

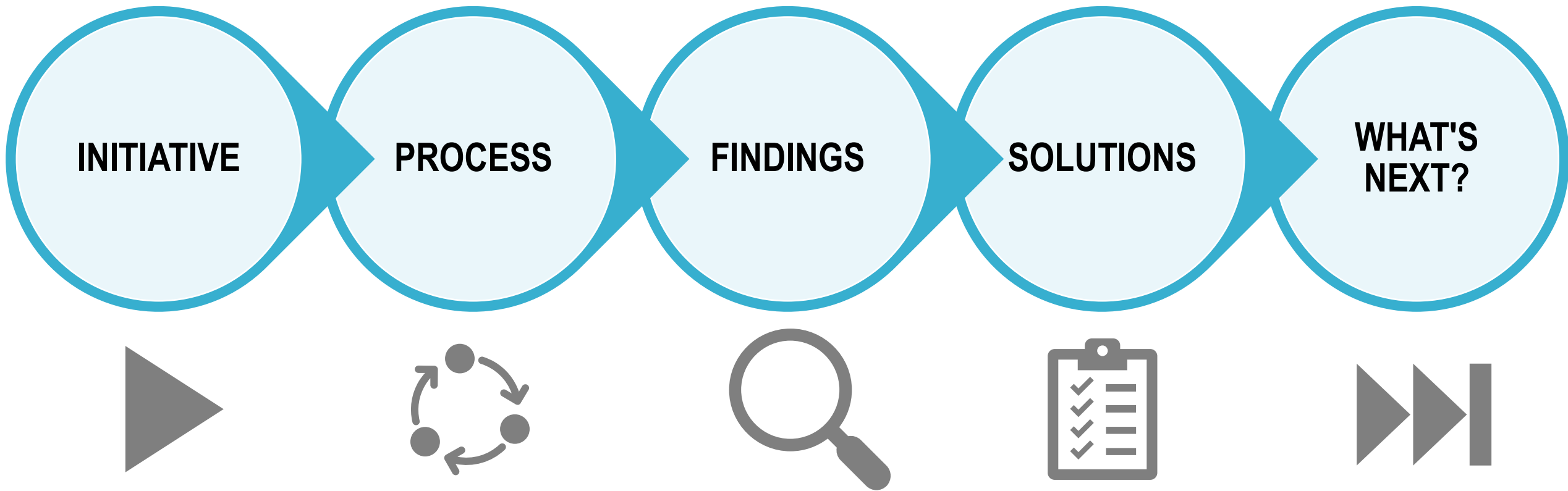
Citywide Broadband Improvement Program

City of Victoria

 CobbFendley

October 19, 2021

WHAT WE COVER



COBBFENDLEY TEAM



VINEETA RAM, P.E.

PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE



JAROD BRANSTETTER, P.E.

PROJECT MANAGER



JACOB TRISKA, E.I.T.

PROJECT ENGINEER



FOUNDED IN HOUSTON IN 1980

41 years of success.



FULL-SERVICE ENGINEERING & SURVEYING

18 dedicated service groups including specialty services - Utility Coordination, GIS, SUE, and Right-of-Way.



A DEPTH OF RESOURCES

530+ employees in 20 office locations throughout Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Florida, and Washington.



PIONEER PARTNERS
SUBCONTRACTOR



INITIATIVE



- City of Victoria with other Local Public Entities (government, education, healthcare, and economic development)
- Developed an RFP seeking development partners to assist in solving the broadband access and adoption challenges
- City of Victoria is taking a lead role
- **Each member of the Victoria Broadband Commission has committed to finding a comprehensive solution that benefits all the stakeholders and enhances the livability of our community**



THE PROCESS



REVIEW THE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Identified Gaps In Infrastructure And Digital Equity Factors

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Facilitated and Processed Results From Surveys For Residents And Businesses

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Met With Local Service Providers and Public Entities

