



INVESTING IN WASHINGTON'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

## Community Economic Revitalization Board

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March 22, 2019

The Honorable Mark G. Schoesler  
Washington State Senate  
PO Box 40409 / 314 Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504  
*Via Email: Mark.Schoesler@leg.wa.gov*

Dear Senator Schoesler,

I am pleased to announce that the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) has approved the investment of CERB funds for rural broadband infrastructure in Legislative District 9. CERB approved the project at their March 21, 2019 meeting, contingent upon completion of pre-contract conditions.

The **Port of Clarkston** was conditionally awarded a \$207,285 loan and a \$207,285 grant for the Port of Clarkston to City of Asotin+ Fiber Expansion Project. The rural broadband project consists of engineering and construction of approximately 6 miles of primarily aerial fiber. There are two build out components of the Southern expansion: Clarkston Heights to Asotin, and the Westside expansion, Naslund Disposal Service to Field of Dreams. The project estimates that 351 connections in the project area will have increased internet speed up to 1G/1G, and increase the number of ISPs available to seven, when the project is completed. CERB funds were matched by \$138,190 in local resources.

As Washington's strategic economic development resource, CERB is focused on creating private sector jobs in partnership with local governments by financing infrastructure improvements which encourage new business development and expansion. In addition to funding construction projects, CERB provides limited funding for studies that evaluate high-priority economic development projects.

If you would like more information regarding the CERB program or other community investment programs administered by the Department of Commerce, please contact Janea Delk, CERB Program Director and Tribal Liaison, at (360) 725-3151, or e-mail [Janea.Delk@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:Janea.Delk@commerce.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Randy Hayden, Chair  
Community Economic Revitalization Board

cc: CERB Fact Sheet: Port of Clarkston



# RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM

## Asotin County Port of Clarkston Port of Clarkston to City of Asotin+ Fiber Expansion Project

LD #9 - RB2019-006

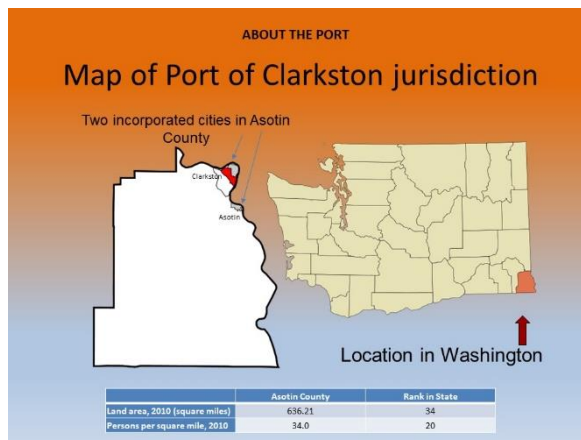
*Link to Economic  
Development Strategy*

**PORT OF CLARKSTON** — On March 21, 2019, the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) approved a \$207,285 loan and a \$207,2815 grant to the Port of Clarkston for the Port of Clarkston to City of Asotin+ Fiber



Expansion Project. The rural broadband project consists of engineering and construction of approximately 6 miles of primarily aerial fiber. There are two build out components in the Southern expansion: Clarkston Heights to Asotin, and the Westside expansion, Naslund Disposal Service to Field of Dreams. The project estimates that 351 connections in the project area will have increased internet speed up to 1G/1G, and increase the number of ISPs available to seven, when the project is completed. CERB funds were matched by \$138,190 in local resources.

*Link to Business  
Impacts*



Asotin County, one of the smallest, least populated counties in the state, is located in southeast Washington. Residents of Asotin County are a disadvantaged population. As such, they are less likely to have affordable, high-speed telecommunications options. According to census data, there are over 45 businesses and 300 homes located on the routes of the planned expansion. With two income families, balancing home and work life

is a challenge that is frequently solved when one or more wage earners can fulfill some of their responsibilities at home. Some residents on the direct route, work 100% from home. Other families have home-based businesses. This project provides greater opportunity for telecommuting, work-at-home, e-commerce and more.

*Link to Community  
Impacts*

This project allows County law enforcement access to port security cameras and equipment, and puts them on par with the City of Clarkston police department for access to information. Increased cooperation is desired and necessary in a world of shrinking funds. The switch to an e-education system in the public schools (K-21) requires broadband. This project allows more residents access, so students can work outside public library and school hours. Whether it's an employer filing tax forms, a family looking to purchase their first home, or a retired citizen responding on social security or medical issues, the increasing reliance on digital communications makes broadband access essential.

**Positive Return on State Investment**

Currently, the project area has 215 households, 28 businesses, and 3 anchor institutions receiving internet at the speed of 10/1 Mbps. The anticipated improvement after the project is 351 connections at 1G/1G. There are currently 3 ISPs serving this area. After the project, there are estimated to be 7 ISPs serving the area. The total cost per connection for the project is \$1,181/connection. (CERB award \$414,570 / 351 connections = \$1,181/connection)

**Local Perspective of CERB Impact**

*“The Port’s application and investment into this infrastructure will drive job creation, promote innovation and address the growing needs of local education systems, health care systems, government operations, and citizens within the community, by allowing them access to high-quality and affordable broadband services.”*

- Dawn Smith, Executive Director  
Southeast Washington Economic Development Association

**Unique State Program**

As Washington’s strategic economic development resource, CERB is focused on creating private sector jobs in partnership with local governments by financing infrastructure improvements which encourage new business development and expansion. In addition to funding construction projects, CERB provides limited funding for studies that evaluate high-priority economic development projects. CERB receives management services from the Department of Commerce.

[www.commerce.wa.gov/cerb](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/cerb)