SUBJECT: Ordinance adopting amendments to the Transportation chapter of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan establishing policies to implement the bicycle plan and consider utilizing ITS technology in transportation projects.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed ordinance
2. Planning Commission Findings of Fact & Reasons for Action, Conclusions, and Recommendations
3. Planning Commission minutes

Note: Background materials are available for review at the County Council office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEPA review required?</th>
<th>(x) Yes</th>
<th>( ) NO</th>
<th>Should Clerk schedule a hearing?</th>
<th>( ) Yes</th>
<th>(x) NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEPA review completed?</td>
<td>(x) Yes</td>
<td>( ) NO</td>
<td>Requested Date:</td>
<td>1/1/05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 A hearing must be held if the Council changes the Planning Commission recommendation (WCC 20.10.110).

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Amending the Transportation chapter of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan by adopting policies to:

- Implement the Whatcom County Bicycle Plan; and
- Consider implementing intelligent transportation systems (ITS) technology in transportation projects.

Note: The subject proposal is one of a number of comprehensive plan amendments initiated this year. These amendments must be considered concurrently by the County Council so that the cumulative effect of the various proposals can be evaluated (RCW 36.70A.130). Additionally, pursuant to the review schedule established in WCC 20.10.120, final Council action on these amendments should occur on or about November 30.

COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN:
10/12/2004: Introduced.
11/9/2004: Forwarded to concurrency
1/25/2005: Adopted 7-0, Ord. #2005-011

Related County Contract #: 

Related File Numbers: AB2004-082

Distribution Request

- ADS Facilities Management
- ADS Finance
- ADS Human Resources
- ADS Info Services
- Assessor
- Auditor
- Cooperative Extension
- District Court
- Executive
- Health
- Hearing Examiner
- Jail
- Juvenile
- Parks
- Planning
- Prosecutor
- Public Works
- Sheriff
- Superior Court
- Treasurer
- Other

Ordinance or Resolution Number (this item): Ord. #2005-011
ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE
TRANSPORTATION CHAPTER OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, The Growth Management Act requires counties and cities to review and, if needed, revise comprehensive plans to ensure continued compliance with the GMA (RCW 36.70A.130); and

WHEREAS, Legal notice was published in the Bellingham Herald; and

WHEREAS, The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposal; and

WHEREAS, The Planning Commission has evaluated the proposed amendments and made a modification; and

WHEREAS, the County Council has considered the Planning Commission’s Findings of Fact & Reasons for Action, Conclusions and Recommendations.

The Council makes the following findings of fact and conclusions:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Notice of the Planning Commission hearing for the subject amendment was published in the Bellingham Herald on March 25, 2004.

2. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the subject amendment on April 8, 2004.

3. A determination under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) was issued on September 23, 2004.

4. Growth Management Act (GMA) planning goal # 3 is to “Encourage efficient multimodal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans” (RCW 36.70A.020).

5. County-wide planning policy J.2 states that “Whatcom County jurisdictions shall encourage alternative modes of transportation to the single occupancy vehicle. Each jurisdiction will encourage... Development of linked on-street bicycle routes and pedestrian and bicycle trail corridors...”

P. 1
6. The Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Goal 6M is to "Promote bicycle and pedestrian travel by systematically providing safe and convenient routes and facilities where feasible."

7. The Whatcom County Council approved the Whatcom County Bicycle Plan in May of 2003 under resolution 2003-037.

8. Intelligent transportation systems (ITS) utilize technology to provide information to drivers, emergency responders, and transportation planners. ITS applications can increase safety, reduce congestion, expedite commercial vehicle travel, reduce vehicle emissions, and increase efficiency in transit operations.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The subject amendment is consistent with Growth Management Act, County Wide Planning Policies, and Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan.

2. The subject amendment complies with the approval criteria for comprehensive plan amendments of WCC 20.10.080.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that:

Section 1. Chapter 6 of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan relating to transportation is hereby amended as shown on Exhibit A.

Section 2. Adjudication of invalidity of any of the sections, clauses, or provisions of this ordinance shall not affect or impair the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid.

ADOPTED this______ day of ________, 2005

ATTACHED

COUNTY COUNCIL OF WHATCOM COUNTY
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Laurie Caskey-Schreiber, Council Chair

APPROVED as to form:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Pete Kremen, Executive

Date: 1-28-05
EXHIBIT A

Add new policies to chapter 6 of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan as follows:

Policy 6A-9: Consider implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technology to increase safety, reduce traffic congestion, decrease delays, expedite commercial vehicle travel, and provide appropriate traveler information.

Policy 6M-8: Implement as a priority the goals, policies and recommendations of the latest Whatcom County Bicycle Plan.