

MUNICIPAL BROADBAND IN COLORADO

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Real Possibilities

HISTORY OF MUNICIPAL BROADBAND IN STATE

- Colorado General Assembly approved Senate Bill (SB) 152 in 2005 after telecom companies testified that municipal broadband was anti-competitive and, in any case, not necessary
- Telecom companies argued that municipal broadband would discourage market for providing high speed internet
- As result, SB 152 required municipalities to hold specific elections before communities could go forward with plans to build municipal broadband
- At time of bill, FCC's fourth report on broadband availability dated September 2004 found that minimum speeds for broadband were 200 kbps down and up.



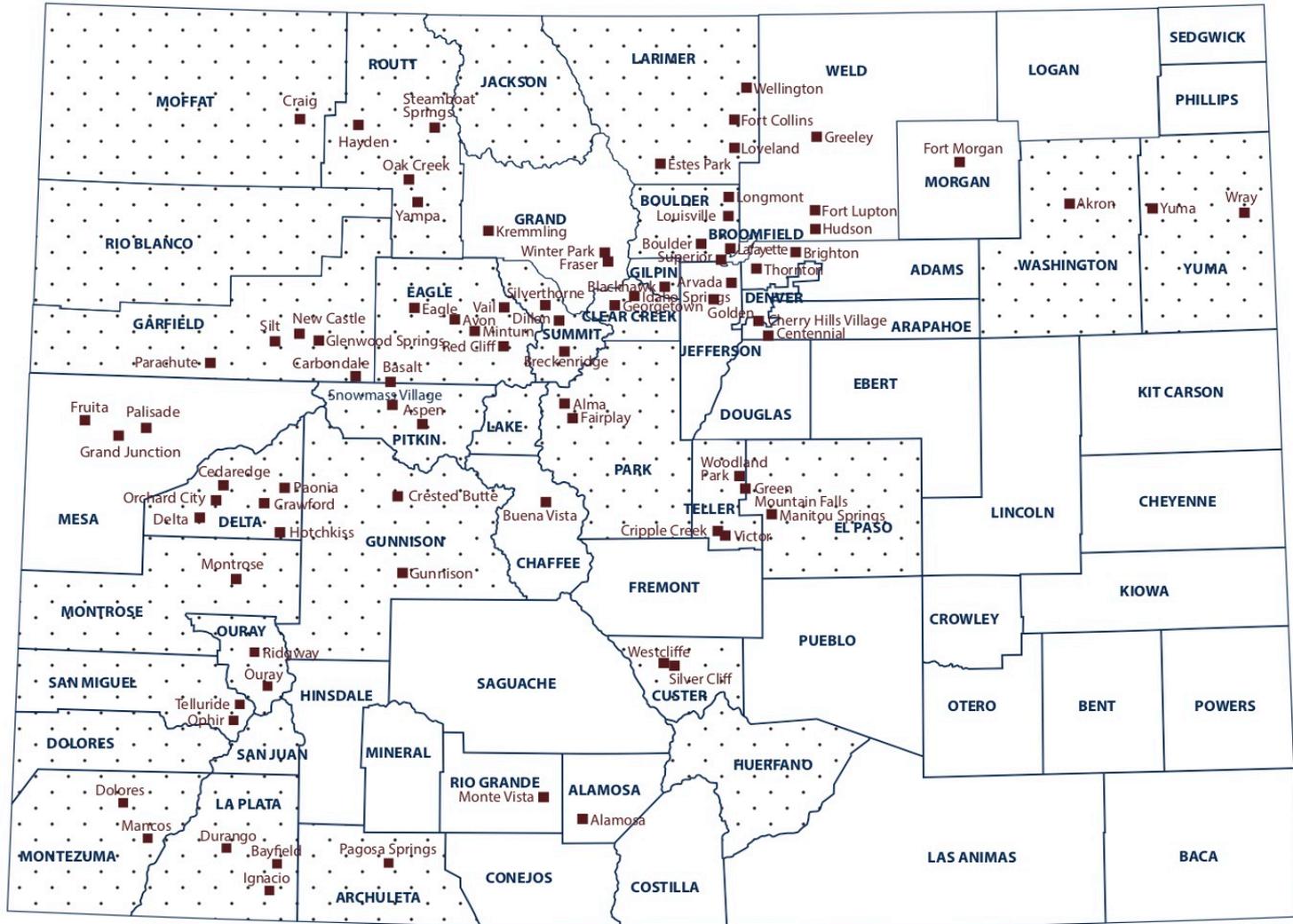
WHAT HAPPENED AFTER PASSAGE OF SB 152?

