



Questionnaire Summary

WHATCOM 2031 ■ Comprehensive Plan Update ■ December 2008

Introduction

The questionnaire is one of the approaches to public participation in the multi-faceted Whatcom 2031 Public Involvement Program. This method of data collection is not scientific as a survey would be, rather it served as another way to gather quantitative and qualitative information from people who were less likely to attend the vision workshops or submit written comments.

The results contained in this document and its appendices are all of the responses received from 387 respondents to the questionnaire. The questionnaire was posted on the website on Oct. 10, 2008 and was removed from the website on Nov. 14, 2008. Printed versions of the questionnaire were delivered to the Foothills area in response to a request from a few residents and copies were also distributed at the Vision Workshops on Oct. 15 and 16.

This “questionnaire summary” will examine some of the multiple choice responses, with a full report in Appendix 1, and will not summarize the responses from open-ended questions. Some participants in Whatcom 2031 have expressed discomfort with their comments being summarized for review by decision-makers. The verbatim responses to these questions are located in Appendix 2 of this document.

Demographics

Respondents to this questionnaire came from across the county and rates of response from each of the cities were comparable to their portion of the county population. More than 50 percent of respondents have lived in Whatcom County 20 years or more and were 45-64 years old.

Community Values

The natural environment ranked high among those items in the community values section of the questionnaire. “Natural environment features,” “clean water and air,” and “parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational opportunities” topped the list. Community character and rural character were the next most important values.

Population Growth

Respondents were given an opportunity to comment on the Growth Management Coordinating Council’s recommended county-wide population growth projection of 251,490 or 60,490 more people by 2031. The verbatim text of the responses to the question and whether they thought the growth was too little, about right, or too much are in Appendix 2. While 38 percent of the respondents indicated that the projection was “too much”, 31.6 percent thought the projection was “about right” and 19.0 percent thought the projection was “too little.” Respondents were also asked if population growth in the rural areas was too little, just right, or too much. The majority of respondents (62.2 percent) thought that growth in the rural areas was “too much.”

Participants in the questionnaire were also asked where the best and worst places were for population growth. The top five best places were (in order): Bellingham, Ferndale, Blaine, Lynden and Birch Bay. The top five worst places were (in order): Rural Areas, Columbia Valley/Kendall, Nooksack, Birch Bay, and Everson and Sumas (tied). While some places, according to respondents, seem clearly better suited or not suited for growth, Birch Bay appears on both the best and worst list.

Finally, participants were asked to look into the future and predict what type of housing they intend to occupy in 20 years. More than half (59.7 percent) of respondents indicated they intend to live in a single-family home. The next most preferred housing type were condominiums (16.9 percent).



Questionnaire Summary – Appendix 1

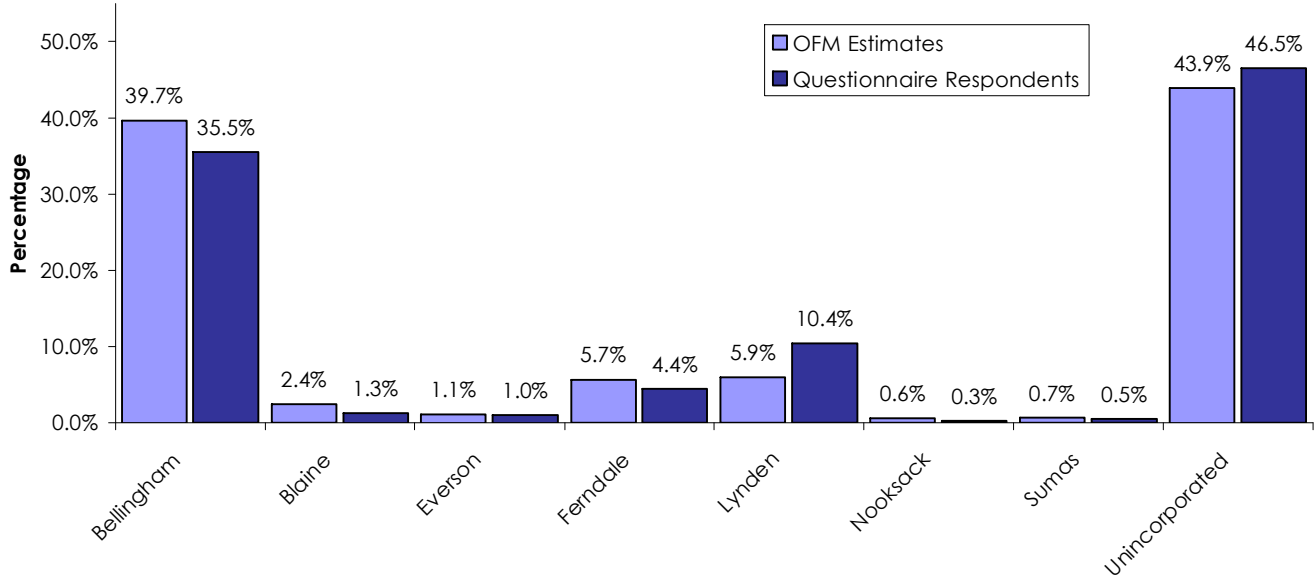
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Demographics

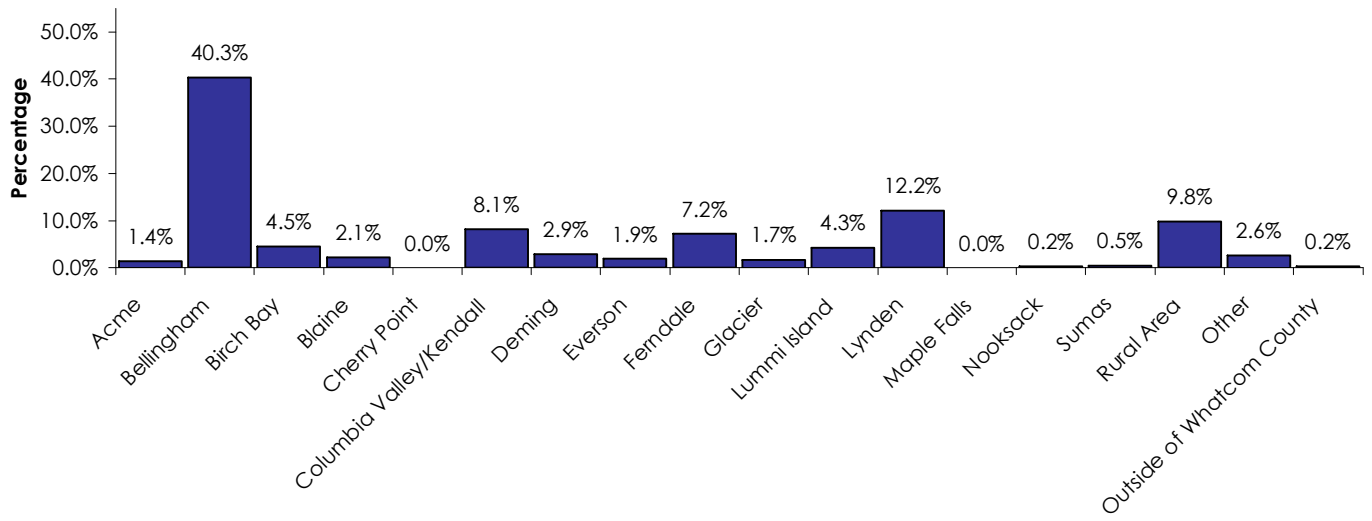
Which area do you live in or are you closest to
(please check one)?

Percentage of Responses by Area

Responses vs. 2008 OFM estimates

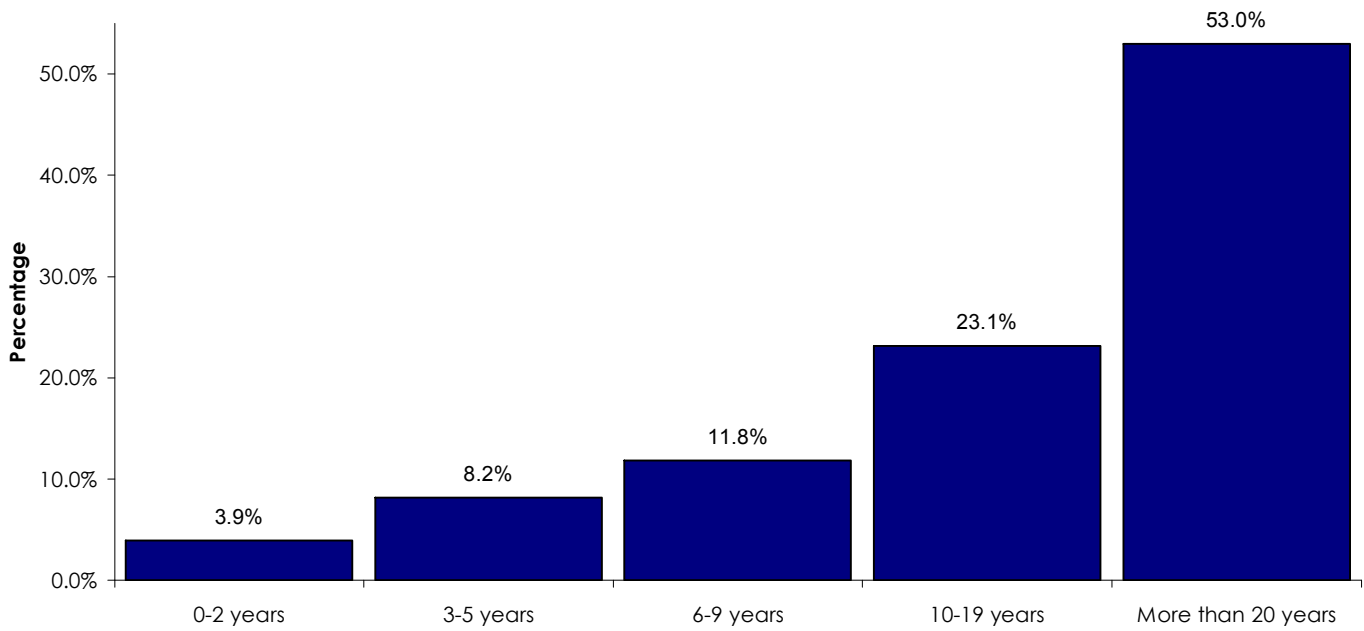


Percentage of Responses by Area
*both "live in" and "live near" responses
including expanded and categorized
"other" and "rural" responses*



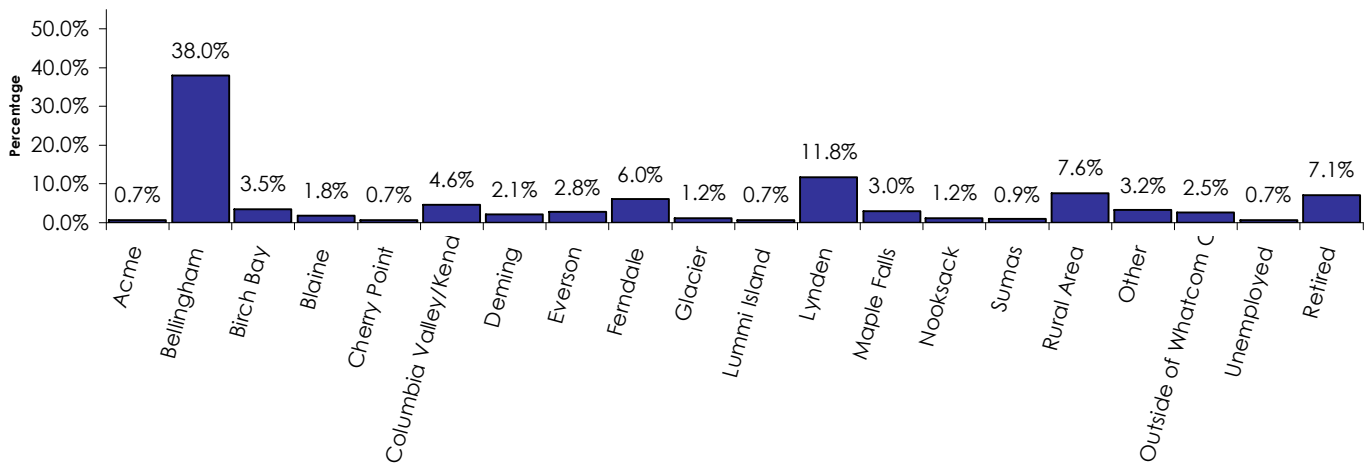
**How long have you lived in Whatcom County
(please check one)?**

Percentage of Responses by Years in Whatcom County

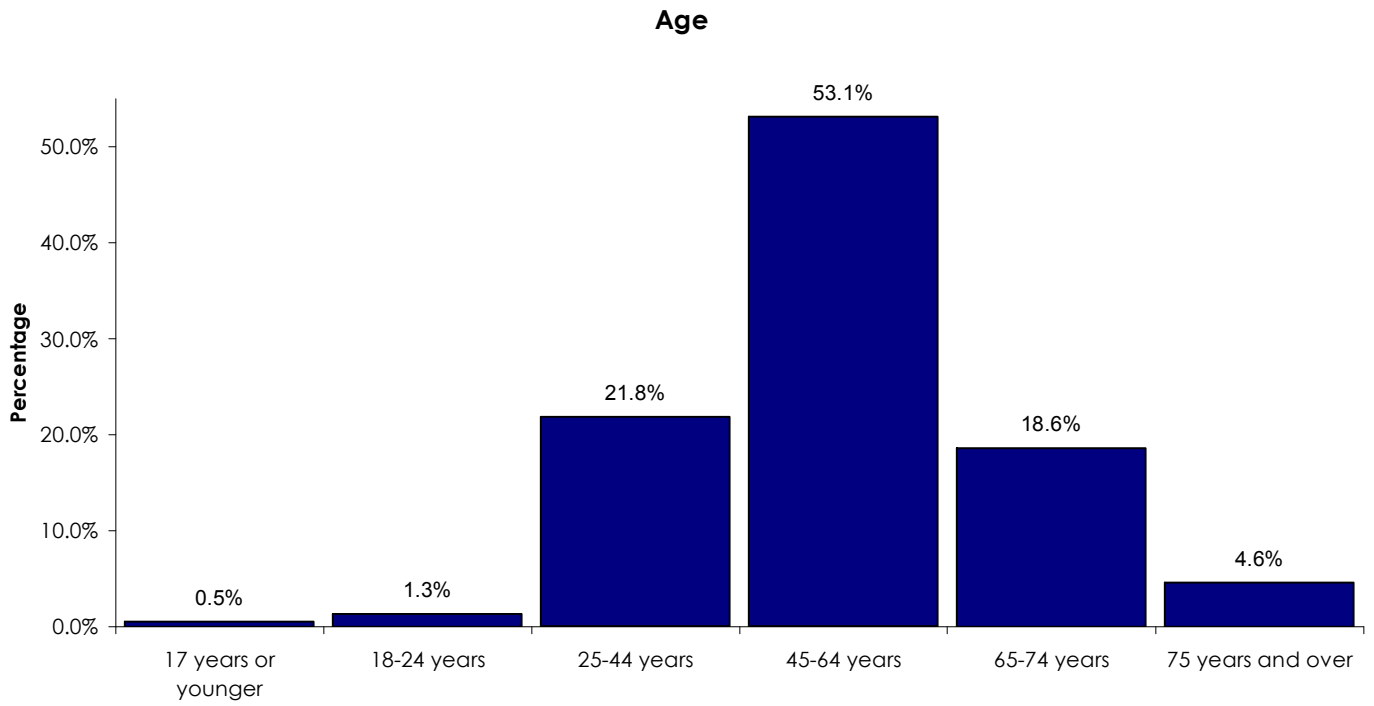


**Which area do you work in or are you closest to
(please check one)?**

Locations of Work by Percentage
*categorized "other" and "rural areas,"
and "work in" and "work near" responses*



How old are you (please check one)?



Community Values

What do you value most about Whatcom County? Please check the five most important features to you.

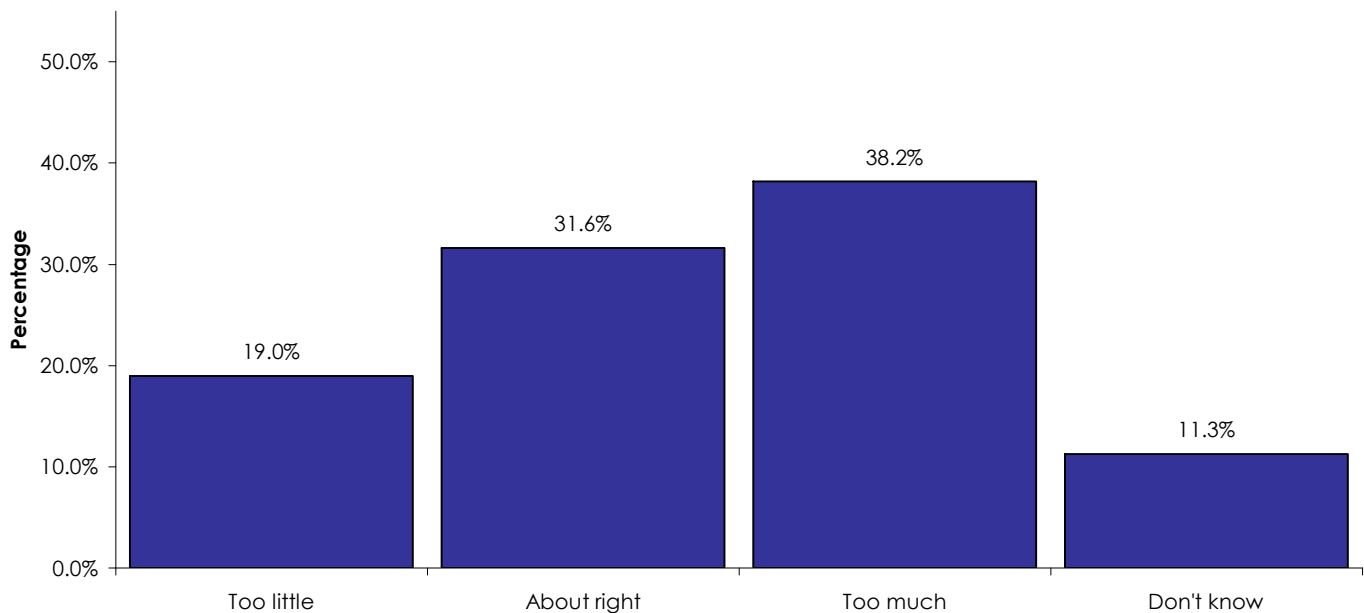
1. Natural environment features
2. Clean water and air
2. Parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational opportunities
4. Community character
5. Rural character
6. Forest lands
7. Agricultural activities
8. Educational opportunities
9. Availability of jobs
10. A variety of housing choices and prices
11. Transportation system
12. Healthcare services
13. Cultural activities
14. Commercial/shopping opportunities
15. Public safety services
16. Other*

*See Appendix 2 for verbatim responses.

Population Growth

County and city representatives have preliminarily identified a Whatcom County forecast of 251,490 for the year 2031. This would be 60,490 more people than today, representing a growth rate of 1.2% per year. Do you think this level of growth is (please check one):

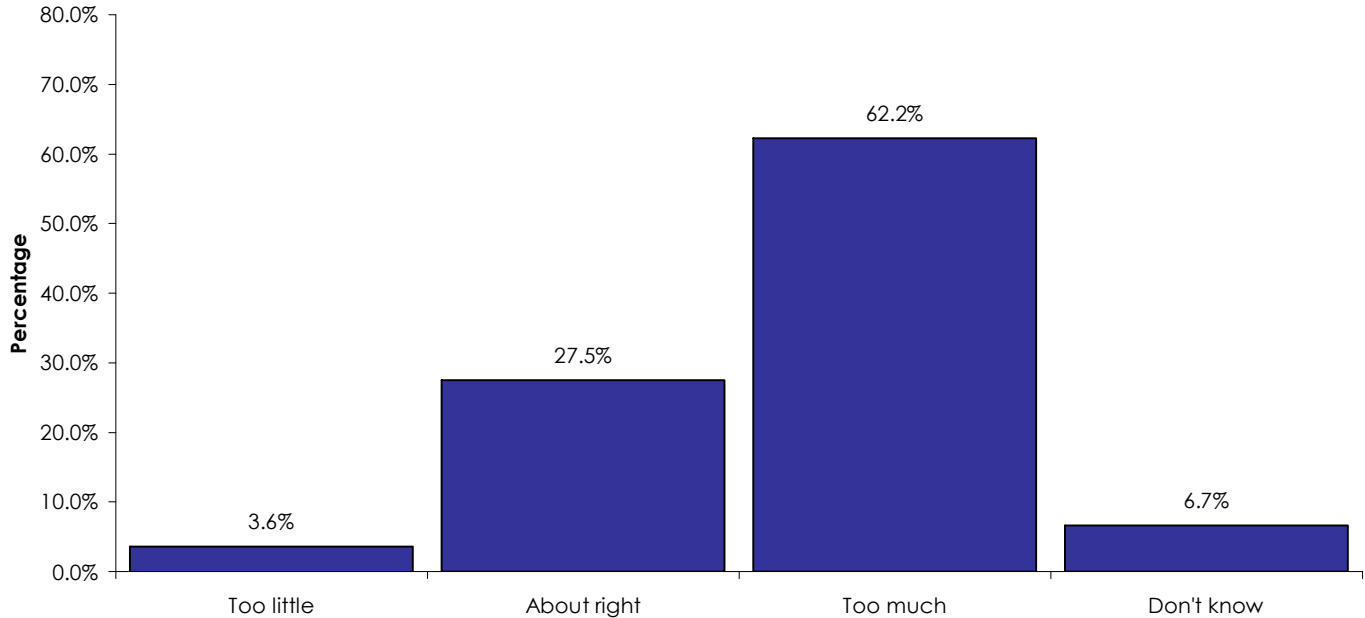
Perception of County-wide Projected Growth



See Appendix 2 for "Why" responses.

