



Broadband Policy Brief

Municipal Broadband Network Policy

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12/4/2008

Affordable and robust broadband telecommunications are essential for communities today. This brief addresses both broadband service and infrastructure concerns while establishing broadband policy for the City of Ammon with some short term goals and departmental responsibilities.

Purpose:

The purpose of this brief is to establish a broadband telecommunications policy for the City of Ammon.

Executive Summary:

Telecommunications infrastructure is as important to communities as streets, electricity, water and sewer. Phone and video jacks are as common as electrical outlets. When such essential networks are inoperable our communities including businesses, schools, hospitals and government are compromised in their ability to function. Communities are advanced by universal access to affordable and dependable broadband access.

Broadband telecommunications infrastructure and services affect economic growth. While our community is able to receive basic broadband services, we pay a higher rate for these basic services than some other communities. Prospects for either decreases in costs for services or improvements in service anytime in the foreseeable future are not evident. The business model followed by the incumbent broadband service providers precludes them from upgrading their redundant infrastructure or improving their services without increasing costs.

DSL and cable networks cannot offer the speeds required to operate some services required today by both businesses and residents. Such basic, essential services would include, but are not limited to, large file transfers or video services. Businesses, government, and citizens all need affordable and fast access to information networks. Therefore, we find cities throughout the country taking an interest in telecommunications services and infrastructure.

Policy:

Ammon policy is that broadband telecommunications are a basic and essential service. Such services can be cared for by a municipal utility.

Responsibility:

The City of Ammon hereby tasks the following departments and individuals with performing feasibility study regarding development of a working business model for consideration by the Council.

1. The Technology Department, under the direct supervision of City Council Member Brian Powell, is assigned the leadership role in this endeavor. Within the scope of the department's abilities and assets, it will devote the necessary time and energy to the creation of a feasibility study and business model for an Ammon Broadband Municipal Network. As long as the assets needed to resolve these immediate goals are available within the approved Technology Department budget, including the contingency line item, Council agrees that Council Member Powell may individually approve these expenditures from department funds.
2. The City will partner with Robert Peterson in pursuing these deliverables:

December 4, 2008

- a. An Ammon Municipal Fiber Network Feasibility Study
- b. A working business model
- c. A recommended next step or proof of concept

Robert Peterson will be responsible to provide his own funding and the necessary technical expertise to answer or resolve all of the technical concerns or direct the City to resources which can provide necessary technical support.

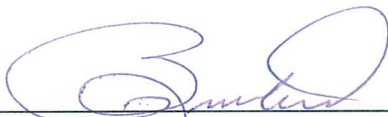
- 3. City Engineer, Lance Bates will be responsible for technical review of the feasibility study and business model while still maintaining his department priorities.
- 4. Planning Director, Ron Folsom is tasked with providing whatever support lies within the time constraints and ability of the planning department to offer in support of this project.

Conclusion:

This policy shall be in full force and effect upon passage and approval by the City Council and the Mayor, and shall take effect as of the 4th day of December, 2008.

Passed by the Council and approved by the Mayor on this 4th day of December, 2008.

City of Ammon

By: 
Bruce Ard, Mayor

ATTEST:


Leslie Folsom, City Clerk