



CVRD

**COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL
CONNECTIVITY STRATEGY
VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE**

PRESENTED BY CVRD AND IBI GROUP

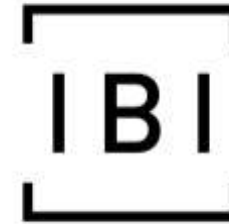
Land Acknowledgement

We at the CVRD acknowledge that for thousands of years the Quw'utsun, Malahat, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Halalt, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, Lyackson, Pauquachin, Ditidaht and Pacheedaht Peoples have walked gently on the unceded territories where we now live, work, and play.

Introductions



Brittany Taylor
Economic Development Cowichan
Cowichan Valley Regional District



Mitch Taylor
Project Manager
IBI Group

Chloe Boyle
Economic Development Cowichan
Cowichan Valley Regional District

Aysia Stante
Planner
IBI Group



Agenda

1.0 BACKGROUND

2.0 EDUCATION

- TYPES OF BROADBAND
- NETWORKS AND OWNERSHIP
- CURRENT INITIATIVES

3.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

- PURPOSE
- ROLE OF CVRD
- CONNECTED COAST

4.0 CURRENT STATE

- INITIAL SURVEY FINDINGS
- WHAT'S MISSING

5.0 PROJECT TIMELINE

6.0 ACHIEVING CONNECTIVITY

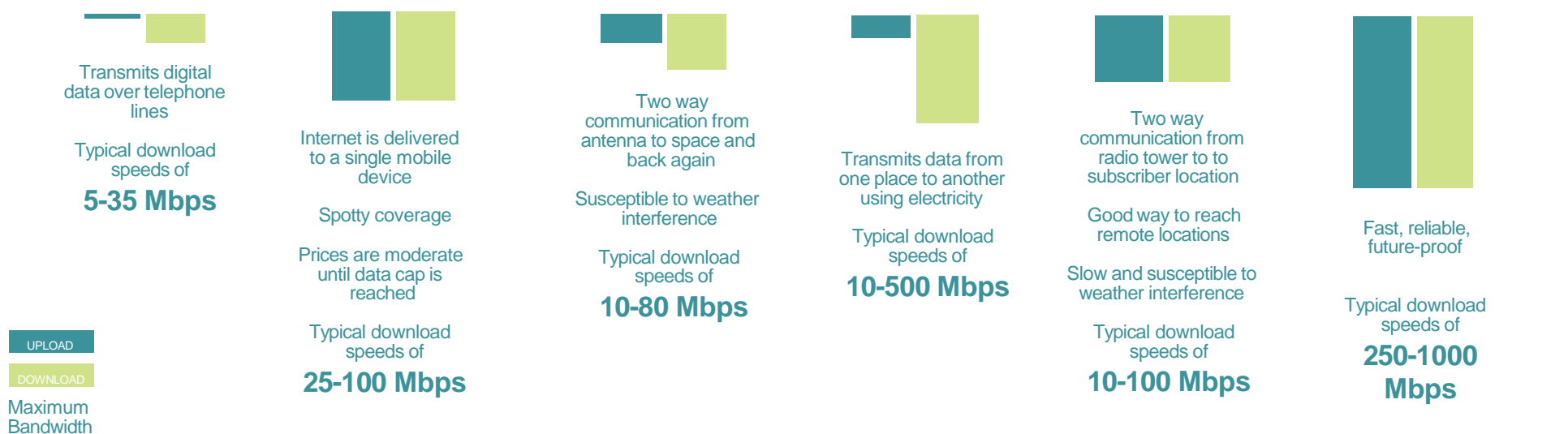
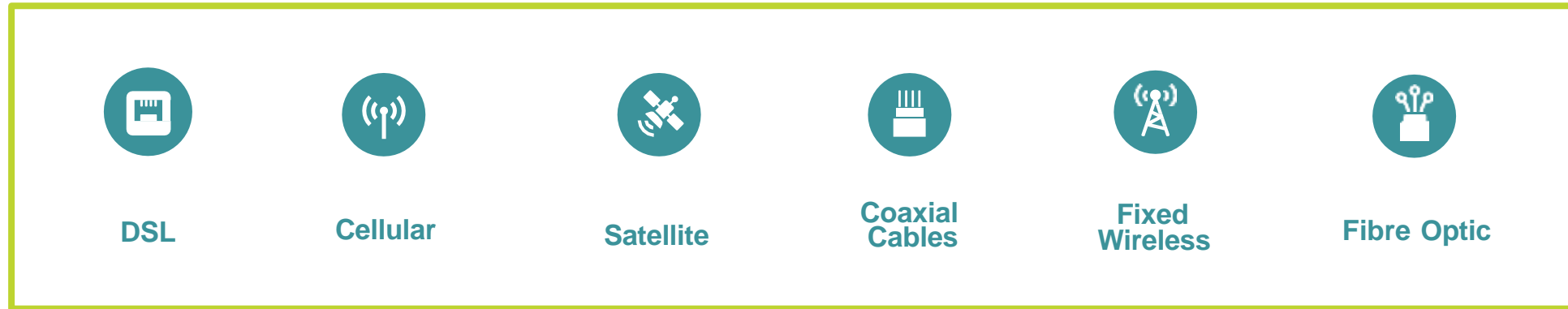
- OPPORTUNITIES
- CONSTRAINTS

