with gathering safety assessment analytics for the Lincoln/Lakeway study area. Fiscal impact: revenue +\$31,000 revenue; expense +\$46,000.

MOTION: Mr. Fleetwood moved, seconded by Ms. Kershner, to adopt WCOG Budget Amendment No. 2022-1, as presented.

MOTION PASSED

H. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In the interest of time, Mr. Wilson declined to make a report.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Wilson directed the representatives to two letters included in the meeting packet which he had written recently.

J. BOARD OPEN FORUM

No comments were offered.

K. ADJOURN

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

Greg Hansen
Secretary-Treasurer

Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Executive Director

Approval scheduled for December 14, 2022

DRAFT

Whatcom Council of Governments
CLAIMS LISTING
October through November 2022

Date	Num	Source Name	Memo	Paid Amount
Oct - Nov 22				
10/01/2022	MF 090122	Mailgun Technologies	Office Equipment & Software	9.43
10/01/2022	MF 090322	Amazon Web Services	Communication Services	650.26
10/01/2022	MF 090522	Adobe Systems Inc.	Office Equipment & Software	52.99
10/01/2022	KW 092022	Icicle Village Resort	Travel	332.28
10/01/2022	KW 092022	Icicle Village Resort	Travel	332.28
10/01/2022	KW 092022	Icicle Village Resort	Travel	332.28
10/01/2022	KW 092022	Diamond Parking	Travel	8.11
10/01/2022	KW 092022	Exxon	Travel	20.63
10/01/2022	KW 092022	Shell	Travel	33.88
10/01/2022	BW 090422	ADT Inc.	Utilities	81.21
10/01/2022	MG 090222	McClatchy Company LLC	Communication Services	275.32
10/01/2022	MG 092222	US Postal Service	Communication Services	60.00
10/01/2022	JM 092122	Pendragon Software Corporation	Office Equipment & Software	40.00
10/01/2022	RC 082522	Right Networks LLC	Office Equipment & Software	161.00
10/01/2022	RC 090122	Google LLC	Communication Services	65.28
10/01/2022	RC 090122	Pitney Bowes	Office Equipment & Software	177.33
10/01/2022	RC 090222	Intuit Inc.	Office Equipment & Software	17.41
10/01/2022	RC 090522	Comcast	Communication Services	202.44
10/01/2022	RC 090622	GoDaddy	Communication Services	43.89
10/01/2022	RC 090622	GoDaddy	Communication Services	44.97
10/01/2022	RC 090622	GoDaddy	Communication Services	89.96
10/01/2022	RC 090722	Bellingham Herald (subscription)	Communication Services	1.00
10/01/2022	RC 090922	Pitney Bowes	Office Equipment & Software	32.00
10/01/2022	RC 091222	Heroku Inc.	Communication Services	136.01
10/01/2022	RC 091322	Amazon.com, Inc.	Office Equipment & Software	1,141.31
10/01/2022	RC 091322	T-Mobile US, Inc.	Communication Services	10.00
10/01/2022	RC 091422	Bellingham Herald (subscription)	Communication Services	0.99
10/01/2022	RC 091522	Intermedia.net Inc	Communication Services	342.88
10/01/2022	RC 091622	Amazon.com, Inc.	Supplies	87.03
10/01/2022	RC 091522	Sanitary Service Corporation	Utilities	76.05
10/01/2022	RC 091622	Microsoft Corporation	Office Equipment & Software	107.72
10/01/2022	RC 091622	Amazon.com, Inc.	Repair & Maintenance	182.72
10/01/2022	RC 091722	Amazon.com, Inc.	Supplies	46.76
10/01/2022	RC 092222	US Chef	Supplies	66.53
10/01/2022	RC 092222	Pacific Power Batteries	Utilities	8.16
10/03/2022	ach	HSA Bank	HSA Accounts	1,950.00
10/03/2022	ach	HSA Bank	HSA Accounts	1,022.34
10/07/2022	E-pay	WA Dept of Employment Security	Payroll taxes	22.02
10/07/2022	E-pay	WA Dept of Employment Security	Payroll taxes	3,375.25
10/12/2022	3457	AES Inc.	Temp Agency	2,155.90
10/12/2022	3458	Bruce's Janitor Service	Janitorial	625.00
10/12/2022	3459	Cascade Natural Gas	Utilities	16.92
10/12/2022	3460	Champion Building LLC	Office Lease	6,066.97
10/12/2022	3461	Fountain Motor	Vehicle rental	258.02
10/12/2022	3462	IBI Group US	Professional Services	826.00
10/12/2022	3463	Mallard Ice Cream	Incentives	675.00
10/12/2022	3464	McBride Public Affairs LLC	Professional Services	3,828.00
10/12/2022	3465	McClatchy Company LLC	Public Hearing Notices	295.29
10/12/2022	3466	Michelle Grandy	Expense Reimbursement	58.09
10/12/2022	3467	Puget Sound Energy	Utilities	216.89
10/12/2022	3468	Ricoh USA Inc.	Office Equipment/Software	26.50
10/12/2022	3469	The Bagelry	Incentives	2,006.00
10/12/2022	3470	US Bank	Purchase Cards	5,270.11
10/12/2022	3471	WA State Auditor's Office	Professional Services	6,153.30
10/12/2022	3472	Whatcom Transportation Authority (vendor)	Vanpool Services	436.00
10/12/2022	eft	WCOG Petty Cash	Petty Cash Refill	250.00
10/18/2022	1139	Kunkel-Patterson, Rachel	Incentives	250.00
10/18/2022	1140	Richter, Christine	Incentives	1,000.00
10/21/2022	ach	WA Dept of L&I	Payroll Taxes	729.18
10/21/2022	ach	WA Dept of Employment Security	Payroll Taxes	887.97
10/21/2022	ach	WA Dept of Employment Security	Payroll Taxes	0.00
10/26/2022	ACH	HSA Bank	HSA Fees	11.25
10/28/2022		QuickBooks Payroll Service	Payroll Service on 10/21/2022	46,140.78
10/28/2022	E-pay	Internal Revenue Service	Payroll taxes	8,984.00
10/28/2022	E-pay	Internal Revenue Service	Payroll taxes	1,012.91
10/28/2022	E-pay	Internal Revenue Service	Payroll taxes	1,012.91

