

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Margie Hall
Executive Director
Lincoln County Economic Development Council
303 6th St., Davenport WA 99122
(509) 368-7085 / Margie@LincolnEDC.org

LINCOLN COUNTY BROADBAND EXPANSION GROWS CLOSER TO REALITY

(Davenport, WA, July 7, 2020.) Washington State's Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) recently awarded Lincoln County a broadband planning grant to study and design countywide broadband expansion options. Key components of the project include building a minimum 1 Gbps fiber-to-the-premises network in Lincoln County's eight incorporated communities, eliminating coverage gaps in unincorporated areas, and evaluating a management plan that would include a long term partnership with the County's project consultant, Petrichor.

Petrichor Broadband, a new broadband cooperative of six Washington Port Districts, brings the legislated ability to manage the network and provide publically operated high-speed middle-mile infrastructure to ISPs. Petrichor Broadband's model shares the cost of fiber over multiple ISPs, lowering their cost of doing business. Lower overhead costs will attract more ISPs and that brings more options to Lincoln County citizens.

A publically operated network is a strategy to position Lincoln County for growth. With increasing industrial development in west Spokane County and the expansion of the federal government cluster in Grand Coulee to the east, a high-speed Lincoln County will be the ideal location for commercial, industrial, and residential development.

This project builds on years of planning initiated by the installation of ARRA fiber through Lincoln County in 2012. Since then, Lincoln County Commissioners and the Economic Development Council have prioritized high-speed broadband for all. This study is a major milestone toward construction. For more information contact Margie Hall, Director of the Economic Development Council at Margie@LincolnEDC.org.