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**FOOTHILLS SUBAREA PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RECORD OF DECISIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE 10/24/07 MEETING**

Memo Date: October 25, 2007

To: Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee

From: Matt W. Aamot, Whatcom County Planning & Development

At the October 24, 2007 meeting, the Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee made the following decisions and recommendations, including modifications to the Foothills Subarea Plan Public Roll-Out Draft (Sept. 2007). New text is shown with underlining and deleted text is shown with strike-throughs.

1. **Bicycle Movement Text** - The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying text in the Transportation chapter as follows:

The most popular areas for cycling are in the Columbia Valley, where residential streets are alive with children and youth on bikes. They rarely venture beyond the valley, though, because travel on the highway, even to a place as close as Kendall, is uninviting and unsafe. (p. 66)

2. **Housing Costs** - The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying text in the Economics chapter (to make it consistent with the updated information on p. 42) as follows:

Relative housing costs. The ~~range of~~ median housing costs in the Foothills (~~\$163,000 between \$62,500 and \$146,600~~) was less than the median housing cost for the whole county (~~\$260,500 \$149,500~~) in ~~2006~~ 2000. ~~Since then, housing costs have increased in Whatcom County and across the nation. It is likely that housing prices have also increased in the Foothills but stakeholder interviews suggest that housing in the subarea is still more affordable than in Bellingham or the rest of the western portion of Whatcom County.~~ (pp. 86-87)

NOTE: The last two sentences weren't explicitly discussed by the committee, but should be removed because the context has been modified.

3. **Utilities Chapter Goal / Best Available Science** - The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying a goal in the Utility chapter as follows:

Goal U5 – Protect surface and ground water quality and quantity and sensitive habitat areas throughout the subarea, consistent with best available science. (p. 64).

4. **LAMIRD Policy** – The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying a policy in the Land Use chapter as follows:

LU3-B Establish an outer boundary for each small town, prohibiting the expansion of zoning districts that allow commercial uses, intense new residential developments, and light industrial uses beyond those boundaries. (p. 35)

5. **Mineral Resource Lands Text** – The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying text in the Resource Lands chapter as follows:

In addition to the forests, the Foothills Subarea is actively involved in mineral resource extraction. Limestone, olivine, and sand and gravel aggregate are currently the most common minerals excavated in the Foothills Subarea. There are five ~~four~~ Mineral Resource Land (MRL) designations in the subarea. Sand and gravel mining occurs southeast of Kendall. Limestone products (crushed rock and stone) are mined from the quarry on the east side of Red Mountain, southwest of Silver Lake and, to a lesser degree, from the quarry on the west side of Red Mountain, north of Kendall. There is also a bedrock MRL located on the north side of South Pass Rd., but it is not being mined for commercial purposes at the present time. The Foothills is home to one of the largest deposits of olivine in the United States and a relatively small quarry is operated in the southeastern portion of the subarea, adjacent to the National Forest. (p. 97)

6. **LAMIRD Implementation Task** - The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying a task in the Implementation chapter as follows:

Review and, as necessary, revise comprehensive plan and zoning designations in Deming, Welcome, Kendall, Maple Falls and Glacier to comply with the “limited areas of more intensive rural development” criteria of RCW 36.70A.070(5)(d) if required by court ruling. The review and revisions will be completed prior to the compliance deadline set by the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board. (p. 179)

7. **Solid Waste Text** - The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying text in the Community Facilities chapter as follows:

Whatcom County's Public Works department is responsible for solid waste management in unincorporated Whatcom County. ~~The department contracts with private haulers responsible for collecting solid waste and transporting~~ Private haulers collect solid waste and transport it to transfer stations in Whatcom County. Sanitary Service Company, Inc., and Nooksack Valley Disposal provide garbage pick-up services in the subarea. There are no open landfills in the county, so all non-recyclable solid waste is transported out of county for landfilling. (p. 108)

8. **Transit Route Map Correction** - The Committee recommended, by consensus, correcting Map 6.5 (p. 81) by removing the "bus stops" (which were incorrectly labeled).
9. **Library Text** - The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying text in the Community Facilities chapter as follows:

As of Fall 2007, the Friends of the North Fork Community Library are planning to build a new library in the Kendall Small Town Commercial area to serve the growing population in the Columbia Valley UGA and to serve as a central location for library-goers in the Foothills Subarea. This new library would replace the library in Maple Falls.

The Whatcom County Library system is reviewing their hours and facilities county-wide in response to changing demographics.

