

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2010 - 328

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:		9/14/2010		9/14/2010	Council
Division Head:					
Dept. Head:	<i>[Signature]</i>	9-14-10			
Prosecutor:	<i>[Signature]</i>	09/14			
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:					

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:

Resolution requesting traffic improvements in/near Lummi Reservation 2010-2011

ATTACHMENTS:

SEPA review required? () Yes () NO
 SEPA review completed? () Yes () NO

Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes () NO
 Requested Date:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

Resolution in support of Whatcom County's and Lummi Nation's request for appropriation in the federal budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for traffic improvements in and near Lummi Reservation

COMMITTEE ACTION:

COUNCIL ACTION:

9/14/2010: Council Approved 6-0-1, Kershner abstained Res. 2010-034

Related County Contract #:

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number: Res. 2010-034

Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-034

IN SUPPORT OF WHATCOM COUNTY'S AND LUMMI NATION'S REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 FOR TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS IN AND NEAR LUMMI RESERVATION

WHEREAS, Whatcom County and Lummi Nation are currently in negotiations regarding a County lease for the pertinent portions of tidelands and uplands at Gooseberry Point for continued operation of the County's ferry to and from Lummi Island; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the tidelands over which County ferry dock infrastructure is placed is owned by the United States in trust for Lummi Nation and is administered in accord with that ownership; and

WHEREAS, one of the concerns that has been raised by Lummi Nation is the impact of traffic generated by ferry users upon members of Lummi Nation residing within the Lummi Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the primary route for vehicular traffic to and from the ferry landing at Gooseberry Point is Haxton Way within Lummi Reservation and Slater Road along the northern boundary of Lummi Reservation; and

WHEREAS, increased residential density within reservation boundaries, together with increased traffic volume, a measurable portion of which is generated in connection with the County's ferry operation to and from Lummi Island, have intensified traffic impacts upon the resident population of Lummi Reservation; and

WHEREAS, in the negotiations between Whatcom County and Lummi Nation over the ferry lease, tribal officials and staff have made clear their position that tribal consent for continuation of a lease arrangement is dependent upon significant provision for traffic improvements on the route to and from the ferry landing; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County, while it desires to provide for traffic improvements along Haxton Way and Slater Road, has limited resources with which to address Lummi Nation's traffic concerns; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the crucial nature of the ferry operation for Lummi Island residents and the critical concern for traffic safety along the route leading to and from the ferry landing, Whatcom County and Lummi Nation officials presented their request for federal assistance to members of Washington's federal congressional delegation last March; and

WHEREAS, the amount of money jointly requested for traffic improvements of the nature sought by Lummi Nation was \$16 million; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has not yet acted upon the budget for the next fiscal year or upon the request by Lummi Nation and Whatcom County to include the sum of \$16 million within that budget for traffic improvements upon and near the Lummi Reservation that will facilitate the parties' successful negotiations for the lease of the area essential for the Lummi Island ferry operation; and

WHEREAS, the County Council is desirous of achieving a satisfactory resolution of the traffic improvements issue so as to enhance traffic safety and to achieve a reliable, long-term arrangement for use of Lummi-owned and U.S.-owned lands necessary for the ferry operation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that it supports the request of the parties for federal appropriation in the amount of \$16 million for traffic improvements upon and near the Lummi Reservation and it further urges Congress to make such appropriation so that traffic safety may be improved and that the necessary arrangements for use of Lummi-owned and U.S.-owned trust properties for the County's ferry operation can be achieved.

APPROVED this 14th day of September, 2010.

ATTEST:
STATE OF
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**
Sam Crawford, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Daniel L. Gibson
Civil Deputy Prosecutor