



Satpal Singh Sidhu
Whatcom County Executive



October 13, 2021

Dawn Eychaner
Director, State Broadband Office
Department of Commerce
1011 Plum Street SE, WA 985

RE: Washington State Broadband Infrastructure Acceleration Grant

Dear Ms. Eychaner,

I am writing to confirm with the Washington State Broadband Office that Whatcom County has committed \$1 million in matching funds to Whatcom County's Rural Broadband Project for the purpose of its application to the WSBO Infrastructure Acceleration Broadband Construction Grant program. This complies with WSBO's grant requirement that a public agency provide a 20% match of the overall budgeted project costs.

Having a reliable broadband network in our rural communities is critical to meeting our needs for quality education, safety, healthcare, and the overall vitality of our economy. I strongly support the Port of Bellingham's efforts to build a quality fiber network in our most rural communities and their request to WSBO's for funding through the Infrastructure Acceleration Broadband Grant Program. My administration will continue to work collaborative and in partnership with the Port on this segment and the Whatcom County Broadband project to ensure that it is a success in providing quality service to our community.

Please contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Satpal Sidhu
Whatcom County Executive