

NO. **22 - 0307**

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHING A
BROADBAND ACTION TEAM (BAT) IN
SPOKANE COUNTY FOR ONGOING
BROADBAND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
AND COUNTYWIDE INFRASTRUCTURE
ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS FOR UNSERVED
AND UNDERSERVED AREAS AND DIGITAL
EQUITY ACCESS ACROSS ALL POPULATIONS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington, Spokane County, Washington is a class A county duly organized and existing; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.01.030, the powers of Spokane County can only be exercised through the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington (“Board” or “Board of County Commissioners”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6), the Board has the care of County property and the management of County funds and business; and

WHEREAS, Washington State University (WSU) is the designee of the Washington State Broadband Office authorized to submit official information for Broadband Action Teams within the Eastern Washington Region, and Spokane County being within the Eastern Washington Region, and that WSU is authorized to provide oversight on community engagement, priorities and efforts related to broadband infrastructure enhancements for unserved areas, underserved rural areas and digital equity access across all populations; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6) that the Board does hereby support the formation and establishment of a County-wide Broadband Action Team (BAT) in accordance with the attached Exhibit “A” BAT Team formation plan, which is hereby incorporated by reference, to provide the staff who will operate as the Lead Facilitators for broadband enhancement, community engagement and funding opportunities and applications.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of May 2022.



ATTEST:

Ginna Vasquez
Ginna Vasquez, Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mary L. Kuney
MARY L. KUNEY, Chair

Al French
AL FRENCH, Vice-Chair

Josh Kerns
JOSH KERNS, Commissioner

Infrastructure, Service Delivery and Digital Equity

v 2.0 Revised May 2, 2022

Greater-Spokane Area Seeks Broadband Enhancement to Cross Gaps and Digital Divide

Spokane County provides core services to over 500,000 residents in Eastern Washington as the 3rd most populous county in Washington State. Spokane County encompasses almost 1,781 square miles, including 17 square miles of water.

Spokane demographics range from dense urban living in the City of Spokane core to remote rural living where access services and resources like broadband internet can be challenging. To respond to these challenges, the Spokane County Broadband Action Team (BAT) was formed in April 2022.

Economic development, public safety preparedness and response, access to tele-healthcare (including behavioral and mental health supports) and educational and workforce access rely on a strong broadband internet connection for rural communities. The primary focus of the BAT team will be to increase the quality of, and access to, broadband including appropriate integration opportunity for wireless last mile connections.

Focus Areas

Broadband Infrastructure enhancements for unserved and underserved populations for connectivity, including but not limited to, mid-mile to last mile access and redundancy for provider connections utilizing the most appropriate methods.

Digital Equity & Access to increase participation among eligible populations to available programming for connection devices, subscription access and training in digital navigation. This includes non-digital information pieces available and promoted at locations of other wrap around services in the region like housing vouchers, utility assistance, food security and others.

Planning Meetings – March/April 2022

March 8, 2022 - Spokane County Commissioners Direction of Funding to ARP Category Broadband Match IIJA

March 2022 - Town Hall Meetings with the cities and towns of Latah, Waverly, Latah, Rockford and Medical Lake

April 2022

- Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration with the cities and towns of Latah, Waverly, Latah, Rockford
- Discussion with S3R3 solutions for broadband expansion in the PDA and city of Airway Heights, including Kalispell Tribe
- CERB Planning Grant request for South County and eligible area of the West Plains
- Discussion with Comcast, City of Spokane and Avista for Digital Equity and enhance service delivery opportunity

April 26, 2022 - Spokane County Commissioners Direction of Funding to ARP Category Broadband Other

Upcoming-- May/June 2022

May 19, 2020 CERB Board Presentation Review

May 2022

- Revisit town hall meetings
- Initial construct of a County-wide Strategic Broadband Implementation Plan (Authors: Lead Facilitator staff at Spokane County)

June 2022 Expected WA State Commerce Broadband Office NOFO

See timeline overview visual attached

BAT Members and Supporters

Spokane County

- Mary Kunej**
Commissioner – Chair
- Al French**
Commissioner
- Josh Kerns**
Commissioner

Spokane County BAT Lead Facilitators

- Ariane Schmidt
- Jeffery McMorris

Tribal Representation

Kalispell Tribe, in partnership with S3R3

City Representation

- City of Spokane
- City of Spokane Valley
- City of Airway Heights
- City of Latah
- City of Fairfield
- City of Medical Lake
- City of Rockford
- City of Spangle
- City of Waverly

Public and Private Stakeholders

- S3R3 Solutions, a public development authority
- Spokane Regional Emergency Communications (SREC), a public development authority
- Petrichor
- Comcast
- Greater Spokane Incorporated
- Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Spokane Fire District 3
- Better Health Together
- Fairchild Airforce Base
- Additional Forthcoming

Schools and Colleges

- Liberty School District
- Additional Forthcoming

WA Legislators

- U.S. Senator Patty Murray
- U.S. Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers
- State Representative 6th District Mike Voltz

Governor’s Broadband Policy Advisor

Forthcoming

WA State Broadband Office Director

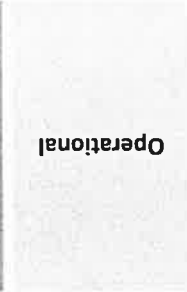
Forthcoming

Ongoing Updates as Additional Supporters are Added



Strategic Broadband Effort: Timeline Overview May 2022- DRAFT

2022



Petricor South County Analysis

CERB Board Presentation

CERB Planning Work Plan Study (South/West)

Spokane County Strategic Plan Construct (5yr)

Collaboration with Avista, City of Spokane others

BAT Team Creation and Standup

MOUs with Cities

Broadband Other Activities

Spokane County GF \$10,000

CERB \$62,500

Spokane County Broadband Match IIJA \$5M

Spokane County Broadband Other \$3M

WA State Broadband Office \$25-\$30M (ask TBD)

ACH HCA Broadband Funding for BH/MH/Telehealth \$TBD

Federal IIJA NOFO \$TBD

Submit to Clerk of the Board with accompanying paperwork (Resolutions, Agreements, etc.)

AGENDA SHEET

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Commissioners

CONTACT PERSON:

PHONE NUMBER:

CHECK TYPE OF MEETING BELOW: BELOW FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY:

2:00 PM CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk's Resolution No.	<u>22-0307</u>
Approved:	<u>Majority/Unanimous</u>
Denied:	<u>Majority/Unanimous</u>
Renews/Amends No.	<u> </u>
Public Works No.	<u> </u>
Purchasing Dept. No.	<u> </u>

AGENDA TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF RECOGNIZING A BROADBAND ACTION TEAM (BAT) IN SPOKANE COUNTY FOR ONGOING BROADBAND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND COUNTYWIDE PROJECTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS IN UNSERVED, UNDERSERVED AREAS AND DIGITAL EQUITY ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ALL POPULATIONS.

BACKGROUND: (Attach separate sheet(s) if necessary): Broadband Action Team (BAT) formation for Spokane County

FISCAL IMPACT (Amount & source of funds): None. Needed artifact for upcoming State and Federal Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO).

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION: Approve

This Item will need to be codified in the Spokane County Code: No