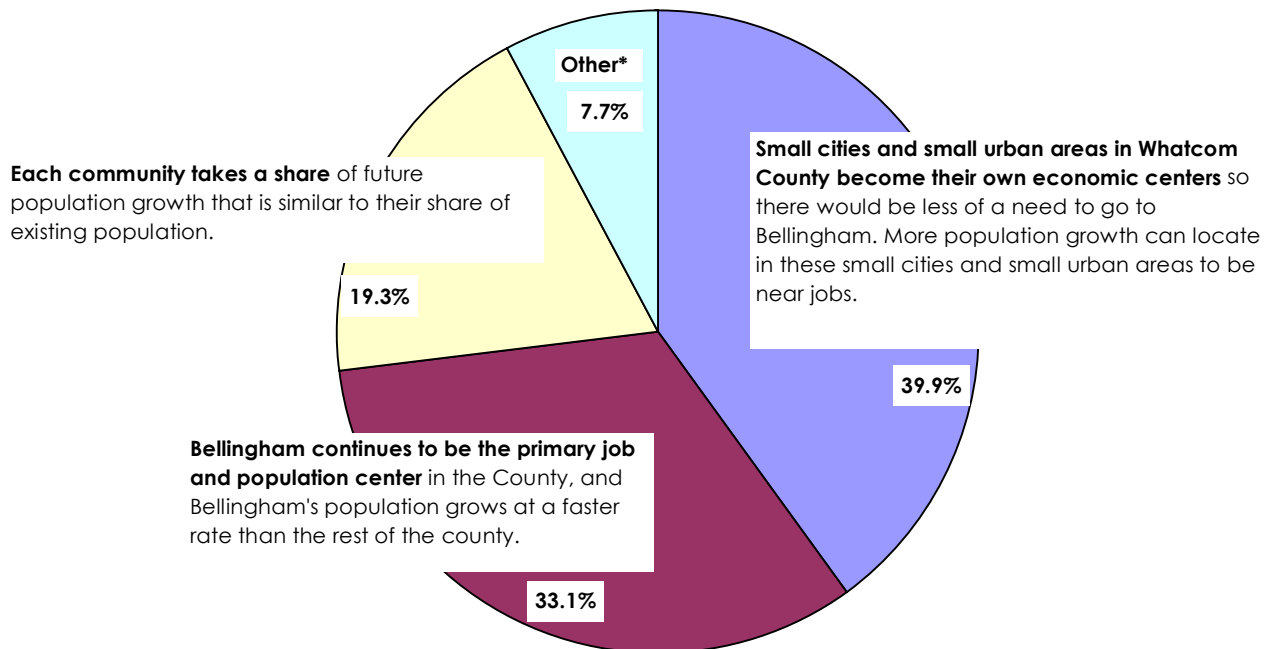
In rural areas would you say that population growth in the last 10 years has been (please check one):

Perception of Rural Growth Rate in Last 10 Years



Which urban growth scenario do you prefer (please check one)?

Preference for Future Growth Pattern



*See Appendix 2 for verbatim responses.

Where are the best places for population growth (please check all that apply)?

- 1. Bellingham
- 2. Ferndale
- 3. Blaine
- 4. Lynden
- 5. Birch Bay
- 6. Sumas
- 7. Everson
- 8. Nooksack
- 9. Columbia Valley/Kendall
- 10. Other*
- 11. Rural Areas

*See Appendix 2 for verbatim responses.

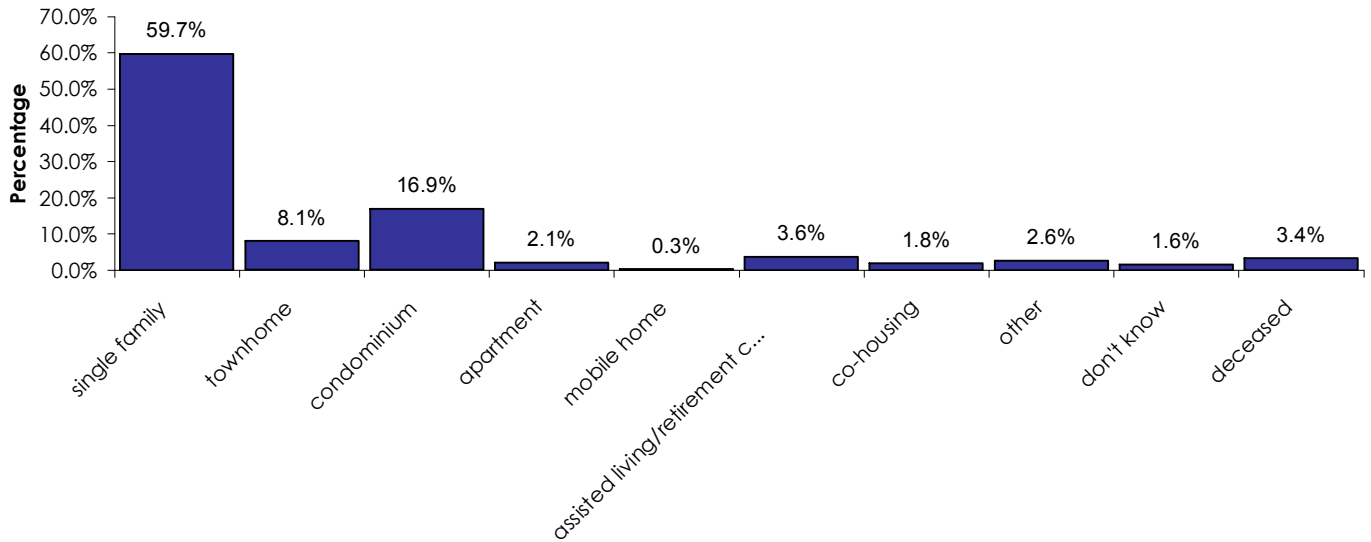
Where are the worst places for population growth (please check all that apply)?

- 1. Rural Areas
- 2. Columbia Valley/Kendall
- 3. Nooksack
- 4. Birch Bay
- 5. Everson
- 5. Sumas
- 6. Bellingham
- 7. Lynden
- 8. Other*
- 9. Blaine
- 10. Ferndale

*See Appendix 2 for verbatim responses.

In 20 years, in what type of housing do you see yourself living (please check one)?

Housing Preference in the Future
including categorized "other" responses



Economy

The Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Update will need to be consistent with GMA goals to promote economic opportunity for all citizens. Most employment growth is likely to occur in cities and urban areas where services are available, but some employment growth is also expected in rural areas consistent with rural character and setting.

What type of job growth is needed in Whatcom County? (please check three that are most important to you)

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. High Technology/Research and Development | 7. Retail/Commercial |
| 2. Light Manufacturing | 8. Office |
| 3. Farming | 9. Forestry |
| 4. Cottage/Home-Based Business | 10. Other * |
| 5. Tourism | 11. Mining |
| 6. Heavy Manufacturing | |

*See Appendix 2 for verbatim responses.

Where are the best places for job growth (please check all that apply)?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Bellingham | 7. Everson |
| 2. Ferndale | 8. Birch Bay |
| 3. Lynden | 9. Nooksack |
| 4. Blaine | 10. Columbia Valley/Kendall |
| 5. Cherry Point | 11. Other* |
| 6. Sumas | 12. Rural Areas |

*See Appendix 2 for verbatim responses.

Where are the worst places for job growth (please check all that apply)?

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Rural Areas | 7. Other* |
| 2. Columbia Valley/Kendall | 8. Cherry Point |
| 3. Nooksack | 9. Lynden |
| 4. Sumas | 10. Bellingham |
| 5. Everson | 11. Blaine |
| 6. Birch Bay | 12. Ferndale |

*See Appendix 2 for verbatim responses.

Natural Environment

Whatcom County offers a beautiful and ecologically diverse natural environment that is to be protected in both urban and rural areas of the county.

What aspects of our County’s natural environment are you most concerned about? Please pick the five most important features to you.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Rivers, streams, lakes | 8. Rural landscapes |
| 2. Water quality | 9. Fish habitat |
| 3. Air quality | 10. Scenic vistas |
| 4. Wildlife habitat | 11. Wetlands |
| 5. Marine waters and bays | 12. Flood hazard areas |
| 6. Ground water/ aquifers | 13. Other * |
| 7. Forest lands | 14. Landslide hazard areas |

*See Appendix 2 for verbatim responses.

Transportation

Please prioritize the following elements of the transportation system based on what you think needs the most improvement within your community and between communities.

	High Priority	High-Medium Priority	Medium Priority	Medium-Low Priority	Low Priority
Within Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle paths or routes • Pedestrian paths, trails, or sidewalks • Public transit 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadway maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freight movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadway connections (new) • Increased roadway capacity • Commuter trains
Between Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle paths or routes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freight movement • Commuter trains • Roadway maintenance 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian paths, trails, or sidewalks • Roadway connections (new) • Increased roadway capacity

See Appendix 2 for verbatim “Other” responses.

Economy

When asked about the types of industries they would like to see in Whatcom County, respondents indicated that high technology/research and development, light manufacturing, farming, cottage/home-based business, and tourism (in order) were the highest priority. They also identified Bellingham, Ferndale, Lynden, Blaine, and Cherry Point as the best places for economic growth. Rural areas, Columbia Valley/Kendall, Nooksack, Sumas, and Everson were identified as the worst places for economic growth.

Natural Environment

The questionnaire asked respondents what aspects of the natural environment they were most concerned about. The top five issues were (in order): Rivers, streams, and lakes; water quality; air quality; wildlife habitat; and marine waters and bays.

Transportation

The question about transportation was broken into two types of transportation: within communities and between communities. Within communities, high priority transportation types were: bicycle paths or routes; pedestrian paths, trails, or sidewalks; and public transit. Between communities, public transit was the only high priority.

Respondents were also given an opportunity to express comments about the Whatcom County transportation system and the verbatim responses to those comments are in Appendix 2.

County Vision

This section of the questionnaire was entirely open-ended and verbatim responses to the questions about the vision statement are located in Appendix 2, starting on page 24. Responses to each of these questions were wildly varied. It is clear that the respondents to the question love Whatcom County as it is and/or they want to make it better. Many ideas were given on how to improve the vision statement and the entire comprehensive planning process. These responses have been reviewed by county planning staff and consultants for the Whatcom 2031 comprehensive plan update process and will be reviewed by decisions makers. They will be used, along with public comment and the results of workshops to prepare a revised vision statement and to guide decisions throughout the process.

Conclusion

While public comment and participation for the Whatcom 2031 process is on-going, the questionnaire portion of the process is now complete. The results of this questionnaire will also supplement and be supplemented by the results of a questionnaire from a parallel process for the update to the rural element. Again, the results of the questionnaire are only one part of a larger public participation process that will continue into 2011. They will not be given any more or less weight than other public comment in other forms. They are a piece of information that will help guide decision makers as they adopt regulations, goals and policies in this comprehensive plan update process.



Questionnaire Summary – Appendix 2

WHATCOM 2031 ■ Comprehensive Plan Update ■ December 2008

Table of Contents

What do you value most about Whatcom County? Other Responses:	2
County and city representatives have preliminarily identified a Whatcom County forecast of 251,490 for the year 2031. This would be 60,490 more people than today, representing a growth rate of 1.2% per year. Do you think this level of growth is (please check one):	3
Which urban growth scenario do you prefer? Other Responses:	11
Where are the BEST places for population growth? Other Responses:	11
Where are the WORST places for population growth? Other Responses:	12
What type of job growth is needed in Whatcom County? Other Responses:	13
Where are the BEST places for job growth? Other Responses:	13
Where are the WORST places for job growth? Other Responses:	14
What aspects of our County's natural environment are you most concerned about? Other Responses:	15
Elements of the county transportation system. Other Responses:	16
Please share with us any comments about the Whatcom County transportation system:	16
What do you like most about the vision statement?	24
What do you dislike about the vision statement?	30
What are we missing in the vision statement?	36
Envision Whatcom County in 2031. Imagine that your vision for Whatcom County has been realized. What is different? What makes it a better place to live?	42
If you have any other comments about any topic, please write them below.	52

Community Values

What do you value most about Whatcom County? Other Responses:

- #1 AG. Soils
- Balance between urban & rural
- Child friendly/safe
- Churchs
- Dark Skies
- Distance between Seattle & Vancouver BC
- Dynamic local Businesses
- Family
- Farmland #1
- Healthy salmon/steelhead runs
- Honest craftspeople, trades people
- Improve transportation, job opportunities
- Keep rural character combined with good public transit to urban areas for services
- Kid-friendly community
- Productivity of the land
- Progressive mentality
- Proximity mountain to ocean
- Proximity to Seattle & Vancouver BC
- Quiet (Two Responses)
- Safe, close to family weather patterns
- Serenity
- Sheriff Dept but need more
- Skiing @ Mt. Baker
- Taking care of unrepresented groups.
- The people it attracts, variety of settings county-wide
- These are political categories. Quality of life is built, cumulatively from essential elements like clean water, towards quality elements, like parks, while pursuing wealth creation while not compromising the essentials.
- Wildlife, quiet, distance from urban areas, stars at night
- Working class workers - community
- You expect me to chose?

Population Growth

County and city representatives have preliminarily identified a Whatcom County forecast of 251,490 for the year 2031. This would be 60,490 more people than today, representing a growth rate of 1.2% per year. Do you think this level of growth is (please check one):

Why?: "Too Low" Responses

- 2010 Olympics will cause a housing boom
- As climate gets hotter people will be looking to move North
- Baby-boomer wanting out of Seattle area
- Because the word will get out during the 2010 Olympics of how great it is here & everyone will want to live here.
- Because they will mostly drive.
- Being close to Canada will bring in more companies & jobs from across the border therefore more population
- Boomers retiring to B'ham growth of student (college) and college age population
- Desirable retirement community as well as safe place to raise a family
- desirably retirement community as well as safe place to raise a child
- Forecasts of half the historical growth rate are unrealistic. The County should have a plan to manage growth not a plan to stifle growth.
- Forward thinking sustainability
- Global warming will create water scarcity issues in most states except Western WA so people will move to find & share our available water supply.
- Growth in the last 20 years has been 2.36%. How did the County come up with half of that?
- Growth is going to be larger
- Growth provides a greater tax base for services
- Human migration based on needs - food, water, climate - mandate expectations that are much higher - inevitable
- I believe many people will retire and move to Whatcom County from the greater Seattle/Tacoma area
- If it has averaged 2.36% in the past, I don't see why it would be half as much in the future.
- If Whatcom Co. grew by 71,000 persons in the past 20 yrs. How could we expect anything less than this for the next 23 yrs?
- Impact of 2010 Olympics & quality of life
- In the past 20 years growth has been 2.36% there is nothing to show that we can expect less. Also, studies show that when events like the Olympics come to an area that population increases.
- It does not account for historic rate of growth. You can legislate the growth rate about as well as you can legislate the force of gravity.
- It is not even the middle number and is half the historical rate. Why choose a fantasy number rather than a real number?
- It is not historical
- It's far below the growth rate of the last 2 decades
- I've heard the local growth actually parallels the mid-range number.
- Last 10 years had average growth rate of 2.36%
- Lots of people are moving here and want to live here - I believe the number under estimates
- More growth is coming
- More people are moving here & it seems the council wants to RESTRICT growth rather than plan for it to occur. Be ahead rather than behind the projections!
- More people will be comin here because 1) retirement 2) natural resources (clear air/water) and economic resources drying up in their area.

Why?: “Too Low” Responses

- Most of my friends are married and having children. If each family has 2 children in a 25 yr period that is 4% growth rate per year
- Not consistent w/ last 20 years
- Pacific NW very desirable when word is out and communication is only improving
- People look for SMALLER TOWN, for lots of reasons, and I think W.C. feeds many of them.
- People will move here for the healthy living conditions; quality of life for retirees (there will be more of them) while living cond in other parts are deteriorating (see LA or IL)
- Realistically it has been higher - we have more people all the time - ie babies & people arriving to live in this country
- Recognized as one of the best places in America for retirees, whether or not new jobs draw new residents, retiring, baby boomers will grow our population by at least 2.36% present annual growth rate.
- Since this area is so attractive I don't see how the current growth rate would slow down
- Statistics show growth rate is higher.
- The more people the better the economy the better the infrastructure
- The past growth history of 2.3% is proven, accurate, anything less would be unrealistic.
- This # is politically popular now but probably fails to represent the real rate by 1/2% or more
- This does not reflect what is happening. If we don't plan in reality all we are doing is setting the stage for failure later
- This is a great place to live. Very affordable compared to other nice places to live
- This is a very special area with a number of natural and economic benefits. Many people move and stay here because of what we have to offer.
- This Q is misleading and insulting. Growth has been and will be at least 2.3% per year. Don't play games with us!
- Too destructive - and unrealistic - plan growth
- Too much below prev. 20 yr growth % wise.
- W. WA will continue to attract people - *Illegible* is diverse. Water is perceived to not be a problem. N. Puget has less traffic problems.
- Whatcom Co. has space & people like to live here
- Whatcom Co. is a desirable place to live/work/play. In addition we experience milder peaks/valleys than other parts of the country making us an area more attractive destination.
- Whatcom County is located on the I-5 Corridor to Canada. Job creation opportunities should be encouraged at key crossroads.
- With our huge neighbors to the North & South - we are being found - Canadians love our County & will continue - baby boomers will continue to relocate here
- With our huge neighbors to the north & south - we are bring found - Canadians love our county & will continue - Baby Boomers will continue to relocate here

Why?: “About Right” Responses

- Agree with downturn in economy & housing starts
- At 1.2% per year it's as stable as it can be. I would prefer lower but have to realistic.
- Baby boomers are nearing retirement
- Because of people moving out of crowded areas they came from.
- Because of traffic and sidewalk space
- Because the past 20 years grew @ a rate of 2.36% -- I would imagine growth to be similar or more
- But, I'll have to retire elsewhere. Bellingham has become too busy already.
- Considering the consistent market shift in housing prices and Bellingham being highly rated as a great place to live, this seems accurate.

Why?: "About Right" Responses

- Could be right for current planning, as long as it's updated periodically to reflect likely 5-year window on projections. Don't want to over plan, but don't want unplanned growth if 2.6% turns out to continue.
- Demand might be more, but we should try to accommodate growth within existing cities.
- Economy will be less strong so lower growth rate.
- Everson grew a little more than that in the last 10 years. It may slow down some because of people settling more in rural areas.
- Everything has to grow. Only people who think they can stop it are deceiving themselves.
- General west coast migration would result in this. Not surprised.
- Human population continues upward. 1.2% seem reasonable for Whatcom to absorb.
- I believe the historical growth rate would point to this being an underestimate, but with the current economy I believe it to be about right.
- I hope we have a slow growth rate
- I know we will have growth & 1.2% doesn't seem to be unreasonable & manageable
- I think growth is slowing so 20 years to achieve the same volume change as 10 years had sounds good to me. I also favor a conservative estimate over the bigger ones.
- I think people will continue to move to Whatcom County, but with house prices still pretty high, it won't be as many people as have come in the past.
- I think the economic downturn will slow movement.
- I would guess higher but due to low paying jobs many younger exec.'s move away while retired people move in.
- If we grow too fast we out run services (i.e. fire) and infrastructure maintenance) If no growth economy will fail.
- It is half of the rate in the last 20 yrs, so it slows growth but recognizes growth happens.
- Less would be better, but this could be a realistic target.
- Lots of room for growth. Need jobs.
- Matches approximate statement *illegible*
- Monetary issues. Housing still expensive. Not many new jobs.
- More people are welcome to live here.
- Need some growth to keep the economy from stagnating.
- Need some growth, but be wary of over building and the subsequent problems faced in California.
- Not enough high-paying jobs to employ more but I want my grandchildren to be able to live here, too.
- Over 20+ years. Growth will probably reflect a cyclical pattern, following economic trends, 1.2% appears to a modest, but reasonable approx/estimate.
- People don't need to be overregulated - let free choice & free market work
- People have children some stay some move away. New people come to the area.
- People have to live somewhere and we do not have zero population growth in this county.
- Plenty of room - need enough jobs.
- Population growth is a given combined with world population boom & US wealth/ Whatcom County has appeal to many and growth is a given.
- Population worldwide is leveling off. Less pressure. Boom economic times of recent years are not guaranteed into the future.
- Reflects '03 rate accurately.
- Slow economy for several years, then land use and environmental restrictions, and GMA induced housing cost raises
- Steady growth, not too aggressive, more and more people are moving here since it is always ranking high
- There is geographically, a limited amount of livable area. Only about half of to total County area can accommodate residents
- This is an ideal area to live in

Why?: "About Right" Responses

- Too much growth would diminish the appeal of this area
- Unless the economy turns around, slow economic growth will reduce migration to this area.
- Until humans stop population growth, we all have to accept a fair share of additional population.
- Washington is growing & we will need to accommodate that growth. There is capacity to grow that much if Land use regulations are loosened up.
- We cannot control growth. We can manage it in a wise and practical way
- We live in a desirable area - people want to live here. Now the challenge is to figure out how to maintain city character, manage sprawl, and keep our parks (like chuckanut ridge) intact for all those new comers.
- We should not be able to lock the doors and restrict growth ("band of the free") as long as we grow reasonably
- Whatcom County in the past has failed to properly accommodate adequate growth, therefore making the current economic hardship worse. Bellingham as a city should be allowed to grow sufficiently to meet the needs. Specifically talking about infill & UGAs.
- Whatcom County is growing too fast, it is ruining our agricultural industry
- Zero growth would be preferable, but not practical. More than this rate would require sprawl.

