

Bellingham Shipping Terminal Clean Power

Funding Request: \$1,125,000

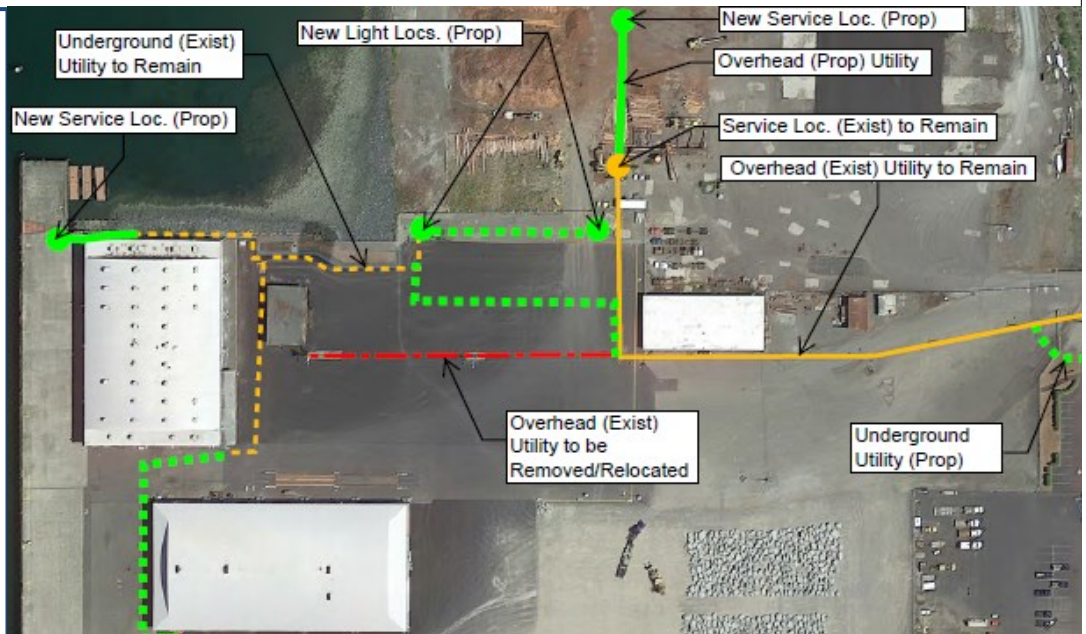


Request: The Port of Bellingham requests \$1,125,000 to modernize power and telecommunication utilities at the Bellingham Shipping Terminal (BST), which are aged and incompatible with the needs of current marine trades business opportunities. These improvements are a key phase of work to modernize the BST in an effort to spur economic development in a facility that benefits all of Whatcom County. The total project budget is currently estimated at \$3 million with significant design and permitting completed in 2019.

Issue: The current overhead power and telecommunication infrastructure is aged and outmoded, which limits potential business opportunities at the Shipping Terminal. Given the low power available along the pier, vessels at the BST must rely on diesel generators. This project will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ships at berth, improving air quality for maritime workers and community members. Shore power is increasingly requested by potential Port customers as it allows vessels to turn off diesel engines while at the dock, reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change. Additionally, this project allows the removal and undergrounding of overhead power lines allowing large equipment to fully utilize the limited footprint of the Bellingham Shipping Terminal. The overhead utilities are a potential obstacle and safety hazard for managing large cargo. The Port has completed prior capital projects that have installed portions of the planned new, upgraded underground utility infrastructure and this next phase of work was planned to implement the upgraded power and fiber extension. However, following the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, this project was deferred in 2020 and is currently unfunded.

Solution: This project will complete the work to extend fiber (high-speed internet) access to BST and will increase power available to Berth 1, the two warehouses, and extend power service to the area adjacent to the BST, which will support operations. Some of the base infrastructure (e.g., vaults) for this next phase of work were procured in 2019/2020 and permits were secured to complete the work prior to the pandemic. This work will remove portions of the overhead utilities and will allow vessels to connect to clean shore power, minimizing or eliminating the need for vessels to run generators.

- BST is **critical infrastructure to Whatcom County's economic and disaster resiliency planning.**
- BST was recently identified in the Whatcom County CEDS 2021-2025 by stakeholders in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, as one of the **biggest opportunities for Whatcom County's future economy.**
- Improvements to BST provides **new business and diversifies the Port's revenue base, increasing resiliency of the Port**, an important economic development actor



Schematic of Improvements