

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226

J.E. "SAM" RYAN, CBO
Interim Director

Linda J. Peterson, AICP
Long Range Division Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council – Planning & Development Committee

THROUGH: J.E. "Sam" Ryan, CBO, Interim Director
Whatcom County Planning & Development Services

FROM: Linda J. Peterson, AICP, Long Range Division Manager
Cathy Craver, Planner II

DATE: July 3, 2007

RE: July 10, 2007 Planning & Development Committee Meeting -Bellingham Subarea

Time has been allotted for a continuing work session on the Bellingham Subarea Plan during the Council's Natural Resources Committee's meeting, as well as during the regularly scheduled Planning & Development Committee meeting. Following is the proposed agenda for July 10th:

(Approximately) 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

1. Final review of the Yew Street Urban Growth Area (UGA) proposal
2. Finalize committee recommendations for the Bellingham UGA
3. Discussion regarding the planning period

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

1. Continue discussion on the planning period
2. Consideration of areas for possible inclusion into the UGA boundary

The committee last made recommendations regarding the zoning of areas within the Yew Street UGA, which included removing portions of the UGA within the Lake Padden watershed. Based on the committee's recommendation, staff has compiled information that may help inform the committee in its final decision.

- Whatcom County is scheduled to begin construction of Yew Street Road improvements from Kingsmill Road south to Samish Way in 2009. The City and County will enter into an agreement for the extension of water and sewer infrastructure during this project. Whatcom County has received \$3.5 million in grant funding for this project, which is

dependent on improvements within in an urban section, and coordination between the City and County.

- The Bellingham School District has purchased property for a future school site along Yew Street, with their conditional use permit currently being processed. The selection of the school site was partially based on the future need for a school within an urbanizing area.

Staff will be presenting in greater detail these issues at the meeting. Following the Yew Street discussion, the committee will finalize proposed zoning recommendations for the Bellingham UGA, discuss the planning period, and consider areas for possible inclusion into the UGA based on the committee's recommendation of a 10% safety factor.