



Snohomish County

County Council

Nate Nehring, Chair
Megan Dunn, Vice-Chair
Sam Low
Jared Mead
Strom Peterson

County Executive

Dave Somers

January 15, 2025

Washington State Broadband Office
Department of Commerce
1011 Plum Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Subject: Letter of Support for BEAD Project Area Grant Application

Dear Washington State Broadband Office,

As elected officials of Snohomish County, we are writing to express our enthusiastic support for Ziply's application for NTIA Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding in Snohomish County. We view broadband as essential. Expanding reliable, high-speed internet access will help ensure that our residents, particularly those in our underserved and unserved areas, have the tools they need to thrive in today's interconnected world.

Many residents in Snohomish County currently lack access to reliable and/or affordable broadband services. This creates significant barriers to telecommuting, online education, telemedicine, and general connectivity. Ziply's proposed project is critical to addressing these gaps and can bring transformative benefits to our community, including:

- **Empowering Remote Work:** Expanding high-speed internet will allow residents to telecommute, access broader employment opportunities, and reduce commuting-related expenses and emissions.
- **Enhancing Education:** Reliable broadband gives students opportunities to participate in virtual learning, access online resources, and take advantage of advanced educational tools.
- **Improving Healthcare Access:** High-speed internet facilitates telemedicine and remote health monitoring, providing vital healthcare services to residents who might otherwise struggle to access them.
- **Enabling a Strong Economy:** More than ever, economic and workforce development opportunities rely on the availability of high-speed internet to meet business and training needs.

Zipty has demonstrated a commitment to investing in communities like ours, and their expertise and innovation in broadband deployment make them an ideal partner for this initiative. We strongly urge the Washington State Broadband Office to approve Zipty's BEAD grant application for Project Area Snohomish-140. Funding for this project area represents a crucial step toward bridging the digital divide and empowering the residents of Snohomish County.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to collaborating with Zipty to deliver high-speed broadband and help unlock the full potential of our county.

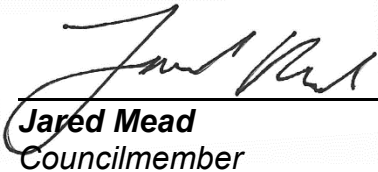
Sincerely,



Nate Nehring
Council Chair



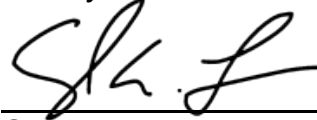
Megan Dunn
Council Vice-Chair



Jared Mead
Councilmember



Dave Somers
County Executive



Sam Low
Councilmember



Strom Peterson
Councilmember