DEVELOP A NETWORK SOLUTION AND STRATEGY

Provided Preliminary Engineering Design and Implementation Methods

COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

Compiling All Resources And Data To Form Appropriate Recommendations



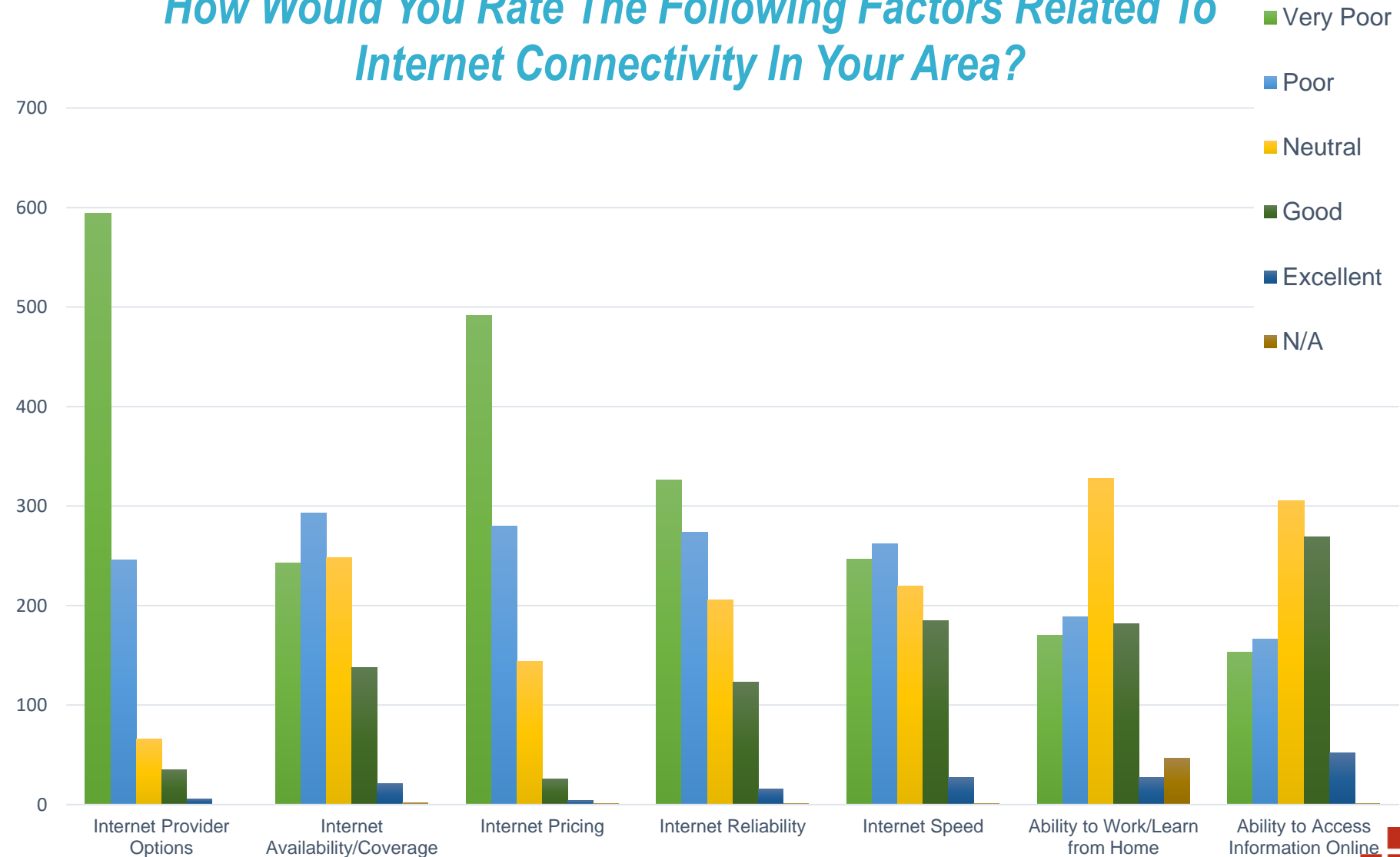
BROADBAND CHALLENGES IN VICTORIA



3 FINDINGS

- Residents believe most current services are poor and are neutral at best.
- Connectivity and internet access is the top challenge while living or working in Victoria (City and County)
- Internet pricing and options were rated the poorest of all factors (City and County)