Whatcom Council of Governments
CLAIMS LISTING
October through November 2022

Date	Num	Source Name	Memo	Paid Amount
10/28/2022	E-pay	Internal Revenue Service	Payroll taxes	0.00
10/28/2022	ach	AFLAC	Employee Paid Coverage	129.56
10/28/2022	ACH	HSA Bank	HSA Contributions	1,950.00
10/28/2022	ACH	HSA Bank	HSA Contributions	1,022.34
10/28/2022	ach	Empower Retirement	Retirement	574.00
10/28/2022	ach	Empower Retirement	Retirement	644.68
10/28/2022	ach	Empower Retirement	Retirement	1,245.00
10/28/2022	ach	WA Dept of Retirement Systems	PERS Contribution	4,198.64
10/28/2022	ach	WA Dept of Retirement Systems	PERS Contribution	6,859.12
10/28/2022	ach	WA Dept of Retirement Systems	PERS Contribution	2,770.89
10/28/2022	ach	WA Dept of Retirement Systems	PERS Contribution	3,500.74
10/28/2022	ach	AWC via Vimly	Benefits	46.65
10/28/2022	ach	AWC via Vimly	Benefits	9,605.88
11/01/2022	MF 092722	Envato	Office Equipment & Software	14.15
11/01/2022	MF 100122	Mailgun Technologies	Communication Services	9.40
11/01/2022	MF 100322	Amazon Web Services	Communication Services	521.60
11/01/2022	MF 100422	MyFonts Inc.	Office Equipment & Software	27.18
11/01/2022	BW 100422	ADT Inc.	Utilities	78.52
11/01/2022	MG 101822	META (Facebook) Inc.	Communication Services	13.36
11/01/2022	MG 101822	Rite Aid	Supplies	15.22
11/01/2022	MG 102122	Goodwill	Supplies	8.69
11/01/2022	JM 102122	Pendragon Software Corporation	Office Equipment & Software	40.00
11/01/2022	RC 092622	Right Networks LLC	Office Equipment & Software	161.00
11/01/2022	RC 092622	Fred Meyer	Supplies	41.32
11/01/2022	RC 100222	Zoom.us	Communication Services	761.39
11/01/2022	RC 100122	Google LLC	Communication Services	65.28
11/01/2022	RC 100222	Intuit Inc.	Office Equipment & Software	17.41
11/01/2022	RC 100522	Comcast	Communication Services	205.16
11/01/2022	RC 101022	Heroku Inc.	Communication Services	136.01
11/01/2022	RC 101122	Municipal Research Service Corporation	Professional Development	40.00
11/01/2022	RC 101322	T-Mobile US, Inc.	Communication Services	10.00
11/01/2022	RC 101722	Intermedia.net Inc	Communication Services	342.53
11/01/2022	RC 101722	Sanitary Service Corporation	Utilities	76.26
11/01/2022	RC 100522	Bellingham Herald (subscription)	Communication Services	15.99
11/01/2022	RC 101422	Bellingham Herald (subscription)	Communication Services	0.99
11/08/2022	1141	Lopez, Pam	Incentives	250.00
11/15/2022	3473	AES Inc.	Temp Agency	588.67
11/15/2022	3474	Bruce's Janitor Service	Janitorial	625.00
11/15/2022	3475	Capitol City Press	Printing	972.10
11/15/2022	3476	Cascade Natural Gas	Utilities	55.14
11/15/2022	3477	Champion Building LLC	Office Lease	6,066.97
11/15/2022	3478	Good Eye Design	Professional Services	157.50
11/15/2022	3479	HSA Bank	VOID: HSA Fees	0.00
11/15/2022	3480	IBI Group US	Professional Services	826.00
11/15/2022	3481	Lethal Coe III	Expense Reimbursement	2,288.07
11/15/2022	3482	McBride Public Affairs LLC	Professional Services	3,828.00
11/15/2022	3483	Puget Sound Energy	Utilities	181.90
11/15/2022	3484	Street Simplified LLC	Professional Services	46,000.00
11/15/2022	3485	US Bank	Purchase Cards	2,601.46
11/15/2022	EFT	WCOG Petty Cash	Petty Cash Refill	1,250.00
11/22/2022	3486	United Way	Employee Contributions	443.00
11/29/2022		QuickBooks Payroll Service	Payroll Service on 11/22/2022	46,419.28
11/30/2022	E-pay	Internal Revenue Service	Payroll taxes	9,024.00
11/30/2022	E-pay	Internal Revenue Service	Payroll taxes	1,018.44
11/30/2022	E-pay	Internal Revenue Service	Payroll taxes	1,018.44
11/30/2022	E-pay	Internal Revenue Service	Payroll taxes	0.00
11/30/2022	ACH	AFLAC	Employee Paid Coverage	129.56
11/30/2022	3487	United Way	Employee Contributions	443.00
11/30/2022	ach	AWC via Vimly	Benefits	46.65
11/30/2022	ach	AWC via Vimly	Benefits	9,605.88
11/30/2022	ach	HSA Bank	HSA Fees	1,950.00
11/30/2022	ach	HSA Bank	HSA Fees	1,022.34
11/30/2022	ach	Empower Retirement	Retirement	574.00
11/30/2022	ach	Empower Retirement	Retirement	644.68
11/30/2022	ach	Empower Retirement	Retirement	1,245.00
11/30/2022	ach	WA Dept of Retirement Systems	PERS Contribution	4,221.57
11/30/2022	ach	WA Dept of Retirement Systems	PERS Contribution	6,896.58

