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MEMORANDUM

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To:	Scott Goodall, Impact Design		
From:	Mike Swenson PE, PTOE and Linda Cuadra, Transpo Group		
cc:	Dan McKinney, Transpo Group		
Subject:	ABC Bellingham		

This memorandum summarizes the relevant transportation information for completion of the Whatcom County Concurrency/SEPA checklist documentation for the proposed ABC Bellingham site. The site is located on Marine Drive in Whatcom County, near the city limits of the City of Bellingham.

The site will be developed as a metal shredding facility. Metal objects and materials will be transported to the site via trucks, and materials shredded or broken down before being removed from the site. ABC Bellingham will employ 30 people at full site usage.

The site is adjacent to existing railroad rights of way. Eventually, ABC will make use of railroad siding facilities to transport materials from the site. This would likely require one rail call or dwell per weekday.

Figure 1 shows the proposed project site and area roadways for the ABC Bellingham project.

Site Access

The project site has an existing driveway on Marine Drive. The project proponent will improve this driveway to accommodate trucks turning in and out of the site.

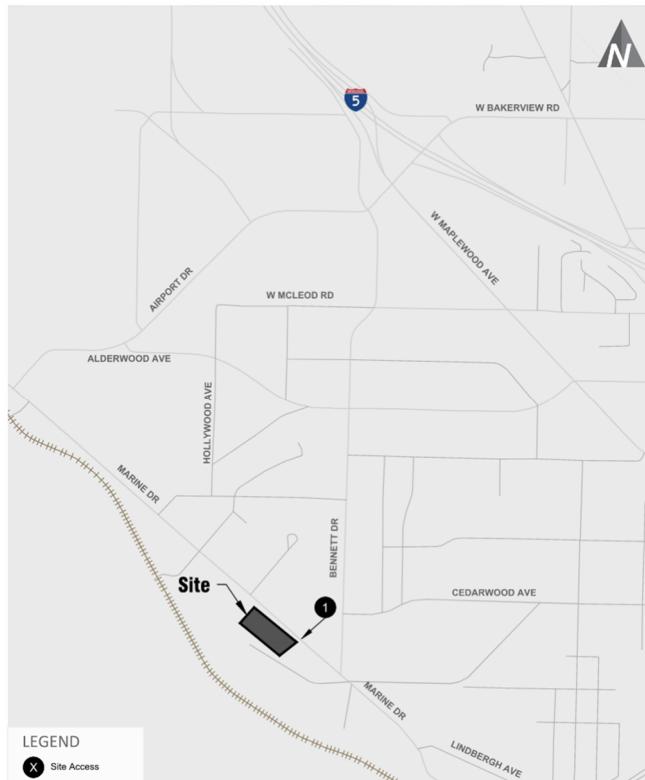


Figure 1: Site Vicinity

Trip Generation

Site trip generation for employees was calculated based on the average trip rate for General Light Industrial Use (LU #110) from the *Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Trip Generation, 11th Edition (2023)*. The number of employees was used as the variable.

The ITE information shows a very limited number of trucks during peak hours (on the order of 0-2 truck trips per hour). The proponent has estimated slightly higher truck traffic per day and hour than ITE would project. Therefore, truck trip generation forecasts have been based on client information so as not to understate truck traffic. The client projects a maximum of 4 trucks per

hour, or 8 truck trips (4 in, 4 out). The daily truck traffic is not expected to exceed 36 trucks per day (72 total trips, 36 in and 36 out).

The trip generation summarized in Table 1 below was developed to evaluate a reasonably conservative estimate of impacts from the proposed project.

Daily traffic volumes for the site would be a total of 61 entering and 61 existing, or 122 total daily vehicle trips (private vehicles and trucks).

For purposes of trip distribution and assignment, the volumes for the PM peak hour were considered. The site is projected to generate 15 PM peak hour private vehicle trips (3 entering, 12 exiting) and 8 PM peak hour truck trips (4 entering, 4 exiting).