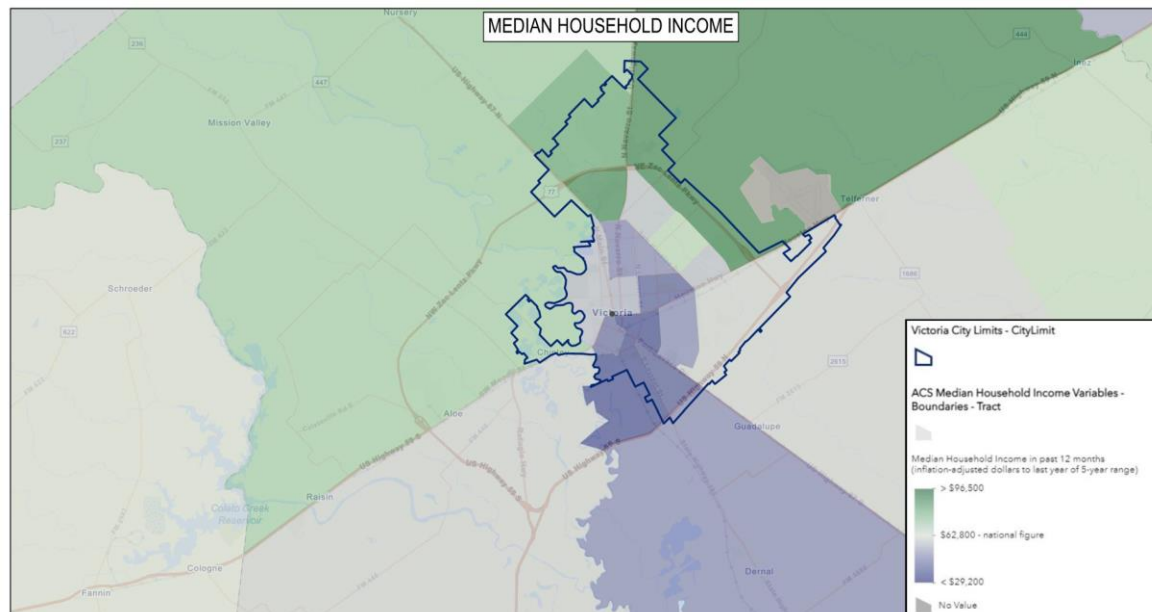
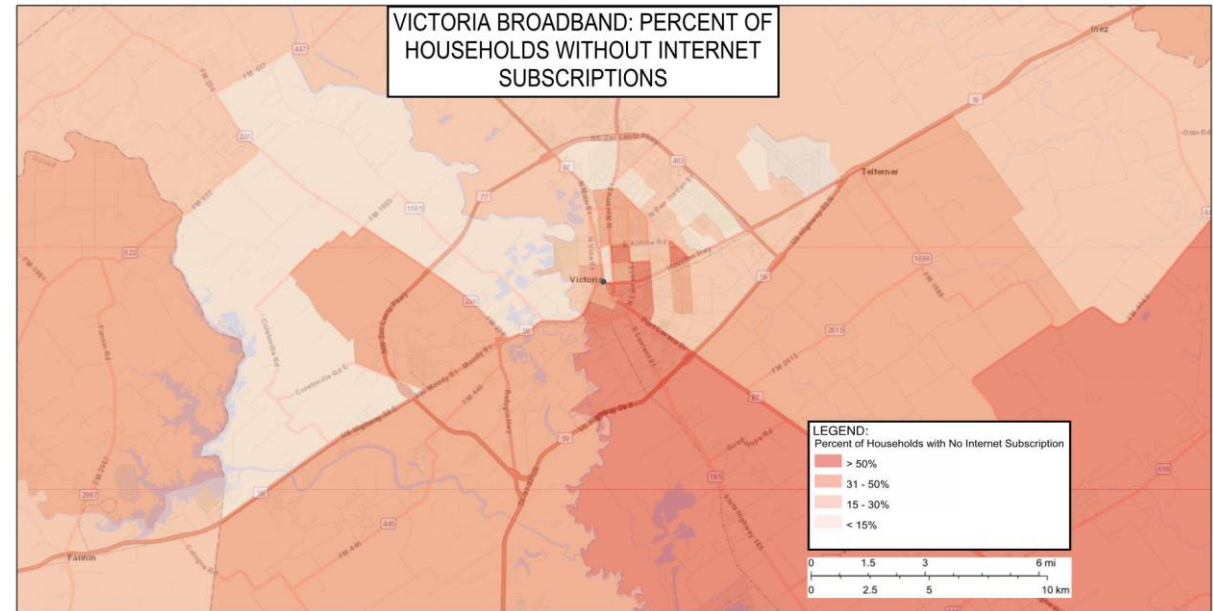
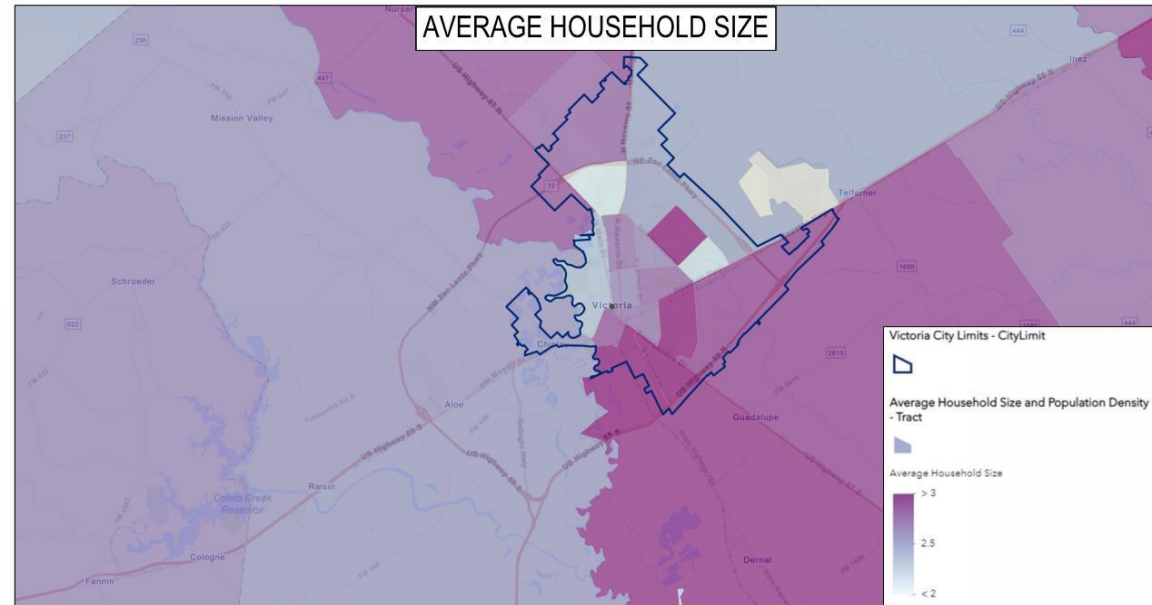
How Would You Rate The Following Factors Related To Internet Connectivity In Your Area?



