



CITY OF ANACORTES

Laurie Gere, Mayor

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PRESS RELEASE

City of Anacortes receives AWC Municipal Excellence Award

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With this year's Municipal Excellence Awards, the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) honored five cities putting creative ideas to use for their communities.

“This year's projects demonstrate some of the ways that Washington's city leaders are applying innovative solutions to their diverse needs,” said Peter B. King, AWC CEO. “I hope these will be a source of ideas and inspiration throughout the state.”

Chosen from 25 applications, the 2020 AWC Municipal Excellence Award winners include the City of Anacortes for its project of installing fiber into active water lines.

The City of Anacortes needed to replace the aging radio-based system that connected its water treatment, wastewater, and sewage pumping facilities. Using a novel “pipe-in-pipe” method developed in the UK, city workers were able to safely install fiber-optic lines inside the system's existing active water lines – making Anacortes the first city in North America to successfully implement this approach. This cost-effective solution will also provide additional fiber capacity for broadband internet access. In addition to gaining the reliable and future-ready data capacity of a fiber-optic system, the city avoided the considerable costs and environmental impacts of running new lines through marine waterways, fragile wetlands, private properties, and flood-protection dikes along the Skagit River.

AWC's Municipal Excellence Awards recognize innovative city projects that significantly improve the quality of life for their communities. The competition is open each year to any Washington city or town. Projects will be recognized at AWC's Annual Conference Online this June.

AWC serves its members through advocacy, education, and services. Founded in 1933, AWC is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan corporation that represents Washington's cities and towns. AWC is governed by a 25-member Board of Directors of mayors, councilmembers, and city managers from across the state.