Why?: "Too Much" Responses

- - Housing & job markets slowing - retirees replacing families - not enough allowable land (outside critical areas, ag, forestry & rural.
- 1) Economic development will neither sustain or attract. 2) We have the potential to become a destination site for tourism & recreation. We are lackadaisical in protecting the natural resources that will make this happen.
- 1) Lack of job opportunities. 2) Threatens rural character
- 1. Total fertility rates are declining from the U.S. 2. Economic growth will slow because easy credit will unlikely be available a *illegible* the last decade
- 20 years ago this area was wonderful-most negative changes are a result of more people - the greater the growth the sooner this area will no longer support people like me
- A strain on natural resources.
- Adding that many more will adversely affect the environment prize as highly, thru the quality of life that makes us so desirable. *Partially illegible*
- Almost all of our local problems will be worse if population increases rapidly
- Because it would destroy the character of Bellingham & turn it into a Seattle type atmosphere
- Because the influx of new residents is inevitable because of our "sea to ski" beautiful environment. Once they experience the beauty, they live with the climate!
- Because this is just a projection - due to the current economy, the state OFM low 218,981 may be too much.
- Because, having a scenario with decent odds of being close is responsible. But that shouldn't mean you don't establish and enforce land-use, transportation policies, and environmental protections irrespective of population.
- Before a rate is determined, we need to make sure that the growth rate does not impact the sustainability of the land, water, environment
- Bellingham has not completed its analysis of its infill potential and has no desire to continue to sprawl into the county.
- Bellingham was heaven at 40,000 city + 40,000 County
- Bellingham's infill (at least in our neighborhood - So. Side is already maxed! Growth is tremendous all over town.

Why?: "Too Much" Responses

- By forecasting too many, this will just make the UGA's too large and developers will jump at the chance to leap frog develop. Most Whatcom County members want to keep our area small and keep the quality of life and the rural life style we want to keep.
- County planning is poor. We need better controls
- Current infrastructure can't support that many people.
- Don't use a self fulfilling high mark. Use current census figures. Acknowledge and use model presented by John McLaughlin of Western U.
- Effects land, air, and roads that are not built to handle the growth
- Encourages sprawl and the final link between Seattle - to -Vancouver corridor.
- Estimates are too high, and it is within our power to design rather than react.
- Existing infrastructure (transportation/utilities) cannot support the growth
- For selfish reasons of wanting to maintain the small community feel I have had growing up here. At the same time, I am a realist and know we cannot prosper with zero or little growth. Ag will hurt.
- Given the current financial climate, I believe the population # listed here is too great.
- Growth fluctuates. Just because we've grown in the past ten years doesn't mean we will continue to grow at this rate. The economy is tanking.
- Growth is actually slowing
- Growth isn't paying its way. High fuel prices will result in fewer people moving here.
- Growth lower quality of life for current residents & increases demand for services that raise taxes.
- Having lived here my whole life to see our town lose it character has been extremely depressing - traffic/congestion/crime/downtown decline etc.
- High cost of housing versus wages. traffic tight spots getting worse. More crime in all areas including rural areas. Loss of good jobs in County with only low paying service sector jobs increasing.
- I am concerned that the infrastructure (transportation, schools, etc.) are not there to support this kind of increase.
- I believe a manageable city size is less than 100,000 "small is beautiful"
- I believe public values support and value a pastoral county. People do NOT want our county to look like L.A. We need ag land for sustainability.
- I believe that we have a treasure of ecological beauty & high quality farming land, both of which will lessen if population continues to grow
- I believe the County & City Represent *illegible* are trying to increase TAX BASE "The MORE money the Better" - Regardless of the people . It SEEMS we are not listened to - so why are now -
- I don't know how we could grow that much and sustain that population economically. More schools, more housing, transportation issues would be needed - resolving those items I put as my priorities
- I don't think it's increased that much in the past. I also think there are several factors that will limit population growth in general in the coming years.
- I know we gotta grow - it's inevitable - but can't we slow it down a bit?
- I think if we project it & allow that much development to occur it will occur. Developers build & then encourage people to buy. The population will not grow this fast naturally.
- I think the forecast is about right but I would prefer not to see that much growth.
- I think we are at the ideal population now
- I want to save the farms
- I would like to see us maintain a "rural" community. I don't oppose growth, just "explosive growth"
- I'd prefer a more human scale. There would have to be a lot more planning and design reviews in order to accommodate more urban growth without diminishing character and quality of life
- If I add up 1.2% x 29 years that's a 30% increase in population. Neither realistic nor desirable.
- If we are to preserve the farmlands, public lands and smaller middle-sized town character, it is necessary to severely CURTAIL development that will allow so many more people to move here.

Why?: "Too Much" Responses

- Implies a continual growth rate forever. Promotes growth rather than respecting natural growth.
- In order for Bellingham to remain the city I chose to live in, it needs to grow slowly and not into a big city as the City planners want it to.
- In order to preserve the land, the water, the quiet, the "Country" atmosphere.
- Infrastructure cannot and will not keep pace with growth. Require additional onerous regulation on land use planning. Current regulation is unevenly enforced.
- Infrastructure in the County is stressed why bring more people to further congest?
- Infrastructure/services
- It is based on a boom. Should be "smoothed" statistically long term and based on industrial jobs.
- It sounds like we are still going to sprawl out into of farmlands and pave over our countryside.
- It will destroy our sense of community; create much more traffic & retail; more land destroyed for housing, roads, retail, etc.
- It would degrade the environment and rural character.
- Just don't like increase in traffic
- Keeping Watch. Co a smaller community is why a lot of us are here. Slow small growth. Our nat-resources are already taxed & polluted. Fix it before making it worse.
- Kind of like it as it is!
- Lack of job opportunities
- Lack of service - charges of rural commuting to support Bellingham needs - Budget planning needs exact wording & not special interest appropriations
- Like the community character as is. Like to keep rural character
- Lose local character
- May change the character where will we put them? Traffic congestion.
- More people/higher density mean loss of rural character & higher taxes & living costs
- Much too high! Aim for the low forecast would be much better.
- My opinion is it would ruin the natural and rural environment of the county. (My family goes back to the homesteaders of Whatcom County six generations) who have or are now living in the County)
- No way to protect our natural resources with this rate of growth
- Not based on sound math projection methods.
- Not enough farmland to support that increase too much traffic - no more roads. Where will jobs come from - need manufacturing base
- Not enough heavy industry to support a living wage.
- Other studies indicate a more modest projection
- Our environment and natural resources: water etc. will suffer will irresponsible growth. Keep the city(ies) where they are! Stop CREATING more GOV'T.
- Our land use policies are not strict enough in limiting growth to urban areas. We are ending up with too much development spilling out into important resource areas like agricultural land, Lake Whatcom watershed, and other sensitive areas.
- People cannot live in this area without driving a distance for a good job. Housing is too high.
- Preserve rural character
- Prime Ag Soils are not adequately protected. Too much development in multi-family ghettos - what happened to mix-use communities
- Projections seem a little high w/ current housing market trends
- Pushes out on edges of development lessening ag areas & wildlife habitat. More people=more garbage.
- Slow economic growth - not enough work or jobs now
- Slower economic times ahead. Smaller family size. Cost of housing.
- Sounds like too much but in actuality it may just be reality
- The anti everything attitude of city & county who would want to come here

Why?: "Too Much" Responses

- The county does not have a "carrying capacity" for that many humans. The county will not have adequate water or space for that many people.
- The infrastructure can't keep up
- The lack of good paying jobs, slow national economy. Northwest weather, county is already losing its unique character due to chain stores so people could move to Seattle just as easily and have access to here.
- The number we pick will drive the amount of development we allow, unless we meter permits (why don't we do this??!!) It become a SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY. No one wants this much growth why pick a number higher than we have to?
- The projection is exponential it should be logistical the method is flawed. The demographics of population growth are ignored or, at best not given proper consideration
- The road system hasn't been able to keep up with the past growth - more people will only make it worse.
- There is only so much room between Puget Sound and the Cascade Range. If continual growth is allowed Bellingham & Whatcom County will become another Greater Seattle Area and lose it's character.
- This area isn't prepared IN THE LEAST for this kind of growth.
- This growth would come mainly out of forested and ag lands that much infill in urban areas is politically impractical. The main ag lands affected would be the marginal ones - translate - wetlands turned into retention ponds.
- This is growth accommodation & not growth management. Choosing this number is a self-fulfilling prophecy-and not being responsive to the comments of many who live here.
- This is too rapid, especially since job growth in B'ham is not keeping up. In addition, the factors that contributed to recent growth the CA real estate boom & strong Canadian \$\$ and immigration, have stopped.
- This many people will destroy the charm and rural nature of Whatcom County!
- This question is not correctly stated. I am ASSUMING that it means whether or not I like that much growth or wish more or less growth. one could assume that it is an assessment of the accuracy of the projection of 251,490
- To accomplish this growth, our collective lifestyles would need to shift dramatically to sustain the quality of life & life support systems - at this moment, it is challenging to believe we will, therefore too much impact on existing systems
- Too many people more congestion & crime
- Tough financial times will keep people from moving
- Traffic is worse every year on Mt. Baker highway intersection at Kendall corner is very dangerous with vehicles not yielding & passing on double lined roads
- W.C. is overpopulated
- We are already way too populated, beyond the carrying capacity of our agricultural resource lands
- We cannot sustain more growth. The low growth rate makes more sense due to price of gas and national credit crisis. We want to maintain quality of life w/o higher taxes. Impact fees are too low & should be raised.
- We don't have the infrastructure to support this development, and that rate of growth would destroy the environmental benefits of living here.
- We have enough people here already. More people = more drugs & crime & bums
- We have too much growth already.
- We may not have enough jobs to attract more people. Cost of living, increased population /sprawl, lessening quality of life will deter more arrivals & some will leave.
- We need to keep land for farming, Industrial & commercial to financially support our community.

Why?: "Too Much" Responses

- Whatcom Co. had about 80,000 when I chose to move here in 1972. I considered THAT a bit on the high side. Certainly more will come if we allow the infrastructure to be built. But what is our sustainable carrying capacity?
- Whatcom County and Bham are already too populated - houses & malls are gobbling up farm land & forest at an alarming rate - this is NOT good.
- Whatcom County is an attractive place to live, and we cannot assume that if we don't plan for growth, it won't happen
- Why take a nice area where crowding problems already exist, and subject it to the many more problems that overcrowding will bring?
- Will change our way of life
- With more people comes the need for more housing. This means encroaching on our rural lands to accommodate the growth.
- Would decrease quality of area

Why?: "Don't Know" Responses

- Are you asking if your estimate is correct or whether this much growth is ok with me? too much growth but estimate is probably right
- Because why don't have enough land for those people
- Concerned about fresh water resources
- Current economic situation effects unpredictable movement of population
- Depends on how it's managed
- Depends. It would be okay if we invested in City infrastructure, high density walk to all needs communities and PROTECTED our rural areas from sprawl - NO MORE CUL-DE-SACS! POOR QUALITY - Building Permits Cul-de-sacs in Ag land & doesn't protect.
- Do I agree this will be the rate of increase? Or how do I feel about it? I can't tell which of these 2 options you're asking.
- Economy going down, house prices fluctuation, boomers retiring, moving out of big cities
- First of all. A lot can happen in 23 years. Second of all, I would need to see your exact source material, and I hear that your consultant "no longer has this"
- I couldn't say it is too much, but I'm not from here so how can I say other people can't move here.
- I'm not a population growth expert.
- Is that the "medium" growth scenario? (You didn't say.)
- It would depend on development patterns to accommodate the growth.
- It's not the # of people; it's how well it's managed.
- Seems like a lot to fit in
- Shouldn't the question be "is the projection realistic"?
- Start low & adjust up as necessary. Not enough information to be more exact.
- The phrasing of this question continues the confusion between planning for a possibility and actual growth. Would you ask if preparing for a 100-year flood was "too much water"?
- This is the first opportunity I've had to know any of the past growth rate numbers - I have no knowledge of the information or the accuracy
- Too difficult to say given the variable - economic and otherwise.

Why?: No Answer Responses

- "Projected" growth too low, "actual" growth too high! I feel it will grow further and it ought grow slower to give time to infill better. Also other mid size cities need to become more attractive.
- This question is confusing. What does "identify" mean? Use the median projection!
- Too much or too little of what?

Which urban growth scenario do you prefer? Other Responses:

- A NEW UGA is designed around Bellingham & annexed into City limits. THEN, that's enough. Draw a "Bright Line" around Bellingham & only use re-zoning & infill to protect open space.
- All growth should be where farmland soil is poor
- Bellingham & cities take growth but not unincorp. UGAs
- Bellingham hub primarily with small urban areas as economic centers secondarily.
- Birch Bay & Kendall need to incorporate
- Continue to expand public transportation so people can live where they want and work in Bellingham
- Don't know
- Each small and larger city decides what they want in growth - bottom up
- Except incorporated areas in ag soils - e.g. Lynden, Everson, Nooksack, Sumas, Ferndale
- Growth should grow concentrically outward from existing urban centers - B'ham & existing cities.
- Growth where employment is available - not in rural areas
- I don't think we the people need to be herded into some academia's system
- I would like to see more infill w/ what we have - but not turn B'ham into a large city spread it around.
- In fill-smart growth; "urban villages", No sprawl
- Infill within the existing cities
- Logical area (places) of employment
- No growth is needed! Stop is completely for a while.
- No more growth!
- None of the above
- None of the above - where are the PLANNED communities - mix-use- jobs & housing & schools etc
- Not bigger small cities, but denser, with jobs
- Rezone the county's 5 acre lots & then plan for the city's only.
- Small cities each grow but under sustainable plans - jobs - homes sewers there
- Small cities/urban areas OK if farmlands protected
- Small urban areas could take some growth, but don't create new hubs such as stores outside Kendall into Columbia Valley
- Small urban areas revitalized or infused with population appropriate to carrying capacity. Bellingham revamped to accommodate small amount of growth
- The first two option are synergistic rather than mutually exclusive. I endorse a combination of the two.
- Urban density with an emphasis on Bellingham

Where are the BEST places for population growth? Other Responses:

- Acme
- All areas but controlled
- Any areas without AG soils!
- Any place that doesn't pollute Noosack river or Lake Whatcom AND doesn't use up farmlands.
- Bellingham has the Hospital, courthouse, theatres etc.
- California
- Cherry Point, limited growth

Where are the BEST places for population growth? Other Responses:

- Countywide
- Deming (Three Responses)
- I-5 Corridor
- Montana & Idaho
- None
- North of Cordata, Bellingham adjacent border parcels to the North & West. No more growth to the South or to the East. Please...Sudden Valley is Big Enough.
- Not a lot - spread out pop so less in each area.
- Nowhere
- Only if you keep neighborhood character and don't try to jam high rises in single family areas
- Profed farm land
- Seattle
- There are no best places - we don't need more growth - growth destroys what makes Whatcom County viable!
- Very difficult to say -- + & -
- Where ever people like
- Where there is mass transportation and services already.
- Wherever/however citizens in these communities want their towns to grow.

Where are the WORST places for population growth? Other Responses:

- Ag & Forest Lands (Two Responses)
- Ag Lands
- AG SOILS wherever they occur- incorporated and *illegible*
- All
- Areas zoned Ag
- Columbia Valley should not become a new city.
- County (Whatcom)
- Deming
- Densely populated neighborhoods in B'ham except CBD
- Don't Know
- Farm soils
- Farmland (Two Responses)
- Forested areas
- Lk Whatcom
- Lummi Island (Three Responses)
- Maple Falls, Acme, Glacier, Deming
- Near Mt. Baker
- No major growth outside I-5 corridor
- None
- None are worst. It is the degree each grows
- Places that don't accommodate development. Places that don't already have City Limits neighbors
- SKAGIT!
- Sudden Valley (Two Responses)
- There are none.
- Unnecessarily concentrated in one area.
- Very difficult to say -- + & -
- Watershed

Where are the WORST places for population growth? Other Responses:

- Welcome Valley
- Wetlands, slopes

Economy

What type of job growth is needed in Whatcom County? Other Responses:

- "Green Jobs" & NOAA on the B'ham waterfront
- "Green" and low environment impact
- Academic sponsored cultural institutions.
- Ag?
- Alternative Energy production
- Arts
- ECO TOURISM/Port Cruise Ship Pier
- Eco-tourism
- Energy wind/solar
- Fishing
- For peak oil will need food & local jobs for essential services
- Green jobs
- Green research & development; aquaculture
- Health care
- Health care, home care, mental health care
- Health related
- High Pay
- Internet based companies
- Local own
- Locally owned businesses
- Local-small
- Logistics
- Managed recreation
- Need to develop barter & localized economy
- Professional services
- Related to farming
- Retail/commercial growth driving by checked items
- Some Bellingham people want heavy mfg. to move to Cherry Point pay for the damage to eco system first.
- Clean / green!
- We need more jobs for people with college degrees so Western alums don't all leave town after graduation or take jobs that people who do not have degrees should be taking.

Where are the BEST places for job growth? Other Responses:

- All areas evenly
- Areas that house potential to utilize sources of energy such as - windy areas, farms (methane conductors) natural gas, geothermal, solar
- Cities near rural areas ag related only!
- Countywide
- Depends on type of job
- Everywhere

Where are the BEST places for job growth? Other Responses:

- Everywhere If we let enterprises alone they will find the most productive and profitable locations for their business. Government control will result in lower paying jobs and less successful development.
- Farms /food production services (essential) in established city centers
- Guide meridian corridor
- Home based business
- I5 - Corridor
- In planned developments, mixed use with related housing, walking distance sized
- In-fill in current industrial areas.
- Logical and appropriate nodes thru county
- Lummi island
- None
- None - less people in the county require less jobs.
- On our farms
- Places accessible by transportation system
- Refinery
- Spread the wealth
- The area around the airport between B'ham and Ferndale
- Where appropriate as determined by the community involved.
- Where people already live. People should not have to drive far to find a job or a home.
- Where people live if inside incorporated areas, on the farm if they farm or/and they are (already) in AG resource land areas. (Ag cottage biz only)

Where are the WORST places for job growth? Other Responses:

- ? Since jobs are needed everywhere then jobs should at least be maintained in all areas.
- All
- All okay depending on intensity, i.e. diversification is good!
- Anywhere non-ag jobs happen on farmland
- Deming
- Don't Know (Two Responses)
- Eastern Co.
- Everyone needs job growth
- Except ag and rural related
- Farmland (Two Responses)
- Foothills
- Forget Cherry Point and heavy industrial
- It depends if they are supplied with services
- Its not location, but how its done. We need to preserve land, ecology & culture. Grow urban culture & walkability AND grow farming prosperity & support & AG land use.
- Job growth is good in all places except in public recreation areas
- Jobs should be created where geography, market conditions and financial opportunity can be supported.
- Just make sure that jobs are living wage and not toxic to the environment. The more locally owned businesses and cooperatives, the better.
- Lummi Island
- Maple Falls, Glacier (Two Responses)
- New non-AG activities on AG soils
- No in rural areas, unless they are truly farm jobs. We want BETTER jobs, not MORE jobs.
- None (Two Responses)

Where are the WORST places for job growth? Other Responses:

- None - again in degrees as per population growth
- None, job growth can be created
- Not sure. Goal should be for people to be able to walk or bike to work.
- Nowhere is ever BAD for job growth (Dumb question)
- Open Space
- Point Roberts
- Rural areas EXCEPT agri-jobs
- Rural for self employment & farming
- Somehow this word is confusing - do you mean where does it need it the most? Or where would more jobs screw up the area?
- Sudden Valley, Acme, Rural Casinos
- There are none.
- Unnecessarily concentrated in one area.
- We need job growth
- We will have to move towards a "sustainable village" town pattern.
- What type? Let the job opportunities fit the site, ie: resource-based in rural areas, light manufacturing, etc. in towns. Tourism, cottage & R&D throughout.
- Whatcom County
- Whatcom Watershed, Chuckanut Mountain Range

Natural Environment

What aspects of our County's natural environment are you most concerned about? Other Responses:

- a) Farmability b) industry/commercial friends
- Actually - all!
- afraid to identify any because we are already to restricted by ecologist freaks
- Ag land
- AG RESOURCE LANDS (ARLS). How this part of our "natural environment" is consistently excluded from this list is a travesty! Take off the/your BLINDERS. We are over populated we cannot feed ourselves if push come to shove! We have fouled our food lands!
- Agricultural areas (farms)
- All
- All waters
- Beaches
- Dredge the Nooksack River in some areas
- Dredging the creeks & rivers
- Farmland
- Farmland (is a natural resource)
- Farmland loss
- Fish are wildlife! Fish need good water Fish live in fresh & salt water ground water feed fish streams. Wetlands are critical fish & wildlife habitat. Flood-control structures affect fish. Get it? It's a whole meal deal- a single package. Protect our environment & the rest will take care of itself!
- Foothills
- Light pollution / Dark skies
- Lk Whatcom
- Loss of ag land
- None
- None, all are about the same

What aspects of our County's natural environment are you most concerned about? Other Responses:

- Once again...you expect me to choose?
- Parks & Trails
- Peace & quiet
- Prime Ag Soils
- Should include soils as a natural resource
- These features overlap a lot (i.e. wetlands & habitat).
- Unfair question. It's like: which child of yours do you want to kill.
- Water supplies
- We're doing a good job of protecting all these. Loaded question.
- Why both urban & rural?

