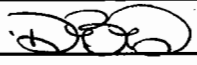


*WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL*

*NO. 1997 - 369*

CLEARANCES	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned To
Orig. Dept.: County Council	10/27/97		11/18/97	Council
Division Head:				
Dept. Head: 	10/27/97			
Prosecutor:				
Budget:				
Executive:				

**SUBJECT:**

Resolution supporting efforts of International Mobility/Trade Corridor Project

**ATTACHMENTS**

The proposed resolution

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

Related County Contract #:	Should the Clerk schedule a hearing? (Y/N N	Requested Date:
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**RECOMMENDED MOTION (for final action):**

**COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN**

1997-369 11/18/97: Approved 7 - 0. Res. #97-072

*Related File Numbers:*

*Ordinance or Resolution Number (this item only):*

*Res. # 97-072*

SPONSORED BY: CONSENT

2 PROPOSED BY: SUTTER

3 INTRODUCTION DATE: 12/18/97

4 RESOLUTION NO. 97-072

5 SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
6 MOBILITY AND TRADE CORRIDOR PROJECT

7 WHEREAS, Canada and the United States are each others' largest trading and tourism  
8 partners; and

9 WHEREAS, Western Canada/Northwestern U.S. is the fastest growing region in population  
10 and international trade in North America; and

11 WHEREAS, facilitating domestic and international tourism is a common objective of  
12 Canada, the United States, and the Two-Nation Vacation Initiative; and

13 WHEREAS, the Blaine/Douglas Port of Entry and Interstate 5/Highway 99 corridor is the  
14 third busiest truck corridor and border crossing between Canada and the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, the Canadian/U.S. Free Trade Agreement, the North American Free Trade  
16 Agreement, the Asian Pacific Economic Conference, and the Open Skies Agreement have all led to  
17 a steady increase in trade and tourism in the region and a strain on transportation systems; and

18 WHEREAS, the Canada/U.S. Accord on Our Shared Border promotes international trade and  
19 facilitation of legitimate movement of the people while enhancing drug and smuggling interdiction  
20 and reducing costs for both users and governments; and

21 WHEREAS, the successful CANPASS/PACE Initiative in the lower mainland and Whatcom  
22 County are expanding to ensure more public access; and

23 WHEREAS investments in border facilities and operations should be integrated with local  
24 and regional transportation systems in a bi-national planning process; and

25 WHEREAS, bi-national planning for the region provides opportunities for joint operational  
26 efficiencies facilities, and enhanced technology for expedited border clearances in the face of  
27 reduced government resources; and

28 WHEREAS, bi-national planning is encouraged in the Federal Highway Administration  
29 Assessment of Border Crossing Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act Report, and,  
30 corridor planning and border pilot projects are encouraged in the U.S. Department of Transportation  
31 National Economic Crossroad Transportation Efficiency Act Proposal; and

1 WHEREAS, the Lower Mainland/Whatcom County gateway is an integral part of a larger  
2 system of trade flows represented by the Pacific North West Economic Region which includes the  
3 two western provinces of Canada and the five northwest U.S. states; and

4 WHEREAS, intercity passenger rail service has resumed between Seattle and Vancouver,  
5 BC; and


6 WHEREAS, Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia have developed a Rail Options  
7 Plan for the Northwest Rail Corridor from Vancouver to Eugene, Oregon.

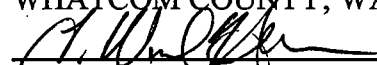
8 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council supports the bi-  
9 national planning process leading to the development of a Lower Mainland/Whatcom County  
10 Border Business Plan to address the following:


- 11 ~ Infrastructure, facilities, and technology for expedited clearances
- 12 ~ Financing for road and rail capacity and safety enhancements
- 13 ~ Joint operational procedures, expanded hours of operations and staffing at border  
14 facilities
- 15 ~ Harmonization of regulations
- 16 ~ Facilitation of Immigration pre-clearance for business and tourist travel
- 17 ~ Cross-border forum for border user groups and community leaders

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council supports the integration  
19 of the results of this planning process into the Connecting the Gateways and Trade Corridors Project  
20 to ensure coordination with Western Canada and Northwestern United States transportation, trade,  
21 and tourism initiatives.

22 APPROVED this 18 day of November, 1997.

23  
24 ATTEST  
25   
26 Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
  
L. Ward Nelson, Council Chair

27 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
28   
29 Daniel L. Gibson  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor