KITSAP PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

KPUD

CONNECTING KITSAP

Suquamish Community Advisory Council

January 8, 2026

KPUD
CONNECTING KITSAP

Broadband Utility Update

Presenter: Claire Ward

MISSION, VISION & VALUES

MISSION

Strengthening Kitsap communities through responsive and sustainable utility services.

VISION

Develop and maintain quality utility products and services that promote sustainable and resilient communities and a healthy environment.

CORE VALUES

- Treat everyone with Dignity, Respect, and Compassion
- Serve everyone with Integrity
- Be Committed to Community Responsibility
- Always Challenge the Status Quo
- Model and Practice Continuous Learning

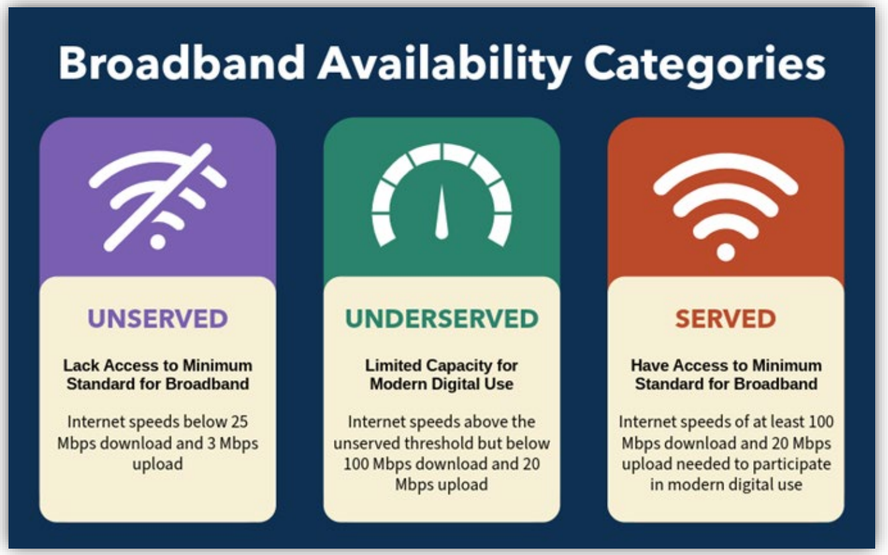
OVERVIEW: The Utility

- KPUD formed in 1940 to explore providing electrical service.
- Today, KPUD operates three utilities and manages the county's water resources.
  - Serve over 32,000 customers with drinking water
  - Two wastewater treatment facilities – Port Gamble, Fort Ward (Bainbridge Island)
- KPUD is governed by a three-member elected Board of Commissioners.
- Board governance includes providing strategic direction and policy, reviewing and approving the budget and contracts, being responsive to the community, and hiring and overseeing the general manager.

Broadband/Fiber Internet: What is it?

What is high speed? *Depends who you ask!*

- **FCC:** 100/20mbps – **KPUD:** 100/100mbps



KPUD's Network is 100% Fiber Optic

- Provides for a future proof solution for residents unserved or underserved areas.

KPUD Operates an Open Access Network

- Customers have choices!
- Multiple service providers using the same network; KPUD does not provide retail service to customers.
- Competition drives better pricing and services.

Customer Premise Equipment

- Provides a 1 Gbps connection – Upload and Download speeds are symmetrical.
- Can upgrade in the future (10Gbps or higher) with an exchange of equipment only.

Network Expansion

2000: KPUD initiates county-wide fiber optic network building plan and was established as a wholesale telecommunications utility.

- A fiber optic "backbone" was built throughout Kitsap County, providing wholesale service to anchor institutions such as county buildings, school districts, and first responders.

2015: Communities throughout county begin to ask KPUD to expand fiber network (also referred to as broadband) and build infrastructure so that more residential areas could access fast fiber internet services.

Today: KPUD's open access community owned fiber network currently has 6 internet service providers, is connected to 3,700 residential locations with 2,700 active customers and serves more than 350+ businesses.

George Lane Residential Fiber Project

With support from the Suquamish Tribe, KPUD extended fiber service to homes along George Lane.

Timeline

- February 2024: Tribal Council approved a resolution to begin the project
- 2024: Community outreach initiated
- November 2024: Construction began
- August 2025: Installations completed

Results

- 32 homes eligible for service
- 20 homes now connected to KPUD Fiber Network

Connecting Remaining Homes

- Residents who are not yet connected can visit www.kpudfiber.org, search their address, and submit a quote request to KPUD.

ARPA Nodes

KPUD received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) via Kitsap County to construct 21 telecom nodes across Kitsap County.

These nodes increase network capacity and support a high-speed regional fiber ring serving local communities *(100Gig Multiprotocol Label Switching – think express lane for data).*

Suquamish Way Node

- Construction complete.
- Final splicing and testing planned for spring.
- Will connect to the Widme site to increase network capacity.
- Supports future fiber expansion in the area.

August Node

- Construction complete.
- Splicing and testing complete.
- Node is active and operational.

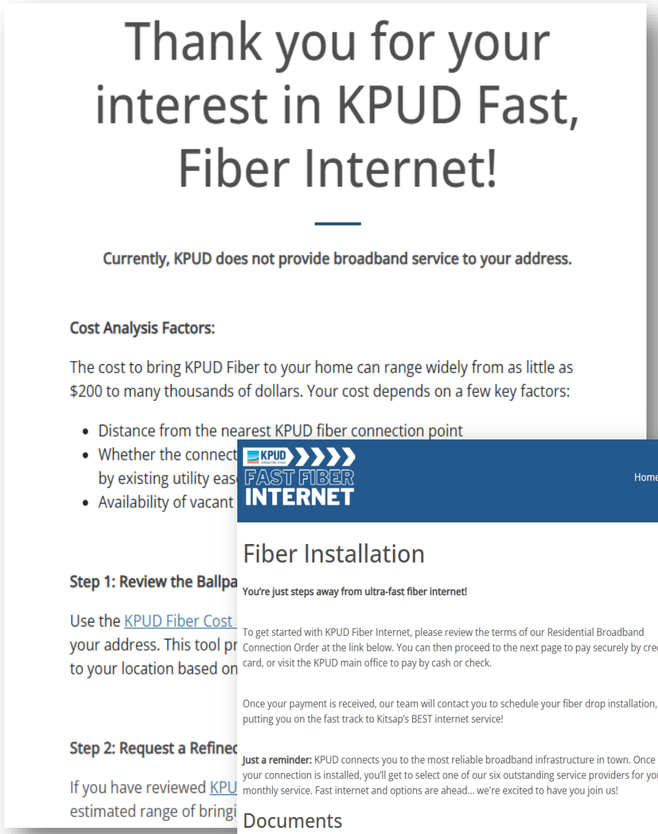
Suquamish Way Node: part of the ARPA build throughout Kitsap County

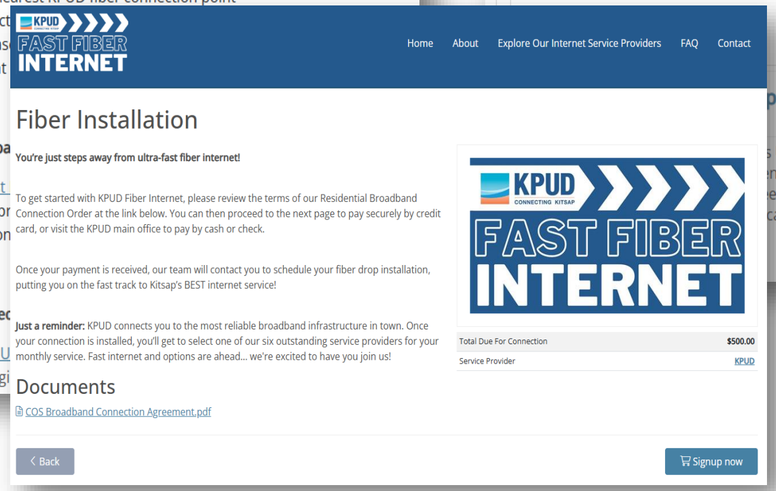
Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

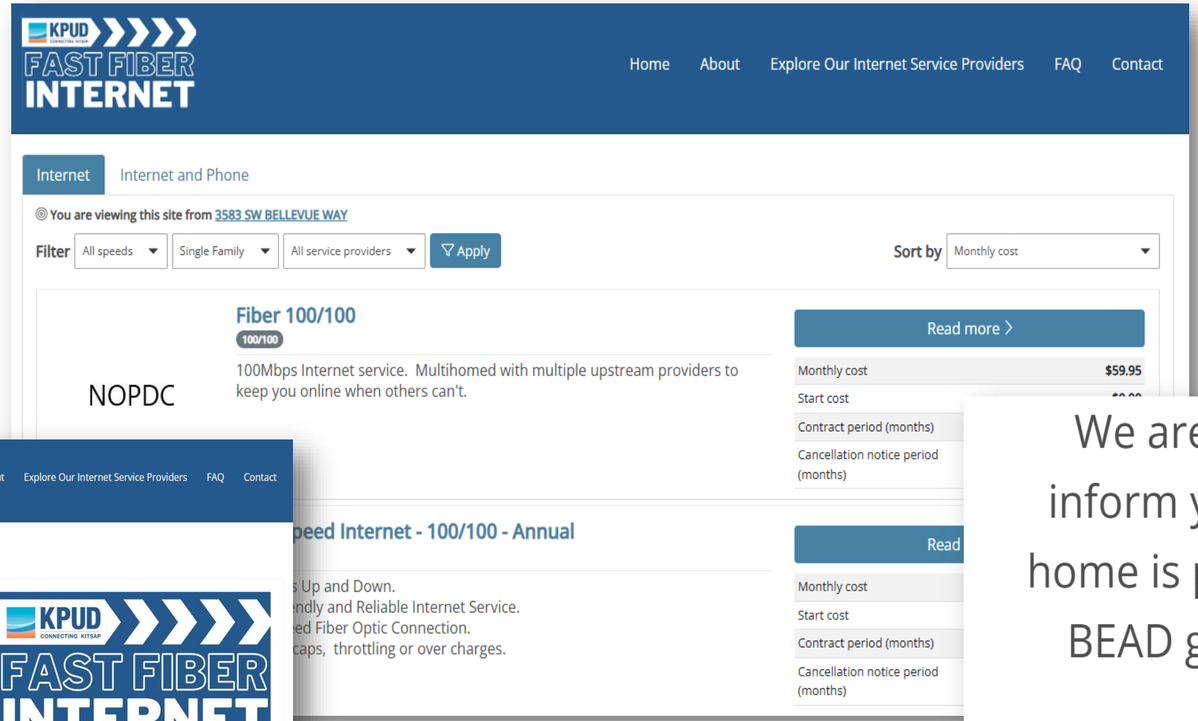
- Since 2023, KPUD has been advocating for Kitsap County in the many phases of the planning and application rounds for the BEAD program.
- KPUD applied for all Kitsap County project areas, and on behalf of the Suquamish Tribe, at their request.
- **SPOILER ALERT!** KPUD provisionally awarded 7 of 8 project areas
- Washington State's final proposal is awaiting final approval by the NTIA.

Total Project Cost: $1,694,241
BEAD Funding: $1,270,681
State Match: $423,560
Will serve 207 unserved locations

Stay in the Loop: WWW.KPUDFIBER.ORG







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