Transportation

Elements of the county transportation system. Other Responses:

- Bike parking
- Bus
- Bus Rapid Transit.
- Car share
- Carpool co-ord
- Light rail
- Light rail within B'ham
- Maximum consideration must be given to reducing the need to drive.
- Passenger Ferry
- Railroad crossings maintenance
- Road safety. Improved intersections, visibility etc.
- Skytran - look it up - I have better design
- WTA buses

Please share with us any comments about the Whatcom County transportation system:

- 1) Out here, trails make no sense for "transportation" between communities.
2) MBH needs bike lane(s) for safety reasons (its dangerous)
3) Some county roads - such as south pass - are in terrible condition
- 1) State route 542 needs bike lanes
2) Are you saying that "trails" make sense for distance of >10 miles between communities?
3) It is laughable that commuter trains are even listed, due to their expense.
4) It is well past time that the condition of county roads was responsibly dealt with.
- 1) WTA is currently providing excellent service. 2) Improve bicycle, pedestrian access to congested places such as Samish Way, Meridian, Lakeway - by increasing user-friendly access & continuous travel / path systems = less automobiles. 3) Improve bicycle access/routes throughout County. 4) More bicycle lanes!
- 3rd highest accidents at roundabouts - we do not want more!!
- 547 is important for Canadians going skiing - revenue is indirect but improving that one road would bring best long term return for Whatcom County.
- Adequate
- After moving here from King County I was very disappointed with the bus system. We have lived here for 13 years now and I am appalled at the lack of attention & availability of bus routes from rural areas.

Please share with us any comments about the Whatcom County transportation system:

- An increase of transit available outside of work hours would help downtown B'ham, encourage lower care use, etc.
- As gas costs go up, the need for public Trans. is more evident.
- As of now I never used it
- Better connections from buses to malls, downtowns and choices of downtowns, also connections to airports & trains via busses. More and more frequent connection choice.
- Bottleneck - Meridian from freeway to Horton, Bakerview exit, Sunset interchange, Samish Way exit area. We don't have very many people here. these areas shouldn't get so congested with our current population.
- Bus service is great!
- Bus service is quite good. Would like to see it expand to evening service, like to 11 pm
- Commuter Trains /Freight movement from & to Whatcom County to areas outside the County. Public Transit - high priority continued residential sprawl to rural areas.
- Completion of guide meridian project is very important & then consider traffic flow on Hannegan. Congestion of Guide Meridian within Bellingham.
- Concerning the Mt Baker Hwy and Kendall Road Something needs to be done to fix the area where you turn off Mt Baker Hwy to the Kendall Rd. I realize this is a State DOT problem but that would be my comment.
- Continual development up hwy 542 is wrong in many ways capacity of narrow road is exceeded at many times now. Fuel usage & associated pollution will increase.
- Coordinate Lummi ferry/bus schedule
Use road funds to improve bus availability - extend bus schedule into evenings
- Coordination between Lummi island ferry schedule and wta with incentives to use both as passenger rather than car driving
- Cross county busses (not all ending in Bellingham) would be nice. No major road on Hwy 9 area.
- Current public transportation is not adequate to entice the population to utilize it effectively
- Currently the buses are too large for the amount of riders. Buses should be smaller until the ridership is up. Trucks should not be allowed on the Guide Meridian, only the freeway. The County wastes money with the chip coating they do too often.
- d - Pave County-owned Blized Rd right-of-way and abandon eroding Village Point Road & seawall.
f - Stop chip - sealing roads near shorelines and critical areas due to negative impacts on the environment.
l - Improve ferry service - quit wasting money attempting to maintain a 50 year old ferry - replace it.
- d. Close eroding Village Point roadway (Legoe Bay Rd. & Westshore Dr.) and pave Blizzard Rd. right-of-way.
f. Chip sealing roadway surfaces should be banned near shorelines and critical areas due to negative environmental impacts.
i. New, larger ferry
- Dispersion of folks & jobs away from B'ham / Ferndale will just cause more traffic from commutes.
- Do you mean WTA? I don't like socialist systems we all pay into with just a few benefitting - usually those who pay little or no tax to support it.
- Does not connect well or conveniently to Seattle via train (must stay overnight). Airport difficult to get to via mass transit or other form of mass transit like train or bus station.
- Emergency service requirements are ignored in urban areas.
- Excellent WTA in Bellingham - needs improvement for small communities
- Expand "GO LINE" type service to all of B'ham and between B'ham & other urban areas. Local smaller town service and park & ride lots (also bike & walk option in smaller cities)

Please share with us any comments about the Whatcom County transportation system:

- Expand bus service to Sundays. We don't have service at Lake Samish. I'd use it if we did. They are no doubt other residents in similar situations.
- Far from adequate for the elderly
- Far too reliant on automobile
- Ferndale has way too much traffic congestion for such a small town. I think another route & bridge are needed for crossing the Nooksack or for going west from Portal Way exit from the freeway perhaps a more direct route is Vista Dr.
- For the Foothills, please implement the recommendations in the Traffic Report for Mt Baker Highway Conducted by the Tilghman Group in Spring/Winter 2008. PDS's Gary Davis & Matt Aamot are familiar with this Traffic Report.
- Freight trucks should have their own routes & roads, not to be shared w/ inhabitant traffic.
- Fuel prices are going to stay high - this means need for better public transportation between communities. also, population growth in birch bay area likely to slow for some reason.
- Generally good
- Go lines = great improvement. Need late outbound routes from B'ham.
- Good roads and bus service.
- Good roads. Appreciate bus in county.
- Green powered public transit. Coordinate public transit with recreational opportunities.
- Hope combined with increase demand will see increased service/ Red/Blue, etc great as service basically continues/ Bike commuted in Bellingham for years/ Now live Lummi Islands cannot utilize bike/bus secondary to *illegible* of busses early *illegible* of service.
- How about public transit as a real option for travel from Glacier --> Bellingham
- I am against expanding the WTA to include bus service to rural areas. WTA service should concentrate on frequent service within Bellingham city limits.
- I am using Between Community Public transit when it is convenient (80x to Skagit) However it's hours often finish before I'm ready to leave -- I suspect same true for others.
- I am very concerned about the creation of housing in remote areas of the county that are far from jobs. Housing should be close to jobs & not require a long commute, hence bigger roads.
- I appreciate the system though at present I don't use it. too much money spent frivolously, fancy painted buses, signs-green line, gold line, etc. how many do you need on the same street?
- I don't believe we should continue to expand roads for car use but instead encourage travel & more public / rail transportation. It would help to contain services close to urban centers - stop permitting retail growth outside Bellingham.
- I live in Blaine - its VERY difficult to live here w/o an automobile - but very expensive to expand what ex of. it's the "rock & hard peace" issue.
- I love it here. I just want it to be as compact as it can be. Also I want a local carbon footprint to be priority #1
- I love the trail systems we have in B'ham
We need safer routes for ped's & cyclists in the county
- I love the Whatcom Co. Smart trips programs! Through increased awareness and WTA availability, I have cut driving down to once weekly. My goal is to stop driving completely within 5 yrs.
- I really would like commuter rail from Amtrak station in Fairhaven to downtown, airport, Ferndale, Birch Bay, Blaine
- I think I might use it if it was easier to access.
- I think it is good & adequate. There are no areas that are too congested at any time given the population/density.
- I think that once a roadway is built, it will never be "undone." Therefore, it's more important to maintain what we have and add possibilities for alternative transportation.

Please share with us any comments about the Whatcom County transportation system:

- I think the transportation has improved dramatically due to voter-approved allocation of funds. I do think signs should be reposted - money was budgeted for them and they were removed because of 'complaints'
- I think they are a mismanaged "pork barrel". There are toooooo many employees driving around in pickups, vans, etc.
- I wish WTA operated at night. I go to WWU / Downtown in the evenings regularly, but must drive my car instead of take the bus.
- I would have to say that the I 5 needs to be improve for safety especially the on and off ramps. Increasing the lanes from 4 to 6 is not economically sound. Lets also focus on better enforcement.
- I would like to see more bus service to rural communities; ie - more lines/ more frequent service/ car pool lots
- I would love love love public paths, trails, and sidewalks in Kendall area, we have so many family's who could use these.
- I would make vision very short - then flesh out with mission
What is your working definition of "vision"
- If it were safer to bicycle I think more people would use it. if Buses we available extended hrs. I think more would use. if we did commuter trains they should link w/other larger population areas. ie. Everett /Seattle /Vancouver. I like how Portland Diverted Congestion by putting a train line to outer county, ie. Hood River & Beaverton.
- In the rural areas, the safety net system by WTA, is wholly inadequate we are essentially forced to use our vehicles all the time, and when trying to get places by bicycle are frequently forced off road by arrogant vehicles.
- Increase pub transp! Keep it green! Change people to drive *illegible* during high traffic times.
- Increase rural scheduling
- Is a commuter train system w/in Whatcom or Bellingham realistic?
- It does not cover enough of the rural areas - This means that those living out side Bham, in the country areas, must drive to town. Need bus system that covers the whole county.
- It is improving & will continue to as projects are completed. Note: some of the low priority items are rated that way because improvements already occurred.
- It is very expensive, not cost effective and center to WWU.
- It isn't a high enough priority for the county because city residents would hear more than we do about transit.
- It seems to be getting better over time. Keep on improving!
- It should be Privatized.
- It would be a big improvement to have a reliable way to get to /from Seattle at regular hours of the day, frequently and quickly.
- It's getting better! But, I still cannot bus to work at Acme from my home in Glacier. Hence, a 70 mile daily round trip.
- It's all important. The shift that continued growth and the imperative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions require is market-based allocation of capacity and coordination of that with Whatcom County's land-use rules. This means pricing that includes social cost (of highway access, parking, transit, low-density development, etc.)
- Let's maintain what we have, and focus our efforts on moving people in energy efficient ways (mass transit) or ways that allow those who can to use bicycles. Because our communities are so far apart, I can't see walking as a realistic option.
- Let's move toward trains!
- Light rail between vibrant but separate communities would be ideal but probably too expensive

Please share with us any comments about the Whatcom County transportation system:

- Like, there is NO PUBLIC transportation from either Bellingham or Mt Vernon to Auburn or Seattle - Ironic, since Auburn was basically raped years ago and developed as a commerce corridor. Should be hi-speed commuter trains from Vancouver BC all the way to Portland.
- Local public transportation is improving, needs wider hours of service to be affective source of transporting employee base riders.
- Locating people away from Bellingham means that transportation must provide transportation
- Long range planning needs to be strengthened. The current plans & 6-yr TIPs are focused almost exclusively on roads & supporting single-occupancy-vehicles. Widen road shoulders for bicycle use.
- Maintain existing roadways - widen where needed for bike/pedestrian safety, public transportation needs to be more self sufficient. It is UNREALISTIC to travel by foot or bicycle to work in other communities. Trails are of least importance! STOP WASTING TAX \$\$!!!
- Maple Falls, Glacier and Acme need to have Bus routes extend to their communities!
- Master planning is pathetic
- More bus service between communities (i.e. Ferndale & Lynden) is definitely a necessity
- More bus times! ASAP
- More buses more trains, more road maintenance wider shoulder for bicyclist
- More incentives for using bus. Trains like eastern u.s. for commuters south
- More mass transit, continual growth of greenways & bike trails. Scooter only roads in Bham?
- Mt Baker Hwy has hosted TWO major races for bicycling there is no shoulder between mile marker 16 East. It is too dangerous to promote biking by inviting now THOUSANDS of bikers to the area without the proper biking shoulder. I've been in situations where the Bikers are two or even three wide in the highway and would not let me pass. Also the choice of hitting a biker or going head-on into a logging truck guess which one I'd pick? Build a shoulder on the highway or stop the races.
- My only experience is with the Kendall to B'ham route. It was late to begin and the service needs to be more frequent. A park & ride in the Kendall area is needed.
- Need better WTA in Ferndale
- Need more & frequent express buses from the foothills to points west
- Need more bust routes, more hours of operation
- Need more buses
- Need to eliminate school buses. Students should use WTA. Students should not drive unless they have proof of a job or Dr. appointment, and then only on that day.
- Need to get the word out I am not aware of the system.
- Need to improve connectivity of all NON SOV & att. transportation (bike/bus/etc...) between communities, Fix/create safe walkways & increase pub. transport between communities. B-ham is doing pretty good but the rest of the county not so much.
- Need to improve roads and build new ones to relieve congestion.
- Need to start planning a long term system now - light rail or electric bus system.
- Needed: Safe parking for people who need to drive miles to catch public transit
Safe traffic pattern needed at Kendall
- Needs more public transportation - more cooperation w/ other counties
- Needs serious over haul in design - parallel arterials
- Needs to be more buses, that come by more often to more areas. Need more bicycle lanes (safe) along city streets.
- New growth areas (e.g. waterfront) should be planned in a way that encourages and optimizes limited auto/greater alternative transpo options.
- None of the above can be "improved" without a rational planned development!

Please share with us any comments about the Whatcom County transportation system:

- Not a suitable option for me to use due to my work I do and where I live. I think it is good there are buses reaching out to further communities.
- Not enough in rural areas
- Not planned, will-nilly, needs someone who understands transportation to help, what we have now is totally inadequate and brainless (WCOG)
- Not your fault, but the Feds put far too many exits on the freeway. And the state put far too many roundabouts on the Guide.
- Of course a ferry (walk-on only), to Seattle would super "Green" (lack of pollution) however, increase our population. "Green trails" is excellent to downtown. Very encouraging!
- Open 32nd to the Bellingham Parkway. This closure is useless & increases usage @ the stoplight. Make it Right in, Right out. Stop Chuckanut Ridge. Way too much new population stressing an already crowded Fairhaven.
- Parking should not be required by cities for retail. Rather, it should be limited and/or be charged rent once created. Big parking lots lead to traffic and waste land.
- People are motivated to use public transit & bicycle/pedestrian mode. Currently between communities frequency of public transit is lacking. Also need safer routes for cyclists between communities.
- People want to have options in which to choose how to travel around our beautiful community. We need to plan for that & deliver it. REALLY. Bike, foot, bus, light rail (monorail), cable car, water ferry, air, etc. Other communities have had tremendous success using shared bicycle (bike) stations, w/ members & customers alike "checking out a bike" * returning it at another station around town. This will work in Bellingham. It will simultaneously improve air quality & pollution from cars, the amount of parking require & road improvements that always grows, as well as lessen impacts more population growth will bring to our community.
- Please put white lines/fog lines on Birch Bay Lynden Rd. Enforce reflective clothing on bicyclists!
- Please review and include the information from the Downtown Renaissance Network's Transportation Summit this spring of 2008. There was a big turnout, and good input on transportation planning priorities for downtown Bellingham. For rural travel, we need bike lanes and more frequent bus service, including night services. Commuter trains sound like a pipe dream, but that would be wonderful.
- Preach CONSERVATION - carpool = Smart Trips
- Presently we need a hub @ Nugents Corner; circulating vans to go thru Everson, Nooksack, Sumas & meet w/ express to B'ham along MB Hiway 3-4 times/day.
- Pretty good bus system - I hope it continues to improve. I'm a fan of a County-wide bike & pedestrian trail system.
- Public buses between and inner City is a must. Good roads for cars and up graded roads are a must.
- Public transit has improved. It needs to be as fast, convenient & inexpensive to get people to get out of their cars, I bike & walk when I can, but seldom take the bus. It is still a waste of my valuable time.
- Public transportation has made it's first few steps and will expand. Amtrak is great!
- Ridership is at 1/4 bus capacity - in other words! 8/4 of the buses travel routes w/o rider capacity - & public transit spends too much money on satellite stations - etc. A lot of that budget could be used for roadways to better serve the majority of the public commuters.
- Rules - Regulation - Money accounting needs to be finite.
- Save ag lands by incorporating UGAs into the nearest city boundaries. Failure to provide for city growth means sprawl into Ag areas. Make Ag lands zoned ag only if one could grow something other than weeds! Don't call land ag land if its never been used for agric. use!
- Sensing the lack of trans, funds - emphasis should be placed on mass transit and green modes - let the roads go - they are too expensive
- Should be multi-model as appropriate

Please share with us any comments about the Whatcom County transportation system:

- Should focus on majority of people who work & go to school/colleges & stores. Most of those will not be bikers given age, need to carry things, & physical condition. Freight line best more at off-peak hours.
- Skytran is great model - also Build underground parking under Railroad / under all new Building -- under courthouse Parking lot - DAH.
- Suggest continuing to upgrade the system. improve frequency and bus stop locations. There has been a good effort by authorities. keep focused
- Sunset/Lakeway/ are being jammed. I don't drive on meridian by the mall unless I have to. There is too much congestion in the Meridian/mall area. You need another east/west (Between Yew St or farther east to Samish) artery in the Bham city area.
- Thanks!
- The big public transport (WTA) improvements are great! NOW we need a Seattle commute train.
- The bus system is good - could be expanded. Speed limit too high on Mt. Baker Hwy.
- The bus routes through single family neighborhoods have a negative impact - these should be routed on arterials to lessen the impact on our already over crowded streets due to parked vehicles from illegal rooming houses.
- The county should lead a movement to allow tele-commuting for staff positions that allow this . We need to do all we can to reduce carbon emissions and traffic impacts on our roads.
- The ferry and the docks are part of the county roads
- The majority of freight moving in What. Co. moves through. The increased Canadian long haul traffic down HWY 9 needs to be looked at. The lack of bike lanes in this county are an embarrassment.
- The only traffic on 542 is growing. Intersections are increasingly challenging. I promote the use of roundabouts. The help drivers pay attention.
- The present bus B'ham/Kendall, should be extended to Maple Falls & Glacier.
- The roundabout area a waste of money
- The transit system out here is great. I am concerned about increase traffic on the Mt. Baker Hwy & I hope that we can keep the county rural - I indicated growth areas along the interstate - to keep the filler traffic contained, rather than increased on highways.
- There is little funding and consideration for alternative travel. This should be a priority. Both inter- and intra-urban transit systems with light rail or commuter trains, bike paths between urban centers; and safe, marked consistent pathways (both bike & pedestrian) and light rail within urban centers.
- There is no direct public transit between most communities (i.e. Ferndale-Lynden) (Blaine-Lynden)
- Think cross county boundaries - don't be isolationist.
- This questionnaire totally overlooks the existence of an island community which has unique problems, fears, needs. We see the county as a heavy handed, uncaring and unthinking political organization.
- Though governmental budgets are tight, right-of-way planning must be done to accommodate transportation needs, if not with acquisition then at least with set back requirements to accommodate future needs.
- Too much money to WTA
- Too many transfers to get around on WTA
- Too much emphasis on auto options not enough "out of the box" thinking regarding trade, freight, manufacturing needs just lots or attention on easing the troubles of *illegible*.
- Too much spent on Bikes, Trails & Gov. Mass Transit. Privatize Mass Transit. New Highway/Freeway Connections - I-5/Guide New High Level Express land exit North above existing Road from I-5 to Horton for N/S bound express only
- Tourism is a significant contributor to Whatcom County's economy. Projects which will contribute towards economic development (revenue growth and jobs) should be given additional consideration in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Train service stopping at Blaine and connecting to Vancouver & BC could re-vitalize Whatcom County.

Please share with us any comments about the Whatcom County transportation system:

- Transportation infrastructure needs to support growth. Haven't seen any new infrastructure in the fastest growing UGA of Birch Bay - Lots of talk & plans but no results
- Transportation should be for moving people, not cars. Do not invest in widening any roads or highways. DO invest in rail & trails.
- Transportation should be provided in larger communities like B-ham, Ferndale, Lynden. But not in rural areas. When living or moving to these "RURAL" communities-one chooses to live away from these amenities.
- Under investment in public transport what public transport is available should be switched to methane compressed gas to provide market for methane that could be supplied from dairy farm manure if digesters were attractive to invest in. In so doing an addition income stream for dairy farms would help insure farmers farming and reduce nutrient loading in streams & rivers.
- Upgrade the roads in Birch Bay!
- We are and will continue to be auto-centric. Bellingham must facilitate the movement of the automobile with improved connections between its primary commercial areas.
- We are over-taxed for the services rendered. WTA is an extremely wasteful organization.
- We are so far behind where we should be. We need to have developers pay more for infrastructure.
- We can not take it to work from Lynden once we get to B'ham is no way close to where we work - the water front.
- We need direct bus transit from Columbia Valley to Everson - Sumas
Lynden as well as more frequent trips Columbia Valley to Bellingham
- We need legislative changes to shift monies from road-building funds to mass transit/alternative transportation efforts
- We need more primary routes connecting East and West County
- We need to charge every car-bus-truck-motorcycle-any type of vehicle that would be on our roads \$1.00 (US) as they enter the country (United States) at All Boarders - This goes for U.S. citizens as well. This would help our road funds - border stations - may things in Whatcom Co.
- We need to wean ourselves away from fossil fuel intensive transo options.
- We should continue to move for cost effectiveness of routes and make necessary adjustments
- We tried WTA - is it getting the use it needs to pay for itself? Is there enough transit from the refineries? Seems a lot of single occupancy traffic daily.
- Why did I see this for the first time on Oct. 23rd?
- Why no commuter train? The tracks are there.
- With budget problems we need to reassess the roll of government in our lives and community. We need government but not a big brother. Minimal control and regulations is necessary and best.
- Would like for all urbanized areas to have bike and walking facilities safe enough for children to seniors. With improved "amenities" (which are really just the basics not "amenities" as such) many more trips could be make by walking, biking, transit. This is the future, good for the health of the community and individuals
- WTA has done a great job expanding services while I have lived in Bellingham. I would like to see a continual expansion and convenience of use / (time tables) in that area eliminating auto traffic.
- WTA has improved over the years, but roadway connectors are *illegible*
- WTA is awesome. Let's focus on more bus routes to rural areas, and bikeable shoulders on county & state highways & roads.
- WTA is doing a good job. Using bus a good way to limit traffic.
- WTA is doing an excellent job.
- WTA is excellent

Please share with us any comments about the Whatcom County transportation system:

- WTA is getting more user friendly but is still not meeting the needs of busy people my age. How do you encourage mass transit use for moms like me when there are no activity buses in B'ham S.D. - we missed pick up one ride w/after school activities.
- WTA perhaps because we don't have enough of a critical mass, still doesn't have frequent enough buses to entice us out of our cars. Specialized transportation keeps people waiting too long. Roads should not be widened to accommodate peak loads.
- WTA service is erratic and slow out in the county. I'm not looking forward to roundabouts - traffic lights with in road sensors work better,
- You better figure out a way to sell infill to established neighborhoods, try leading - try getting the council to get some backbone instead of crying NIMBY!
- You're asking the wrong question here - we need to support multiple use areas where people can live & walk to their needs. We need to manage build permits so that we build & develop in already developed, but underused areas and QUIT developing our precious resource-land. Land is what makes our area so great - don't turn us into Lynnwood! We don't need more big retail - we have too much already. Build infrastructure for low impact communities & protect out rural AG lands.

