



MEDIA RELEASE

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KPUD Expands Fiber Infrastructure with 21 New Nodes Countywide

ARPA-funded project improves access, reliability, and capacity for high-speed broadband

Poulsbo, WA – Kitsap Public Utility District (KPUD), in partnership with Kitsap County, is expanding its open-access fiber network with the construction of 21 new fiber distribution nodes strategically located across the county. The project is fully funded through \$6.6 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies that were allocated to Kitsap County for community investment. This transformative investment will dramatically strengthen the resilience, capacity, and reach of KPUD’s open-access fiber network.

A fiber distribution node is a small, secure building equipped with advanced network technology designed to improve internet access for unserved communities, reduce connection costs for homeowners, and enhance overall network reliability. These nodes support an upgraded core network able to handle internet speeds over 100 gigabits per second improving KPUD’s ability to meet the county’s growing demand for broadband and significantly increasing capacity. The carefully selected site of each node also provides critical redundancy to minimize outages and improve service continuity for all users. Each location has the capacity to serve between 1,920 and 7,680 residences.

“Investing in this next-generation network infrastructure allows us to better serve our community today and into the future,” said Angela Bennink, General Manager of KPUD. “These new nodes will enhance network reliability, strengthen our open access model, and support faster, more robust broadband for Kitsap County residents and businesses. We’re grateful to Kitsap County for allocating ARPA funding toward this essential public infrastructure.”

KPUD’s community-owned, open-access fiber network currently serves over 2,500 homes and 300 businesses giving them a choice in internet service providers (ISP). With six ISPs delivering speeds from

Strengthening Kitsap communities through responsive and sustainable utility services.

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100 Mbps to 10 Gbps, the network offers Kitsap residents competitive, high-performance internet service. Project work, expected to wrap up in the first quarter of 2026, includes new construction, equipment upgrades, and minor fiber expansions to existing KPUD-owned properties.

About Kitsap Public Utility District: KPUD provides drinking water, wastewater, and telecommunications services and infrastructure to communities throughout Kitsap County and maintains a county-wide water resource monitoring program. Since 2003, KPUD's fiber network has supported public schools, government buildings, naval bases, and public safety agencies and expanded to serving residents in 2015. Currently operating close to 950 miles of world-class fiber optic infrastructure, KPUD's open access model allows multiple ISPs to deliver service over a single community-owned network, giving residents and businesses the freedom to choose the provider that best fits their needs.

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For more information concerning KPUD's history, mission, vision, core values, and strategic goals, please visit our website <https://www.kpud.org/about-us/who-we-are/>.