



Island County Economic Development Council

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Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Jun 7, 2012

Subject: Support for Application TC-120834-A

The EDC supports Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle's request to expand service to support Bellingham International Airport. Expansion of the service supports multiple goals described in Island County's Comprehensive Plan¹.

- Provide a transportation system that supports economic growth and vitality in Island County.
- Minimize negative environmental impacts on the physical and social environment.
- Provide transportation alternatives for moving people and goods.
- Reduce consumption of energy through an efficient and convenient transportation system.
- Emphasize the movement of people and goods rather than vehicles in order to obtain the most efficient use of transportation facilities.

Efficient transportation which reduces traffic loads takes on a special meaning for Island County. The ability of the county's transportation system to provide a proper level of service in what is termed "concurrency" limits the county's growth². Therefore, mass transit not only helps address comprehensive plan goals but also is critical to the economic stability and growth of the entire county.

On a personal level, expansion of the service provides my family and I with a much less stressful means to commute to the region's two major airports

If you have questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Ronnie W. Nelson
Executive Director

¹ Island County Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Element, Vol. 8, page 8-11

² WAC 365-196-840(2)