County Vision

What do you like most about the vision statement?

- "A sense of community" That is the only part of it I liked.
- "Concentrated urban growth"
- "distinct boundary" Now ENFORCE IT!
- "Local control is exercised in land use decisions."
- "low-density development" - much better to have high density in fewer concentrated areas. Similar to Europe
- "resource land & water resources are protected" and "local control is exercised in land use decisions" - (wish it was true!)
- "sense of community retained"
- "urban growth . . . in urban urban areas"
- "Urban" growth must be contained (in existing cities, please no "urban islands" in rural areas!)
- "Whatcom County is a place where urban growth is concentrated in urban areas, where there is a distinct boundary between urban and rural uses, where agricultural use is encouraged, where resource lands and water resources are protected," "Rural areas are peaceful and quiet" "A sense of community is retained and local control is exercised in land use decisions."
- 1) agricultural use and resource lands encouraged. 2) Distinct boundary between urban and rural uses
- 1) Quiet rural areas
2) Agriculture encouraged
- 1) Specifics about growth placement
2) Indirect talk about "quality of life" for the county.
3) Water resources protected
- 1. Boundary between rural & urban
2. A sense of community is retained & land use is under local control
- 1. Distinct boundaries between urban and rural areas or New Zealand practices.
2. Protection of resource lands and water resources
- A chance to view our thoughts & opinion
- A comprehensive and well thought out vision for today and the future.
- Address environmental protection

What do you like most about the vision statement?

- affirming ag
incentive based approach to land use changes
- Ag protection through urbanization.
- Agricultural encouragement
- Agricultural use encouraged resource lands and water resources protected
- Agricultural use encouraged. open spaces for privacy. water resources are protected. less traffic & congestion in rural areas
- Agriculture is encouraged water protected. Rural areas differentiated from urban.
- All
- All except last statement
- All except the next to last sentence. R-5 zoning is destroying rural character.
- All of it (Two Responses)
- All okay
- Alright
- Approved shopping areas within Lynden
- As a whole, its balanced and reflects well my vision.
- Balance
- Being asked
- Being involved in the plan.
- Chance to give views on population growth
- Clear division between urban and rural uses
- Community values
- Concentrate growth in urban areas.
- Concentrate growth w/in the urban area - little to no more loss of farm land.
- Concentrating growth in urban areas
- Concentrating urban growth in present urban areas.
- Concentrating urban growth in urban areas.
- Concentrating urban growth on existing urban areas & keeping the distinct boundary between urban & rural areas.
- Concentrating urban growth
natural resources protected
open spaces
sense of community
- Concentration on quality of environment
- Containing urban sprawl in proper places. Retaining communities as they exist now. Protecting farm lands - resource lands - and water resources.
- Definite borders between urban and rural settings and resource protection.
- Designate urban growth areas
- Distinct Boundaries 'tween urban & rural - land & water resources are protected
- Distinct boundaries, agriculture encouraged and protected. Less traffic in rural areas. Local control in land use decisions.
- Distinct boundary between urban & rural uses. Privacy is a big factor.
- Distinct boundary between urban and rural areas, agriculture, protection of natural resources, open spaces.
- Distinct boundary between urban and rural.
- Distinction of Rural & urban areas- values of rural areas.
- Distinguishing urban from rural
Ecological focus

What do you like most about the vision statement?

- Easy to read & fill in - ability to voice my opinion
- Emphasis growth in urban areas.
- Emphasis on natural resources & protection of them.
- Everything
- Experience local control in land use decisions - concentrate urban growth in urban areas + retain ag in rural areas.
- Focus on protecting rural/ag lands against urban sprawl
- General enough to place everyone
- Generally well stated
- Given the financial breakdown plus PEAK OIL, PEAK WATER & PEAK FOOD I think you need to focus on food, energy, local economy.
- GMA principles
- Goals sought via incentive programs/ a must to really make for a long term success
- Good ideal
- Good questions - good insight.
- Good statement in whole
- Great ideas & good words
Peaceful - quiet
Low density - privacy
- Great if we do it
- Great statement if true
- Growth confined to urban areas i.e. Bellingham, Ferndale
- Growth occurs in cities
- Hard line boundaries/buffers between urban and rural areas
- Have not seen the whole statement: I'm assuming you're going to try to protect our environment and natural beauty.
- I agree with the vision as it emphasizes the values & priorities that would protect what makes What.Co. so beautiful & natural.
- I do think the committee advisory listened and came up with excellent suggestions I support.
- I don't like the statement - it is a mandate
- I like how it emphasizes preservation of and lack of development of rural areas especially the restrictive zoning whereby 20 acre parcels cannot be divided in County - that should be RETAINED.
- I like how Whatcom County is portrayed but I think agricultural lands need to be placed at a higher value than they currently are.
- I like local control!
- I like most of it and wish all of it were reality.
- I like the distinct boundaries, keeping the diversity of urban vs. rural intact, rather than a continuous spread of inefficient suburb/bedroom communities that require more transportation input and expensive extended services. I also think it is crucial to keep our resource lands, especially farmlands, water resources and forests intact. The growing need for local food production and forest products will only increase, so lets stop the development of rural 5 or 10 acre tracts. I like the sense of community and local control statement. I believe that the U.S.A. is finally feeling the ill effects of centralization and homogenization and communities like ours are working now to reverse those trends and effects. Peace and quiet is essential too, for us city-folks to be able to get away quickly for a bike ride, a family outing, or a solo-trip to take space from the bustle of the cities.
- I like the plan to keep the separation of urban & rural.
- I like this vision statement but the distributors of building permits are ignoring it completely.
- I really like it :)

What do you like most about the vision statement?

- I support the intent
- I totally agree
- I'm not a fan of that vision statement
- I'm sorry, I do not have a copy of the statement
- Incentive & local control.
- Incentive programs?
- Incentives for change in land use rather than arbitrary government regulation.
- Infill in urban areas. Distinct boundary (rather than sprawl)
- Infilling of urban areas, control of sprawl, keep rural character of area.
- It addresses growth management.
- It allows for both urban and agriculture
- It attempts to retain the existing character of the county.
- It attempts to set a vision
- It brings out all the aspects of our community that are important to maintain & protect.
- It broadly supports farmland conservation
- It encompasses urban growth without disturbing the rural landscapes
- It encourages agricultural use - once it's gone, it's gone.
- It expresses my desire
- It focuses on maintaining the qualities of life I value & that brought me to this area to begin with
- It has an essence of self-sufficiency (in regards to Whatcom County)
- It is a good state but we need to be more specific and less politically correct.
- It is a theoretical goal
- It is good.
- It is ok, a little dreamy
- It is okay
- It makes a city/county dichotomy (or urban/rural). It is anti-sprawl.
- It outlines rural uses and recognizes Rural areas as peaceful & quiet and low density development. The whole statement is good, if the comp. plan actually follows it.
- It protects resource lands and water resources: agricultural use is encouraged
- It recognizes the importance of rural areas and their maintenance
- It seems to be good from a general standpoint
- It sounds dreamy.
- It sounds great until the statement towards the bottom, "...low density development...".
- It sounds nice but isn't really very good at talking about jobs or economic stability. How do all these things get paid for if jobs are here?
- It sounds nice if you are a developer.
- It states that Local control is cited.
- Its *illegible* on the environment & *illegible* development.
- It's a nice vision - too bad it wasn't applied.
- It's a Solid smart growth statement overall. I like it in general.
- It's feeble hoaxy effort is inexcusable!
- It's just words -- nice words good ideas
- It's ok.
- It's optimism
- It's optimistic
- It's positive.
- It's what we want
- Just right

What do you like most about the vision statement?

- Keep our water clean
- Keep people living in cities. Keep agriculture. Low-density development.
- Keeping agriculture
- Keeping growth within city limits
- Keeping rural intact. Protecting environment.
- Keeping urban in urban & rural, rural
- Keeps our water clean
- Land management decisions are to be locally based. Urban activities are to be concentrated and logically appropriated.
- Land use regulation using incentives - never happen!
- Limiting growth
- Line 6: Rural areas are peaceful & quiet...
- Local character
- Local control
- Local control in land use decisions - depends on the world view of those in control
- Local control is exercised in land use decisions. (Three Responses)
- Looking forward; not complaining about present conditions.
- Looks good
- Looks good on paper.
- Low - density development
- Maintain distinction btw/urban & rural. Mention "incentive programs." A definition of what rural means.
- Maintaining rural areas.
- Maintains rural character and agriculture emphasis. Clear boundary between urban & rural.
- Makes me cherish what I have & really wonder what I can do fro my future because Whatcom County is so diverse
- Most of it
- Nice mission statement - too bad it is not acted on!
- Nice words.
- No opinion
- Not much. it is too subjective and open to interpretation.
- Not one thing!
- Not so much of anything.
- Nothing (Three Responses)
- Peaceful rural areas low density development. Open spaces. rural areas = less traffic
sense of community
- People came together to create it.
- Preservation of peace & quiet of rural areas and protection of water resources - the basis of life & health
- Preservation of rural character. "Distinct boundary between urban and rural"
- Preserve H2O areas. Preserve Forest Lands.
- Pretty good!
- Promotion of separation between urban and rural areas
- Protecting natural resources
Distinct boundary between urban & rural uses
- Protecting rural areas
- Protection of natural resources
- Protection of resource lands and water (though water for ag is not ensured)
- Protection of resources
- Protection of rural areas

What do you like most about the vision statement?

- Protection of the agricultural land
- Public comments
- Questions for/about environment
- Ranking of important features. Values section and natural environment.
- Really like protecting rural areas and protecting a sense of community and privacy.
- recognition of what is valued & important
- Resource development to urban areas & retaining rural community feel. Why are large retail stores spreading out the guide & strip malls on bakerview.
- Resource lands, water resources protected.
"Small-town community" atmosphere protected.
- Retain privacy & community
- Rural areas are peaceful & quiet - at least they should be -
- Rural areas are peaceful & quiet with less traffic & congestion
Local control land use
- Rural areas are peaceful and quiet with less traffic and congestion than in urban areas.
- Rural areas are protected - agricultural use is encouraged.
- Rural areas are rural
Urban areas are urban
- Rural areas peaceful and quiet
- Rural areas: quiet, peaceful, little congestion, privacy, low density, local control re: land use decisions
- Save rural areas
- Seems to cover it all
- Segregates & identifies distinct uses
- Someone is trying to get public input.
- Sounds good - if only it is done. Talk the talk - now walk the walk.
- Sounds good but I don't see that it is implemented very well.
- Sounds good. (Two Responses)
- Sounds nice
- That agriculture is encourage & water resources are protected & rural areas are peaceful & low density development is being thought about.
- That it appears to have a pretty clear vision for our future in the Community.
- The encouragement of agricultural land uses and the distinct boundary between urban and rural areas - rather Dutch like
- The first part
- The first sentence is wonderful
 - concentrate growth in urban areas
 - distinct boundaries bet. urban areas
 - ag protected
 - resource lands protected
- The parts that sound sustainable.
- The statement identifies distinct zoning types and land uses.
- The statement that says "where urban growth is concentrated in urban areas."
- The suggestion that local control could govern land use decision rather than the county's planning dept. Will that happen by 2022?
- The use of rural areas to remain rural
- The whole thing sounds wonderful. I don't see it being practiced at all though!!
- The whole thing.

What do you like most about the vision statement?

- To leave some room for open area - Farming to support our population - It's apparent what happens w/ dependency for food -H2O- ENERGY on outside source
- Urban & rural differences growth in urban, not rural
- Urban and rural are defined.
- Urban growth concentrated in urban areas. Distinct boundaries between urban & rural.
- Urban growth concentration
 - Encourage agricultural use
 - Protection of resources
 - Retention of community
 - Peaceful rural, *increase* congestion in urban
- Urban growth concentration.
 - Baby Boomer retirement.
- Urban growth in urban areas
- Urban growth in urban areas
- Urban growth is concentrated in urban areas when there is a distinct boundary between urban & rural use
- URBAN growth is concentrated in URBAN areas, where there is a distinct boundary between urban and rural uses.
- Urban growth is concentrated.
- Urban growth is concentrated.
- Urban growth should be centered around urban areas that now exist -
- Very broad statement
- Vision statement SOUNDS good but doubt its practical implementation
- We like Whatcom County like it is. We do like *illegible* county rural berry open an not sport res. developments
- Where resource lands & water resources are protected.
- Where urban growth is concentrated in urban areas - distinct boundary between urban & rural uses. Where resource lands & water resources are protected.
- Who's vision was this? How much money did this "vision" cost TAX PAYERS'?
- You gotta be kidding

What do you dislike about the vision statement?

- Low density development is inconsistent with other goals
- Statement about "low-density development with open space.." should be more clearly linked to rural lands only.
 - Reliance on incentives
- "A sense of community be retained" Very vague - what sense?
- "Incentive programs" may be inadequate
- "Local control is exercised in land use decisions
- "Local control is exercised in land use decisions" "There is low density development" "Land use changes brought about with incentives"
- "Local" control: means what? The North wind Casino is case in point.
- "Low density development..." In light of potential population growth, we need creative development that the first priority is to reconfigure existing urban areas to keep undeveloped areas undeveloped.
- "Low-density development" Green lights developers.
 - "Local control for land use decisions" - opens door for
 - "Developer paid politicians to demolish rural land "
- "Low-density development" is this sprawl?

What do you dislike about the vision statement?

- "Low-density development" should point to 10 or 20 or 40 acres min. zoning, NOT 5 acre. "incentive programs" unclear.
- "Privacy" is included
"Environment" is not
- "There is low density development with open space allowing for privacy" - This sounds like approval for hobby farms and sprawl
- "Urban growth" mentioned first, practical, not exactly visionary
- ...local control is retained & exercised in land use decisions. I like the idea. It is a shame that the reality is large urban areas will ultimately control the rural areas!
- ...urban growth is concentrated in urban area...
- 1) No mention of respect for or enforcement of private property rights.
2) No mention of uniform enforcement or standard interpretation of regs.
- 1) Where are resource & water resources protected?
2) Rural areas with less traffic?
3) Low density areas with open areas for privacy? Where are these?
- 5 acre development, in my opinion, is not low density for rural areas. 10 acre should be the minimum. We need more enforcement to "protect."
- Ag land must be protected, not encouraged.
- Agriculture should be protected. Low density sentence inappropriate, possibly conflicting. Delete last 2 sentences except for "retain ("enhance")" sense of community.
- Are we even remotely honoring this vision? It doesn't seem like it to me.
- "Business friendly, we need jobs -- this isn't addressed. (see next answer)
- Could have asked more questions however.
- Developers do what they want with little interference
- Distinct Boundaries between urban & rural areas are tough to maintain
- Does not mention multi-unit / urban village infill.
- Does not recognize *illegible* changes in traffic patterns.
- Does not speak of parks in urban areas.
- Doesn't address wildlife habitat big 5 acre parcels can hurt wildlife - need connected, large WILD areas
- Doesn't mention building up other communities.
- Don't know any areas that I disagree with.
- Don't quite understand the second to last sentence about low density and privacy. In what context?
- Don't totally understand the "land use changes are brought about through incentive programs" line. And it kind of has too much of a control & regulatory feel for me.
- Don't under the phrase "land use changes are brought about through incentive programs". Such as???
- Each area should decide for themselves - not county government
- Economics should be the primary determinant of land use - not arbitrary bureaucrats. Private property rights are not even mentioned or considered.
- Everything.
- Exercising local control, distinct boundary between urban and rural uses, low-density development disguised as privacy.
- Farmland has to be better protected from sprawling city growth
- Few constraints on numbers of newcomers.
- For the future, the vision statement needs to address the plan to LIMIT urban growth in B'ham & elsewhere so it doesn't end up like Lynwood.
- For the most part - developed by staff
- General enough to please everyone.
guides growth to/in B'ham.

What do you dislike about the vision statement?

- Goes on & on
- Has little reflection in County Planning process nor actions.
- I am not sure what "local control is exercised" in land use decisions in the last sentence.
- I believe in high density development for residences!
- I do not like development, even low-density, in open spaces.
- I don't dislike the statement, however, I don't yet see it being acted on.
- I don't give high importance to a vision statement - I'd rather see tax \$ go in action - improvements where we need them
- I don't know what "incentive programs" means. Very vague. Very short on specifics.
- I don't know what "is incentive programs are", unless as I mention below.
Quiet & peaceful should be included in urban areas as well
- I don't like the county or the city thinking they have to buy up thousands of acres just so we "evil" people won't cause a miniscule run off problem into the distant lake
- I don't see us following it!
- I don't think its appropriate to imbed "where land use changes are brought about through incentive programs" (A "process" isn't a vision!!) That's a loaded statement.
- I don't understand land use changes through incentives.
- I don't want sprawl into the county and then screw up all our little towns so that they lose their character too.
- I don't want to see any further development of residential subdivisions in our rural areas.
- I think the questions require a level of technical expertise and judgment not a lot of people have - Re: economy section.
- I would use regulation not just incentives to more rapidly protect land & manage growth. -- low density development in Rural areas cuts up farmland & wildlife regions.
- I'd like to see something about affordable home-ownership and an emphasis against traffic of private transport.
- I'm a big supporter of incentives as a primary mechanism, but it shouldn't directly imply that is the exclusive one, which it may.
- I'm not sure how to interpret land use changes through incentive programs.
- Implied promise of compensation for participation. Statement for water quality could be stronger.
- Incentives are not adequate for all land use changes. Environmental characteristics should not be called resources, implying they are there to exploit
- Incentive programs usually end up to be required or forced. Are these going to be voluntary?
- Incentives will be insufficient to meet the vision.
- It can lead to only the rich living in the peaceful rural areas, and those with less having to be in congestion.
- It commits to growth for growths sake. There is no commitment to sustainability.
- It contains incompatible concepts. There is no sense of community if there is no central community space with services and meeting areas. Without local jobs , traffic will always be a problem.
- It didn't mention sustainability and encouragement of locally owned biz.
- It does not address sustainability of planet from a local perspective nor food security by/for local W.C. population.
- It doesn't say "No growth in agriculture areas", but it should.
- It doesn't talk about the unique lake, river & stream habitats that make our area so beautiful and contribute to the fish & wildlife resources.
- It doesn't sufficiently stress realism in planning & the need for economic health
- It fails to be truthful- it's presented as a "right now" statement of fact when it is a vision statement, a place to from here.

What do you dislike about the vision statement?

- It is conflicting - how do you keep the rural area quiet when you clog up the roads with all this rural growth? Small towns will NEVER have the job of Bellingham.
- It is good
- It is largely ignored, particularly in Bellingham
- It is loaded with agendas. Land use changes brought about by incentive programs. There is too much corruption & abuse already happening. Too much gov't.
- It is not being adhered to with the proposed mall in Ferndale and housing projects in the Columbia Valley
- It is not enforced. Rural areas are more than peaceful they are productive good producing
- It is not upheld
- It is very weak from the role and responsibilities of city government! It hints at local control, but so far I've seen few substantive examples.
- It isn't followed. It should be reviewed annually, with the county being evaluated on how well it is following the vision.
- It probably won't be followed any better than any of the other land use guidelines have been in the past 30 years.
- It says nothing about the environment. Calling the environment "resources" does not count.
- It seems hypocritical if the population of the Columbia Valley is allowed to increase.
- It seems so many changes to land - use & zoning come about "after the fact" & does all of this truly apply to our vision?
- It sounds like a fantasy version of the reality. Sprawling pocket development has already spoiled the rural utopia.
- It therefore assume we want much growth in Bellingham. Limit growth slow growth
- It was the vision of 20 years ago and woefully unfollowed.
- Its a good statement
- It's not accurate anymore. Boundaries are not distinct, water resources are not protected, and agriculture needs more support.
- It's nullified by over-clarification -- i.e. instead of saying "growth is concentrated in urban areas". Additionally, the virtues of rural land are given in terms of lifestyle rather than purpose (growing food and protecting habitat)
- It's okay as is
- Lack of implementation
- Land decisions - I feel they are important, but they keep prices of usable land 'tied up' forcing owners and developers to be unable to make good use of areas that may already be 'ugly'.
- Land implementation, continuing loss of rural land to sprawling development
- Land use brought about by incentive programs. Should not be encouraged to develop, i.e. housing dev.
- Land use changes are brought about through incentive programs. What's this about? It sounds like money will always win.
- Land use changes brought about big incentive problems? Out of town developers come into turn us into King County.
- Land us changes brought about through incentive programs
- Land use changes cannot only be achieved by incentive programs
- Land use changes should be discouraged to protect forest, wildlife & agriculture
- Land use changes should be more strongly controlled. Low density development is terrible. Historic community character important. Recognition of Native American Heritage.
- Land use changes through incentive programs - what's does that mean?
- Land use changes will not come about thru "incentive programs" We must "plan" development and allow it only where and as planned.
- Like most vision statements there is little connection to reality.

What do you dislike about the vision statement?

