

Colorado Strategic Broadband Plan

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Plan Overview

Summary

The following outlines the framework of the proposed Colorado Strategic Broadband Plan as developed by the Colorado Broadband Knights of the Roundtable, a collaborative group of local, regional and state representatives. This plan is focused on creating the linkages and environment necessary for the public and private sectors to work together at a community level to develop unique solutions to local needs. This strategy should be considered an evolving plan that will adapt and change as it is implemented and specific milestones are reached and new ones developed.

Vision

All Coloradans have access to abundant, redundant and affordable broadband service.

Mission

To support and expand an environment that enables the development of a cost effective, sustainable, high-speed, scalable broadband network and digital literacy program that fosters personal, business, educational and public development.

Five Key Priorities

In order to achieve the vision and mission the Roundtable determined that five key priorities need to be addressed. These priorities are focused on both developing the infrastructure required and sustaining the various business models that operate and maintain the infrastructure.

1. Engage Local Communities
2. Coordinate and Collaborate on Broadband Activities
3. Leverage Funding Opportunities
4. Evaluate/Support Critical Broadband Policy
5. Achieve Digital Literacy

Colorado Broadband Knights of the Roundtable

The Colorado Broadband Knights of the Roundtable is a collaborative group of local, regional and state representatives dedicated to creating a comprehensive, bottoms-up approach to enhancing and increasing broadband deployment throughout Colorado. Their motivation is to allow local communities to grow and develop economically, enrich their citizens and allow for the efficient, effective and elegant delivery of public services.

Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPTs)

Local Technology Planning Teams are local and regional groups made up of community leaders, private citizens and business representatives who are focused on identifying broadband needs and developing unique solutions for their communities. Working independently and in conjunction with each other, these teams are both a source for the information used to develop this strategy and the end-point for its implementation.

Priority 1: Engage Local Communities

The Colorado Knights of the Roundtable will engage with all local communities through access to Local Technology Planning Teams, State agency resources, and state and federal delegations.

Goal #1: Ensure all regions of the state have established and functional Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPTs).

Action	Timeline	Deliverable/Metric
Work with OEDIT and local representatives to identify remaining areas of need.	Q3-2012	List of areas/groups to engage in LTPT process
Hold initial LTPT kickoff meeting in identified areas.	Q4-2012	Initial meetings

Goal #2: Provide a conduit for communication between LTPTs, state agencies, private carriers and others in the Broadband Plan.

Action	Timeline	Deliverable/Metric
Refine structure of Knights of the Roundtable to bring in key stakeholders into the process.	Q3-2012	Specific structure of Roundtable group
Identify and implement a method for ongoing planning meetings between carriers and LTPTs.	Q4-2012	
Hold a yearly meeting of all stakeholders to review goals, objectives and implementations.	Q3-2013	

Priority 2: Coordination and Collaboration of Broadband Activities

Identify existing projects, opportunities and additional pockets of demand for broadband service to allow collaboration between ongoing projects and the implementation of new opportunities

Goal #1: Define a process for coordination and collaboration to engage the public and other stakeholders to adopt and shape the Colorado Strategic Broadband Plan.

Action	Timeline	Deliverable/Metric
Identify and implement a mechanism to integrate private carriers into the plan	2-3 Months	Hold an initial "kickoff" meeting with private carriers to introduce and discuss the plan
Develop a web portal to compile and distribute information and foster communication	4-6 Months	Operational website focused on the strategic plan

Goal #2: Identify and support existing federal, state, regional and local resources to participate. Foster inter-agency collaboration at all levels of government.

Action	Timeline	Deliverable/Metric
Investigate the potential of the Strategic Broadband Plan being incorporated in the State 20 Year Transportation Plan	4-6 Months	Integration of broadband into official CDOT planning guidelines
Develop a repository of "Implementation Ready" projects that can capitalize on specific funding opportunities	6-12 Months	Project database
Develop an ongoing communication mechanism for local, state, federal and private entities to discuss opportunities	Ongoing	Formal meeting schedule of identified officials/organizations

Goal #3: Develop a statewide “Broadband Asset Inventory” of public (and potentially) private broadband infrastructure assets to help projects capitalize on existing infrastructure.

