



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Jeff Robinson, Director, Community & Economic Development
COPY: Economic Development Committee; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager / Committee Executive Liaison
PRESENTER: Brian Haynes, CEO, Rainier Connect; Ed Grassia, Chief Information Officer & Earnest Goody, Director, Infrastructure and Cloud Services, Tacoma Public Schools
SUBJECT: Broadband: For Tacoma's Residents, Businesses and Schools
DATE: April 27, 2021

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Representatives of the Tacoma Public Schools and Rainier Connect will discuss the current state of broadband access and connectivity in the City; how it impacts on-line learning; assists local businesses; and measures or improvements that might be helpful to furthering these shared objectives

BACKGROUND:

The topics of broadband availability, access, affordability, and the delivery of new technology are important factors for education, community development, and business recruitment, expansion and retention. In order for the City of Tacoma to succeed in having an educated and well-trained workforce for the future and in developing equitably provided services it is critical that there is coordination among the wide variety of partners that provide and utilize the broadband capabilities of our local systems.

ISSUE:

This presentation will address current the broadband coverage area within the city; necessary or desired hardware and software upgrades planned or currently underway; broadband speeds available; how the Tacoma School District has worked to equitably provide these essential services and equipment to their students and faculty; and, a discussion of how the City might partner with the private and public sectors moving forward on policy and program considerations.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.