



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Whatcom Council of Governments Releases Draft 2040 Regional Transportation Plan**

BELLINGHAM – As it does every five years, the [Whatcom Council of Governments](#) (WCOG) is updating the long-range transportation plan for the Whatcom region. The [draft](#) is ready for review and WCOG is seeking input from residents throughout the region.

The plan, called [Whatcom Mobility 2040](#), is an assessment of the Whatcom region’s transportation system: its current condition, needs over the next 23 years, and a presentation of strategies to meet those needs while advancing regional goals. Strategies include investments in infrastructure, programs to manage travel demand and ways to operate transportation systems more efficiently. The plan addresses all of the modes of transportation used by residents of the region, including roads, walking, transit and bicycling. It also includes a periodic review of the region’s ability to pay for the strategies identified.

Whatcom Mobility 2040 consolidates WCOG’s requirements to prepare transportation plans for both the Bellingham Urbanized Area – which is a federal requirement – and the remainder of the County, which is mandated under Washington’s Growth Management Act.

WCOG Planning Director Hugh Conroy explained that Whatcom Mobility 2040 will inform decisions that affect everyone who uses the region’s transportation system. “The plan will give local elected officials and our state and federal partners updated guidance for continuing to work together on funding priorities, operational alternatives and related land-use strategies.” He added that one of the principal reasons the plan is being updated is in response to expected growth. “We want to ensure that we can continue to get where we need to go, that the goods and services we need can be delivered, and that that all happens with increased safety and as efficiently and sustainably as possible,” Conroy said.

To give residents throughout the County an opportunity to learn about the plan and provide their input on it, WCOG is hosting four open houses:

- [Bellingham Farmer’s Market](#), Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- [East Whatcom Regional Resource Center](#), Kendall, Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- [Lynden Public Library](#), Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- [Blaine Senior Center](#), Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Established in 1966 by the Washington State Legislature, WCOG is the federally-recognized and State-designated transportation planning agency for the Whatcom region and its constituent local governments, tribes and districts, including the County’s seven cities, Whatcom County Government, the Port of Bellingham and the Lummi Nation.