948 Residents Responded to this Survey



BROADBAND CHALLENGES IN VICTORIA



LACK OF ADOPTION DUE TO INCOME & DIGITAL ILLITERACY

- **Digital Equity Issues cannot be resolved by lower prices**
 - Those who don't adopt broadband services have not experienced the value that it brings.
- **This needs to change at the City level. Not from the ISPs.**
 - Community leaders can reverse the trends to promote adoption and economic development.



OUR RECOMMENDATION

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

- Partnerships include City/County/Public Partners and Operators/ISPs/Private Partners.
- Funding – Not Applicable

TARGETED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Underserved location that the City is uniquely capable to address the needs of the underserved.
- Funding
 - Capital Projects Fund
 - EDA

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR ADOPTION

- Promote existing federal and provider-backed subsidy programs and leverage local support channels to provide digital literacy programs and generate trust and value of Broadband services
- Funding – Not Applicable

PROMOTION OF REGIONAL INITIATIVES

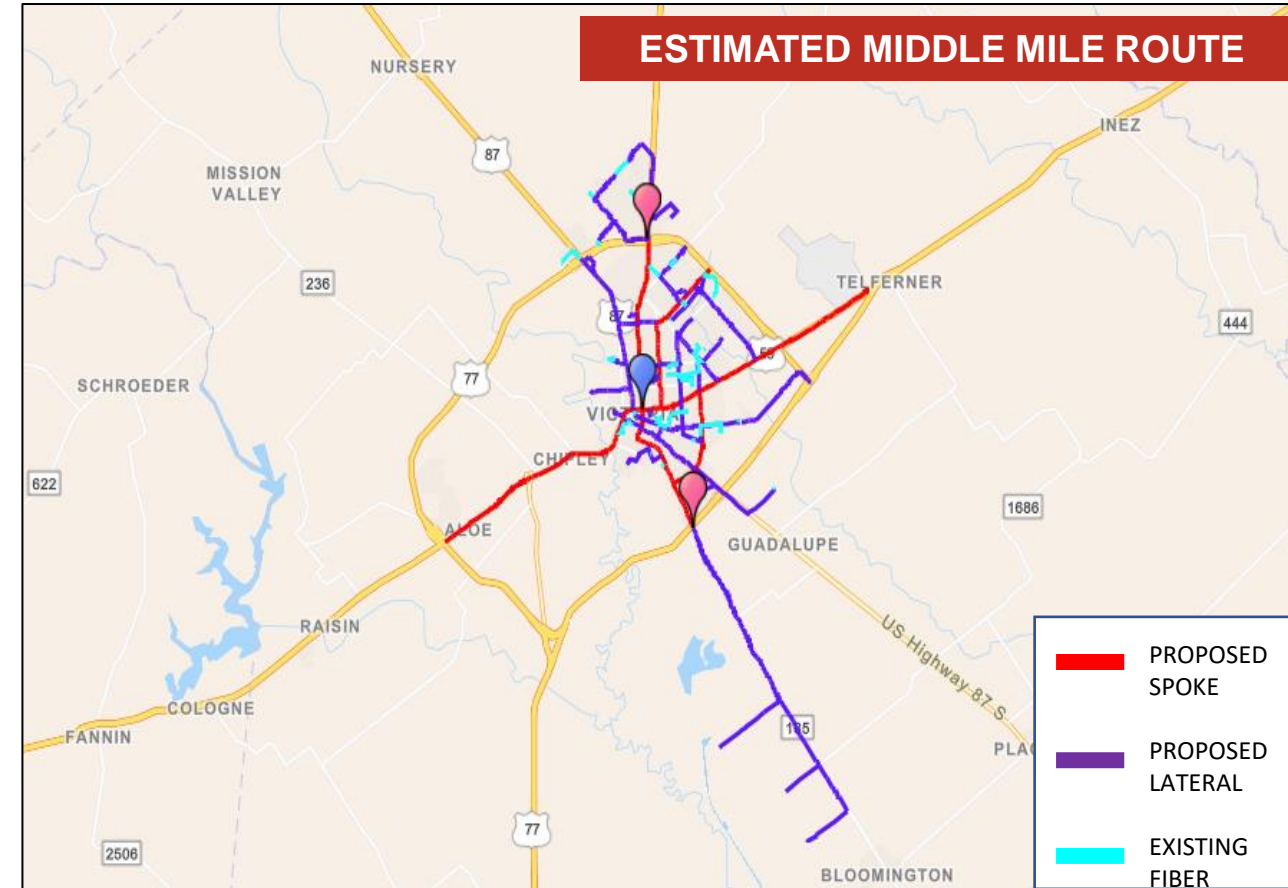
- CBCOG Regional Broadband Loop will provide a sustainable Emergency Management network and Victoria would be the northeast-most tie-in.
- Funding
 - CDBG-Mitigation



