



Ballot Measure: Broadband Services

August 5, 2014



Ballot Question Summary

Do voters wish to re-affirm their city's right to provide telecommunications services, advanced services and cable television services, or more specifically high-speed broadband Internet access?



Senate Bill SB05-152

- Purports to prohibit local governments from providing telecommunication and internet services.
- Allows for a referendum to allow a local government to provide such services.
- Longmont, Centennial and Montrose have passed measures allowing for local broadband service.



What this ballot item is not

- Boulder has no current plans to create a public broadband utility
- Would allow the city to explore a variety of options to make its assets available to serve the broadband needs of Boulder residents, students and businesses.
- Would not prevent any private business including existing broadband providers, from continuing these services.



Existing Infrastructure

- Since the early-1990's, the City of Boulder has worked to acquire a large network of telecommunications conduit and fiber optic cable.
- Typically, the City of Boulder has installed multiple fiber optic cable and conduit runs during construction projects as a means of leveraging future opportunities.
- The City is the administering partner for the Boulder Research and Administration Network (BRAN) -- a next-generation fiber optic infrastructure serving the City of Boulder, the University of Colorado, US Department of Commerce (NOAA/NIST) and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR/NCAR).

Goals

- **Promote competition and innovation**
 - Better access to high-speed broadband would increase the city's ability to attract and retain companies that need and demand this level of service.
- **Promote inclusivity**
 - Work with strategic partners to ensure everyone in the community is connected eliminating the “Digital Divide”.
- **Support sustainability**
 - High speed access is crucial to carbon reduction through distance collaboration.





Questions?