



MEMBERS:

- City of Lacey
- City of Olympia
- City of Rainier
- City of Tenino
- City of Tumwater
- City of Yelm
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Town of Bucoda
- Thurston County
- North Thurston Public Schools
- Olympia School District
- Tumwater School District
- Intercity Transit
- LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- Port of Olympia
- PUD No. 1 of Thurston County

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

- Lacey Fire District #3
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- The Evergreen State College
- Thurston Conservation District
- Thurston Economic Development Council
- Timberland Regional Library

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thurston Regional Planning Council

FROM: Marc Daily, Executive Director

DATE: June 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Nisqually Indian Tribe Broadband Access Efforts

PURPOSE

Brief Council on Nisqually Indian Tribe’s extensive efforts to bring broadband access to tribal and non-tribal communities in southern Thurston County.

Summary:

- Since well before the pandemic, the Nisqually Indian Tribe (NIT) has worked to bring high-speed broadband to the reservation.
- Through its efforts on the reservation, the Tribe recognized that many rural areas in Thurston County also lack broadband access.
- The NIT has secured millions in grant funds to date to expand access on the reservation and beyond.
- The NIT has also started its own training academy to develop skills to work on underground fiber-optic installation.
- Joe Cushman, NIT Planning Director, and Paul Walk, Redline Communications, will provide an update on Nisqually’s extensive efforts.

REQUESTED ACTION

None. Information and discussion only.

vt:bl



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Executive Director

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EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

How has equity been considered in this agenda item?

Particularly in the post Covid world, access to broadband is essential to communities to provide the high-speed internet access residents need. The Nisqually Indian Tribe's efforts to bring high speed internet to the reservation and other areas of south Thurston County will help ensure that residents of the Thurston region have internet access that provides for both their business and personal needs. This work helps improve equity in the region, which is one of the reason's Council has highlighted broadband access as an issue to keep track of.