

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-03

**A RESOLUTION ENDORSING A WHATCOM COUNTY BALLOT PROPOSITION 1
TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICES AT
CURRENT LEVELS**

WHEREAS, the Bellingham and Whatcom County Comprehensive Plans have broad and strong policies and goals to support mode shift goals away from single-occupancy vehicles and towards transportation alternatives including public transit; and

WHEREAS, for improving the economic environment in the City, the Bellingham Employment Lands Study (Phase II) recommends that Bellingham "should work with Whatcom Transportation Authority to improve bus service to areas designated for employment growth"; and

WHEREAS, The Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) successfully engaged in an aggressive Strategic Plan in 2004 that established five frequent "GO" routes and extended service to many rural and small city areas in the County; and

WHEREAS, WTA fixed route service has increased ridership from 2003-09 by 76% including 39% in the last two years; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these substantial increases in ridership, WTA has been recognized nationwide as being a leader in transit improvement; and

WHEREAS, the WTA public transit program has provided nearly five million rides to Whatcom County residents during 2009 significantly reducing cars on local roads for every transit ride; and

WHEREAS, reduced automobile traffic results in less road congestion for residents and commerce, cleaner air quality that better assists the City and County in meeting carbon reduction goals, and less capital transportation infrastructure and maintenance needs by the City thereby extending limited public funding resources such as taxes and impact fees; and

WHEREAS, the 2008-09 worldwide recession has affected Whatcom County citizens and the reduction of countywide sales tax revenues of over 11% from 2008 to 2009; and

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proposition for the electorate to increase the countywide sales tax for public transit from 0.6% to 0.8% in order to maintain current service levels; and

WHEREAS, City Council held a Public Hearing on February 8, 2010 to take public comment on the April 27, 2010 ballot measure and the proposed resolution;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

Endorses a "Yes" vote on the Whatcom County ballot proposition placed before voters queried as:


Shall public transportation services in Whatcom County be maintained and improved by authorizing the Whatcom Transportation Authority to impose an additional two-tenths (2/10ths) of one percent (1%) sales and use tax effective January 1, 2011?

PASSED by the Council this ____ day of _____, 2010.

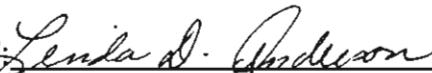


Council President

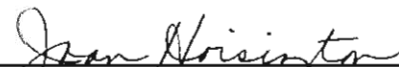
APPROVED by me this 11th day of February, 2010.



Mayor

ATTEST: 
for Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

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