Whatcom Council of Governments
CLAIMS LISTING
 October through November 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Source Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Paid Amount</u>
11/30/2022	ach	WA Dept of Retirement Systems	PERS Contribution	2,782.98
11/30/2022	ach	WA Dept of Retirement Systems	PERS Contribution	3,523.10
Oct - Nov 22				<u>292,680.98</u>

The Council Board retroactively approves the payments made during October through November 2022, for the above listed claims in the total amount of \$292,680.92*

Board Officer	Title	Date
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MEMORANDUM

To: The Council Board
From: Bob Wilson, Executive Director
Date: December 7, 2022
Subject: **Proposed 2023 WCOG Meeting Calendar**

The proposed schedule of meetings of the Council Board, Executive Committee and Whatcom Transportation Policy Board follows for the Board's consideration:

1/18/23	3:00	Council Board
	3:30	Whatcom Transportation Policy Board
3/8/23	3:30	Whatcom Transportation Policy Board
5/10/23	3:00	Council Board
	3:30	Whatcom Transportation Policy Board
7/12/23	3:30	Whatcom Transportation Policy Board
10/11/23	3:00	Council Board
	3:30	Whatcom Transportation Policy Board
12/13/23	3:15	Executive Committee
	3:30	Council Board

Please be aware that Executive Committee meetings may be called when needed in those months when no Council Board meeting is scheduled.

Whatcom Council of Governments
Board Budget Report
 January through October 2022
 (83% of the year)

	<u>Jan - Oct 22</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Income			
333 · Federal Grants	724,703	863,692	84%
334 · State Grants	161,860	165,260	98%
337 · Local Grants	174,319	122,109	143%
361 · Interest Income	3,416	3,000	114%
367 · Contributions & Donations	17,730	35,000	51%
368 · Membership Dues	174,127	174,268	100%
369 · Other Income	1,007		
Total Income	<u>1,257,162</u>	<u>1,363,329</u>	<u>92%</u>
Expense			
505 · Communication Services	25,474	28,800	88%
510 · Consultants & Contract Services	78,812	112,612	70%
515 · Incentives	11,758	10,000	118%
520 · Insurance- Property & Liability	10,781	10,500	103%
530 · Office Equipment & Software	27,739	21,350	130%
535 · Pass-Through Funding	0	19,000	0%
545 · Printing	5,763	15,700	37%
550 · Professional Development	7,042	9,050	78%
555 · Rent	60,193	71,100	85%
560 · Repair & Maintenance	2,645	3,000	88%
565 · Payroll - Salaries & Wages	662,672	794,297	83%
566 · Payroll - Taxes & Benefits	269,788	310,621	87%
575 · Supplies	6,254	9,800	64%
580 · Travel	5,313	6,600	81%
585 · Utilities	11,786	13,000	91%
590 · Miscellaneous Expense	1,163		
Total Expense	<u>1,187,183</u>	<u>1,435,430</u>	<u>83%</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash	<u>\$69,979</u>	<u>(\$72,101)</u>	

Balance Sheet as of:

