

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES**
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Director

**FOOTHILLS SUBAREA PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RECORD OF DECISIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE 5/16/07 MEETING**

Memo Date: May 22, 2007

To: Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee

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

At the May 16, 2007 meeting, the Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee made the following decisions and recommendations:

1. **TDR Policy** – The Committee recommended, by consensus, the following policy relating to transfer of development rights:

Revise the Official Whatcom County Zoning Ordinance to designate Rural and Rural Forestry areas in the Foothills Subarea as transfer of development rights (TDR) sending areas and the Columbia Valley UGA or other urban growth areas as TDR receiving areas in order to preserve open space in rural and forestry areas.

2. **Project Prioritization** - The Committee prioritized projects, by consensus, in two categories: Candidates for County funding and candidates for non-County funding, as follows:

**Project Prioritization List
(Candidates for County funding)**

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Project Description</i>
1	Columbia Valley Urban Growth Area (UGA)	East County Regional Resource Center
2	Columbia Valley UGA	Incorporation study
3	Columbia Valley UGA	Conduct a study to prepare Master Plan for industrial in UGA- Work with Port of Bellingham, Foothills Economic Development Association (EDA), etc.
4	Kendall	Town park/community gathering place
5	Entire Foothills Subarea	Study best practices for “local living economy” (buy local) as opposed to corporate chain economy
6	Maple Falls	Town park with public restrooms and a place for a farmer’s market & ball fields along the highway
7	Entire Foothills Subarea	Separated bike/pedestrian paths from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glacier to densely populated developments to the east • Glacier to Maple Falls • Maple Falls to Kendall • Kendall to Limestone Road • Kendall to Deming • Deming to Nugent’s Corner
8	Entire Foothills Subarea	County Code enforcement to clean up blighted properties throughout the entire subarea. In the Paradise Lakes area, the code enforcement effort will work in conjunction with the Kendall Watch Plan.
9	Entire Foothills Subarea	Better signage at curves in road, better visibility, and blinking lights to improve safety
10	Entire Foothills Subarea	Incentives for tree retention along scenic highway
11	Glacier and Columbia Valley UGA	Fire Prevention- consult with Fire Marshal and provide tree modification to address potential wildfire
12	Columbia Valley UGA	Study of tax impact of projected growth so people know how they are going to pay for services/infrastructure
13	Deming, Kendall, Maple Falls and Glacier	Develop design guidelines for each individual small town.
14	Kendall	Deal with Flooding & Sediment Issues for High Creek (i.e. put in sediment pond to collect sediment)
15	Columbia Valley UGA	Storm water plan
16	Columbia Valley UGA	Pedestrian bridge over Sprague Lake
17	Foothills Subarea (north of Maple Falls)	Look at enhancing Silver Lake Park with natural resource themes
18	Entire Foothills Subarea	Educational program relating to wildlife needs

**Project Prioritization List
(Candidates for non-County funding)**

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Project Description</i>
1	Columbia Valley Urban Growth Area (UGA)	East County Regional Resource Center
2	Foothills Subarea	Welcome Center (visitor center) between Kendall and Maple Falls
3	Kendall	Library/town park/community gathering place
4	Entire Foothills Subarea	Study best practices for “local living economy” (buy local) as opposed to corporate chain economy
5	Entire Foothills Subarea	Cell phone coverage and high speed Internet service
6	Columbia Valley UGA	Interfaith Community Health Satellite Clinic
7	Maple Falls	Town park with public restrooms and a place for a farmer’s market & ball fields along the highway
8	Kendall	<p>Study road and pedestrian/bike safety from SR 542/547 intersection to just past the Kendall Elementary School. Study roundabout at SR 542 & SR 547 and look at alternatives. Additionally, address the following areas of concern regarding the operation of Mount Baker School District buses:</p> <p>A. The Interchange of Hwy 542 and 547. This is a very dangerous spot and would directly benefit from increased signage (warning signs) and a reduced speed limit at the interchange. A Kendall Elementary School Study of the intersection showed drastically reduced rates of accidents when temporary orange warning flags were placed at the approaches to this intersection several years ago. Signs saying “Yield to Oncoming Traffic” and “Caution - Turning Traffic Ahead” at the approaches to this intersection would be of great help.</p> <p>B. The corner of Hwy 547 where it turns ninety degrees from west to north directly in front of Kendall Elementary School. Two to three times per month vehicles fail to navigate that corner and contact the flower bed and the school district parking lot (most recently the car of a staff member was hit). The suggestion would be to again reduce speed on the highway, possibly install a device to slow speed (chicane or speed-bump) and to place a guardrail barrier between the roadway and the parking lot.</p>
9	Entire Subarea	<p>Separated bike/pedestrian paths from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glacier to densely populated developments to the east • Glacier to Maple Falls • Maple Falls to Kendall • Kendall to Limestone Road • Kendall to Deming • Deming to Nugent’s Corner
10	Columbia Valley UGA	Conduct a study to prepare Master Plan for industrial in UGA- Work with Port of Bellingham, Foothills Economic Development Association (EDA), etc.