- As result and as speeds increased and service became more important, broadband developed slowly in state, especially on eastern plains and in mountains
- Even along front range and in metro Denver, consumers limited to one or two providers, and at speeds and price points that they considered unsatisfactory
- Bills introduced annually in General Assembly to modify SB 152 but with no success
- So communities decided to set up municipal votes
- As of last November, over 100 municipalities had vote affirmatively to explore setting up own broadband



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Local Governments Repealing Prohibition on Public Investment in Broadband



Map Revision: Nov. 30, 2017

Source: Colorado Counties Inc. and Colorado Municipal League

■ Municipality Opted Out

□ County Opted Out

COLORADO COMMUNITIES' BROADBAND VOTES

On Tuesday, voters in 19 cities and counties voted to opt out of SB 152, which restricts local government spending on building a broadband network. Here is the percent by which citizens voted to opt out:

- Eagle County: 85 percent
- Boulder County: 82 percent
- Alamosa: 71 percent
- Avon: 83 percent
- Dillon: 74 percent
- Eagle: 85 percent
- Fort Lupton: 66 percent
- Georgetown: 76 percent
- Greeley: 61 percent
- Gypsum: 85 percent
- Idaho Springs: 70 percent
- Kremmling: 88 percent
- Louisville: 82 percent
- Manitou Springs: 84 percent
- Minturn: 81 percent
- Monte Vista: 61 percent
- Silverthorne: 85 percent
- Snowmass Village: 90 percent

- Vail: 85 percent

Sources: Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Colorado Municipal League

MUNICIPAL BROADBAND IN 2018

- This spring, six rural communities, both in mountains and on eastern plains, voted in favor of municipal broadband
- In all, approximately half of Colorado communities have voted on question of municipal broadband and all have voted in favor
- A number of communities, including Boulder, Centennial, Ft. Collins and Longmont, have taken next step to provide or build municipal broadband
- Issue of broadband, especially in rural areas, is central theme of both gubernatorial and attorney general races this year



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BROADBAND LEGISLATION IN 2018

- Three bills passed this year in effort to increase broadband penetration in unserved areas outside municipal boundaries or in communities with fewer than 7500 residents
- SB 2 moves 60 percent or \$18 million of money collected by high cost or universal service fund for CenturyLink to broadband fund in 2019
- By 2023, \$30 million will go to broadband
- Law also increases download broadband speed from four to 10 mbps or to FCC definition, which has been 25 mbps since 2015, whichever is higher
- Upload speed was left at one mbps or FCC definition, which has been three mbps last three years



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MORE 2018 BROADBAND LEGISLATION

- HB 1099 requires incumbent telecom companies, who request state high cost funds, to provide broadband at comparable speeds and at cost per household no more than applicant. Otherwise, funds go to non-incumbent provider.
- SB 104 requires Colorado's broadband deployment board, which approves broadband projects, to petition FCC by January 1, 2019 for expedited waiver, as New York did, seeking authority to allocate Connect America fund for broadband deployment in remote extremely high cost areas of state
- Because of Colorado's topography, more dollars are needed to provide broadband throughout state, especially since 80 percent of population concentrated along front range



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