



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Whatcom County Council

THROUGH: J.E. "Sam" Ryan, Director

FROM: Wain Harrison, Long Range Planning Supervisor
Gary Davis, AICP, Senior Planner

DATE: September 21, 2010

SUBJECT: Rural Element Update

At its September 14 meeting, the County Council Committee of the Whole decided to hold an additional work session on September 28 to discuss the current proposal prepared by PDS staff. The full draft ordinance, including the proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, zoning code text, and zoning maps, were included in the September 14 Council packet and are posted on the County web site at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/long/projects/lamird/proposed.jsp>

PDS will be prepared for discussion of the draft text and maps at the September 28 meeting. For reference, staff has attached the most current version of the documents comparing the current General Commercial (GC) and Light Impact Industrial (LII) zones with the proposed Rural General Commercial (RGC) and Rural Industrial Manufacturing (RIM) zones respectively. These comparisons show the differences made to reflect the size, scale, use, and intensity in proposed LAMIRD areas in 1990. Also attached is a list of comments by Councilmember Brenner suggesting changes to the Findings of Fact, Comprehensive Plan amendments, and the Title 20 (zoning code) amendments.

If at the end of the September 28 meeting, Council is ready to schedule the Rural Element amendments for a public hearing, staff will prepare a final draft of the proposed amendments based on Council's direction, and will update the Title 20 draft to reflect recent amendments adopted since the draft was first prepared. That draft will be posted on the County website at the address given above, and public comments will continue to be posted at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/long/projects/lamird/updateprocess.jsp> If you have questions concerning the revised draft please call Gary Davis at extension 50246.

Attachments:

- GC - RGC Comparison
- LII - RIM Comparison
- Councilmember Brenner's comments