Action	Timeline	Deliverable/Metric
Apply to PUC CPAP fund for required funds	2-3 Months	Approved funding stream
Development of inventory schema with appropriate data elements. Work with both public and private interests to define.	4-6 Months	Inventory structure
Work with state and local governments to identify and inventory assets	12-18 Months	Completed inventory database

Priority 3: Evaluate and Support Critical Broadband Policy

Remove barriers to development and identify and implement critical broadband policies necessary to enable the Colorado statewide broadband mission

Goal #1: Perform a review of broadband related policies and statutes, identify barriers to development and make recommendations for enhancements.

Action	Timeline	Deliverable/Metric
Develop education campaign for elected officials focusing on broadband issues.	Q1 – 2013	Perform at least 2 education sessions with local and/or state elected officials.
Inventory of state/local/federal laws and regulations.	Q4- 2012	Working inventory to be used as a baseline for future policy discussions.
Create a report highlighting key roadblocks to development from both a public and private perspective.	Q4 – 2012	A summary of the top 3-5 roadblocks from each perspective.

Goal #2: Develop recommendations for policies and statutes that promote rapid deployment of broadband infrastructure and ensure competitive pricing, availability and capability of Broadband services throughout the state.

Action	Timeline	Deliverable/Metric
Investigate and recommend policies/regulations surrounding "Dig Once" issues.	Q4 – 2012	Specific recommendations on how to implement a "Dig Once" type program in Colorado.
Perform legal analysis of statutory and regulatory boundaries of Colorado High Cost Support Mechanism.	Q4- 2012	Official recommendation on what potential uses are.
Develop policy recommendations based on roadblock report from goal #1.	Q4 – 2012	Policy Recommendations

Priority 4: Leverage Funding Opportunities

Plan for sustainability

Goal #1: Create an information repository of working models and upcoming funding opportunities.

Action	Timeline	Deliverable/Metric
Develop a model of what should be in the repository.	Q4 – 2012	Information Model Document
Identify repository and information “keeper”.	Q3- 2012	Identified repository
Have repository up and communicate availability.	Q1 – 2013	Functional Repository

Goal #2: Promote collaboration between and among prospective regional partners.

Action	Timeline	Deliverable/Metric
Identify partnerships through a meeting of LTPTs and carriers	Q4 – 2012	Formal meeting with stakeholders from public and private sectors
Creation of a grant “Best Practices” document	Q1- 2013	Document

Priority 5: Achieve Digital Literacy

Digital literacy and adoption are key to leveraging the Broadband infrastructure and to support a foundation for the economic development of Colorado

Goal #1: Develop and leverage a network of resources available around digital literacy and broadband adoption (people, organizations, tools, etc.) with a regional focus on implementation and a state focus on support of local activities.

Action	Timeline	Deliverable/Metric
Create and maintain a digital literacy council to support ongoing work in this area.	6-8 Months	Formalize organization
Create a toolkit, framework, templates, etc. for local communities on how to foster digital literacy.	6 Months	Completed Digital Literacy Toolkit
Identify currently available public and private resources to utilize.	6-9 Months	Functional Repository

Goal #2: Communicate the value of Broadband adoption to stakeholders, community leaders and end-users.

Action	Timeline	Deliverable/Metric
Create and share information through all available media that analyzes the benefits of Broadband and the impact on economic development, education, health care, public safety, etc.	15 Months to launch	Educational material that can be distributed through all media types.
Create a public awareness campaign (using existing resources) that communicates the importance of broadband, where to go for training/support.	6-12 Months	Formalized strategy and materials.
Develop local change agents to champion and manage implementation of digital literacy campaign.	6-12 Months	Specific individuals at a local/functional level responsible for implementation.

Goal #3: Increase use of digital resources, broadband adoption and digital literacy

Action	Timeline	Deliverable/Metric
Identify underserved people and organizations in order to foster adoption and use. Foster adoption through training on broadband relevance and digital literacy.	Baseline within 3 months – 36 months to completion	Develop baseline of digital literacy and then measure increase after program.
Provide digital literacy training for the public and business through existing public computer centers, schools and community colleges. Equipment and training for digital literacy is available in all communities.	Baseline within 3 months – 36 months to completion	Determine number of organizations offering digital literacy training.
Provide E-Government resource training and improve interoperability of E-Government resources.	Baseline within 3 months – 36 months to completion	Determine initial baseline for number of E-Government users and then track increase.