

Broadband Discussion

County Council Worksession

10/27/2020

Overview

1. Current status of local availability / need in community
2. Recent efforts / history / roadblocks
3. Middle Mile status
4. Path Forward / Potential areas of focus

Current status of local availability / need in community

The current pandemic has increased our usage of the internet for work, school, and social activities. This in turn has increased our awareness of potential issues with internet related services. Before proceeding with any particular path, we should first answer the following questions:

1. What is the current status of local broadband availability?
2. What is the current usage of broadband in Los Alamos?
3. What are the current needs / gaps in broadband service?
4. What are the future needs / opportunities in broadband service?
5. What level of service does our community desire and how does that compare to other communities?

Local Service Providers

- ▶ RediNet
 - ▶ Can double bandwidth to clients both current and new in under a week
- ▶ Comcast / Xfinity
 - ▶ Maintains a significant presence
- ▶ LANet
 - ▶ Can provide 100Mb to all customers and 1Gb to most; mix of fiber and wireless connectivity
- ▶ Century Link
 - ▶ Can support current and new clients as needed; investing in additional backbone and redundant paths (18-months out)
- ▶ Others

Information is anecdotal at this point. Further research to validate and add details would be needed if we were to explore moving ahead with any new broadband initiative.

Recent efforts / history / roadblocks

- ▶ Summary of county actions to date
 - ▶ RediNet - regional effort; broadband backbone; primarily anchor institutions; currently operating; County uses services for public access and backup
 - ▶ Added RediNet Downtown endpoint for local business connections (meet-me points) - 2014 / 2015
 - ▶ Fiber pathway conduit installation- ongoing
 - ▶ Current public Wi-Fi; Ashley Pond, Fuller Lodge, Libraries, Municipal building, etc.; ongoing
 - ▶ Community Broadband Network Study - completed 2013
 - ▶ For those interested in reading the agenda, the design study and related documents, this link will take you to those items:
 - ▶ <http://losalamos.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1309186&GUID=DFBAD6B0-9F8E-4267-BFB1-2552A159370A&Options=&Search=>

Recent efforts / history / roadblocks

- ▶ Roadblocks
 - ▶ High costs - 2013 estimate was \$47 million for Community Broadband Network
 - ▶ Charter misconception - broadband service does not need to be a “utility” fund, it could just be a new enterprise fund
 - ▶ Middle mile - RediNet never completed fiber to Los Alamos, so we currently do not have a redundant fiber pathway off the hill.
 - ▶ Previous 2013 study recommended against an incremental approach

Middle Mile status

Currently, the best prospect for a redundant fiber path off the hill is new infrastructure being built by Century link for LANL service.

We have been in talks with Century link and they have indicated willingness to work with the County, but have deferred more detailed discussions until the current project is closer to completion (Estimated 18 months).

Path Forward / Potential areas of focus

1. Consider formally adopting the local fiber backbone masterplan from the 2013 study
2. Consider formalizing conduit installation policy
3. Invest in smaller projects
 - A. Further expansion of public Wi-Fi
 - B. Others
4. Pursue grant opportunities
5. Neighborhood initiatives for incrementally improving or building out broadband

Path Forward / Potential areas of focus

6. Develop commercial partnership(s)

LA Net Franchise

Comcast

Century Link

Others - e.g. Star Link - low cost satellite

7. Other considerations

A. Will 5g supersede fiber need?

B. Smart cities?

Discussion and Questions