

# Expansion Efforts in Snohomish County

Presentation to Port of Everett Board of  
Commissioners

Nate Nehring – Snohomish County Council

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



# Broadband Needs in Snohomish County

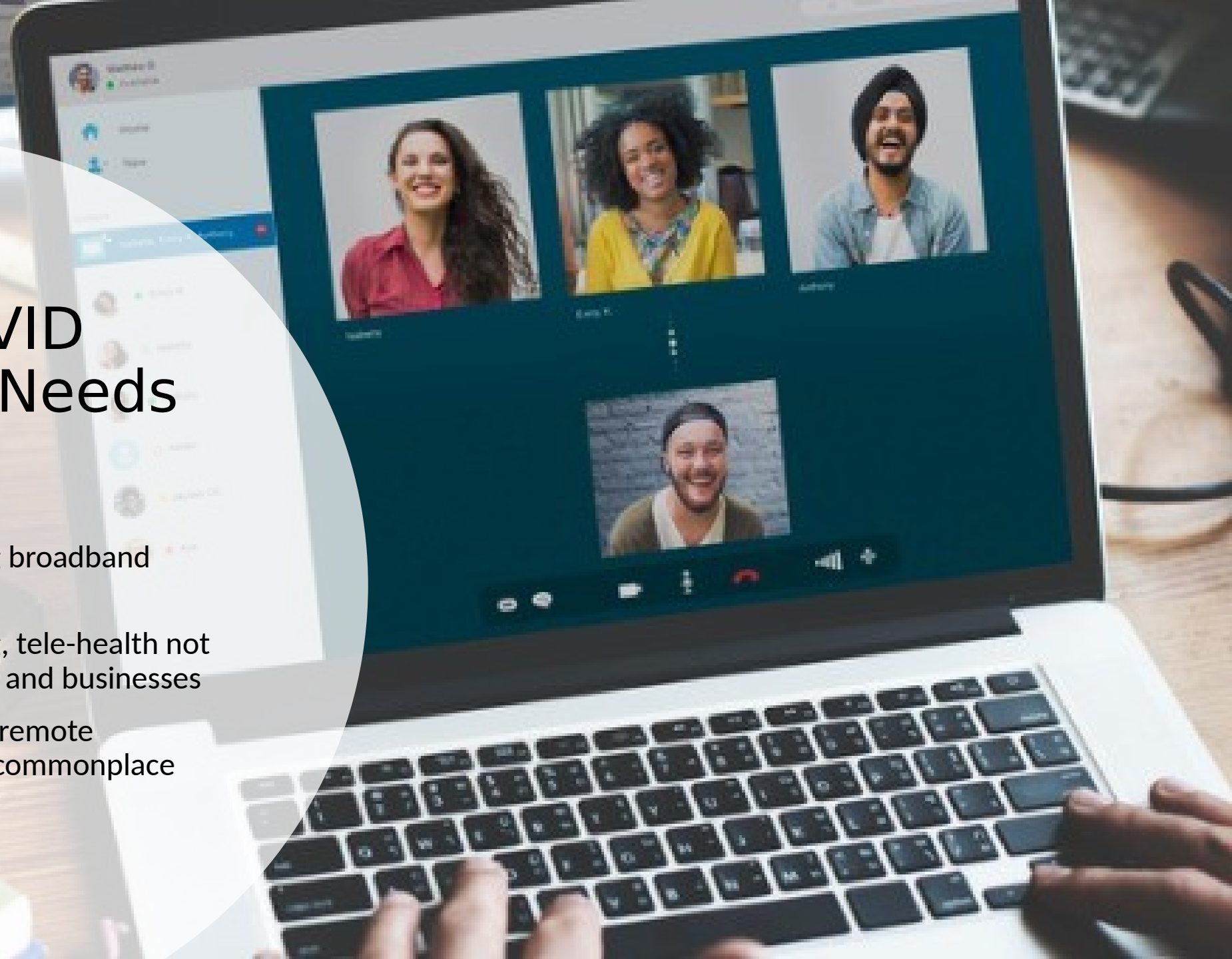
- Rural and urban areas face different broadband service
- Many “pockets” of the county are unserved or under-served
- FCC data has been unreliable
- More of our lives are dependent on reliable, high-speed internet access



# Post-COVID Broadband Needs

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- COVID has exposed existing broadband access issues
- Tele-commuting, e-learning, tele-health not available to many residents and businesses
- Following pandemic, many remote opportunities will become commonplace