7.0 WRAP-UP

- QUESTIONS
- GROUP DISCUSSION ACTIVITY



HOW IS BROADBAND DELIVERED?



Open Access Networks

The open access model is like a toll road. The network owner and operator build and maintain the road. Everyone who wants to use it pay a toll fee.

- Allow for multiple providers
- Municipality or government builds all fibre and provides electronics to connect homes
- ISPs are provided network connections to provide service to customers
- ISPs can also provide equipment for value-added services like WiFi, home security, etc.



Benefits of Open Access



Network Owner

- Not competing with private sector
- Higher utilization thanks to choice for subscribers, low price, and high quality
- Controls smart city initiatives
- Can focus on quality infrastructure



Network Operator

- Specializes in operations
- Can optimize hardware investments
- Can scale up by managing multiple networks
- Gets a share of all revenue



Service Providers (Retail ISPs)

- No high-cost infrastructure investments
- No hardware investments
- Specializes in subscriber support and billing
- Low barrier for new entrants
- Very profitable with correct focus
- Local choice is always popular



Subscribers

- Have choice
- Better services at lower prices
- Competition removes contracts and data caps
- Specialized support from providers
- Often an option to buy local

Types of Network Operators



Municipalities' Goals

- Job creation
- Innovation
- New and continuing businesses
- Quality of life for residents
- Secured or higher tax revenue

Municipalities' Skills

- Maintaining municipally-owned facilities and infrastructure

Private Companies' Goals

- Maximizing profits
- Dividend to Shareholders
- Maximizing ROI on investments
- Reach quarterly targets

Private Companies' Skills

- Service innovation
- Contact with end customers
- End customer billing
- Sales & Marketing

What's the National Landscape?

National Target



50 Mbps download
10 Mbps upload
Unlimited data
Mobile connectivity (LTE)

Progress by 2019

45.6%

of rural households
in Canada have 50/10

Recent Action

\$830 million

in funding announced
by Governments of BC
and Canada

Why is Connectivity Important?



Individual benefits include:

- Communication
- Entertainment
- Smart Homes and Security
- Telecommuting
- Distance Learning
- K-12 Education
- Access to Health Care

Societal benefits include:

- E-Government and Civic Participation
- Public Safety
- Energy and Environment
- Libraries
- Economic Growth and Job Opportunities

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?

