

# Broadband Advisory Workgroup Definitions

## 3-1-22 Workgroup Draft

### **Broadband:**

In telecommunications, broadband is wide bandwidth data transmission which transports multiple signals at a wide range of frequencies and Internet traffic types, that enables messages to be sent simultaneously, used in fast internet connections. The medium can be coaxial cable, optical fiber, wireless Internet (radio), twisted pair or satellite.

In the context of Internet access, broadband is used to mean any high-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than dial-up access over traditional analog services.

The City's goal is to assure a broadband speed for residents (housed and unhoused), visitors, and businesses of **150/150 Mbps** today, always available, scalable, and a minimum target of **1 Gbps** symmetrical service by 2028.

### **Availability:**

Availability means that every resident (housed and unhoused), visitor, and business within the City limits and its Urban Growth Area, regardless of demographics or digital literacy, has available a net-neutral, reliable, quality high-speed broadband system.

The City's goal is to ensure at a minimum, broadband services are available for residents (housed and unhoused), visitors, and businesses through access points such as residences, libraries, public facilities, parks, schools, shelters, and service agencies and organizations.

### **Affordability:**

Affordability means every Bellingham resident (housed and unhoused) and business should be able to afford high-speed broadband that meets their financial criteria and is sufficient for their respective welfare needs (i.e. telehealth, remote learning, remote work, business web apps, teleconferencing).

The City's goal is to ensure that services should be cost-competitive with reasonable rates based on those achieved by other comparable US cities (by the metric of Gbps/month/\$).

### **Digital Equity and Inclusion:**

Digital equity is a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information resources needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy. Digital Equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services. Digital inclusion requires intentional strategies and investments to reduce and eliminate historical, institutional, and structural barriers to access and use technology.

The City's goal for digital inclusion ensures everyone has access to the information resources necessary to achieve digital equity.

**Quality:**

Quality broadband service provides reliable, uninterrupted speed at peak use hours and has latency, jitter, and packet loss low enough to:

- a) conduct clear, natural-feeling two-way teleconferencing with anyone else in the world who also has a high-quality broadband connection, and
- b) to be able to use most—if not all—of the purchased bandwidth, even during peak usage times.

The city's goal is to assure quality broadband service for all based on the residents' or business' choice of service level.