- Local control - especially in rural areas - can mean economic rather than quality of life decisions
- Local control is important but so is regional since we all live in the same country.
- Local control is NOT always exercised in land use decision. Central control is too often the norm.
- Local control is not the best answer to a county wide place for land use.
- Low density development in open spaces still cuts up area for agricultural uses
- Low density development.
- Low density development. I support high density development when it stops so much sprawl. Urban villages!
- Low density in rural area
- Low density needs to be defined. 1 per 5 or 10 acres.
- Missed the point on jobs being in Bellingham
- More local control exercised in land use decisions
- Naive to assume land use change can be substantive thru incentives - must rezone to prevent sprawl.
- Need some mention of alternative transportation in city.
- Needs to limit growth more and protect wildlife habitat and our forests more.
- No industry development
- No mention of "walkable" pedestrian friendly planning for communities where people can walk from home to the grocery store, P.e., etc.
- No mention of how a sense of community is maintained - should incorporate tourism, cultural district development
- No mention of multi-modal transportation.
- No mention of natural environment or mtns.
- No mentioning of updating and expanding infrastructure prior to new developments
- No sense of human quality - "community" is not mentioned until last sentence.
- No statement regarding job creation, tourism or housing opportunities with mixed uses.
- No time to get it in at deadline.
- No visible commitment to it
- No vision of revitalizing northern Whatcom County.
- None (Four Responses)
- None of it
- Not enough on maintaining natural environment & healthy lifestyles
- Not enough questions about roadway improvement.
- Not enough said about local control
- Not much
- Not specific enough
- Not strong enough about protecting farm land (our food source) & our water source. Low density development in rural areas - NO. Local control could be misguided development!
- Not very realistic
- Nothing (Eight Responses)
- Nothing about providing jobs and commerce for people who wish to live here. TOP priority should be to provide jobs for out working people. This provides a long lasting and realistic tax base.
- Nothing to address accountability for how why project to be done by private citizen
- Oversimplification (or lacks definitions for) "urban" and "rural" - living in a rural area is not the equivalent of a rural lifestyle.
- Pretty utopian
- R-5 zoning
- Reality is ignored

What do you dislike about the vision statement?

- Really dislike the planning departments focus on indiscriminate infill at any cost - you will destroy the character & livability of single family neighborhoods if you are not more careful w/ your planning proposals!
- Resource lands & water resources are protected... 'sounds' great, but is enforced w/ Nazi-like stringency & outrageous limitations
- Short sighted
- Somehow it allowed for the designation of an urban growth area in the rural area of Columbia Valley! This is inconsistent.
- Sometimes seems that growth is very sporadic and not controlled
- Sound like big brother keep a thumb on every citizens wish!
- Sounds good
- The "peaceful & quiet" rural areas conflicts tractor & logging truck noises, farming odors and animal noises. As for the "sense of community," it might be better if each community remains its own, individual community so that we aren't aiming for a homogeneous, country-wide sense of community.
- The deceitful presentation Whatcom County allows too many loopholes for developers.
- The fact that it isn't being implemented
- The idea of Local control is dictated by Bellingham and W.C. Council
- The idea of local control is vague and not based in current gov.
- The low density development. I think we need some high concentrated density in order to meet the growing needs of our community.
- The protection of rural areas is not strong enough. There is also nothing about protecting the natural beauty and wildlife habitat.
- The questions seem pointed. Not enough places to explain answers. Sometimes you are choosing between choices.
- The use of "...low density development..." Bellingham needs, Whatcom County included, to envision high density in areas that can easily accommodate it AND actually allow that high density to happen as a way of preventing sprawl & protecting open space.
- The vision statement is vague and full of planning babble-speak!
- There are no particular sections I dislike
- There is low density development
- There is no discussion as to how you plan to deal with increased crime, congestion, pollution and drugs.
- There is no distinct boundary between UGAs and rural. The UGA of Birch Bay is treated very much the same as rural Whatcom County in regards to services/infrastructure, etc. Whatcom County needs to support its UGAs where they send growth.
- There is no excuse for promoting low density development in rural areas. The vision should prioritize resource uses in rural areas!
- There is no hint of enforcement regulations or responsible agencies. Too many laws already on the books not being enforced!
- There is nothing that says where low-density development is appropriate!
- Think local control may not work in land use decisions/county wide more realistic
- This is a clear "anti-statement"; "concentration;" "population;" "Protection;" or discouraging land & water resources use. Land use changes are difficult or impossible, etc.
- This is way too long.
- Too focused on the natural environment and not enough of economic prosperity.
- Too long. It's not a vision statement, it's a vision paragraph!
- Too vague
- Too wordy - not an accurate reflection of Whatcom County as it is now
- Too wordy
- Too PC

What do you dislike about the vision statement?

- Too wordy. Idea that rural is "peaceful and quiet". What about rural commerce activity.
- Traffic is congestion if it is one person/car for a commute. Low density should be for farms only!
- Transportation questionnaire
- Tries to appeal to all sides of growth issue. Population concentration and low density development?
- Unrealistic - lacks political courage i.e. how do you implement - people like ideas but fight implementation.
- Urban growth - depending on your view is already creeping into rural areas so keeping to this vision statement will be difficult.
- Vague incomplete statement as written regarding land use changes by incentive programs
- Vague section - "land use changes brought about by incentive programs"
- Water is "Protected", not "used" and plentiful.
- We are not doing this
- We aren't doing it
- We aren't following it.
- We don't follow it - If you have the \$\$'s (dollars) you can do anything anywhere.
- We're not following the vision: cities & rural w/ UGAs around cities. Let's skip the "non-city" UGAs.
- What about industrial development?
- What are "incentive programs"? What is this really saying?
- What do you mean, incentive programs? The statement "less traffic" still puts focus on cars. How about a positive statement, like, "there is easy access by trails, bikes, and public transit throughout the county." Low density development? Where? No, we want high density in urban areas, and maximize protection of resource lands in rural areas.
- What incentive programs? Need vision of easy access to walking trails, biking trails, mass transit (buses)
- What is an "incentive program" for land use changes?
- Whatcom Co. is not following the statement. Too much building in county rural areas, IE: 1 acre & 5 Acre zoning
- Where Ag. is encounter? Where??
- Where changes are made through incentive?? Programs what incentive??
- Where land use changes are brought about through incentive programs.

What are we missing in the vision statement?

- "resource lands/water resources" - add "preserved", an eye for future generations, a regard for all living creatures and flora, a reverence for this amazing place. Our opportunity to be good stewards.
- "where rural & agricultural lands are protected from development." Rural lands are not allowed to be reduced below the number of acres needed for sustainability.
- 1) Out right commitment to balancing population with carrying capacity of our food lands and their associated water requirements.
2) Ag economic redevelopment.
- 1) Reality of private ownership of land
- 1) We need to protect our commercial forestry base.
- 20 years is very short sighted considering the impact of population on planet to date! W.C. need a vision which stops always looking at it's greedy "development". W.C. needs a long term (+20 yrs.) *illegible* sustainability vision.
- 50 year planning
- A clear way to achieve it.
- A complete understanding if the interconnectedness of our ecosystem.
Climate change factors

What are we missing in the vision statement?

- A sense of balance supporting smart growth in Lynden/Ferndale...maybe even east county but not all the way to Kendall (no services)
- A statement of limits to percentage of farmland & forest to be maintained for the health of our water supply and food / farming needed.
- A vision to promote mass transit and reduce green house effect.
- Above, and, enhancing "community" in city.
- Accountability. Honest Government that is fair and transparent and responsible with existing revenue, STOP THE WASTE!!
- Add more vision about communities character.
- Adopt a transition town plan ala Great Britain
- Affordable housing
Less cars/traffic in urban areas
- Agricultural lands have been ruined by residential sprawl under this vision. Promote business in urban areas.
- An aging population needs planned, secured retirement communities. The health care industry is planning for this demographic change but it appears our planning dept. is not.
- Any concern about culture and sturdy communities. People need to feel they can influence local government. Now it only a frustrating charade.
- Any connection to reality!
- Any reference to creating climate (economic) to attract jobs
- Any welcome statement, making room for more people who want to live and play in Whatcom County.
- Balance, reality
- Be more specific
- Can we address peoples' attitudes?
- Changing rural areas to urban should not be allowed. People in the area run out of water in the summer.
- Clarity and VISION!!!
- Clarity. Lose this sense that "rural" is a component of identity that should be part of the discussion of where to put people . The real need to shape how we grow -- and still manage to growth food and not wreck the natural systems that allow the cycle to continue -- requires clear direction.
- Clean business focus for economic growth. Goal to be a national leader/example in clean community building.
- Clean water & air. Safe roads & speed limits for the children.
- Code to reflect policy
- Commerce. JOBS. Resources should be used to the benefit of our area. Mining of our gravel to decrease traffic.
- Commitment to real means for keeping rural/resource lands.
- Commitment to reduce residential use of farm lands.
- Communities focused on energy efficiency and promoting sustainability.
- Compact - low footprint community is a goal of many here also sourcing food & power locally
- Connections between Bellingham & Blaine & Vancouver, BC.
- Controlled growth protecting environment and wildlife
- Controls on population quotas. Limited growth is urged by many residents, Building Permit allocates program. Impact Fees which put the cost on the developer of all required infrastructure.
- Coordination AMONG communities to maximize balance of County wide resources opportunities & amenities.
- Could add "regulation" to the bringing change through incentives part.
- Creation of a community sense needs to be planned and expanded. Just keeping the land-use will not create a by-product of sense of community that must be actively pursued.

What are we missing in the vision statement?

- Cultural diversity tolerance
- Definitions for rural & urban (not included but referenced elsewhere)
- Details for the general public's full understanding of resource protection and incentive programs
- Development of character by parents
- Development that makes sense - maximizes the benefits to community and to the maximum # of people while minimizing negative aspects.
- Do all of it & stop urban sprawl & housing projects in rural area. Leave forest, wetland, farmland, & water ways free of human growth. Add in sustainable living practices for business & homes, apartments & condominiums - more food gardening everywhere
- Does not include cultural icons such as salmon, recreational opportunities.
- Economic Growth
- Economic growth? We have few industries in this county that pay wages that can actually support a family. Part of the vision should be to encourage and support industries that provide these wages.
- Economics
- Education for newcomers on protecting our natural areas and resources. Newcomers need to learn "leave no trace" attitude in both urban & rural areas as well as Nat'l Parks etc.
- Education
 - Waterfront development
 - More on housing where should affordable housing be located
- Emphasis on protecting natural resources
- Encouragement of energy efficient transportation. (ie Trains, Transit, Bikes) not single occupancy cars.
- Encouraging low-impact energy development, i.e., wind, solar, hydro
- Quality-of-life, including recreation & cultural events.
- Encouraging no-growth policies? Whatever happened to ZPG?
- Enforcement & the political will power to see it realized.
- Enforcement directives
- Environmental protection and economic well-being.
- First, it should be a 100 year vision. Second, the boundary between urban and rural should be more distinct than it actually is, and be permanent.
- Fly over the middle county and look at the R-5 zoning result.
- Focus on who is going to pay and how we pay. The County is broke because they didn't keep up with the sprawl.
- Food to protect
- For me it would be more services in the rural/small cities so residents needs could be met locally
- Future needs for water & power services. How do we provide for future needs of electricity & other essential utilities?
- Government should be in service to the community of citizens
- Green powered public transit. incentives for green building - & green powered business
- How are communities developed? What guards against endless properties filled with rusty truck parts?
- How local is local control?
- I believe good thought has prevailed and it appears comprehensive and visionary.
- I think mission statements are mostly pointless
- I want to see environmental protection in all aspects of the vision. What is protection for resource lands! Is this environmental protection or corporate protection?
- I would say: Whatcom County is a community where residents value clean air and water, local agricultural endeavors and therefore urban growth is concentrated in urban areas, etc.
- I would worry that this statement would take away parks from inner city areas. or some business Development from rural.

What are we missing in the vision statement?

- I-5 corridor good place for growth
- Implementation of the goals in the statement
- Inclusion of working forest within agriculture. protection of natural areas & open space
- Initiatives to limit population growth; to slow it down; penalties for ag conversion to other use; Tights that deny loans to pay for roads, schools, industry installations & part of res parks & rec. facilities & law enforcement.
- Input from people that aren't aligned with the N.I.M.B.Y.S
- Is it inappropriate to mention the economy? Specifically sustainable economic development.
- It barely scratches the surface. No mention of crime or schools for example.
- It doesn't say "No growth in agriculture areas", but it should.
- It is fine
- It is ok
- It is too generic - needs to be more special.
- It seems that agricultural land is being used for estate type homes - not retained to farms as the statement would lead one to believe - why?
- Law to back it up
- Less congestion on roads. More respect for clean air/water. Growth in job market/ salaries. HAPPY RESPECTFUL PEOPLE!!!
- Less traffic in both/ get us out of our autos
- Levels of development
- Lifting some of these county planning regulations. I don't have enough land to do any farming or anything else but I can not have another house on my OWN property.
- Little mention of the planned growth
- Local control should not mean population needs telling less populated areas what to do.
- Maybe more encouragement for use of public trans/less use of pers. indiv. cars.
- More detail about what a "sense of community" means
- More diversity, more places to and questions explain choices.
- More energy efficiency needed?
- More strong language about preservation
- Much more Local Business support - use "offsets" in all new Building to pay for Downtown Improvements (contract w/local Builders) (little less to Peter Little more to Paul)
- Need to actively advocate and encourage agricultural uses - incentives for farmland!
- Need to concentrate growth along I-5 corridor. Working does not "flow."
- No linkage to public lands such as National Forest and Park. No mention of wildlife, fish, or marine environments and how county should manage to enhance these.
- No mention of jobs
- No mention of preserving wildlife habitat & diversity of species.
"Sense of community" needs to be defined.
- No mention of Public Safety consistent, uniform enforcement of reasonable laws and regulations. No mention of property rights.
- No statements that are inclusive to economic development or job creation.
- No sure but somehow there has to be more living wage jobs here, not just this retail/service/oriented/tourist based low wage jobs that least to more apartment complexes - jammed with 3/4 people to a room -because they can't afford anything else.
- No vision for design of urban areas
- No water quality testing by the health department
- Not enough emphasis on keeping the current quality of life.
- Not much

What are we missing in the vision statement?

- Nothing (Five Responses)
- Nothing that I can see.
- Obviously non-committal. Should be stronger as a protective vision statement, preserving, not a neutral description.
- Our "local control" is being exercised against developers building high density at Kendall is anybody really listening.
- Our natural resources are renewable we should manage them in such a way that we balance the economy with the environment.
- Our sense of community being retained by exercising local control in land use decisions.
- Outsiders ... such as myself and partner. We live in Boise because of the pbs available but wish we could live full time in Birch Bay.
- People have to be able to afford a place to live. You cannot over price the land through regulations so builders have to over price the homes.
- People in use of our plentiful resources. Jobs in industries serving the needs of the Nation & World.
- Preservation of our shorelines Including lakes and rivers
- Preserving the integrity - livability & sense of community in single family neighborhoods - and enforcing zoning laws!
- Promoting opportunities for use of ones land, promoting businesses & jobs, allowing for growth.
- Protect our food
- Protection of fish and wildlife.
- Protection of wildlife habitat. Affordable housing.
- Quite complete.
- Read Ian McHarg's "Design with Nature"
- Reclamation of injured lands (more than "protection")
- Recognize that Whatcom County is not isolated from neighbors to north & south. Now do we fit in the larger PNW context?
- Reference to green and low impact development
- Resonable development.
- Retail opportunities in Birch Bay
- Reversing prior ill thought out development - Sudden Valley - rural casinos - population growth in (Kendall - Columbia Valley without amenities)
- School systems
- See above ALSO: You need to incorporate the concept of sustainability into this vision statement.
- See above and... -- sustainable forestry --Transportation plan
- Self-sustainability.
- Service must come from individuals participating in the formation of collective reasoning to provide self servicing.
- Set aside definite but useful areas for industry
- Small cities have a voice and are important.
- Something that addresses the need for our communities to look fully in the face of the growing challenges that are Peak Oil and climate change which will challenge our communities as much if not more than issues like: population growth, transportation issues, economic contraction, and increasing impacts on our water resources (like Lake Whatcom, one of the few water supply watersheds in Western Washington that allows people to continue to build in, have powered boats, etc.).
- Speak to the goal of improving the quality of life and preservation of neighborhood character in urban areas.
- Stated goal of long term sustainability economically & ecologically.

What are we missing in the vision statement?

- Statement about increasing or -maintaining resident "quality of life". Maintain or increase characteristics that qualify "quality of life"
- Stronger wording to protect farms, or agriculture, just encouraging ag. use will not protect it.
- That the county will not take away people's use of their property.
- The commitment to keep "Whatcom County as a place where urban growth...etc"
- The concept that growth cannot continue
- The fact that development is based on water availability. Buy off the tribes on water rights sooner than later...it will only get more expensive.
- The fact that we should be trying to bring in medium industrial jobs.
- The flexibility of utilizing high density in certain areas of Whatcom County (REZONE) & Bellingham, as well as mixed mid-low density in other areas. All these people need somewhere to live. Patchwork County infill is not the solution.
- The importance and value of strategic infill.
- The inevitable - urban sprawl is necessary to give space to the community. I don't want to purchase a home with a postage stamp lawn!
- The kitchen sink.
- The leadership to make it happen as stated.
- The need for smaller cities to expand in size.
- The need to feed our County residents healthy locally grown food & no loss of productive ag land.
- The past mistakes are corrected, like populating the Kendall/Columbia Valley.
- The penalty for those who do not comply.
- The real world demographics - population growth migration most of all the Canadian Border *Canadian border is circled*
- The truth! Look at the congestion on the Guide and Sunset.
- The vision statement is great! It is the political fortitude to make it happen that seems to be missing.
- The water crises we are facing to maintain existing housing as well as agriculture.
- There is no industrial development?
- There's no mention of "public voice" or "accountability" There is a home rule charter county, and that an important aspect of decision processes that keep the community strong.
- Things change, how about doing this on an annual basis.
- This is a fairly concise vision statement and reflective of community values, in my opinion
- Trails, public assets, natural areas, resource for the world (trees, climate, mountain ...)
- Transportation statement.
County coaccessed by good public transit & pedestrians & cyclists are encouraged.
- Truth
- Truth and Reality
- Urban growth needs to concentrate on infill.
- Urban neighborhoods much be supported and improved. Historic character much be preserved.
- Urban services to UGAs is necessary! (see above) The idea that government is in services to the community of citizens is no where to be found.
- Urban Village
- Vision (Two Responses)
- Walk the talk - keep development in the urban areas.
- We don't encourage growth unless it can be to enhance the rest of this statement
- We don't need more housing in the foothills. There are NO jobs.
- We need to take action to hold back the in-flux of more people.
- We put money & resources into managing our building permit distribution because that is key to protecting our vision.

What are we missing in the vision statement?

- We want high density in urban areas. Please stop the five acre parcels spread across the county - it does not serve us well.
- Were not focusing on ... A sense of community... Were fighting each other.
- What about diverse housing opportunities to match the diverse incomes in this area. Need to build on transportation so people can work.
- What are your end results after packing people so tightly together.....Crime - safety - Health Issues!
- What is the meaning of "incentive programs?"
How local is local control?
- Whatcom County is not a place that needs growth only for the sake of growth
- Where is the emphasis on natural resource uses? There's passing mention re: resources, but it negates the good statement about urban vs. rural to focus primarily on development in the rural zones.
- Where urban areas currently exist services and amenities need to be allowed commensurate to the population.
- Who negotiates conflicting visions? Who's in charge?
- You are missing the pro-people, pro-business, pro-growth.
- You have missed appreciation of Whatcom County for its natural environmental features which will draw tourism and economic opportunities need more appreciation & recognition of scenic vistas marine waters, forest lands, mountains, etc.
- You say nothing about industry and family wage jobs.

Envision Whatcom County in 2031. Imagine that your vision for Whatcom County has been realized. What is different? What makes it a better place to live?

- "Basic Employment" The biggest change would be in the job market. More manufacturing, both heavy and light, based industries that can support the creation of non-basic employment
- 1) Contained growth - upward not outward
2) Mountains - totally forested again
3) Clean water
- 1. The non-city UGA's would be re-designated as LAMIRDS.
2. We would allocate building permits over each 20 yr plan.
3. We would have identified a maximum population, beyond which we could not grow. We would feel some reassurance that once we achieved "build-out", we would not continue to develop at the expense of rural character, forest & ag lands, critical areas. How likely are we to maintain our nice vision statement? Will we ever be able, legally or otherwise, to say "sorry, we have built-out all appropriate land in Whatcom County? Or will we always keep "finding room". If the answer to this is not clear going forward then all of this Growth management policy is a waste of time & effort.
- A community center with services for children (sports areas) seniors, small town commercial businesses
- A county with less government interference in our lives, and with the people more able to control their properties and uses thereof. Less heavy handed control by the county.
- A deliberate, comprehensive overlay of act. transpo systems is past the tipping point required to gain high acceptance and becomes a driver in densification efforts. More intensive urban centers (e.g. villages) not 1 new 5 acre McMansion in the ag lands.
- A lot can happen in 20 yrs so at this time this question has no answer.
- A major grocery store, drugstore doctors office and dental office available locally, thus cutting down going to Bellingham or Everson. Jobs locally to fill the needs of families with children.
- A second community TV channel - to run by gov't. Less traffic more light industry/family wage jobs
- A very good public transit system where total population urban & rural have access to services.

Envision Whatcom County in 2031. Imagine that your vision for Whatcom County has been realized. What is different? What makes it a better place to live?