	<u>1/1/2022</u>	<u>10/31/2022</u>	Cash & Investments	
Cash on hand	\$ 15,892	\$ 18,485	Target (4 mos.)	\$434,606
Investment Account	309,370	373,786	Available	\$392,271
Accounts Receivable	259,295	308,253		
Total	\$ 584,557	\$ 700,524		
Accounts Payable	19,140	36,514		
Net Equity	<u>\$ 565,417</u>	<u>\$ 664,010</u>		



whatcom council of governments

MEMORANDUM

December 7, 2022

TO: The Council Board

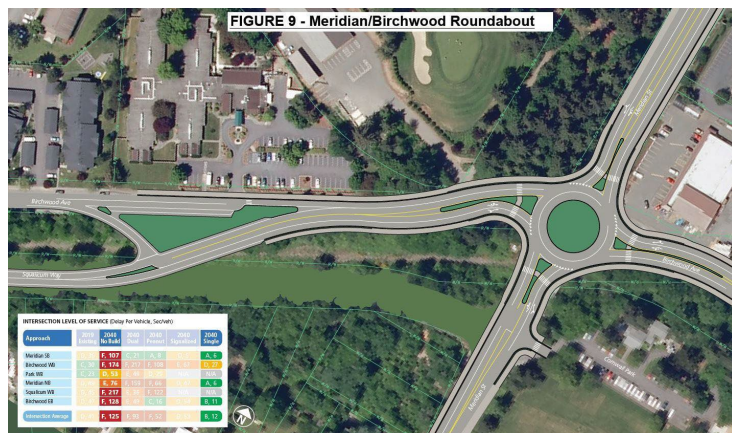
FROM: Bob Wilson, Executive Director

RE: **Transportation Priorities of Whatcom County, 2023**

The following are the requests received to date for projects to be included on WCOG’s 2023 approved list of legislative funding requests. For your information, projects included on the 2022 list and which haven’t been modified or the requesting jurisdiction has not asked me to remove it have a **black** heading. Projects which were on last year’s list and *have been* modified are indicated with a **blue** heading. Finally, new project requests appear with a **red** heading.

For the 2021 and 2022 lists the Council Board selected one “priority project” each for Whatcom County, Bellingham, the small cities and WTA. I recommend that approach for the 2023 list.

Meridian Street/Birchwood Avenue Roundabout (Bellingham)– The existing signalized intersections at Meridian/Birchwood and Meridian/Squalicum Parkway serve a critical freight route and multimodal transportation link between the industrial Bellingham waterfront and the U.S.-Canada border via Interstate 5 and State Route 539. With the completion of the Orchard Street-Birchwood extension, traffic volume, as well as the volume of bicyclists and pedestrians, will increase, further congesting these corridors’ closely-spaced intersections.



Bellingham’s *Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan* calls for sidewalks and bicycle facilities, while the *Park and Recreation Plan* calls for a multiuse trail on the vacated railroad bed. Additionally, the Whatcom Transportation Authority has indicated that Meridian Street-SR 539 is a candidate corridor for future high-frequency GO Line transit service.

This project must be completed in two distinct but interrelated phases. Phase 1 – which is funded – would merge the Squalicum Parkway truck-freight route with Birchwood Avenue on the west side of Meridian while decommissioning the Meridian/Squalicum traffic signal. Phase 2 would reconstruct the Meridian/Birchwood intersection as a multimodal roundabout. The County seeks funding for Phase 2. Request: **\$7-million**

Benson Road Complete Street Improvements (Lynden) Benson Road between Sunrise and Badger Road (SR-546) is only 20-22 feet wide with narrow shoulders, a deep fish-bearing ditch on one side and no bike or pedestrian facilities. A new PeaceHealth North County Medical Facility is being constructed in the southeast corner of Benson and Badger. To the south is Isom elementary school which uses Benson Road as its primary access. The properties to the west are currently being annexed into the City for residential and multi-family development. There is also a small commercial overlay zone in this area. Finally, this area includes 40 acres of Public Use zoned land to be used as a multi-faceted regional park facility. All these managed growth requirements will greatly increase traffic on Benson Road, an old rural county road badly needing to be upgraded to a “complete” street. The proposed project will construct an all-weather arterial street, 36 feet in width with bike lanes, curb, gutter, and sidewalk where none exists. This project will create a true Complete Street providing for multi-modal travel. This widened cross-section will occur to the west to avoid impacting the fish-bearing roadside ditch on the east. The State Department of Transportation is currently scheduled to improve the intersection of Badger Road (SR-546) with Benson Rd to a compact roundabout in 2024.

