

**STATE: COLORADO**

**Date of Report:** No report yet issued. Staff to the Colorado Innovation Council have prepared two briefing memos for the Innovation Council, one entitled "Broadband Strategy" and another entitled "Toward a Broadband Strategy for Colorado."

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

**Key recommendations:** N/A

**Key programs initiated:** N/A

**Recommended appropriation:** N/A

**Web link to agency or task force:**

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=Innovation%2FINLayout&cid=1192458212697&pagename=INWrapper&rendermode=preview>

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**Statement of Values:** Colorado must do more to position itself for competitiveness in an information-technology driven world. Colorado needs to follow the lead of and strive to surpass other states like California, Kentucky, New York, and Vermont in developing well thought out strategies for spurring broadband deployment and adoption. A commitment to ubiquitous broadband is an economic development imperative.

**Where we've been:** Not addressed.

**Where we are today:** The Innovation Council staff briefing memos assert the following:

- No comprehensive mapping of broadband availability.
- FCC recently granted the Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) \$4.6M to create a broadband network connecting about 75 Colorado public and non-profit hospitals within 2 years with speeds ranging from 40 to 100 Mbps.
- New Economy Index ranked Colorado 15<sup>th</sup> in the use and deployment of broadband infrastructure.
- Some reports suggest Qwest has built DSL service out to 80% of its service territory and does not view further build-out as economically justifiable.
- There are no such reports for cable, but there is "the impression that they have extended service through a similar [to Qwest] footprint."
- There may be hundreds of wireless providers offering broadband access to rural areas operating "below the radar". Some reports suggest the existence of over 100 wireless ISPs. The FCC reports only 18.
- A few local governments have entered into public-private partnerships to develop "community broadband networks" using wireless technology and in

some cases a "fiber optic backbone network." Glenwood Springs is cited as an example.

**Where we want to be:** The Briefing Memos prepared by Staff to the Innovation Council mention the following goals:

- Remove obstacles for entrepreneurial firms that are developing broadband services, such as providing access to rights-of-way or providing access to state-owned fiber networks.
- Use State of Colorado's status as an "anchor tenant" to spur deployment of broadband.
- "Evangelize and facilitate" the adoption of broadband-intensive applications like distance learning and telemedicine to increase productivity, quality of life, and delivery of government services.
- Support deployment to unserved areas.

**How are we going to get there?**

- Establish a broadband mapping program like Connect Kentucky.
- Appoint a "broadband champion" for the State of Colorado, whether a non-profit corporation or the State of Colorado's Chief Information Officer that would be responsible for achieving the four goals listed above (under "Where We Want To Be") while the broadband mapping exercise is ongoing.
- Use incentives to spur deployment.
- Explore roles local government can play in broadband deployment, evaluating in particular whether local governments are developing wireless broadband networks to support public safety and public service agencies while making excess capacity available to the public.
- Council should recommend legislative, regulatory or other efforts necessary to support additional broadband deployment.

**Broadband functionality (tiers of service) – N/A**