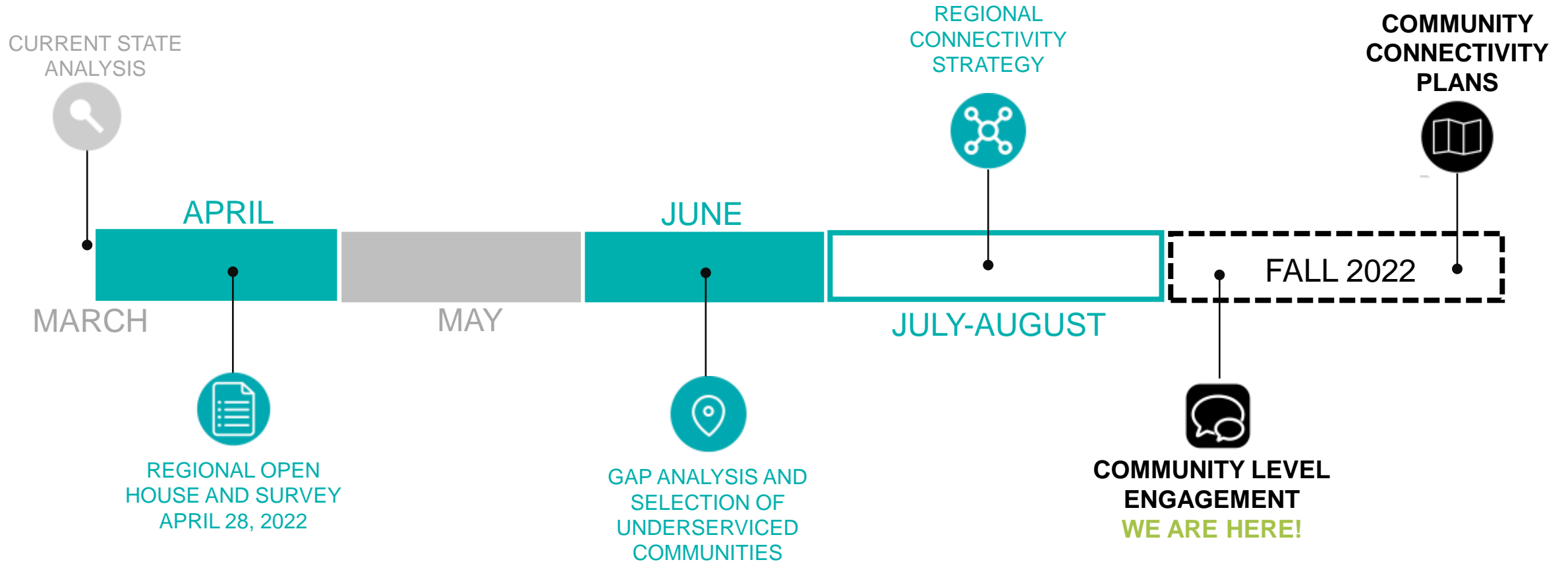
How is the CVRD Involved?

- Our goal: to create healthy, livable, and efficiently-serviced communities for residents of all backgrounds and income levels
- Our action: development of a regional connectivity strategy
 - Examine gaps in connectivity and ways to address
 - Explore digital aspirations and where connectivity can take the region in the future
- Our objective: to pursue provincial and federal funding support for improved broadband to CVRD communities and empower communities to reach their connectivity goals



COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

Current Project Work



Initial Survey Findings







Current State Assessment – To determine communities served and underserved and where gaps in service exist

Region-wide Survey – To assess levels of service and satisfaction with internet and cellular service, as well as aspirations for the region as they relate to connectivity.









COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT




Online Survey Feedback

-  192 people filled out the online survey
-  85% use fixed broadband provided by Shaw and Telus
-  Over half were fully or mostly satisfied with their current internet speed and reliability (although not necessarily both)
-  Almost half are paying between \$90 and \$120 for internet
-  Almost 30% believe that their current internet service restricts their ability to complete necessary tasks
-  50% have no cellular coverage or poor coverage at their residence or business

Prioritization of Underserved Communities

-  1. Number of underserved premises (Percentage of premises underserved)
-  2. Speed test results
-  3. Presence of Connected Coast landing site
-  4. Community satisfaction levels (from survey)
-  5. Eligible for government funding
-  6. Community leadership