Lynden has used local funds to complete survey and preliminary design. Based on this work, the City has obtained \$1,866,000 in federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding which requires a match of \$291,225 in City funds. Current estimates have the total project cost at \$3.22 million dollars, leaving a funding shortfall of \$1,063,775 million dollars. This difference requires the City to seek additional funding which can be matched with local traffic impact fees. Request: **\$850,000**

Support for County and Local Road Repairs Resulting from November 2021 Catastrophic Flooding (Whatcom County) – Massive damage to roads, bridges and culverts in unincorporated Whatcom County, the seven cities, the Lummi Nation reservation and the Nooksack Tribe’s trust lands caused by November’s historic flooding resulted in Whatcom County submitting federal damage reimbursements in the amount of \$12.1-million. That amount is a planning-level estimate for direct damage to the County’s road system; it does not include the costs associated with flood response, debris removal or levee repair, which are being determined and are expected to be significant. Whatcom County seeks the support of the region’s state legislative delegation to provide financial assistance to reimburse those expenditures not covered by federal disaster recovery assistance. Request: **\$3-million**

Lummi Island Ferry System Modernization and Preservation (Whatcom County)– The *M/V Whatcom Chief* (built in 1962) and its terminal facilities exceeded their design lives long ago. The system often experiences unplanned service disruptions and faces growing maintenance costs and major facility replacements, first and foremost a complete and unavoidable repower by 2028 to comply with EPA Tier 3 emissions requirements for marine diesel engines. This repower requires substantial and expensive reconfigurations below-decks and puts at risk the vessel’s “grandfathered” status, especially since it also does not

present-day safety, ADA or service standards. Replacement of the vessel will avoid the cost and associated months of service disruption.

The Whatcom County Council conducted a systematic, publicly-informed design process for a hybrid diesel-electric replacement that meets all current standards and will meet the needs of residents, emergency services, taxpayers, crew members and the environment for decades to come. This project must be advanced immediately, since construction of the vessel requires two years, followed by another two years to upgrade the terminal. Unfortunately, the County's recent application for a federal BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant for ferry modernization was denied. **Request: \$10-million County Ferry Capital Improvement Program approval and an additional \$11-million appropriation from the State Legislature**

Birch Bay-Lynden Road Arterial Preservation (Lynden) – Birch Bay-Lynden Road is a primary all-weather road that provides access to Lynden from I-5 and State Route 539 (Guide Meridian Road), the latter being the primary freight connection to the Lynden-Aldergrove border crossing as well as to the Sumas-Huntingdon port-of-entry via SR 546. Most west Lynden commercial and industrial businesses – including Lynden Door, Scholten Equipment, Preferred Freezer and Oxbo International – use Birch Bay-Lynden Road as their primary access to I-5. Despite the City's diligence in maintaining the roadway (chip sealing, asphalt patching, etc.), this critical corridor is reaching the end of its useful life and requires a structural grind and overlay to restore it to a state of good repair. **Request: \$750,000**

Pavement Rehabilitation (Whatcom County) – This project would replace aged road surfaces on sections of four main arterials with heavy volumes of commercial and commuter traffic: Birch Bay-Lynden Road, Birch Bay Drive, Lake Louise Boulevard and Northwest Avenue. Work will include upgrading bicycle routes, multi-use lanes and ADA facilities. Pavement rehabilitation projects require no land acquisition, environmental mitigation or engineering design. (Click [here](#) for examples of similar work.) **Request: \$6.5-million**

Birch Bay-Lynden Road/Blaine Road Roundabout (Whatcom County) – This project involves the construction of a roundabout to ensure that this intersection, which is projected to experience a significant increase in traffic volume, will operate at an acceptable level of service. The design incorporates safe-pedestrian paths that meet ADA requirements, provide bike lanes, upgrade lighting and improve site drainage as required by the Department of Ecology. (Click [here](#) for current information on this project.) **Request: \$3.5-million**

Slater Road and Bridge (Lummi Nation) – Slater Road is a regionally-significant arterial that provides access to the Cherry Point industrial area, the Lummi Nation reservation (including the Silver Reef casino), and also serves as the designated tsunami evacuation route for thousands of residents of western Whatcom County. This project would raise the elevation of Slater Road by 12 feet above its current elevation to minimize the impact of seasonal flooding in the lower Nooksack River basin to keep this critical regional arterial open. **Request: \$19-million**

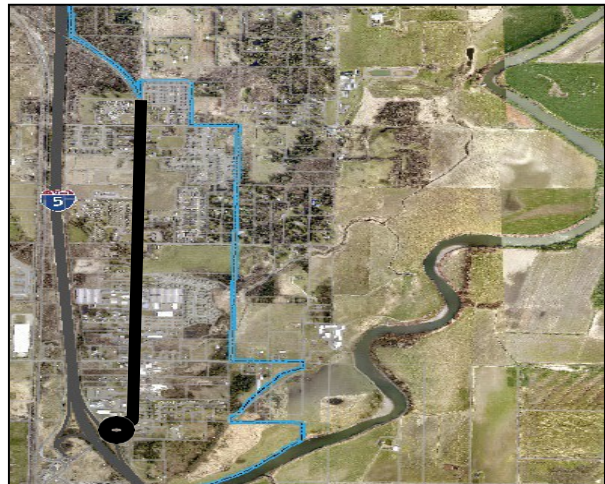
Marine Drive Improvements, Phase Two (Whatcom County) – Marine Drive is an important regional corridor for commuters and recreational bicyclists. The roadway parallels the bluff on the north shore of Bellingham Bay from Bellingham and crosses the Nooksack River delta on its way to the Lummi Nation. This project between Locust Avenue and Alderwood Drive is the second of a three-phase project to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety from the Bellingham city limits across the BNSF railway. (Additional information can be found [here](#).) Request: **\$2.5-million**



The lack of bike lanes and sidewalks – as well as inadequate or non-existent shoulders – makes bicycling and walking hazardous in many locations along Marine Drive.