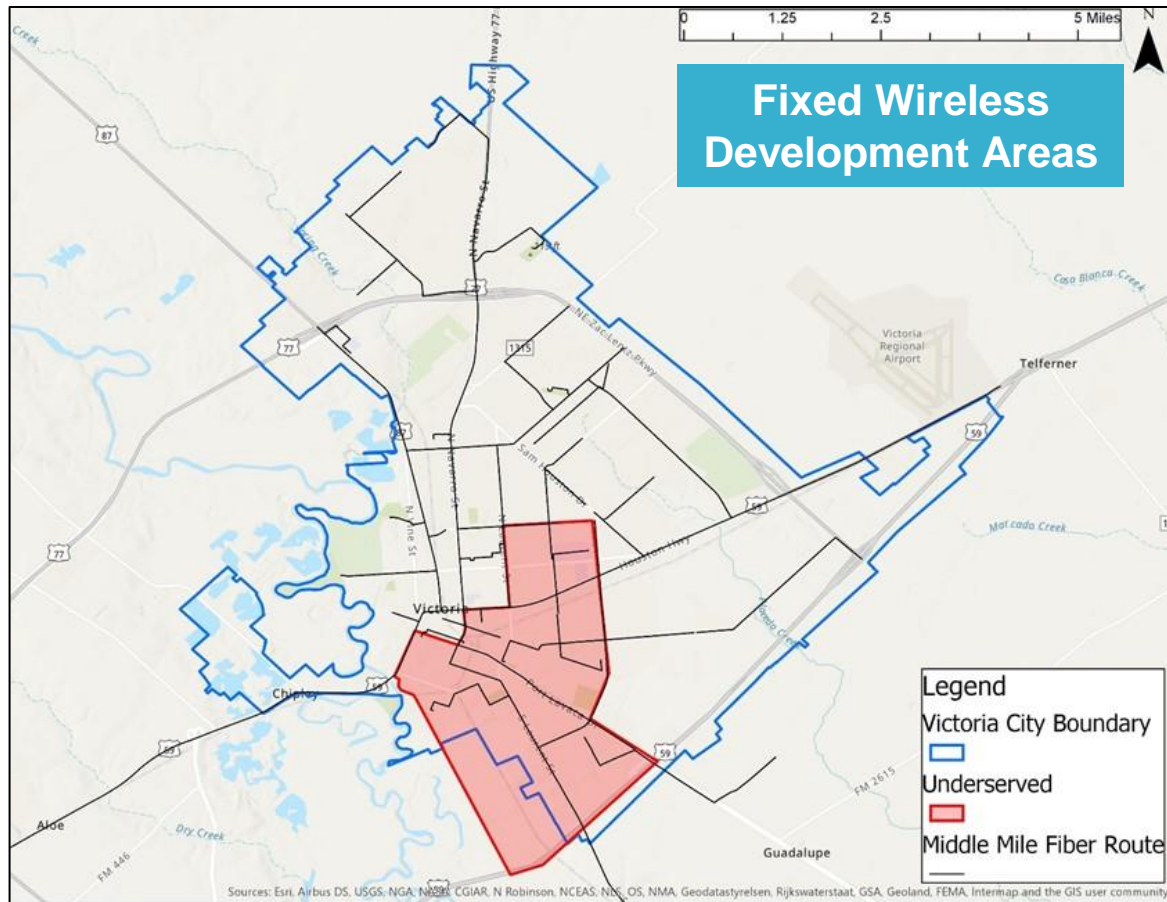
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS



- Partner with service providers and provide opportunities for private providers to expand into areas within the City
- Help promote Victoria to be ISP friendly
- New service providers have plans of expansion within the City over the next two years
- Incentives to promote partnership:
 - Tax abatement
 - Joint marketing plans
 - Leverage provider assets for creative smart city solutions
- **\$19,683,397 - Middle-Mile Development Estimate funded by the Private Provider**



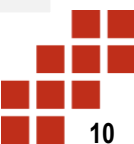
TARGETED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS



- Persistent gaps in services disproportionately affect residents who reside in areas that show less adoption.
- Gaps leave these residents behind in their quality-of-life needs.
- Utilizing **Fixed-Wireless last mile solutions** and middle mile fiber backhaul **allows for economical deployment in underserved communities.**
- **Funding opportunities can be utilized** to partner with operators or ISPs within the City to design, build, and implement last mile service to underserved and low-income communities.
- Investing in infrastructure shows **the City is trying to improve quality of life**, and service providers can take over infrastructure later.

