



*Satpal Singh Sidhu*  
*Whatcom County Executive*



January 11, 2023

Mark Vasconi  
Director, Washington State Broadband Office  
Department of Commerce  
1011 Plum Street SE, WA 98504-2525

Dear Mr. Vasconi:

RE: Washington State Broadband Infrastructure Acceleration Grant

I am writing to confirm with the Washington State Broadband Office that Whatcom County has committed \$1.2 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 10% match of the overall budgeted project costs. In addition, understanding the urgency and need in Whatcom County of our unserved and underserved community members, we are committing an additional \$2.8 million to reach these communities as soon as we can for a total commitment of \$4 million to this project.

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 for funding through the Infrastructure Acceleration Broadband Grant Program. My administration will continue to work collaboratively and in partnership with the Port of Bellingham 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 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Satpal Singh Sidhu  
County Executive