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For Immediate Release:

Growth Forum Schedule Expands

Meetings Moved to September, Public Outreach Planned Throughout Summer

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The City of Bellingham and partners Whatcom County and Whatcom Transportation Authority today announced an expanded schedule for its Community Forum on Growth Management. Originally set to finish at the end of June, the revised schedule includes more time and more opportunities for public involvement.

Meetings originally scheduled for June 18, 19, 23 and 26 will move to September, allowing key workshops to occur after the summer season.

In addition to extending the schedule, organizers are planning additional ways to engage people in discussing growth issues and soliciting their ideas and opinions. This will include presenting information and gathering feedback at area civic events, neighborhood meetings, through Internet surveys and on Channel 10 throughout summer.

“Expanding the growth forum allows more people to join the discussion about this critical issue,” said Bellingham Mayor Mark Asmundson. “Adding time to the schedule will allow for more public outreach, and ultimately, a better regional strategy to respond to population pressure,” he added.

The Community Forum on Growth Management is a series designed to explore strategies to address the forecasted growth of 31,600 new residents in the Bellingham urban area, and 62,000 new residents in the county, by the year 2022. Updates to the City’s Comprehensive Plan and the City/County Urban Growth Area (UGA) Plan will be directly influenced by the forum results.

For more information, call Greg Aucutt, Bellingham Planning and Community Development, at (360) 676-6982, check the city’s website at www.cob.org, or contact the Growth Forum’s downtown “Drop-in Center,” 120 East Holly Street, (360) 647-5235.

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