Average Costs Per Home Served

Operating Costs	\$118
Capital Costs	\$904
Number of Homes	2,637
SUM	\$2,695,014

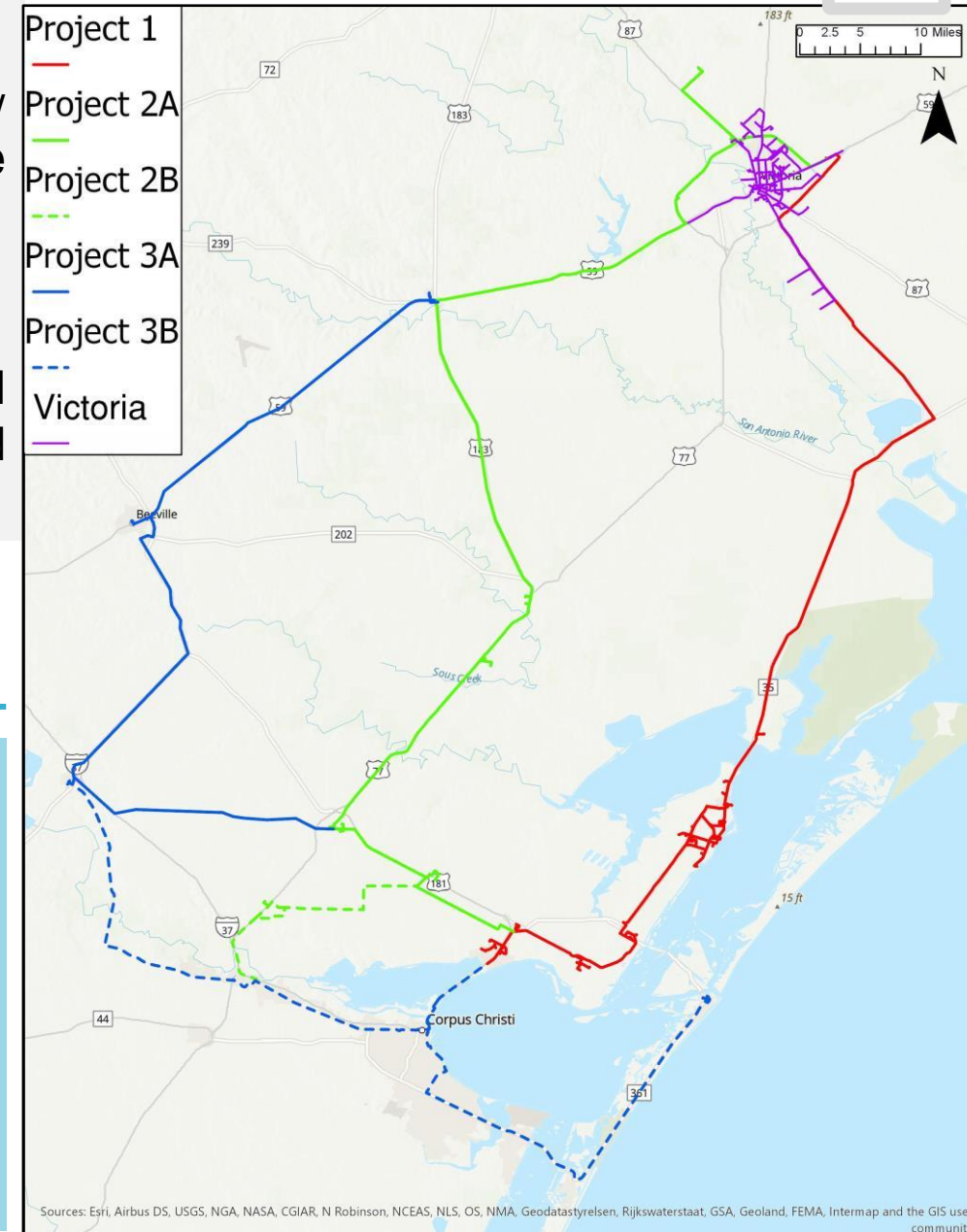


ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR ADOPTION

- Add resources or partnerships to assist with adoption.
- **Use existing staff**, public libraries, schools, and local nonprofits for digital equity programs, such as establishing a call center **to help qualified low-income residents enroll in subsidy programs.**
- The core issue for many low-income residents is one of **affordability.**
- Development of a plan for **utilizing current resources/personnel within City** and other partner organizations to help low-income residents sign up for subsidized services is recommended.