- Ability to commute by bike separate from cars. Clean Lake Whatcom. Model community healthcare and education systems. Known for our parks, trails and open spaces (like Eugene, OR)
 - Affective government with cohesive regulatory bodies. Infrastructure of existing systems built.
 - Ag land are truly protected. Urban areas are more dense, and more vibrant. No more free upzones. Cities are not expanding outward - cities are directing resource to their center/urban villages
 - All rural zoning, especially R5, is down zoned, investments in urban centers are made. Building permits are metered in areas targeted for low density.
 - An adequately fed population as result of local food *illegible* (agricultural) there is no long angst (stress) at seeing our food lands last, our farmers and the next generation of farmers lost. There is no societal reassurance it is participating in sustainability of the planet. Growth is honestly limited (by science)
 - Based on stated vision. Disaster - LEMMINGVILLE!
 - Being able to easily move by foot, vehicle or public transportation throughout Whatcom County. Visit my neighbors throughout Whatcom.
 - Being true to the mission statement.
 - Bellingham - the county seat - continues to provide the best, world-class, has services & choices. Perhaps industry returned Rural areas retain character and haven't become a chain of sprawl with strip malls, housing developments, apt. bldgs, & traffic lights
 - Bellingham is still the small community with a diverse communities that appeals to people who moved here Bellingham is not artsy - spendy Bellevue people can still afford to live & own homes here
 - Bellingham is the center.
 -
- Bellingham, as urban center, has retained it's neighborhood character and historic setting while incorporating infill appropriately. Smaller cities and urban areas have grown as economic centers rural areas provide food and cottage industries flourish. Fossil fuel usage has decreased dramatically, with alternative energy innovations, inter and intra-urban transport is made easy with light rail, commuter trains and freight trains, bike/ped pathways, blue skies, clean water, forests provide for a healthy and beautiful environment.
- Better job Opportunities. Single family homes that are not cookie cutter & squashed.
 - Better jobs, service and facilities. Farms and people stay out of the flood plains so the rivers can heal.
 - Better non-auto connections
Hi-rise bldgs in Bham, Ferndale, Lynden in appropriate areas.
No more development in Lake Whatcom watershed or in flood zones
High density waterfront
 - Better people managing our political system. Better politicians. -We need to designate high density growth areas and preserve open area. -Mine our gravel to control future flooding.
 - Better public transportation between living and retail and business areas. All streets have safe bicycle lanes.
 - Better trail connectivity for pedestrians and bikes
 - Better trails and mass transportation between cities.
 - Better transportation
 - Better transportation between communities via mass transit.
More opportunities for safe exercise on trails.
 - Better transportation
Infrastructure
Bigger cities w/ divers jobs & businesses.
 - Can we get a Nordstrom's Rack?
 - Car-less downtowns. Alternative transportation has dominance over cars.
 - Cherry Point reserve in place Birch Bay and Drayton Harbor protect Chuckanut cove protected

Envision Whatcom County in 2031. Imagine that your vision for Whatcom County has been realized. What is different? What makes it a better place to live?

- Children (all children) are able to walk or bike to school.
Bus transportation or light rail is the predominant mode of transport county wide
The beauty of the area & a health environment are preferred.
- Cities are neatly defined, farm land neatly defined - cities don't go on farmland - many paths, trails
- Clean air, water, lakes, streams, river, bay
More family wage jobs in high - tech & light mfg. that exist in Lynden & Ferndale also - not just B'ham.
Transportation system that facilitates commerce.
- Clean environment. No sprawl & limited infill that saves views. More emphasis on public transport. Jobs. More higher ed, low impact institutions in terms of the environment.
- Clearer vision of how to handle growth - Real wage jobs in Whatcom County / Bellingham. Small towns gain businesses and jobs they are now losing.
- Community pride
Citizenry working to better the community
Leadership that is willing to lead & be transparent
- Compact housing, less cars, walking to commercial center.
- Conservation management and preservation of open space in close proximity to urban areas. A convention center with supporting hospital, industry is developed in the port & COB in the waterfront evolution.
- Continuing to compromise and adjust with population growth, and quality of life.
- Control growth
Becoming like every city along I-5 - not good
- Corporate control has been curtailed. Bellingham & Whatcom are model green communities.
- Dense growth in Cities with European like land management to rekin farms / forests with trails, transit to assist.
- Dense, walkable cities, development right on resource lands have been bought/traded out.
- Development in rural areas not good. Hope it never happens (again).
- Dike path connects all communities.
- DNR is in control of State land. Whatcom County Government is overhauled, city people live in the city. Rural character is retained. People choose rural lifestyle & accept the limits of. Whatcom Government becomes a good steward.
- Economy designed to protect quality of nature, quality of life. Less single vehicle trips. Vibrant City of Bham has expanded cultural opportunities. Active farmlands are protected & enjoyed
- Even though we have 65K more people - its easier to get around and feels like there's fewer people.
- Everson would have family wage jobs & shops in Everson for most of their needs. Less government involvement.
- Everyone basic needs are met for food, shelter, recreation, livable wages, health care, disease prevention
- Everyone living outside of towns is producing food. Better b/c more people support farming and food production.
Fewer big lawns in rural area.
- Farmlands expanded & protected, livable, walkable welcoming towns w/ no tall buildings
- Farms in county, cities (people) in cities!
- Fewer 5 acre ranchettes, better public transit
- Good amt of open space. more jobs.
- Good quality - high paying jobs.
- GP area is complete w/ parks, connector trails, tourism attractions (market, etc) and mixed uses.
- Great places to fish/hike and bike ride - need bike lane on drayton harbor road so people can safely bike to work between Blaine and Birch-Bay
- Greater urban density, more cottage/communal housing. New Whatcom is desirable.

Envision Whatcom County in 2031. Imagine that your vision for Whatcom County has been realized. What is different? What makes it a better place to live?

- Growth is controlled and sustainable. Quality of life and rural characters are protected, and the environment open spaces, wildlife Habitat and scenic views are protected.
- Growth management is not just about growth accommodation, it is also about limitation, it is also about limitation. It is not just about targeting places to put more people, it is also about places to protect or improve character.
- Growth should occur along the Northern Border - to protect any and all ag. lands -- North Bellingham. This will protect green fields from development.
- Growth was managed. Housing was clustered and spread throughout the county, yet open space tracts are preserved.
- Having placed proper value on ag lands and forest lands, plus strategic infill will mean that those who move have also place value on those important things, equating to a vibrant community.
- Healthy clean environment w/in and w/o the urban centers. Low crime. Efficient and non-wasteful. Preserved natural landscapes.
- Hi Tech Industry
- High density areas/ rural available/ excellent *illegible*/fossil fuel free country/ *illegible*
- High density mixed use in urban areas has been done RIGHT. Visual interest, quality built-to-last design, transit connecting REAL urban villages.
- High paying jobs.
- High tech jobs; good public transportation; local farm products; at all grocery stores. High speed rail transportation.
- Higher paying - more jobs
Better transportation
Small town feel / character to B'ham still intact - because we limited population growth
- Hopefully I own a nice single-family home with enough area for my children to play, where crime not crammed into one area, and where green areas are still protected.
- I do enjoy a random general store & restaurant like we have on Mt. Baker Hwy.
- I do not anticipate Whatcom County's quality of life to be improved by 2031 sorry, I have seen too many good places ruined as a result of human greed (Vancouver, BC, Portland Oregon, etc. and I have lived and worked in both Portland and Vancouver (1970 - 79) and 1979 to present)
- I have lived in Whatcom County all my life. The reason it is special because people care about it. It have nothing to do w/ planners or planning.
- I imagine people helping people to realize their dreams through a boost in the economy and a wealth of resources to draw on . . . new job opportunities, affordable housing.
- I think the difference will be less plastic, more recycling and more forms of alternative transportation. These will all make the county a better place to live.
- I would like to see Bellingham not increase its physical borders any more - let us county people keep some of the county that the city won't control.
- I-5 is now a wooded trail. Rail lines are active and better than anywhere in the world. Everyone bicycles for some trips. Few have any need to use cars. Local agriculture feeds our county.
- If more people, not good.
- Improved roadways
- Include a statement about a waterfront that celebrates Bellingham Bay and draws people to it.
- Increased public transit via motor or rail.
Increase bicycle/pedestrian routes & safer existing roads.
- Interconnectedness/ clean environment. Healthy economy / much less reliance on cars
- It has not grown too much, development has been confined, public spaces enlarged & preserved.
- It is an island in time - sort of "1950" ish.

Envision Whatcom County in 2031. Imagine that your vision for Whatcom County has been realized. What is different? What makes it a better place to live?

- It is still a nice place to live, but hasn't turned into a cess pool like Seattle.
- It won't be better. It will just like now but more crowded.
--> Improvements will accompany growth only in cultural opportunities.
- It would be a better place with an efficient city - county single government. We do not need isolated "local" decisions.
- It would be well planned and have a population well under 200,000.
- Its bigger - spread out little infill - or so exclusive and elitist that may have to work here but can't afford to live here.
- Jobs & homes are connected - transit needs are reduced & enhanced w/public transit where needed.
- Jobs that pay a living wage and this mean Industry!!!
- Keep the rural areas rural and not suburban. Allow for growth in and around existing cities.
- Lake Whatcom has been restored; fish and wildlife habitat have been restored; new industrial - non-polluting - has created good jobs for people of Whatcom County.
- Land use regulations are consistent w/ county vision. Political leadership sense of *illegible* land use issues & need for long range (50+ years) planning we've learned from others rather than having to make every mistake ourselves.
- Leave things alone. There are currently enough rules. The more rules we make the more we will have to adjust and make more rules for the unintended consequences of the new rules.
- Less "gentrification" yet whom walking cities do exist. Local and express public transportation to lessen use of personal vehicles.
- Less (or no more) 5 ac rural home sites gobbling up agric. lands, all cities denser with wide variety of residential types. Sound economic & employment base (more large employers).
- Less chain stores & cheap fast food joints - More locally owned unique businesses like Hardware Sales and Yeagers. More trees in Bellingham & less blacktop
- Less commuting
"Village centers" for everyday work & shopping convenience
- Less controls and more freedom - planners are not always correct -
- Less density in prime ag lands. This county has some of the best farm lands in the world - it is important to keep farm land in farming.
- Less government control over land use. Ferndale to Blaine will have more business. Easier access to Bellingham from Lynden (less traffic issues). People are able to purchase homes affordably.
- Less government regulations
- Less growth 25,000 ppl. max
Continuous urban growth, less rural growth. Less traffic & more mass transit, bicycling & walking
- Less growth. better public trans.
- Less people driving - more people living full lives in a small area rich with trees & services - decreased big box retailers - increased small community enterprises.
- Less people in the county
Much fewer people living on Lake Whatcom and not power boats.
Cities/towns have much fewer vehicles and much more pedestrian/mass transit.
- Less sprawl & uncontrolled development sustained "rural" character & improved environmental quality. sensible growth, infill, etc in Bellingham & larger towns.
- Less suburban sprawl w/ horrid/ugly developments. Infill that meets design and environmental standards, less strip malls, Meridian, etc. More alternative transport
- Less traffic, more transit

Envision Whatcom County in 2031. Imagine that your vision for Whatcom County has been realized. What is different? What makes it a better place to live?

- Less urban sprawl controlled growth
No more billboards
Have property owners keep their place(s) neat and orderly
- Less vehicle driving, less vehicles. -roads turned into bike only roads. -creative home buy out and subsequent deconstruction then restoration of Lake Whatcom Shoreline, Steep slopes. - Hydrogen train along I-5 corridor. - Great elder care, child care, farms, facilities. - Healthy wildlife populations, healthy fish populations. -Embrace barter system. -Commitment to providing opportunities (healthcare, education, etc) to those less fortunate. - Neighborhood gardens, school gardens (growing food) & coop farms. - Community involvement in *illegible* making is fun, vital and am3e with productive facilitation. "Gov't" & public meetings are re structured to allow for above.
- Let's keep rural and recreation areas as they are - peaceful & quiet with less crime.
- Light rail between very separate but vibrant communities. If not light rail -fuel efficient bus lines & great bike trails.
- Light rail connecting communities.
- Light rail connects the cities in the county
Alternative energy R&D & production @ cherry point ie - Alger --> bio fuel production
Ag Dairy digesters common
- Little growth
- Little has been changed or perhaps a bit of a return to the glory of years gone by. There is no longer a govt desire to make this place Bellevue North.
- Local and reasonably self-sufficient communities have been developed, reducing dependence on Bellingham for job and services. Also reducing the need to drive.
- Local farms for local food. Local services environment protected from development
- Local food sufficiency - integrated Neighborhood Centers - Distinct Arts / music / food venues and Production - high quality - community pride
- Lots of trails
- Make single family housing of MODERATE price range.
- Making sure we protect the environment which has drawn many of us to Whatcom County - managing storm water air quality, natural habitat
- Many urban centers where one can live, work, shop, walk, & enjoy.
- More & better paying jobs would be the key. Location is on of the best things going for us. We have access to major cities without having the traffic congestion!
- More active downtown. between public transport connections to Seattle less cars
Better water quality
Mandatory food plus participation
- More affordable housing - fewer cars on roads more family wage jobs. Permanent protections in place for Ag lands.
- More ag lands. City of Birch Bay, planned for + - 75,000. Light rail linking Blaine and B'ham. Beautiful, walkable waterfront.
- More alternative transportation options (bike paths & routes in the county) more farm lands, safer intersections on our roads. Increase parks & rec opportunities.
- More attention to protecting low land wildlife habitats that are in very short supply (especially in winter) and often on private lands.
- More big business
2) more to do

Envision Whatcom County in 2031. Imagine that your vision for Whatcom County has been realized. What is different? What makes it a better place to live?

- More big business
More activities
More entertainment
- More community gather places. More high-tech/science-oriented jobs. More bike trails around the county. Better public transportation. More focus on sustainability instead of growth.
- More community respect for the environment, natural wildlife, fellow humans. Community pride verses abuse which is more common now than when I first lived here in 1985.
- More density in cities. More green industry. More transportation options. More urban affordable housing options.
- More development with updated infrastructure
- More high paying jobs
- More individual liberty and less government, property rights restored. Private Mass transit and other free Market solutions, less government. Return of industrial job base. Whatcom C. supplying Products & Natural resources to the Nation.
- More jobs paying a "living wage." The city/county enabling those business' to thrive through improved regulatory and infrastructure measures.
- More jobs. Natural beauty all around.
- More music, art & culture.
More public assess to marine & fresh water, better public transportation. More access to "natural environment both in urban & rural areas
- More nature salmon orcas
- More parks to north end of Bham and County. Bike lanes to Bellis Fare. More wetland relocating.
- More pedestrian and bicycle options.
- More people - more opportunities for jobs housing, shopping and entertainment out side of B'ham.
- More people traffic higher values - but move to jobs - high tech - Pt. Roberts is sold to Canada - - :)
- More people, also more things for us to do as a community
- More populated with more congestion. It is a better place to live because of the National Parks and Forests.
- More population. still has adequate rural areas.
- More retail to finally put the NAYSAYERS to rest, such as FLAREY HOVANDER M. FLARER, B. BRENNER.
- More services (grocery, health care, et) available locally, making travel less important to Bellingham, etc.
- More small scale agriculture serving Whatcom County's food needs. More public transportation - fewer cars.
- More sustainable, more energy efficient
- More user friendly for all animals and plants, including people and natural health
- Move the Alaska ferry terminal back to Seattle and do NOT expand the airport
- Much more public transit and locally sourced food in schools, restaurants, stores etc...
- Much slower population growth, fixed boundaries for all cities to protect our rural areas.
- My have much less emphasis on consumerism and more and richer recognition of community service. Less dependence on technology and more do-it-yourself and a much smaller foot print. The waterfront developed for the benefit of the people rather than for the profit of the Port and the developers.
- Natural beauty of region is kept. Good jobs and people can live hear and find work.
- Need to keep Whatcom County clean, safe, and free from congested traffic.
- No creeping sprawl and mish mash development along the guide. Small family organic farms in county; low rise redev. in Bham.

Envision Whatcom County in 2031. Imagine that your vision for Whatcom County has been realized. What is different? What makes it a better place to live?

- No exorbitant taxes to "strap" the progress of two parents working to raise & do the best for their Family. Keep in mind the elder population needs consideration to stay in their homes.
- Not much different - "politics is politics." Better - maintain distinct rural and urban centers.
- Not to become another Seattle I hope!
- Our waters (Sea & others, are clean and non polluted. Development has slow down. Jobs are created with living wages.
- Outlying cities (Lynden, Nooksack, etc.) are not bedroom communities to Bellingham, but have their own retail/industrial base.
- People can walk & bike all over, safely, year round.
- People drive (commute) less. No one is allowed to buy or build more than 8 miles from their job.
- People have "breathing" room to live *illegible* still having the ability to walk to various local parks & stores & where "natural" (trees & water) are still as they've been forever working well w/ development -not over-powered by development
- People live in small towns or B'ham in high density. Our open spaces are preserved.
- Plan for the growth!!!!
- Please Plan For the growth
- Please see attached letter
- Population growth is at 0.1%
- Population has stabilized in low 200,000s. Farms are small, food oriented. Bellingham waterfront is for everyone, NOT expensive condos!!
- Population increase is concentrated in & around cities. Rural is still rural.
- Pride of community and a sense of all fitting together. There may exist a line between urban & rural but it is there to preserve the character of each not create animosity and challenge between the two.
- Public transportation - alternative transportation - trains- a model for other places.
- Public transportation is more used & usable & less traffic on the streets. More & better jobs available.
- Quality land use planning has in fact been implemented. People are impressed by the ambiance of the natural and man made features.
- R-5 is mostly returned to Ag lands. Sprawl is no longer. Towns and small cities have taken the growth in-fill.
- Rampant development has been discouraged; more land trusts in existence; new construction no longer a viable business in our area; more set asides; quality of life priority #1.
- Recycling is integrated into 90% of all operations. The ecology of the rural ecosystem is integrated into the urban ecosystem.
- Refineries are underground
Public transportation is fast, efficient, ubiquitous
Light pollution is gone: it is quiet
- Regulations have been simplified and are reasonable, understandable and consistently applied and enforced.
- Restaurants & tourism *illegible* active in Blaine with convenient train service not to BC and south to Bellingham & Seattle.
- Retain ties and connection through protection to the natural environment
- Rural areas are still rural
- Rural areas having self-sufficient business centers each providing their own small community. Decrease inter-city driving by encouraging downtown walking & bike paths
- Rural areas would not have increased population. Good public transit. Low impact recreation & tourism opportunities. Intact agriculture and forests.

Envision Whatcom County in 2031. Imagine that your vision for Whatcom County has been realized. What is different? What makes it a better place to live?

- Rural is rural, with open spaces, farming, logging, etc. Business growth - now & existing - is encouraged. Cities are compact. There is enough housing in Bellingham for families so they don't have to do so much commuting from the more affordable areas.
- Save farm land
- Scattered planned residential retirement communities.
- Self-reliant, happy and healthy place to live. minimizes need for cars by excellent public transportation.
- Several active communities with open ag space in rest of western county.
- Slower growth, better quality of people here
- Sprawl has been contained. Everywhere can be safely biked/hiked to with minimal interface w/cars. Wildlife habitat is interconnected.
- Sprawl was stopped many years prior. Frequent, clean fuel transit services have continued to develop and serve high-travel routes (made more efficient by land-use strategies). Overuse of I-5 or local trips is discouraged by tolls applied at on- & off ramps. The regional commitment to education and training has continued to strengthen Whatcom County's base of innovative businesses and engaged citizens. To cap it all off, the schools have built up a their arts & language programs.
- Still has a small town feel by Neighborhood standards. Surrounded by green ways That allow for foot & cycle community.
- Sustainable, self-sufficient
- Tall Condos downtown with pocket parks, arts district and activity. All this with that "Distinct boundary" with our continued beautiful rural landscape
- That it has not been raped by developers. That greed does not lead.
- That people care about the environment.
- The city no longer is in a dead-lock with the county over the "need for more land" to accommodate the next UGA. The cities that care handle the growth can contain it, this allowing for beautiful natural open spaces to flourish & the environment benefited. Air water, animal, people, quality of life will be improved. The city & county will be in agreement & finally be able to work together.
- The county will finally be in compliance with the GMA and all UGAs will have full services. Rural will be free of urban activities, but retain small village centers, gathering places & local business to serve the village & surrounding areas.
- The difference would be that GP is still there & running. Aveo & DP have expended & ALCOA is running at top speed.
- The fact that 1000s have moved away.
- The former GP site is a national model for sustainable green building and progressive urban planning, sparking innovative businesses, a livelier social / cultural / artistic scene, a wide variety of people and activities all mixing and mingling and creating new interconnections. The agricultural lands of Whatcom County are filled with prosperous family farms and co-operatives synergizing their efforts to provide over 75 percent of Whatcom County's food needs. The waters of Whatcom County are cleaner than they have been in 75 years due to progressive zoning, land use education, restoration and buffers, monitoring and watchdogging, and progressive natural storm water filtration systems. Lake Whatcom has stabilized in its pollution levels due to intensive land use education, buy backs, prolific natural storm water filtration systems being installed, and the elimination of motorized boat traffic.
- The rural areas remain small town rural and have not allowed development sprawl bedroom communities. Bellingham has infilled and many people live/work in town and there public trans or walk to work and to shop.
- There are many strong farms, there are few cars but many buses, bikes, cheap taxis, neighborhoods & cities still tightly-built yet creative & progressive.

Envision Whatcom County in 2031. Imagine that your vision for Whatcom County has been realized. What is different? What makes it a better place to live?