Table 1. Trip Generation – ABC Recycling

Land Use ¹	Size	Daily	AM Peak Hour Trips			PM Peak Hour Trips		
			In	Out	Total	In	Out	Total
Proposed Project								
General Light Industrial (LU #110))	30 emp	50	13	3	16	3	12	15
Truck Traffic (proponent information)		72	4	4	8	4	4	8
<i>Total</i>		122	17	7	24	7	16	23

Trip Distribution and Assignment – Private Vehicles

Trip distribution patterns for trips to and from the project site were based on existing vehicle travel patterns, and the U.S. Census Bureau’s OnTheMap tool. OnTheMap is a web-based mapping and reporting application, which shows where workers are employed and where they live based on census data. For the purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that all employees travel alone in a private vehicle to work.

Figure 2 shows the location of the project site and trip distribution to area roadways. The percentage of trips by direction are shown, with some trips heading toward I-5, others into various parts of Whatcom County, and some to the southeast of the site toward the City of Bellingham and Fairhaven areas. Figure 2 also shows the number of employee/private vehicle trips assigned to various roadways, based on the trip distribution patterns. The trips shown are those expected during the PM peak hour.



Figure 2: PM Peak Hour Trip Distribution and Assignment

Trip Distribution and Assignment – Trucks

Trip distribution patterns for truck trips to and from the project site were based on information from the proponent on expected material flows. Some trucks would travel to and from the area via I-5. About 20% would travel between the site and the Port of Bellingham. Truck trips are also shown in Figure 2.

The assigned trips indicate that no one intersection or roadway would carry high volumes of vehicles related to the ABC Bellingham site. Therefore, no off-site traffic impacts are expected from the proposed project.

Transit

Whatcom Transit Authority (WTA) does operate transit service within the study area. Route 3 operates between the Cordata Transit Station (northeast of I-5) and the Downtown Bellingham Transit Station. The route travels via Bennet Drive and Marine Drive, with stops on Bennet Drive about 1/8 of a mile from the project driveway. The route operates once per hour in each direction, from 6:40 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. To be conservative, it has been assumed that no employees would take transit to and from the site. However, it is possible that transit will work for some employees, which may reduce the number of single occupancy vehicle trips for employees.

Rail Transportation

The site abuts the BN rights of way parallel to Marine Drive. Although not currently active, the proponent anticipates making use of train deliveries and/or shipments out in the future. If this does occur, train loads would be on the order of one train carload per day.

Marine Transportation

The project would generate a few truck trips per day (on a given day) to and from the Port of Bellingham. However, the volume of material moved is not anticipated to affect ship calls or movements.

Planned Roadway Improvements

The Whatcom Council of Governments' Transportation Improvement Plan (WCOG TIP) 2024-2029 (adopted October 13, 2023) shows one planned improvement in the general study area. The Marine Drive II project would reconstruct Marine Drive north west of Alderwood Ave/Airport Dr to add pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Last year, Marine Drive between Locust and Alderwood Avenue/Airport Dr was widened to accommodate those improvements.

The proposed project is not expected to generate any traffic along Marine Drive north of the Alderwood Ave/Airport Dr intersection.

No other improvement projects for the study area are included in the TIP. Note that the WCOG document includes projects for all jurisdictions in Whatcom County, including any proposed by WSDOT.

Summary

The proposed ABC Bellingham project is expected to generate 23 total PM peak hour trips (15 private vehicle trips, 8 truck trips) and 122 daily trips, including 72 truck trips (36 in, 36 out per day). These trips travel along various routes in the study area.

No one intersection is expected to experience impacts from the project, as the peak hour volumes at a given intersection are expected to be low.

There are no anticipated impacts to area transit, rail, or marine transportation systems.

Bennett Drive is a primary arterial in the area. Most of the private vehicle and truck traffic would use this route. Primary arterials are preferred for truck traffic. However, trucks can use other roadways in Whatcom County provided weight restrictions are met. The proponent may request that truck drivers use Alderwood/Airport Way via Marine Drive as opposed to Bennett Drive, as fewer private homes face the Alderwood/Airport Way route.

