

## Bellingham, WA

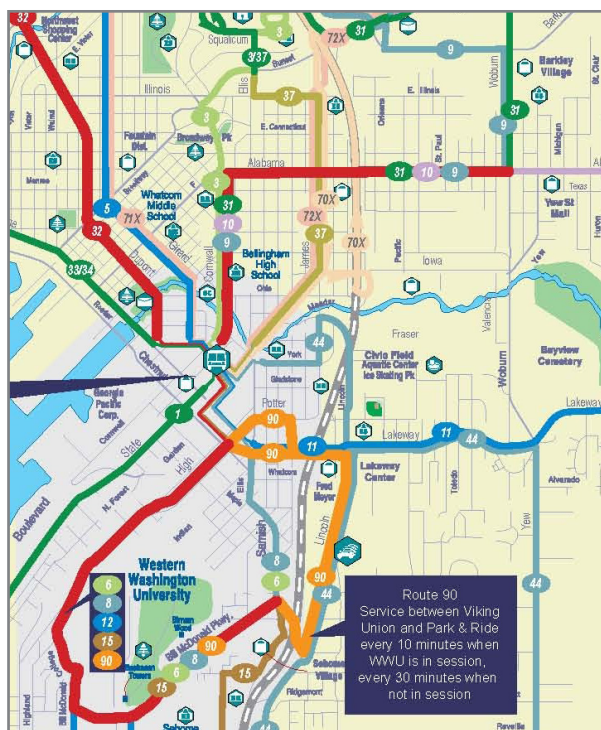
# Whatcom Transportation Authority Strategic Plan



Whatcom County, Washington—located on Puget Sound at the U.S.-Canada border—includes Bellingham (pop. 80,000, home of Western Washington University) and surrounding smaller cities, so it requires a mixture of urban, suburban and rural service strategies.

Nelson\Nygaard led a large team for this unusually detailed transit Strategic Plan for the Whatcom Transportation Authority. This extensive study included an analysis of existing fixed-route, paratransit and rideshare operations, an organizational assessment of the transit agency, financial and capital planning, detailed service planning for 2005 implementation including the process of outreach and revision, and recommended “key initiatives” to guide long-range planning.

The project included an extensive visioning process designed to incorporate input from a broad-ranging group of stakeholders. Nelson\Nygaard worked closely with staff on an intensive public outreach campaign that included frequent newsletters, public forums and interactive stakeholder workshops. Key strategies included the development of a policy describing the Primary Transit Network within Bellingham to guide coordinated land use and transportation planning, and a new initiative to develop cross-border services linking Whatcom County to the adjacent Vancouver, BC metro area.



**Project Duration:** 2003-2005

**Total Budget:** \$388,500

**Nelson\Nygaard Budget:** \$280,000

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