Portal Way Entry Roundabout and Corridor Improvements (Ferndale) – Provide missing multi-modal access along one of Whatcom County’s fastest-growing multifamily/ mixed-use areas by reconstructing and widening critical transportation infrastructure along approximately 3,500 feet of the approximately 7,500 feet of the Portal Way corridor. Improvements will include two 11-foot travel lanes, a 12-foot center turn-lane, bicycle lanes, and sidewalks. Improvements to an existing compact roundabout at the northbound Portal Way exit (Exit 263) to include a slip lane or other improvements are also anticipated.

Portal Way is the primary north-south surface street in Ferndale and is the only arterial street serving one of the fastest-growing mixed-use areas in Whatcom County, including several residential neighborhoods, commercial and medical uses, and job-producing industries. Growth in the area is expected to triple the number of employees and double the number of households by 2036. Approximately 750 residential units have been constructed within the last two years or are proposed to be constructed within the next three years, and about 500,000 square feet of commercial/industrial space has been constructed within the last five years or is proposed to be constructed within the next three.



The existing corridor has lacked improvement since the inception of Interstate 5 and does not include non-motorized transportation options. Increased development along the corridor will continue to exacerbate conflicts between motorized and non-motorized transportation. Piecemeal reconstruction of the corridor by private development will not yield a coordinated transportation corridor. Request: **\$11 million**

Support for Zero Emission Transit Buses (Whatcom Transportation Authority) – The cost of an electric bus and charger is double that of a standard diesel bus. With a fleet of 61 buses – at approximately \$550,000 per unit – the unfunded marginal cost to electrify the fleet would be up to \$40 million over 10 years. Converting from diesel to zero emission buses is by far the most significant action WTA can take to reduce its harmful emissions. Request: **Capital support in an amount to be determined by the Legislature**

Bus Stop Improvements (WTA) – WTA currently has over 450 bus stops that are not fully accessible for people with disabilities. The City of Bellingham has committed to contribute Transportation Benefit District funds for the next several years to help improve access at these stops. To accelerate this, WTA is pursuing additional funding to complete this key equity initiative. Request: **\$75,000**

Blaine Marine Drive (Blaine)- The City of Blaine’s economic vitality is supported by maritime trades, border traffic and recreational tourism. The Wharf District within the City is a key driver of these industries, offering breathtaking views, water recreation, bird watching, marine wildlife viewing and serving as a major hub for commercial fishing in the region.



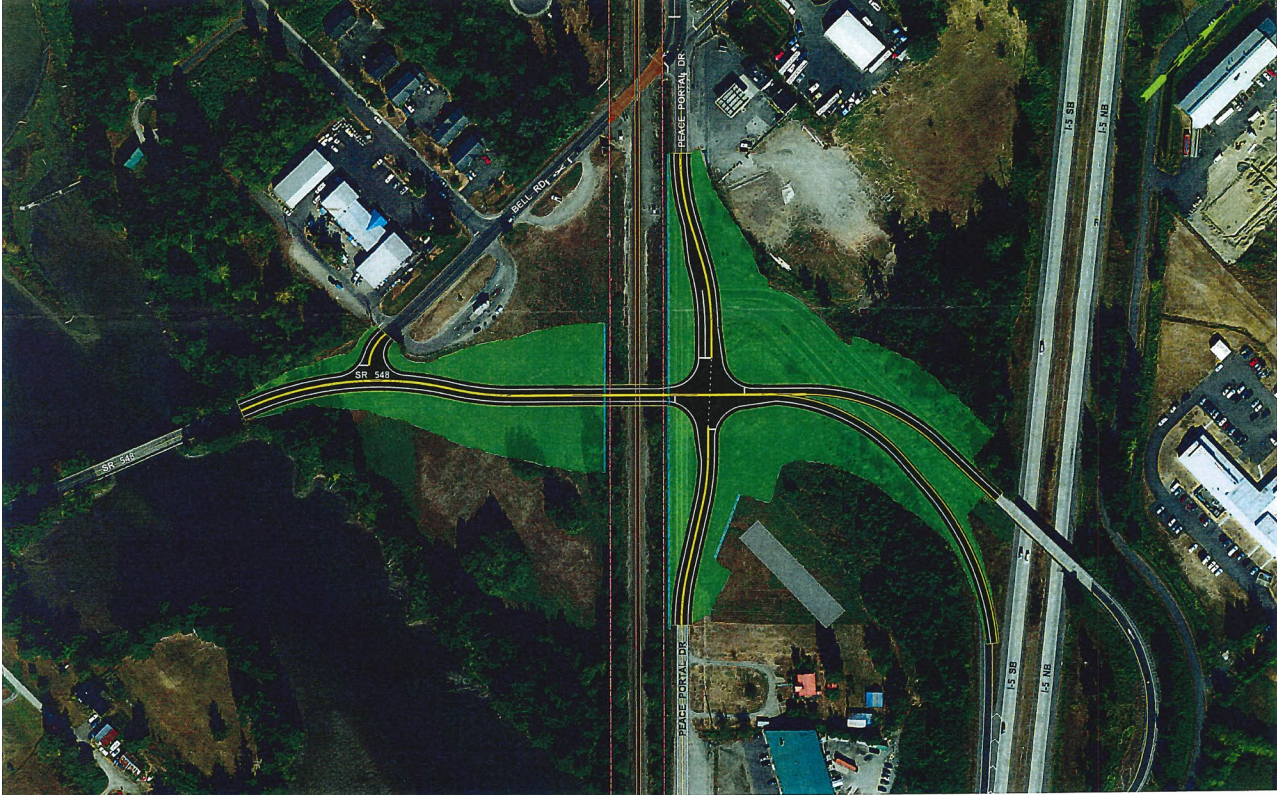
The City, in partnership with the Port of Bellingham, has undertaken several efforts to improve the vitality of the Wharf District, culminating in a new Wharf District Master Plan completed in 2020. One of the key initiatives identified in the plan is the restoration and improvement of Marine Drive and Jorgensen Pier, both of which serve the activities and businesses in the Wharf District. The wharf area and Jorgensen Pier are also historic, having been in commercial use before Washington became a state in 1889. The access to Jorgensen Pier has been severely limited due to failure of the roadway leading up to the pier; since 2015, this section of Marine Drive has not been usable for vehicle traffic. The southern half of the roadway is structurally unstable (and is now fenced off) and the northern half is open for pedestrian access only.

