

**STATE:** ARIZONA

**Date of Report:** No report has been issued

**Nature of report (preliminary, final, advisory, executive/legislative):** N/A

**Key recommendations:** N/A

**Key programs initiated:** N/A

**Recommended appropriation:** None

**Web link to agency or task force:** <http://www.arizonatele.com/atic/default.htm>

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**Statement of Values:**

ATIC's vision is for Arizona's citizens, businesses, and organizations have access to advanced telecommunications services and information technologies enabling them to participate in the global economy.

**Where we've been:**

The State of Arizona has seen several fragmented broadband related initiatives come and go since 2002. Research on Arizona's broadband policy initiatives reveals at least three different organizations, all of which operate under the color of state government authority, all working on broadband policy. Other non-governmental agencies have also issued their own reports. There are statements in many of these organizations' white papers commenting on the fragmented history of broadband policy in Arizona. Here is a brief synopsis of broadband policy initiatives in Arizona:

- 1995 – ATIC evolves out of a telecommunications study commissioned by the Governor. ATIC functions as Arizona's recognized and authoritative organization guiding technology policy development, serving as a leading source of information and expertise on telecommunications and information technology matters. ATIC has become a permanent entity, addressing a variety of telecommunications policy issues. ATIC develops, promotes and supports initiatives and guides adoption of effective public policies that encourages wide-scale deployment and availability of telecommunication services and information technologies to insure economic prosperity for the Arizona community, expand the region's global competitive advantage, enable continued educational advancement, and support an enhanced quality of life.
- 1996 – The Arizona Government Information Technology Agency (GITA) is formed to serve as the strategic planning and coordination agency for information technology for the State of Arizona.

- 2002 – ATIC releases “Connecting Arizona” report, a planning document that addressed Arizona’s broadband status as of 2002, and making recommendations to policy makers to encourage further deployment of broadband infrastructure.
- 2004 – GITA forms the Telecommunications Infrastructure Subcommittee (TISC). TISC’s initial planning document states that there are “disparate communities of interest formulating their own, often conflicting long range telecom plans.” Through TISC, GITA intends to “centralized strategic planning structure which, through its various components, coordinates statewide telecommunications policy and activities, convenes interested sectors to address shared telecommunications interests, assists in the development of plans for public and private telecommunications systems, and advises the governor on policy and procurement practices.”
- 2007 – The Arizona Department of Commerce issues its Arizona Broadband Initiative Framework report, which summarizes “best practices” of other states to deploy broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved areas.

**Where we are today:** Efforts by TISC to centralize telecommunications/broadband planning do not appear to have taken root. There is no current organization in Arizona engaged in the development of a consensus statewide broadband plan.

**Where we want to be:** Difficult to tell. ATIC appears to be the thought leader on broadband policy in Arizona. ATIC’s vision statement, quoted above, appears to be the best summation of where Arizona policy makers want to be with respect to broadband.

**How are we going to get there?** Not clear.

**Broadband functionality (tiers of service) – None**