Whatcom County Broadband Presentation

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Background

- Ports were given by legislative authority to build broadband infrastructure outside Port property.
- Port of Bellingham commissioned a feasibility study and published in 2019
- Developed the Whatcom County Rural Broadband Project
  - Created mission and goals
  - Identified geographic areas of broadband need throughout County
  - Identified funding sources
  - Blueprint of today's infrastructure projects

Broadband Mission

- To build open access fiber networks in order to provide broadband service to communities in our rural areas who are currently unserved and underserved

Goals

Build	Provide	Responsible	Collaborate	Support

Build fiber routes in the highest need areas
•Bridge the gaps

Provide opportunities for competition where none currently exists .
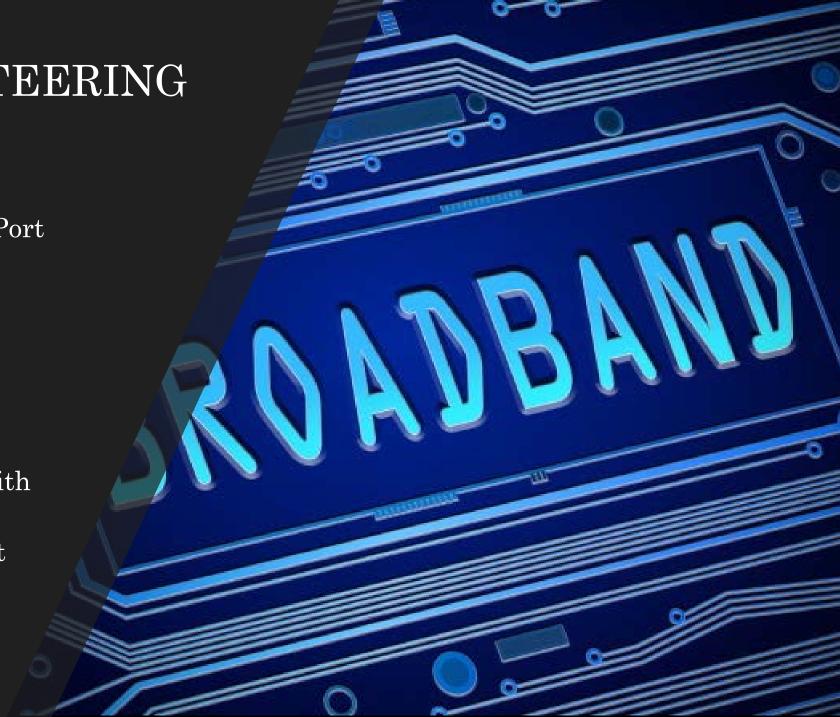
Be fiscally responsible with public funding

Collaborate with all our partners and stakeholders

Support our local business and develop an economy for new businesses

BROADBAND STEERING COMMITTEE

Partnership between the Port and PUD

- Created in 2021
- Collaborate on
    - Policy
    - Strategy
    - Funding opportunities
- Collaborate and work with partners
- Community engagement

East Nooksack/N. Mosquito Lake Rd

- Project Planning/permitting
- Funding Source
  - Community Economic Revitalization Board
  - EDI
  - Port
- Open access fiber project
  - Passing 464 home
  - Provide service to end customer
  - 47 miles
- Partnership with local ISP

North Lynden Project

- Located North of Lynden along the Canadian Boarder
- Last Mile Project:
  - 450 home and businesses passed
  - 47 Miles
- Secured Funding:
  - CERB-$2 Million
  - EDI-$1 Million
- Service Speeds
  - 100 Mbps to 1 Gig

North Ferndale Project

Located East of Lake Terrell and West of Ferndale

Last Mile Project:

- Passed 1,150 homes and business

- ~30 miles fiber

Funding Sources

- $4million WSBO

- $1million EDI

Overview of Projects

- $2,750,000 match result in $10,032,781 construction funding
- Over 123 miles of open access fiber being built
- 2,064 homes and businesses passed
- Providing service to the end customer
- Provide access to affordable services up to 1Gbps
- Partner with ISP providers

2022 Work Plan

- Complete build of exiting network projects

- New assessment of needs plan
  - Identify new service routes to build to areas of need
  - NE Blaine

- Apply for funding that best fits the needs of service projects
  - CERB   NTIA
  - WSBO   Re-Connect
  - PWB

- Continue to leverage local funding for grant opportunities
  - ARPA

- Support Digital Equity
  - Work with partners