PROMOTION OF REGIONAL INITIATIVES

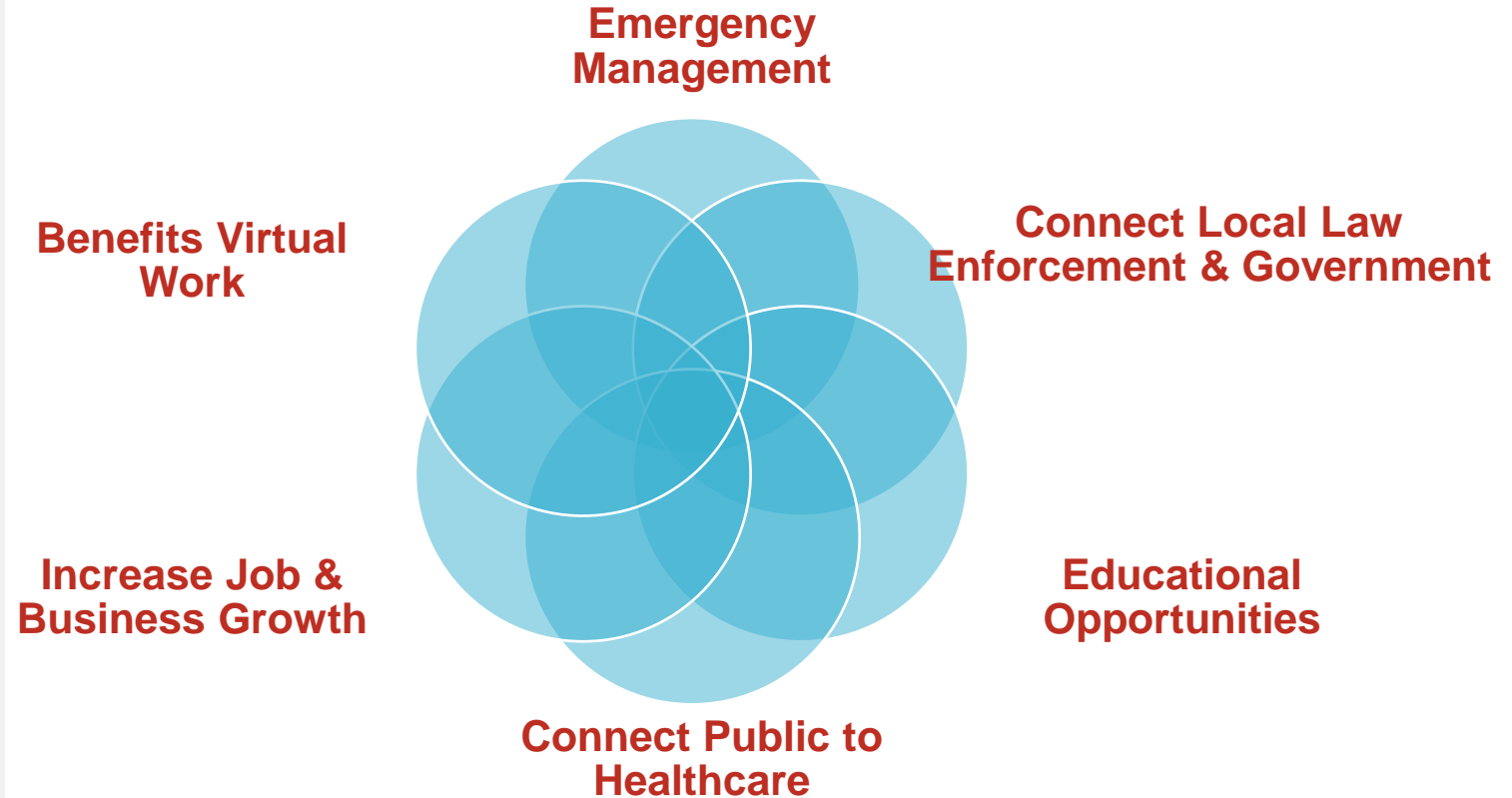
- Provides direct services to the **Port and Regional Airport of Victoria.**
- The **City of Victoria and Victoria County are key stakeholders** and have a proposed section of the emergency backhaul loop, which requires their collaboration with the regional initiative.
- Public-private partnerships and funding opportunities that will be allocated to all cities and counties and **do not require a funding match.**
- Upgraded **broadband services can increase quality of life and population growth** which would have a direct and positive impact on the region.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Investing in Broadband is like investing in Real Estate.

- **City invests, builds infrastructure**
- **Promote adoption and revitalize communities**
- **Makes the City look good in the eyes of the public**
- **Covered through Broadband specific grants**



WHAT'S NEXT?

TEAM WITH
REGIONAL
PROJECT

APPLY FOR
FUNDING

DEVELOP PPP
TO BRING
UNDERSERVED
AREAS SERVICE