~~As of Fall 2007, the Friends of the North Fork Library are in the preliminary stages of planning to build a new library in the Kendall Small Town to serve the growing population in the Columbia Valley UGA and serve as a central location for library-goers in the Foothills Subarea (this library would replace the library in Maple Falls). The Whatcom County Library System is in the process of reviewing their hours and facilities to determine if they will need to add staff, more facilities, or open libraries for longer hours. (p. 109)~~

10. **Environment Chapter Goal / Best Available Science** - The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying a goal in the Environment chapter as follows:

Goal EN1 – Protect surface and ground water quality and quantity and sensitive habitat areas throughout the subarea, consistent with best available science. (p. 125).

11. **ECONorthwest Growth Assumption** – The Committee recommended, by consensus, adding text in the Introduction and Population Projections chapter as follows:

The ECONorthwest Population forecast report of December 1, 2006, page 11, suggested that the Baseline Growth Assumption be used in the Foothills Subarea Plan. (p. 8).

NOTE: The Committee decided that this text would be in italics, below Table 1.6.

- 12. Transportation Chapter Correction** - The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying text in the Transportation chapter as follows:

Level of service standards indicate ~~the~~ how much vehicle traffic a road should be able to handle. (p. 71)

- 13. Tribal Employment Percentage**- The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying text in the Economics chapter to add a statement that Tribal jobs are about 39% of the total jobs in the subarea.

In 2005, the Foothills Subarea had 1,293 “covered”¹ jobs at 163 establishments, with an average of about 8 jobs per establishment. The majority of jobs — 66 percent — were within the Government sector. Approximately 39% of all jobs in the subarea are Tribal jobs. (p. 83)

- 14. Tribal Employment Text** - The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying text in the Economics chapter as follows:

Diversify the economy. The existing distribution of employment in the Foothills Subarea includes a disproportionately high share of government and Tribal employment. (p. 91)

- 15. School Enrollment** – The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying text in the Community Facilities chapter as follows:

Mt Baker School District 507 primarily serves the Foothills and areas beyond. Its facilities within the subarea include the Kendall Elementary School (grades pre-K through 6, enrollment approx. 490 ~~600~~), Mt Baker Junior High (grades 7 & 8, enrollment approx. 370 ~~400~~), and Mt Baker High School (grades 9 through 12, enrollment approx. 721 ~~700~~). In fall 2007, the Mt. Baker School District created the Mt. Baker Academy, assisting the educational needs of home-schooled children in the district. The district offices are located in Deming adjacent to the high school. (p. 107)

- 16. Proposed Community Facilities** – The Committee recommended, by consensus, changing the heading on p. 109 of the Community Facilities chapter as follows: **Standards of Adequacy and Proposed Facilities**

- 17. Osprey Spelling** – The committee noted that Osprey is spelled incorrectly on p. 121 and needs to be corrected.

- 18. Recreational Units** - The Committee recommended, by consensus, adding text in the Housing chapter as follows:

Camper's Paradise, The Glen at Maple Falls, and Black Mountain Ranch accommodate approximately 2,500 recreational units (RVs and park models).
(p. 46)

NOTE: The Committee decided that this text would be inserted below Table 3.4.

- 19. Typo Correction** - The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying text in the Introduction and Population Projections chapter as follows:

Projections for population in most cities and counties are simple projections of past growth rates into the future. ~~The~~ They have no quantitative connection to the underlying factors that explain why and how much growth will occur. (p. 8)

- 20. Industrial Land Demand Heading** - The Committee recommended, by consensus, modifying text in the Land Use Chapter by moving the "Industrial Land Demand" heading so that it is above the paragraph that starts with "There is now no industrially zoned land . . ." (p. 12).

- 21. Appendix A / Bibliography** – The Committee recommended, by consensus, adding a statement describing where the documents listed in the bibliography can be obtained for review (p. 182).

- 22. Impact Fees / Transit** - The Committee recommended, by consensus, adding a policy in the Transportation chapter as follows:

T10-B Use impact fees to provide transit infrastructure including but not limited to park and rides. (p. 78)

- 23. Foothills Subarea Plan / Final Recommendation** – The majority of the committee consented to recommending approval of the Subarea Plan (with the changes that were made). Three members present indicated that they will submit a minority report (Business Rules and Procedures, section 10.d).

- 24. Committee Representative** – The committee chose, by consensus, Gary Gehling to represent the Advisory Committee at meetings of the Planning Commission and County Council that relate to the Foothills Subarea Plan (Business Rules and Procedures, section 10.c).

CC: Linda Peterson, Planning Division Manager
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