

WHATCOM COUNTY

Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive,
Bellingham, WA 98226-9013
360-676-6907, TTY 800-833-6384
360-738-2525 Fax



David Stalheim
Director

J.E. "Sam" Ryan
Assistant Director

PROCEDURES FOR AMENDING THE WHATCOM COUNTY ZONING TEXT AND/OR ZONING MAP

The process for amending the Whatcom County Zoning Ordinance and zoning maps is outlined in Chapter 20.90 of the Zoning Ordinance. It is summarized as follows:

- The person who wants the amendment completes an application form and environmental checklist. Application forms can be obtained from the Whatcom County Planning & Development Services Department, Planning Division, 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham WA 98226 or on the Whatcom County Website at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/planning/index.jsp>
- The person who wants the amendment submits the completed application form and the environmental checklist to the Planning Division by December 31st.
- The person applying for the amendment pays the fees at time of application.

• **Application fees are as follows:**

Zoning Amendment	\$ 7,500
Environmental (SEPA) Checklist:	\$ 350

Note: Fees are subject to change upon adoption of the Whatcom County Unified Fee Schedule each year by the County Council.

- The Planning Division evaluates the proposal and issues a staff report.
- The Planning Commission (or hearing examiner for site specific rezones) holds a public hearing and issues findings & recommendations, which are sent to the County Council.
- The County Council reviews the findings & recommendations and makes a final decision on the proposal. The Council may hold a hearing before making a decision.

In order to be approved, proposed amendments must be in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan and meet other criteria.

If the proposed zoning change requires a comprehensive plan amendment, then a different process and time frame applies. See the comprehensive plan amendment info sheet.

You may call the Planning Division if you have questions about Zoning Amendments. We can be reached at (360) 676-6907.