Broadband: The highway of the future

• What is Broadband?
  – Defined by the FCC as a download speed of 768 Kbps to 1.5 Mbps, up from 200 Kbps

• Goals for a High-Performance America
  – 100 Mbps by 2020
Talk less and say more

1. Statewide Broadband Infrastructure Task Force – Movement to 1 Gbps by 2020
2. Map broadband access and available speeds
3. Incentive programs encourage investment and access
4. Remove disincentives
5. Best practices used by municipalities
6. Grow digital literacy

Live each day with courage

“At their inceptions, some of these projects were controversial. Many considered them too expensive; others doubted their efficacy. Today, few would question their value, but each of these undertakings depended on a strong and coordinated national vision.”

Michael Copps, Chairman FCC 5/09

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Know where to draw the line

- **US 15th in the world**
- **Wyoming 48th in the US**

- **46th place in the New Economy**:  
  - 50th for high-tech jobs  
  - 49th for e-Government  
  - 41st for telecom speed  
  - 35th for health IT  
  - 50th for innovation

Always finish what you started

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Take pride in your work

- Wyoming 11th for online population
- 3rd for technology in schools
- 3rd online agriculture applications

Remember that some things aren’t for sale

| Total Annual Economic Impact | $215,933,328 |
| Direct Annual Income Growth from the Increase in Broadband | $150,308,706 |
| Jobs Created or Saved Annually | 4,383 |

Ride for the brand

“Just as the government has facilitated low-cost mail delivery, electrification, and the provision of other services to rural areas, so it can facilitate access to the key information source of the twenty-first century.”

The Hamilton Project

Be tough, but fair

The role of government is to “step in where private firms will not”:

- Vision and strategy
- Include Tribal Government
- Security, privacy and consumer protection
- Digital literacy
- Private investment
- Targeted government subsidies:
  - Efficient use
  - Expand access
  - New technology investment
- Ground rules for private competition
- Benefits are broadly shared
- Remove disincentives
Options & Models

• **Stimulate Broadband Deployment**:
  - Broadband commission, task force or authority
  - Public-Private Partnerships
  - Unserved and underserved direct funding
  - State Networks
  - Telehealth
  - Tax Policy incentives
  - Demand-Side Programs

• **Local Open Access Networks**:  
  - As many as 600 US cities were expected to be working on wireless networks in 2006.

Do what has to be done

• Powell/TCT Communications partnered to provide fiber optic connections to every home and business.

• RT Communications will complete Worland/Thermopolis soon.

• City of Gillette responded to an inadequate infrastructure by building their own.
I, (state your name), do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Broadband Expansion Code of the West.

I will defend broadband expansion in Wyoming against all enemies, foreign and domestic, not to mention viruses and spyware.

I will bear true faith and allegiance by convincing all who cross my path that for Wyoming to enjoy a successful future, we must increase broadband speed and access.

I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evading my Inner Work.

I will faithfully discharge these duties and spread the mantra of “Speed and Access” across the dirt roads and superhighways we call Wyoming.

So Help Me Bill.
Thank You!

Leadership Wyoming 2010
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References