# Formation of Broadband Action Team (BAT)



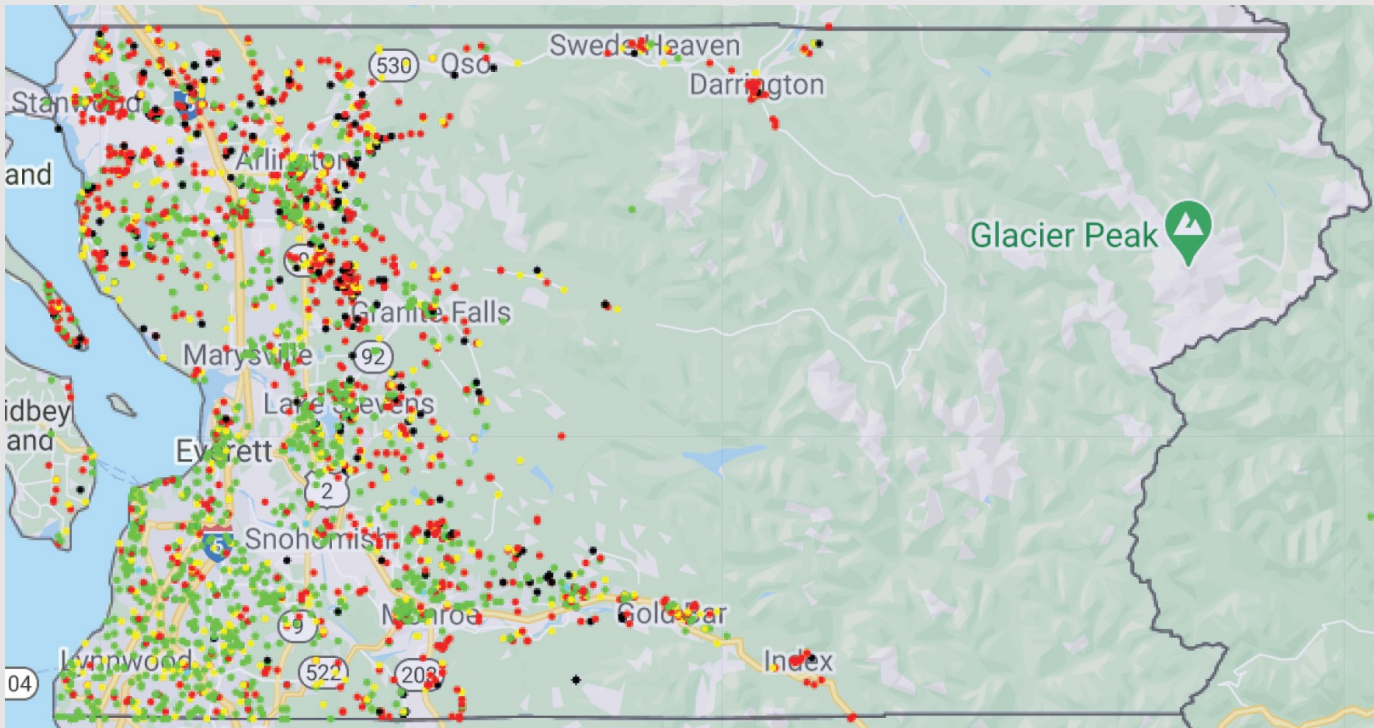
- Partnering with State Broadband Office
- Made up of broad range of stakeholders including providers, business, non-profit, healthcare, education, and local government
- Goal is to identify needs, plan for projects, and advocate for funding

# BAT First Steps

- Inaugural meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Presentation from State Broadband Office
  - Discussion of purpose of BAT
  - Planning for Broadband Access Week
  - Importance of data and how to collect it
  - Introduction to Speed and Access Survey



# Speed and Access Survey



- Hosted by WA Dept. of Commerce
- Short survey puts a dot on the map for each response
- Identifies internet speed of respondents
  - Served – over 25 Mbps
  - Underserved – less than 25 Mbps
  - Unserved – No internet service



# BROADBAND ACCESS WEEK

March 29-April 2 • 2021

## Broadband Access Week in Snohomish County

- By joint resolution, March 29<sup>th</sup>-April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 designated Broadband Access Week in Snohomish County
- Speed and Access Survey pushed out to communities across the County
- Penned an op-ed with Executive Somers and Councilmember Low
- Increased survey responses by 36% (up 809 from 2242 on 3/28)



# Broadband Action Team Next Steps

- Continue pushing out survey
- Work with stakeholders to identify areas of specific need
- Identify specific projects for broadband expansion
- Advocate to internet providers and state/federal funding agencies





# Questions?

Thank you for your time

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