



## MEMORANDUM

To: Whatcom Transportation Policy Board  
From: Lethal Coe, Principal Planner  
Date: October 17, 2023  
Subject: WCOG 2023 TIP Amendment

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**Amendment #5 (23-10)** of the WCOG 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes the following:

1. Remove WSDOT project *SR 548/Bell Road - Intersection Improvements* funded through WA legislation (Motor Vehicle Account) and regionally-managed Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds. The \$2.2 million of WA (23-25) funding dedicated to this project is being moved to Blaine's *Bell Rd-BNSF Railway Grade Separation* project. Also, the remaining regional STBG funds that have not been expended for preliminary engineering phase of this project will be de-obligated.
2. Add City of Blaine project *Bell Rd-BNSF Railway Grade Separation* that was awarded federal RAISE (Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) funding to replace the at-grade crossing intersection with a grade-separated facility that will include active transportation pathways. The \$9.5 million of RAISE funds and \$2.2 million of WA 2023-25 Budget funds will finance the preliminary engineering (PE) and right-of-way (RW). PE is scheduled to begin in early 2024.
3. Add the agreed to planning project (GCB 2565 & 3509) between WCOG and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT): *Whatcom Council of Governments IMTC 17-19, 19-21 & 21-23 & 23-25* to provide transportation planning work. This project will add \$200,000 through the Surface Transportation Block Grant program.
4. Amend WSDOT project *SR 542/Unnamed Tributaries to High & Mitchell Creeks – Fish Passage* to add federal STBG to the preliminary engineering phase that includes an updated cost estimate and is scheduled for obligation in 2023. The amendment also includes updates to the cost estimates for right-of-way (ROW) and construction phases (CN), and title and termini. The project's total cost estimate is adjusted to \$19 million.

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 #5 of the Whatcom Council of Governments 2023 Transportation Improvement Program.

**WCOG TIP Amendment #5 (23-10) Table**

#	Agency	Project Title	Amended TIP Action	Added Funds	Total Cost	Source
1	WSDOT	<i>SR 548/Bell Rd Intersection Improvements</i>	Remove project to pave the way for Blaine's recent RAISE funded larger scope	-1,985,000	2.85 mil	MVA
2	Blaine	<i>Bell Rd-BNSF Railway Grade Separation</i>	Add new project to fund PE and RW phases	11,700,000	85 mil	RAISE
3	WSDOT-WCOG	<i>Whatcom Council of Governments IMTC 17-19, 19-21, 21-23 &amp; 23-25</i>	Add new project	200,001	200,001	STBG
4	WSDOT	<i>SR 542/Unnamed Tributaries to High &amp; Mitchell Creeks – Fish Passage</i>	Amend current project	-4,674,048	19,065,753	STBG

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**Recent or Upcoming Administrative Modifications** - Administrative modifications are less substantial project changes and are administered by WCOG staff. [No Policy Board Action Required for the following Administrative Modifications](#)

Agency	Project	Modification Administered	Total Costs	Source