Significant road and pedestrian improvements are needed to Marine Drive to improve access and mobility; as well as enhance the safety and security of this important transportation linkage between downtown Blaine and waterfront, particularly for those with mobility challenges and for maritime businesses operating at the pier. These improvements will improve the quality of life in the City, promote community health providing active recreational opportunities, and assist with economic recovery, which has been significantly impacted by the closure of the border that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. The City has invested \$2.4-million for Phases 1 and 2 and is seeking \$4.0-million for the final phase of the project. Request: **\$4.0-million**

Sumas Emergency Evacuation Route (Sumas) – In response to the catastrophic flooding that took place in Sumas in November 2021, the City of Sumas has identified the need for a flood-resistant travel route that would allow emergency evacuation of the citizens from the city and surrounding area when all current transportation routes are unavailable during a major flood event. In the November 2021 flood, flood waters cut off access to all routes out of the city except the international border crossing, which was also closed. Citizens were trapped in an area near the northwest corner of downtown Sumas, but could not travel west to higher ground elsewhere in Whatcom County. The City is proposing to elevate and reconstruct an

approximately 1.5-mile emergency evacuation route that would include Kneuman Road from Garfield Street (near the BNSF rail crossing) to Barbo Road and Barbo Road from Kneuman Road to West Front Street (near Halverstick Road). These roadways would be elevated to the height of the 100-year flood to allow evacuation and safe passage out of the city, including evacuation of federal employees. This route would also provide an access route into the city for emergency services during and immediately following a major flood events.
REQUEST: \$2.2-million

Bell Road Grade Separation Project (Blaine) – Information to follow.





MEMORANDUM

To: The Council Board
From: Bob Wilson, Executive Director
Date: December 7, 2022
Subject: **Proposed 2023 Budget – Final Draft**

Attached to this memo please find the final draft of the proposed 2023 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 our longtime practice. Annual population change is drawn from Office of Financial Management estimates for Whatcom County, the seven cities and the Lummi Nation. The Port’s dues increase is the average increase of the nine jurisdictions. We have received the 2023 COLAs from the member jurisdictions, from which we have determined the average to be 6.31 percent, which is incorporated into the final draft.

Salaries. The four junior members of the staff are being promoted and their salaries will be adjusted accordingly. The remaining four staff members will receive one percent longevity increases. Also, Kirsten expects to retire within the next few months, so this final draft budget assumes that she will no longer be on the staff effective January 1, 2023, and her salary funding will be reallocated to hire two entry-level staff members for the Smart Trips Program. All members of the staff will receive the approved COLA. WCOG’s salary expense will increase in 2023 by 10.3 percent, to \$876,049.

Employee Benefits. The COG’s 2023 expense for all employee benefits – health insurance, retirement, workers’ compensation, etc. – is expected to increase by \$21,402, or 6.9 percent more than the amount budgeted for 2022. Also, WCOG has applied to the Washington State Employment Security Department to be a “reimbursable employer” in 2023. Reimbursable employers are billed for their share of benefits that are paid to former employees instead of paying a percentage of their taxable wages each quarter. We estimate that this will save WCOG \$60,000 over the next four years.

