



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

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TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Councilman Ron Nirenberg, District 8

COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Edward Benavides, Chief of Staff; Chris Callanen, Assistant to the City Council; Robbie Greenblum, City Attorney; John Peterek, Senior Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Broadband Strategy

DATE: June 5, 2014

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

Directing staff to assemble and publish a comprehensive, unified digital communication strategy that will enable the acceleration of equitable deployment of information technology infrastructure and service, including broadband and mobile data, throughout the city. Specifically, the strategy should address the following:

1. Proposed modifications to City policy that would facilitate investment by private service providers to build infrastructure and provide high-speed broadband access equitably, especially to historically underserved areas;
2. An examination of zoning, development, and other land use policies that materially affect the ability of the private sector to provide sufficient broadband and mobile data service city-wide; and
3. The role and management of a municipally operated fiber network in the broader context of a city-wide broadband strategy; and
4. State and federal legislative priorities that would aid the City's ability to deploy universal broadband and mobile access while retaining local authority over land use and revenue streams.

Brief Background

The proliferation of digital communication technologies has continued to change the way our society operates, from the marketplace to the classroom. In communities across the country, local governments are working to ensure that citizens, businesses, and institutions are connected to the 21st century economy. Adequate and equitable access to broadband and mobile data infrastructure and service has become an economic priority nationwide.

The Federal Communications Commission has launched a series of initiatives aimed at expanding and strengthening the nation's broadband and mobile data infrastructure, including a restructuring of the E-Rate program that provides reimbursements to local communities for investments in communications networks and technology. The FCC has also published proposed new rules that would accelerate deployment of broadband, mobile, and wireless infrastructure by the private sector while reducing the ability of local governments to enforce its own land use regulations.

The City of San Antonio has adopted a series of policies indicative of a commitment to developing a highly skilled workforce that will be able to compete in the modern global economy. Those investments are made on the premise that expanding opportunity will lead to a more resilient local economy. The same holds true for providing access to information technology in all areas of the city. The development of a comprehensive, unified digital communication strategy will be essential to the City's workforce and economic development efforts moving forward.

Within the past year, the City Council has taken action to bolster the ability of private providers to provide faster service at more competitive rates. The City is also in the process of exploring the capability and capacity of a municipally-owned fiber network to connect and improve available broadband services to public institutions and governmental entities.

A unified strategy for digital communication in San Antonio will recognize that broadband and mobile data access is a utility, not a luxury, in the 21st Century economy.

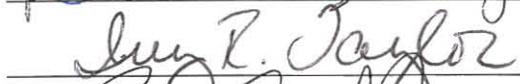
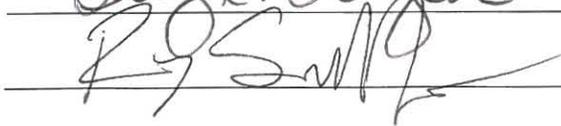
Submitted for Council consideration
by:



Councilman Ron Nirenberg, District 8

Supporting Councilmember's Signatures (4 only)

District No.

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