- There are no D.L. Heton, Caitex cookie cutter houses w/o real trees. Salmon are in our streams & lakes. We have a sustainable productive local economy not based on the growth myth.
- There is a transportation grid in place before it is needed.
- There is an increased focus on creating an environment for business to succeed - putting family health over environmental priorities.
- There is bold leadership from County Government to be a leader in sustainability. Top priorities should be farms, forests, and fish. These resource based economics should be locally controlled using stewardship practices that build value and health over time.
- There will be a more easy/open across border exchange. ** clean air; Drayton Harbor good for shell fish harvest all the time. Request for nature & a growth ** with the environment & on overall habitat.
- Thriving urban centers with a strong agricultural community. Clean drinking water and healthy salmon runs due to increased enforcement of laws, ordinances and critical areas protection.
- To live in CAPACITY OF THE LAND AND IT'S RESOURCES - not "I own it so I can develop it the hell with anyone else" We can't keep building until we ruin the water & run out of farm land ! !
- Towns like Blaine and Sumas are revitalized rather than struggling border towns.
- Traffic congestion around Bellingham is reduced by the availability of public transportation outlying areas. Unincorporated urban areas are allowed the tools to develop services and amenities that help them more to incorporation.
- Trails connecting east county to west
- Transportation for daily commuters in rural areas is no longer by private auto. Water sources are thoroughly protected.
- Urban centers surrounded by agriculture & scenic vistas (trees on the hills) non polluting industries & Tourism Strong Colleges & University
- Urban neighborhoods much be supported and improved.
- Urban villages in Bellingham. People concentrated tastefully so rural land is present.
- Very complicated if I select agriculture then I must eliminate growth in that area. Many sections do not compliment other choices.
- Viable agriculture - get rid of those 5-acre parcels. Stop those "rural" mansions.
- We act as a unit - Leadership and respect each other more.
- We are sustainable (able to provide for our basic needs) from our county rural/ag lands. Towns have had boundaries. Growth is curtailed.
- We are using a clean alternative energy source. Our cars are quiet & clean. There are more local businesses & less franchises. Bellingham has some clean manufacturing that employs thousands.
- We can still carry on businesses w/out complaining neighbors of noise or smell who love the scenery we give to the land. I hope we still see the blue sky & clear H2O in our streams. Foreigners have not bought us out!
- We have flying cars so the roads won't be as full
- We have managed to accommodate growing population in harmony with the environment & the local economy.
- We moved to Kendall because of the areas knowing we would have to drive to Bellingham for major shopping and services. We desire that the area we live in stays pretty much the same.
- We need to establish minimum standard for property maintenance so that we do not continue to have properties & business look like slum areas - Bellingham is starting to look run-down in such a beautiful setting - what about some city pride?
- We need to push for improvement in all school facilities. Education has been a strength but we have fallen behind.
- We still have recreation & *illegible* No

Envision Whatcom County in 2031. Imagine that your vision for Whatcom County has been realized. What is different? What makes it a better place to live?

- We would have a few more people, but they could be in the smaller cities, with work available in that city, so there would be less driving. Agriculture would still be the main economy.
- We would have forested hillsides surrounding B'ham. Clean public transit would be readily available. Bike paths would be all over the city & between towns. Agriculture would thrive.
- Whatcom county is a truly diverse environment that has always been my favorite thing.
- Young residents and students may stay through their twenties/thirties/forties since jobs are plentiful and work market usages are competitive.
- Your vision forces single-family structures into rural lands -- rural sprawl will result. Transportation will be terrible.

If you have any other comments about any topic, please write them below.

- 1. Tourism and economic were not adequately addressed.
2. Public investments should leverage private sector development and create jobs.
3. Public investments in beach restoration (Birch Bay) can help tourism and job creation.
4. Gold Star's contribution to the Birch Bay area (in excess of \$110 million), its economy and its tax base have been extraordinary. The tourism dollars generated contributed to diversifying Whatcom County's economy by creating another tourism center. (See attached letter)
- 1. The Return address on this form should have been on a blank page to preserve privacy of the comments. 2. The due date below should have been in large & Bold type in a clear spot on Page 1. 3. There should have been Vision Workshops all over the County. 4. the Vision Statement (appendix C, page 16-21) of the 2005 Comp Plan was much more comprehensive and detailed and thus more useful. 5. As per the Appendix c of the 2005 comp Plan, Vision Statement, "75-90% of land within the County (excluding public land) should be designated for rural, agriculture and forestry use 50 years hence."
- Again, these 5 acre parcels are not good. they are leading to low level sprawl. we should down zone a lot, but it is not ****illegible**** I approve
- Allow for more growth around Bellingham, Ferndale & Blaine, then draw Big "Bright Lines" around those revised & annexed boundaries & Do not let any more urban sprawl kill forever our precious open space. Limit population growth to cities & infill (at higher density & allowable height restrictions).
- An urban growth area in Columbia Valley is totally inappropriate. Government should NOT artificially develop an urban area in a rural community.
- Area needs more jobs so younger people can stay & support families. To sustain a living, young families currently must leave. Should be more than a retirement community!
- As an amateur astronomer, I appreciate Whatcom County's (relatively) Dark skies. We're lucky enough to see the Milky Way on a clear night. If residential growth sprawls out into rural areas, that will be a thing of the past. This is an important aspect of our natural environment.
- As long as we continue to fight, disagree and focus on our personal agenda, were not going to move forward.
- Bury all electrical & telephone lines: Beautifies; saves lives (car accidents); no storm outages; europe already did it.
- Care about the public.
- City growth should not be run by the developers!
- Communication Improvement in rural areas. (i.e. High speed internet and cell phone service in Glacier). It would also be advantageous to have a zip code for each Village (Glacier for one), this would help when looking up addresses on the internet, plus delivery services.
- County government has become too top heavy & cumbersome. Citizen need & voice is often neglected due to government perpetuation & bureaucracy driving decisions.

If you have any other comments about any topic, please write them below.

- Developers need to be taught rules and made to follow them, No overheight exemptions or "oops! We built 15 ft into public fight of way! Sorry!" (Fairhaven) More listening to what people want in their communities and following through - no lip service.
- Do not allow mobile homes except in designated parks
Eliminate all billboards (look at the state of Iowa) Looks very clean
Whatcom County is still a great place to live but we can always improve it.
- Do not forget the thousands of people who pay steep property taxes who do not live full time in Whatcom County - We want our voices heard, too.
- Do not make the population projections too large. Keep them as small as possible, because by making them too big you are opening it up to more developers and make it too easy from them to get projects through. People in this County want to keep it as close to possible as it is currently.
- Efforts to preserve the special wild and scenic aspects of this county need priority for long & short-term planning.
- Every new house built in the county taxes the resources and costs current residents money because...impact fees are far to low. Consider how to effectively maintain very low population increase for the benefit of everyone instead of developers.
- Fewer 2 & 5 acre building sites - more building "up" & retain what farm land is left.
Continue with "in-fill" good use of existing urban areas.
- Forestry management would - must- include logging to prevent fires, self-reliance is a key characteristic in rural areas. That, along with volunteerism, keeps rural areas strong, well-contained, and economically stable.
- Get the building rights out of the resource lands. All new up zones in UGA's should require a PDR. No bonuses no exceptions!
- Good education System! Support of tourism.
- Growth management for this fragile & relatively unspoiled area needs to emphasize strict limits on growth rates. Essential to do so or we'll be a small part of a large area like Phoenix AZ from Seattle to the Borders.
- Having job opportunities in all of the population centers in the county is the best idea. It relieves the amount of traffic on our roads. Keeping the rural areas rural is good as much as possible. Also: will be happy when B'ham waterfront is complete.
- High density areas and building up can be good. Regulations have to be consistent and try to lower prices for builders who will do this.
- High density urban and urban growth areas connected by green rural areas - seems more realistic to me
Include non motorized (ie trails) connecting all areas of the county
- high moral goals
 - a) safer communities
 - b) better fairness
 - c) stronger businessfarmability --> allow farms to farm --> it problem then find cost efficient way to solve environment --> seek fact not theory, seek efficient solution, real solutions
- How did the rural area of Columbia Valley become urban? cheap housing and nothing to support it near by?
- I covered it. Thanks for doing this work!
- I feel if land Management deems wetlands on your personal property and you can't build or develop it in any way then as a property owner we don't have to pay any property taxes as the local governing body has said you can't do anything with it. Also big developers can't fill and use wetlands on their property just by making wetlands on property some place else in the county. The rules should be for ALL not some.

If you have any other comments about any topic, please write them below.

- I feel we are close to looking like Lynwood and we need to be very careful with the kinds of businesses we want to encourage in Bellingham. We have way too much retail selling junk and not enough unique retail selling quality.
- I hate to see urban projected growth so tight in the housing sector particularly due to increase in crime - ladder fire trucks can't get between houses in case of 2nd or 3rd story fire. *illegible* the city *illegible* - Contractors & city bills reduced for sewer, water, streets & sidewalks
- I hope you still consider my comments at this late date.
- I live here because I do not want "busy" life. I feel that is what is being strived for. That these councils are trying to be "Bellevue". If I or any others wanted to live like this then that is where I would be living.
- I own 7 acres of land that is land locked with only an easement to get to. It is not enough land to do anything with. I have a single family home on the front part of the land. I would like to have my children build a home behind mine. However the county will not let because we are zoned R5.
- I resent how much effort citizen volunteer hrs go into planning i.e. w/ the Port & B'ham water front, just to often be ignored - cowing down to folks w/ the dollars. This needs to be affordable, safe w/ quality educational & job opportunities & health care, recreation & transportation prioritizing natural environment.
- I think the river should be dredged to prevent flooding in Everson & surrounding areas. It would also help the fishing industry.
- I think we need a pamphlet similar to the "Voter's Handbook" with pros & cons for the various targeted numbers and MORE PEOPLED SURVEYED!
- I wish there had been more time to learn in order to make better educated guesses.
- I would like if I had kids for them to be able to get good paying jobs in Whatcom Co. Tech, heavy, medium Industry. the way things are going they will only be able to get a job at Fast food places & tourist traps.
- I would like to see the County set a goal: To improve the economic standard of living for the people of Whatcom C. by actively encouraging job creation with high paying companies.
- If the planning departments do not employ those trained and deeply educated in planning and other disciplines, i.e. cultural anthro, sociology, psych, architect hist. , with a wide view of the world, "visioning" will remain narrow and self-serving.
- If there is no resolution re: water rights agriculture is doomed as well as much population growth, Bellingham MUST *illegible* its uncontaminated water around Lk. Whatcom.
- If Whatcom County (or Wash. State or whole USA) lose the farms, we're in bad shape.
- In the Natural environment section I care about all the issues on the list. But we have many many people here that keep very tight reins on most of the points, thus I'm not concerned about any of these points getting neglected.
- Infill needs to be promoted strongly for all cities in Whatcom County. Rural sprawl needs to be slowed down.
- It doesn't seem right to build to a projected growth. We should build as the need arises and as the economy allows. Then we don't have to argue over what the projected growth will be.
- It is not right to change the rules during the game. People who are already here and own property or business should not have to play by new rules. If you change them they should only change for newcomers who know what the new rules are!
- It would be nice if the county & city of Bellingham would actually work together. Be more realistic about how much land we actually can use for growth.
- It would be right to let rural areas develop in a local way instead of greedy developers coming in the to rape the land and leave, especially in their ignoring environmental impact.
- Keep a lid on taxes and be conservative in prioritizing for the benefit of the majority, not the minority population. Watch over WTA very carefully.
- Keep expensive condos away from the waterfront. Put affordable housing along water!!

If you have any other comments about any topic, please write them below.

- Kremen's legacy is a County tragedy. On his watch R-5 zoning has created the sprawl we wanted to avoid.
- Less "gentrification" yet diversity of population living in an integrated series of communities linked with hi speed public transit option within a community that offers arts culture employment (museums, theater) and recreational & outdoor education & activities.
- Let us all be sensible! Government needs to stop being the 1 all. Let the people make good choices with local control. Stop the waste and abuse there are people right now pushing their agendas, "creating" jobs for themselves all w/ tax \$\$ le ... wasteful "consulting" "jobs" stop the corruption! Stop it now!
- Lets get the fire districts founded properly as we grow
Do not let a small minority direct you too much - use the advisory committees suggestions to carry most of the decision's
- Maintain waterfront dev at GP site
- Make available for online completion.
- Make County Council & city council work together for the people & not just their own personal agendas. When they downzone make them see how they are stealing from property owners.
- Make sure that politicians stay honest about the facts. Don't build up the small towns, it will crush the road system in the county. Keep Bellingham the center of the county. Don't
- Many business owners and property owners - the engines of the economy - feel that the local gov't is there to hinder rather than to help. This must change or Whatcom County and its citizens will lose.
- master planning areas
- More diversity
Nicer waterfront
Good quality drinking water
Less cars- better transit w/in and between communities
- More local food - less hunger. Affordable housing - less homelessness. More public transportation - fewer cars
- Need Amnesty for current mother-in-law units -- Already existing infill opportunities. Helps people pay their mortgages. Make them legal & be sure they're safely up to code!
- Need to agree on long term goals so we can get past arguing over each curb & gutter.
- Need to be consistent with planning and fix past error such as pockets of residential on the Guide. Why? Need to stop business from moving to Ferndale because of storm water fees and BO tax. Need to keep business.
- No more support / subsidies for Mag Chains. Tri County Moratorium on Big Box building - Progressive Bond 0 tax too ARTS Centers support - Care had 1 million dollars but put that into Arts Crafts scholarships for teens at open classes.
- OFM projections are based on \$ needed by state gov. - (The bigger the better!) Local CO. Council should reject, or specify a lower figure if a to large projection effects a negative on any part of the CO. mission statement.
- Our government services are too expansive to provide to everyone. People move here to retire who put ties somewhere else but want to use our services They have not paid for. Only 20 years + citizens should receive gov. services at low price, everyone else should pay more for them and NO Free Services.
- Pay attention to areas other than Chuckanut and Lake Whatcom
Follow CAO, SMA, GMA as they exist. Waivers, exemptions, variances disembowel them.
- Peaceful rural areas sound good, but why do they allow casinos in these areas. Also approval of alcohol consumption in a quiet rural area?

If you have any other comments about any topic, please write them below.

- People commonly tele-commute from home
Eco-tourism is a thriving industry
Rural areas are quite & peaceful
People gather together in parks and from stronger community bonds
- Please add me to your e-mail notification list.
- Please see attached letter
- Please truly consider the above statement.
- Please use the lowest range of population projection
- Pleased that we can put up small wind power generators
- Population centers like Kendall should not be developed. If people have to drive long distance for work & services.
- Port of Bellingham reverses decision to keep Bellingham as a workable deep water port. Bellingham is located favorably to be a major shipping port for Pacific Rim - How short-sighted to decide not to maintain Bellingham as a deep water Port.
- Private property rights are not acknowledged or respected in this survey.
- Protect natural environment
-
- Quality of life gets sacrificed for growth - look at any other ex-rural area in the region or in California, Texas, etc.
- Re-stated concern: Vision appears to guide economic growth all to B'ham & keeps rural Whatcom County peaceful, beautiful and poor! Of course Bellingham is and should be our economic hub AND we can better develop/support Lynden and Ferndale as vibrant secondary economic hubs.
- Rural and urban areas need to be clearly defined. Telecommuting needs to be encouraged. Those areas currently designated as UGAs need to be developed before other areas are expanded.
- Since I have lived here all my life it makes me angry when a new comer tries to change everything to make life better - we have a great life - maybe a lot of change is NOT! needed & our focus should be to maintain what is already our enjoyment.
- Since there is not the infrastructure in the Columbia Valley for expansion (jobs, mass transit, water, sewer, etc.) Balfour Village should not happen.
- Since we live in a finite world, perpetual growth that we must accommodate ultimately yields failure. I hope for changing the GMA so a community need not be forced to accommodate failure.
- Stand on your own two feet and not follow someone blindly
- Start honestly limiting W.C. population work for "natural" balance. No farmland, no farms, no food!
- Strongly urge removal of uga from Blaine, esp. those with wetlands, and those west of Semiahmoo. Blaine has annexed +100 acres east of town, as yet undeveloped. ensure infill, not sprawl.
- Sustain rural areas with Port of Bellingham (Port of Whatcom County). Treat Nooksack River like Whatcom, Samish and Padden protection zone. Document water flow in Columbia Valley/Cultus Lak CA
- Sustainability is often mentioned in the GMA, but policies usually result in the opposite. We shouldn't out grow our local food supply.
- Thank you for not allowing any home building on forestry lands. Please stop sprawl in the Ag lands. Please increase the ag zone to 120,000 acres.
- Thank you for offering these chances to provide input. Please continue to make this available and promote its awareness in the county. Do not dilute its importance.
- Thank you for providing public comment through surveys & hearings.
- Thank you for soliciting input. You are helping make Whatcom County a more wonderful place. Let's keep building our capacity for intelligent dialog, progressive policies, and making it happen on the ground!
- Thank you for the opportunity to comment
- Thank you for your compiling efforts - I'm sure you'll get some great feedback. Lively community!

If you have any other comments about any topic, please write them below.

- Thank You
BTW - We are not rural take out park & forest we are urban, planning should reflect that.
- Thank you.
- Thanks for *illegible* in this!
- Thanks for asking!
- Thanks for asking.
- Thanks for your efforts in this challenging task!
- Thanks for your work on this.
- Thanks Kate!
- Thanks!
- Thanks!
Hey Kate, hope you can include this and it's not too late! *name withheld*
- The Bellingham community is becoming too much like Boulder, Colorado or Carmel, CA.
- The casino Northwood built in a pristine agricultural area still irritates me. Why was this allowed without any opposition by County officials?
- The community needs to be more involved and contacted earlier in the process of changes to policies and code.
- The community values question is misleading. Some of these items I really like about our current situation, but many of the items I would like to see more of, but don't see right now.
- The county's goal is to bring all the community together to work towards a gestalt, not to stack the deck in favor of one community. (Bellingham)
- The crime rate in the Paradise/Kendall area is extremely high. New housing in the areas will only make it worse. Higher taxes will make more people homeless.
- The gambling industry is an unregulated threat to rural Whatcom County. Are the Indian Tribes a *illegible* of this process?
- The people's representatives are too cozy with the major business interests. It's been years since the public's interests have triumphed over that of the development community. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
- The population projections are way too high. If we build it they will come, & it won't be the developers, cleaning up the mess, living with the negative consequences or bearing the additional tax burden for roads, schools, public services & environmental impacts.
- The proposal Balfour Village for Columbia Valley would be a catastrophe more homes in this area would completely change the rural character & jeopardize water & air quality. Keep any growth of services @ Kendall junction.
- The proposed Balfour development is a terrible direction for growth to take. It will destroy the rural character of the Foothills. South Fork Valley Zoning is great & should remain the same!
- The State Growth Management Act needs to be changed to allow over populated counties to refuse to accommodate populations greater than their natural resource carrying capacity; to have such excess population transferred out of overpopulated counties this should be an element of our new vision.
- The top-down selection of a new growth number will only accommodate growth, not manage it. Cities must have more of a rule in this exercise so that individual city visions, whether it is slow or aggressive growth, is realized.
- The UGA designation in Columbia Valley should be removed. Columbia Valley is rural area and needs to be protected as such. If it remains UGA and receives "development" the surrounding rural areas will be negatively impacted.
- This is hopefully a precursor to more in-depth, multi-generational planning.
- This questionnaire has a slanted, view being projected rather negative
- This should have been electronic response option!

If you have any other comments about any topic, please write them below.

- This survey should have been on-line. Stop wasting paper!
- To also maintain the growing population, an emphasis on budgeting for fire, police, teachers, animal control...without adequate services provided ,the plan don't work. Thank you for asking!
- To try to get these "urban villages" to me it centers around the grocery stores - you don't have to do to the mall but you do have to get groceries - so people should grow around the grocery stores.
- Too bad everyone got so pissy about Whatcom Legacy project - weren't they doing exactly this stuff using less taxpayer \$ to do it?
- Too many unregulated *illegible* businesses are arriving in the rural part of the county!
- Urban (community) design would take place at the PUBLIC level by educated designers not at the whim of private speculators whose only interest is maximum return.
- Water & sewer resources & police services need to be increased without being denied services because of what others have spread about a person.
- We do not want to see property rights taken away as has been done in king and pierce counties.
- We don't have local control ie Maple Falls library & decisions about Baker to Blhm trail. The county needs to revise rules concerning abandoned RR right-a-ways. Especially those that dissect a land owners property.
- We have an opportunity to keep Whatcom County beautiful and open for all to share - let's do it right!
- We have clogged our ditches and drainage areas with plantings which make DITCHES non accessible. In the future we will have major flooding in our agriculture areas which will decrease available Ag Land unless we do much better job of opening up drainage ditches and areas.
- We have need enforcement not a complaint driven model. Salmon fishermen are employed & Land Use attorneys are unemployed. We are the model for the whole Country prioritize clean air, water & healthy food.
- We moved to rural area to get away from city life. Making a city out in the rural area is not right (Kendall). Watching the planning dept. work - they are not working for the people - rather for the government. Government has lost of peoples needs - too bad!
- We need living wage jobs!!!
- We need to grow in a manner that reduces the destruction of our environment and the Nonhuman creatures who inhabit the space with us.
- We need to welcome growth not discourage. Whatcom Co. has lost value! For children.
- We should make a law that we can all give ourselves a yearly raise in wages like Peter Kremen did this year that would make Whatcom County a great place to live
- Well done
- What are we doing to address shortage of doctors who accept Medicare?
- What is the point of designating UGA's where growth is to occur and then not supporting the mandate of the Growth Management Act which states that "growth should pay for growth" Birch Bay has not seen the services or infrastructure follow the growth! No more growth unless it comes with funding support for the County!
- What we need is jobs growth in the small cities, not population growth. There are lots of people, but not a lot of jobs, so they commute. Plenty of people and jobs in Bellingham.
- What will Whatcom County look like w/ no fossil fuels? How will we get our food? What will we be doing for work? Where will our energy come from? How will we get from one place to another? How will we get ALL that is NEEDED locally?
- Whatcom Co. quality of life has diminished greatly in past 5-10 years. Too many people, too much noise, too little tolerance for others, too much traffic, too many concessions to developers.
- Why aren't Deming, Acme, Maple Falls or Glacier options as "community"

If you have any other comments about any topic, please write them below.

- Why aren't we metering building permits? Why do current tax payers have to pay for all the extra services & developers get to keep all the profits? I'd like to see impact fees & metered permits become a serious part of this conversation!
- Why is the N. Bellingham (Smith & NW) area not in Ferndale's urban growth? This is already an urban area with no City services available - why?
- Why not this survey online? Much cheaper for both of us and you would get more responses...
- Your lack of logical approach to UGA and urban growth is destroying the once pastoral rural nature of Whatcom County.