Consultants. The 2023 consultant expense is anticipated to increase from \$112,612 to \$254,718 as current projects continue and new ones are undertaken. It is important to note, however, that that amount could increase in the event WCOG engages in currently unanticipated projects. Consultant expenses are fully reimbursed under the grant programs through which WCOG funds planning activities and studies.

Ron and I look forward to discussing the draft 2023 Budget with you next week.

Whatcom Council of Governments
2023 Budget (Draft #2 12-07-2022)

<i>CONSOLIDATED</i>	2023	2023	2023
	Draft #1 10/04/2022	Draft #2 12/07/2022	Changes 10/4/21 to 12/7/21
Beginning Net Cash and Investments	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ -
REVENUE			
Programs & Projects			
Local	\$ 175,623	\$ 176,914	\$ 1,291
State	241,760	203,510	(38,250)
Federal	1,106,001	1,128,143	22,143
Canadian	0	0	-
Miscellaneous (foundations, classes, rebates)	0	0	-
Total Programs & Projects	\$ 1,523,383	\$ 1,508,567	\$ (14,817)
Dues			
Bellingham	\$ 61,887	\$ 63,389	\$ 1,502
Blaine	4,040	4,138	98
Everson	2,017	2,066	49
Ferndale	10,524	10,780	256
Lummi Nation	3,504	3,902	398
Lynden	10,643	10,901	258
Nooksack	1,028	1,053	25
Sumas	1,147	1,175	28
Whatcom County (unincorporated)	57,869	58,961	1,092
Port of Bellingham	27,205	27,865	660
Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer	230	230	-
Birch Bay Water & Sewer	-	150	150
Opportunity Council	150	150	-
Public Utilities District #1	150	150	-
Sudden Valley Association	150	150	-
Western Washington University	150	150	-
Total Dues	\$ 180,694	\$ 185,210	\$ 4,516
Other Revenue			
Interest Income	3,000	3,000	-
Total Other Revenue	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 1,707,077	\$ 1,696,777	\$ (10,301)
EXPENSES			
Salaries & Benefits			
Salaries	\$ 903,514	\$ 876,049	\$ (27,465)
Dental Insurance	12,665	12,637	(28)
Disability Insurance	3,822	3,706	(116)
Health Insurance	150,878	151,619	741
Life Insurance	810	725	(85)
Retirement Contribution	93,875	91,021	(2,854)
Social Security Equivalent	68,715	66,738	(1,977)
Unemployment Insurance Tax	0	0	-
Vision Insurance	2,213	2,213	-
Workers Compensation Insurance	3,719	3,364	(355)
Total Benefits	\$ 336,697	\$ 332,023	\$ (4,674)
Total Salaries & Benefits	\$ 1,240,211	\$ 1,208,072	\$ (32,139)

Whatcom Council of Governments
2023 Budget (Draft #2 12-07-2022)

<i>CONSOLIDATED</i>	2023	2023	2023
	Draft #1 10/04/2022	Draft #2 12/07/2022	Changes 10/4/21 to 12/7/21
Other Expenses			
Communication Services	\$ 34,600	\$ 34,600	-
Consultants & Contracted Services	253,661	254,718	1,057
Incentives	10,000	13,000	3,000
Insurance - Property & Liability	11,000	11,900	900
Office Equipment & Software	23,010	23,010	-
Pass Through to Partners	20,000	20,000	-
Printing	15,700	15,700	-
Professional Development	9,050	9,050	-
Rent	73,400	73,400	-
Repair & Maintenance	3,000	3,000	-
Supplies	8,800	8,800	-
Travel	5,600	5,600	-
Utilities	15,000	15,000	-
Total Other Expenses	\$ 482,821	\$ 487,778	\$ 4,957
			0
Total Expenses	\$ 1,723,032	\$ 1,695,850	\$ (27,182)
			0
Ending Net Cash and Investments	\$ 384,045	\$ 400,926	\$ 16,882

Board Officer

Robert Wilson, Executive Director



November 29, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: **Port of Bellingham's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grant Application**

Mr. Secretary:

The Whatcom Council of Governments strongly supports the Port of Bellingham's application for *Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements* grant funding. We are pleased that the Port is continuing with its program of major capital investments as part of its objective of maximizing future commercial activity at this critical regional facility.

We believe this grant, if funded, will be a significant factor in facilitating the return of freight rail service to the Port's Bellingham Shipping Terminal and "Log Pond" area, and we encourage their efforts to boost regional freight capacity.

This project is consistent with the goals and objectives of *Way to Go, Whatcom*, the region's adopted 2045 metropolitan and regional transportation plan. When completed, it will strengthen the broader Puget Sound maritime community, not merely the Bellingham/Whatcom County region, and for that reason, among others, we believe it deserves the support of the federal government. We hope you agree.

Thank you for your consideration of the Port's request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. H. Wilson".

Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Executive Director

Copies: WCOG Council Board
Whatcom Transportation Policy Board
Port of Bellingham