



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010

Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2026-351

File ID:	AB2026-351	Version:	1	Status:	Adopted
File Created:	04/30/2026	Entered by:	mdonley@co.whatcom.wa.us		
Department:	Public Works Department	File Type:	Ordinance		
Assigned to:	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee			Final Action:	05/26/2026
Agenda Date:	05/26/2026	Enactment #:	ORD 2026-026		
Related Files:					

Primary Contact Email: sdraper@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Ordinance amending the project budget for the Austin Court Stormwater Improvement Project Fund, request no. 1

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

See memo

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
05/12/2026	Council	INTRODUCED	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee
		Aye: 7 Nay: 0	Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
05/26/2026	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION	
		Aye: 7 Nay: 0	Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
05/26/2026	Council	ADOPTED	
		Aye: 7 Nay: 0	Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Attachments: Staff Memo, Proposed Ordinance, Notice of Action Proposed on 5.12.2026

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-026

**AMENDING THE AUSTIN COURT STORMWATER IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT FUND, REQUEST NO. 1**

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2024-025 established the project budget for Austin Court Stormwater Improvements; and

WHEREAS, this project upgrade is listed as item number two (2) on the 2026-2031 Six-Year Water Resources Improvement Program for the Lake Whatcom watershed; and

WHEREAS, this project will capture and convey stormwater to an existing filter vault at the end of Fir Tree Way to remove sediment and phosphorus from approximately three (3) acres of runoff from the Geneva neighborhood before entering Lake Whatcom; and

WHEREAS, local funding for this request will come from the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility fund (\$488,022.11) and from the Real Estate Excise Tax II (REET) funds (\$151,977.89); and

WHEREAS, this request includes costs associated with contracted professional services, county survey, permit assistance, permit fees, county staff time for project management, inspection and support, and construction related expenses; and

WHEREAS, Section 6.80 of the Whatcom County Home Rule Charter allows for project-based capital budget appropriation ordinances that lapse when the project has been completed or abandoned or when no expenditure or encumbrance has been made for three (3) years.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that Ordinance No. 2024-025 is hereby amended to add \$640,000 of expenditure authority, as described above and in Exhibit A, for a revised total budget of \$927,375.

ADOPTED this 26th day of May, 2026.

ATTEST:


Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Tom Seguire 4.30.26 via email
Tom Seguire
Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Civil Division

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Kaylee Galloway
Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Satpal Sidhu
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Approved () Denied

Date Signed: 6/3/26

Exhibit A

Austin Court Stormwater Improvements

Account	Descriptions	Initial Project Budget Request	Construction Amendment Budget	Total Project Budget
Expenditures				
6110	Wages	\$ 38,500.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$72,500
6290	Applied Benefits	\$ 28,875.00	\$ 23,500.00	\$52,375
6630	Professional Services	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$185,000
6699	Other Services, Interfund	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$32,500
7199	Other Miscellaneous, Permitting Fees	\$ 5,000.00		\$5,000
7199	Other Miscellaneous, Contingency	\$ 20,000.00		\$20,000
7380	ROW/ Easements/ Construction	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 535,000.00	\$560,000
Total Project Based Budget Request		\$ 287,375.00	\$ 640,000.00	\$ 927,375.00
Object Revenues				
8397.C.32402401	Operation Transfer In-REET II	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 151,977.89	\$ 176,977.89
8397.C.19031000	Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility	\$ 262,375.00	\$ 488,022.11	\$ 750,397.11
Total Revenue		\$ 287,375.00	\$ 640,000.00	\$ 927,375.00

Supplemental Budget Request

Public Works

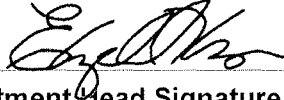
Stormwater

Suppl ID # 5435 Fund 3901 Cost Center 39011000 Originator: Loni Patterson

Expenditure Type: One-Time Year 2 2026 Add'l FTE Add'l Space Priority 1

Name of Request: Austin Ct Stormwater Imp project budget amend #1

X



Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)

Date

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	6110	Regular salaries and wages	\$34,000
	6290	Applied benefits	\$23,500
	6630	Professional services	\$35,000
	6699	Other services-interfund	\$12,500
	7380	Other improvements	\$535,000
	8397.C.19031000	Transfers in	(\$488,022)
	8397.C.32402401	Transfers in	(\$151,978)
	Request Total		\$0

1a. Description of request:

The request is to fund the project for Austin Court stormwater improvements project. The County has determined that capital improvements are necessary to repair and replace existing stormwater infrastructure to properly capture and convey stormwater to an existing filter vault. This will reduce sediment transport entering Lake Whatcom. This project evaluates the current stormwater system and determine future improvements to most effectively and efficiently capture, convey, treat and remove phosphorus the stormwater discharging from the Austin Ct drainage basin.

Companion SBR #5441, reflects the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility contribution into the Austin Ct project based budget.

Companion SBR #5442, reflects the Real Estate Excise tax contribution. These REET funds are made up of the cash returned from the closure of project budget Silver Beach Creek- 3911 of \$151,978.

1b. Primary customers:

The residents of the county will benefit from improved water quality to the drinking water source. Preservation and conservation of an important water source for the community.

2. Problem to be solved:

The improvements for the system will capture and convey stormwater to an existing treatment vault before entering into Lake Whatcom. Whatcom County has a County Comprehensive Plan to preserve the water quality of the drinking water source for the residents of Bellingham, Lake Whatcom. Treating the water to reduce the amount of nutrients into the lake is a main goal of that plan.

3a. Options / Advantages:

This will preserve natural resources and water quality of the drinking water source for the community.

3b. Cost savings:

Delayed implementation of water quality improvements will result in degradation of failing stormwater infrastructure, continuation of drainage issues in the neighborhood and stormwater remaining untreated and not achieving a goal of the county and city to preserve water quality for Lake Whatcom.

4a. Outcomes:

The project will be designed to capture and convey stormwater flowing downstream from the detention

Supplemental Budget Request

Public Works

Stormwater

Suppl ID # 5435

Fund 3901 Cost Center 39011000 Originator: Loni Patterson

pond at the end of Austin Ct. The water would be captured, conveyed and treated (currently untreated) to reduce that amount of nutrients, specifically phosphorus to improve water quality to the drinking water source for the community. This project also addresses failing stormwater infrastructure and localized flooding during large storm events. The treatment of the stormwater utilizes an existing treatment vault that is currently not being effectively utilized.

4b. Measures:

The reduction of nutrients enter into Lake Whatcom.

5a. Other Departments/Agencies:

During design and prior to construction, this project will be reviewed by all applicable permitting agencies to ensure compliance of all applicable rules, regulations and statutes.

5b. Name the person in charge of implementation and what they are responsible for:

Loni Patterson, Engineer I, is responsible for managing the project.

6. Funding Source:

The funding sources for this project is the LWSU and REET funds.