11	Columbia Valley UGA	Study Wastewater plan for UGA – possibly combining the 2 water districts and providing sewer to the entire UGA
12	Deming	Upgrade the Deming Water Association Water Distribution System to Department of Health Standards
13	Entire Foothills Subarea	Better signage at curves in road, better visibility, and blinking lights to improve safety. Additionally, address the following areas of concern regarding the operation of Mount Baker School District buses: A. The widening of the shoulder or periodic areas of widened shoulders (in specified areas where the buses must stop) along 542 and 547 would reduce traffic congestion and reduce the slowing of traffic caused by the buses B. The Hwy 547 “S” curves approximately 1 mile north of the Kendall school. There are numerous accidents on the stretch of the highway. There is very poor visibility for cars approaching from the rear of school buses stopping in this area. Slower speed and warning lights for the corners would be of great assistance. C. The roads within the Peaceful Valley and Paradise areas only allow for the buses to operate on the main roads. We realize that reconfiguration of these roads is unlikely but the introduction of sidewalks would make the approaches and exits to and from the buses safer.
14	Columbia Valley UGA	Better lighting along SR 547 & road striping
15	Deming, Kendall, Maple Falls and Glacier	Develop design guidelines for each individual small town.
16	Foothills Subarea	Park & Ride
17	Columbia Valley UGA	Small business incubator
18	Kendall	Remove diversion dam at Kendall Hatchery
19	Entire Foothills Subarea	More WTA bus runs- A bus every hour
20	Deming	Study wastewater treatment feasibility
21	Kendall	Golf course
22	Entire Foothills Subarea	Incentives for tree retention along scenic highway
23	Glacier and Columbia Valley	Fire Prevention- consult with Fire Marshal and provide tree modification to address potential wildfire
24	Glacier	Study needs for wastewater disposal
25	Columbia Valley UGA	Study of tax impact of projected growth so people know how they are going to pay for services/infrastructure
26	Entire Foothills Subarea	Ask State to lower speed limit in populated areas for pedestrian safety
27	Foothills Subarea (between Maple Falls and Glacier)	SR 542 bridge over North Fork Nooksack (Warnick Bridge) needs to be replaced (located near the confluence of the North Fork of the Nooksack River and Canyon Creek)

28	Kendall	Skate-Park (tied to community gathering space)
29	Columbia Valley UGA	Fire Prevention – Tree Modification to address potential wildfire-Talk to Fire Marshall RE: Detailed How-To
30	Columbia Valley UGA	Air quality study for UGA including enforcement
31	Kendall	Deal with Flooding & Sediment Issues for High Creek (i.e. put in sediment pond to collect sediment)
32	Glacier	Library
33	Glacier	Post Office
34	Columbia Valley UGA	Pedestrian bridge over Sprague Lake
35	Foothills Subarea (north of Maple Falls)	Look at enhancing Silver Lake Park with natural resource themes
36	Kendall	Lower Speed Limit on SR 547 & SR 542 near the intersection all the way to the North Fork Brewery
37	Entire Foothills Subarea	More Bike Racks on WTA buses
38	Entire Foothills Subarea	Educational program relating to wildlife needs
39	Kendall	Swimming pool

Notes:

1. Projects were identified by the Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee and members of the public at the February 7 and February 21, 2007 committee meetings.
2. The 11 advisory committee members assigned points to various projects in a “dot exercise” conducted at the March 7, 2007 meeting. Each committee member was given a sheet with 24 colored dots. The dots ranged in value from 4 points to 1 point. A committee member was allowed to use a maximum of 4 dots on any one project. Committee members Sean Wilson & Amy Mower counted and verified the points for each project during the meeting.
3. The advisory committee conducted a “tie-breaker” dot exercise on April 18, 2007, which ranked projects that received the same number of points in the March 7, 2007 dot exercise.
4. At the May 2, 2007 meeting, the Advisory Committee decided to split the project list into two lists: projects that are candidates for County funds and projects that are candidates for non-County funds. It was decided that projects that could potentially receive both County funds and non-County funds could be placed on both lists.
5. At the May 16, 2007 meeting, the Advisory Committee considered the prioritization results from the previous dot exercises, and modified the rankings based upon consideration of community input and committee discussion.

CC: Hal Hart, Planning Director
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