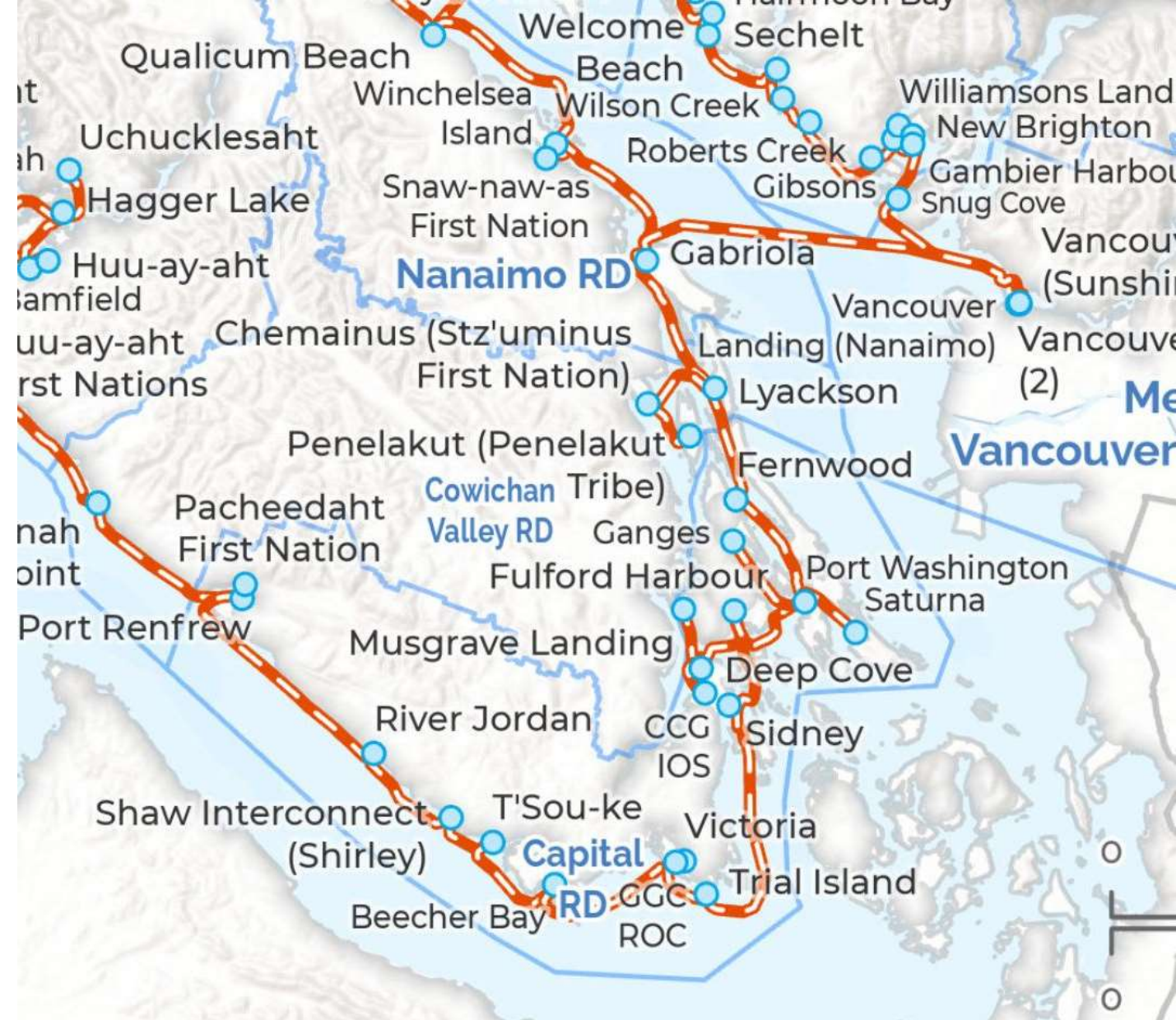
Prioritization of Underserved Communities – Cowichan Lake Area

-  1. 12th highest percentage of underserved premises
 -  2. Some parts of the Cowichan Lake Area currently have no access to fibre to the home back haul infrastructure.
- 

Current Initiatives

CONNECTED COAST

- Will bring new or improved high-speed internet accessibility to BC coastal communities.
- By 2023, it is scheduled to deliver subsea fibre-optic cable landing sites to several Indigenous communities in Cowichan.
- The Cowichan Regional Connectivity Strategy will help determine how best to benefit from this new infrastructure.

