

MAIN STREET MONTANA PROJECT

A BUSINESS PLAN *For Montana by Montanans*

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KIN Meeting | July 29, 2014

Interconnectivity and Telecommunication Kin

PRELIMINARY REPORT

*Letter from Mae Nan, Rob, and Bill summarizing the efforts of this meeting.

WHAT IS BROADBAND?

- Nominal speed vs. actual speed (bandwidth)
 - E.g. 20mb pipe getting 8mb speed
- Latency
- Asymmetrical vs. Symmetrical?
- Fixed vs. Mobile?
- Residential vs. Business?
 - Soho?
 - M.L.B Enterprise
- Location
 - Urban
 - Rural
 - Frontier
- Overcome distance and density hurdles
- P-T-P pipes vs. I.A.?
- The pipe or network that allows the transport of data of the user's choosing (internet, private data, voice, etc.)
 - The infrastructure- not application?
 - Applications are what the end users see and want
 - Require managed LAN/WAN
- "Sufficient bandwidth to meet the needs of consumers now and reasonably into the future."
- Capability to get to a Tier 1 with as few hops as possible. \
 - i.e. easy accessibility
 - Direct connections
- Upload speeds vs. download speeds
- Broadband is what it delivers: software, services, in the cloud...
- Consumer's needs:
 - Fiber availability
 - Cooper
 - Symmetrical
 - Ethernet- yet Ethernet has limits
- Finding innovative technologies to provide "X" amount of broadband per device.
- Quantity
 - Mb, Tb, incremental allowances on data

STRATEGIES

1. Provide accuracy and access logistics in data and providers
 - a. User Education
2. Mirror "Wyoming Project"
 - a. Middle Mile Ring
3. Public Education
 - a. Create the demand
4. Higher Ed. (OCHE), municipality, state presentations
5. Task force of I.T., CEO's, and Entrepreneurs

STEP TO SUCCESS

1. Create a plan with cost analysis and breakdown
2. Create a task force with I.T., CEO's, Entrepreneurs and regional perspectives.
3. State ring map overlay of regional mile markers
4. Presentations from:
 - a. Representatives from Energy division and Agriculture
 - b. Municipal leaders from Bozeman and Missoula
 - c. Rural representatives in EDO
 - d. Ken Wahl
5. Bring awareness to the public on what is currently available including grants

PILLAR I: Train and Educate Tomorrow's Workforce Today

Priority Objectives:

104: Meet local/ unique training needs for high demand industries such as healthcare, energy, and technology.

111: Improve the visibility and strengthen partnerships between Montana's two-year colleges and training providers, the business community and workforce development entities.

105: Increase involvement of employers in formal curriculum development.

Action Items:

- State Associations, HR department
- 2 year program in IT and Infrastructure
- Partner with a college of technology
- Start early education of STEM programs k-12
- Better alignment of higher education with key industries
 - Training the next generation
- Advise 2/4 year schools with a board of tech industry businesses

Community leaders/ organizations:

- OCHE
- MUS

PILLAR II: Create A Climate That Attracts, Retains, and Grows Businesses

Priority Objectives:

204: Seek ways to eliminate duplicate processes, reduce the amount of reporting, decrease permitting time and other measures to decrease the burden to businesses and maximize predictability.

202: Conduct internal evaluations in all agencies to identify redundancies and inefficiencies

211: Coordinate with private sector to improve and streamline Montana's tax code to support economic development and job growth

212: Continue to improve on Montana's workers' compensation program to reduce premium levels and worker injury rates while still maintain worker protections.

Action Items:

- Available, Affordable, and Reliable broadband
- Availability problem vs. Affordability?
- Providers hurdles:
 - Permitting costs
 - Right of way

Community Leaders/ Organizations:

- Economic Development Organizations
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PILLAR III: Build Upon Montana's Economic Foundation

Priority Objectives:

306: Simplify, streamline and improve predictability of the regulatory processes, while protecting the environment

316: Study telecommunications across the state and provide recommendations to increase access to broadband, especially in rural areas.

317: Help establish initiatives in pilot communities and adopt best practices to encourage broadband infrastructure development.

320: Consider avenues for additional resources and authority to help communities finance necessary infrastructure

Action Items:

- Property Taxes (statewide)
- Access to Rights
- Regulate Locates and proper procedure

Community Leaders/ Organizations:

- Montana DOT
- Department of Revenue

PILLAR IV: Market Montana

Priority Objectives:

402: Market Montana quality of life to key audiences in business and worker recruitment

408: Encourage successful Montana businesses to champion the state as a business location

409: Highlight successful businesses and industries in public forums (website, events)

Action Items:

- State provides Broadband incentives to new locating businesses
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Community Leaders/ Organizations:

- Governor's Office of Economic Development
- DOC
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PILLAR V: Nurture Emerging Industries & Encourage Innovation

Priority Objectives:

506: Coordinate with post-secondary education systems to identify programs needed to create the workforce for existing and future technological businesses

511: Ensure that education and workforce development systems respond to changing technologies and industry demands

512: Provide opportunities for STEM education across the education continuum

513: Partner with emerging industries to determine current and future workforce training needs

517: Develop a statewide network of business mentors from specific industries and sectors

Action Items:

- Coordinated efforts between businesses and colleges
- Career days for High schools
 - Interview to give experience to give students more experience
- Retain students to Montana workforce
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Community Leaders/ Organizations:

- MUS
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