

**WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**

County Courthouse
311 Grand Avenue, Suite #108
Bellingham, WA 98225-4082



Jack Louws
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

To: Whatcom County Council Members
From: Jack Louws, County Executive
Subject: Economic Development Investment Board – Funding Recommendations
Date: April 23, 2019

At the last meeting of the EDI Board, the following recommendations were adopted by the Board are being presented for confirmation by the County Council. If these recommendations of the Board are adopted by the Council, the administration will proceed with the preparation of an agreement with the Port of Bellingham, as well as supplemental budget requests for County Council review and approval.

The projects would be a benefit to the County independent of each other, but they work well together because a well-developed Public Safety Radio project will be enhanced, and most likely less costly, with the availability of Broadband in the rural areas. The Port and the County have committed to work together to provide the maximum benefit possible as both projects develop.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Funding Request</u>	<u>Board Recommendation</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Port of Bellingham - Rural Broadband Construction	\$750,000.00 (grant)	\$750,000.00 (grant)	12-0
Whatcom County Sheriff - Public Safety Radio Project	\$515,000 (grant)	\$515,000 (grant)	12-0

The Administration has confirmed that sufficient fund balances are available for council approval of these requests, and that the projects qualify for funding by State statute. The EDI funding applications for both projects are attached for your review as you consider these recommendations at your meeting on May 7, 2019.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 778-5200.

Attachments: Port of Bellingham's EDI Program application
Whatcom County Sheriff EDI Program application
Draft Meeting Notes of EDI Board meeting of 4/16/19
Rural Sales Tax Fund spreadsheet 2/28/19