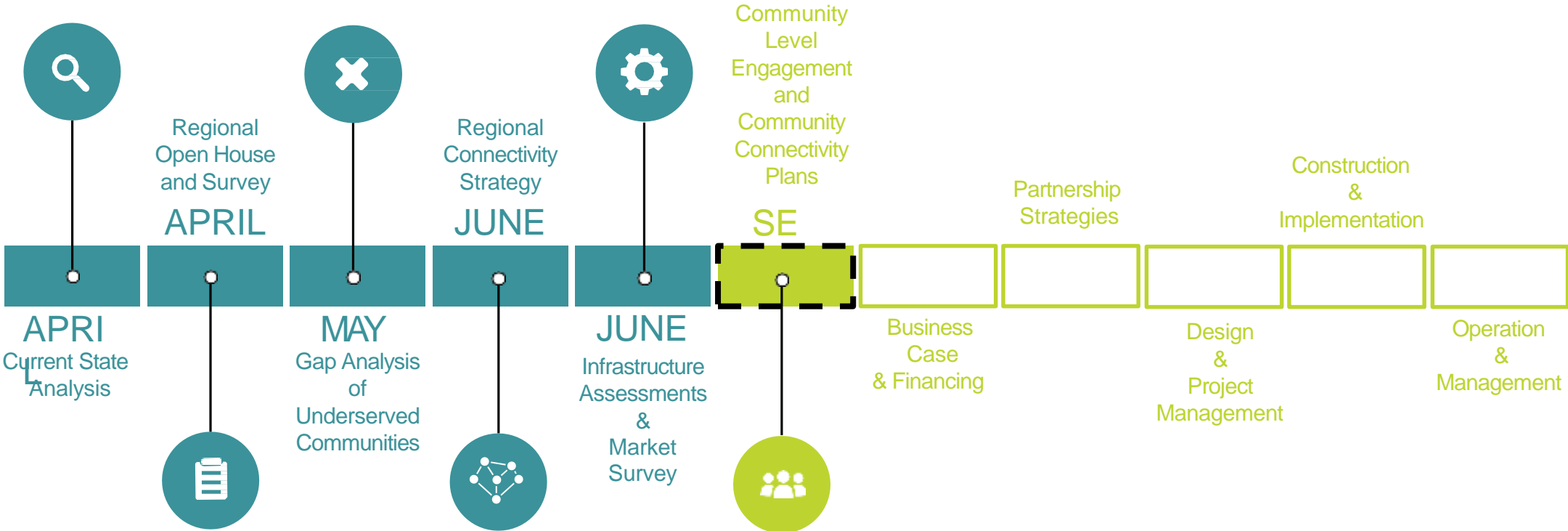


Current Initiatives?

ANYTHING WE SHOULD KNOW?



Overall Project Timeline



EDUCATION: FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Funding

Government-Funded - Federal, Provincial, local governments

P3 - Public-Private Partnerships

Private Investment - historically the most common

Implementation

Potential strategies to stimulate the rollout of broadband in underserved areas:

- Extend backbone from available connection sites, improving ISP business cases so they can focus on last-mile connections
- Build and operate municipal backbone fibre available to ISPs at a moderate rate
- Leverage Connected Coast landing sites and other existing backbone networks
- Advocate upper tier governments to provide funding
- CVRD to provide direct funding to ISPs to build backbone
- Municipality can build and operate



Community Connectivity Success Stories

[https://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/
connecting-british-columbia-success-
stories/](https://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/connecting-british-columbia-success-stories/)





Questions?

Group Discussion

- We will facilitate group formation and discussions
- Please contribute to the conversation and answer questions honestly
- Give others a chance to speak
- Assume good intentions
- We will be recording the discussion to ensure we don't miss any feedback

