



CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Meeting Minutes April 22, 2024

Mayor Drotzmann called the work session meeting to order at 6:01pm. Present were Councilors Hardin, Barron, Primmer, Duron, Linton (arrived at 6:05pm), McCarthy, Peterson, and Myers. Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, City Attorney Rich Tovey, Chief Edmiston, Planning Director Clint Spencer, Finance Director Ignacio Palacios, HES General Manager Nate Rivera, Parks and Recreation Director Brandon Artz, Court Administrator Jillian Viles, Assistant City Recorder Heather La Beau, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

Broadband Effort Updates

Hermiston Energy Services General Manager Nate Rivera gave information (PowerPoint Presentation attached) regarding broadband updates and findings to include the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) data coverage and eCheckup speed tests for Hermiston and surrounding areas and focused on the higher percentage of unserved households and businesses per census block and discrepancies found with the FCC reporting.

Mr. Rivera gave information regarding the possibility of the City of Hermiston providing an open network fiber utility that could be used by all, both public and private sectors, with links to every property in Hermiston. The utility would be owned by the City of Hermiston to ensure local autonomy; however, many different service providers would be able to use the system to provide a variety of services at competitive rates for all consumers. Mr. Rivera gave information regarding Ziplly Fiber and the services they could provide to the overall City and underserved locations in the area as previously mentioned.

Mayor Drotzmann stated due to time constraints the Council will continue this discussion during the regular meeting, after the March Financial Report item.

Safety Plan Introduction

City Planner Clint Spencer introduced Nick Foster from Kittleson and Associates, Inc. who specialize in Transportation Engineering and Planning who is helping the City in the development of the City's Safety Action Plan. Mr. Foster gave information (PowerPoint Presentation attached) regarding the Plan: to identify safety improvements to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on the City's transportation system for people driving, biking, walking, and rolling. The Plan, which has been funded by a federal grant, will help gather community input, develop safety strategies, set a goal to aim for zero fatal and serious injury crashes, and more all within the community.

Mr. Spencer stated the Plan was previously presented to the Planning Commission, Commissioners are in attendance at tonight's meeting, and are all in full support of this Plan.

Mayor Drotzmann thanked Mr. Foster for the important information as streets, sidewalks, and public access areas are essential and safety is a priority for all.

Adjournment

Mayor Drotzmann adjourned the work session meeting at 7:02pm and stated the Council will convene immediately for their regular council meeting.

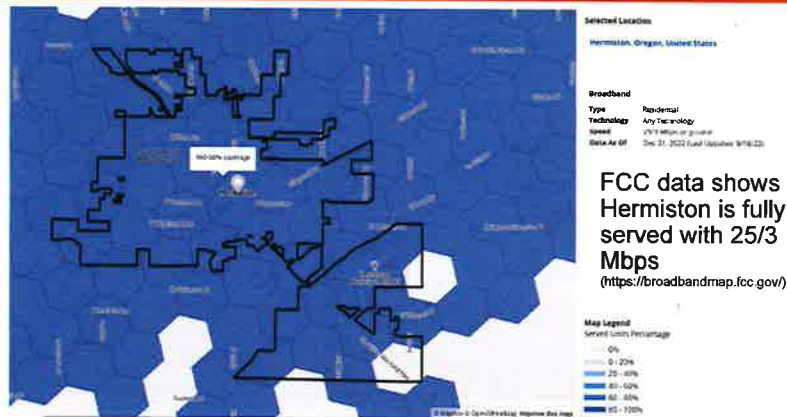


Digital Infrastructure Update

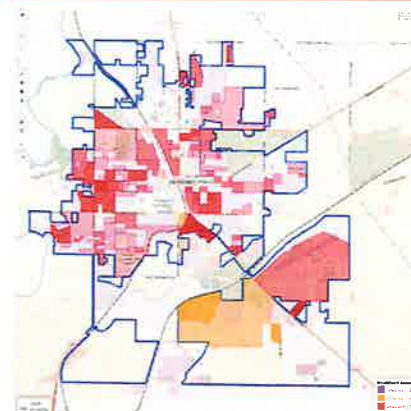
- Update on City's Progress
- Findings
- Provider Options
- New Opportunity
- Direction



FCC Reported Served with Broadband



FCC Broadband Data Discrepancies



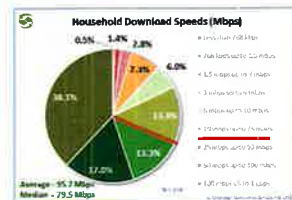
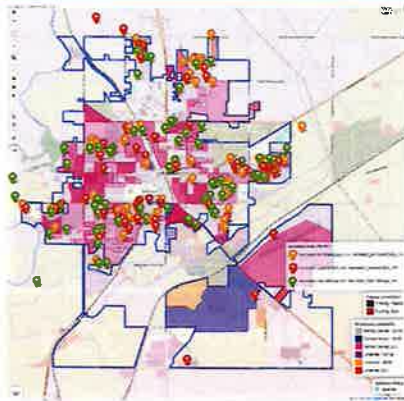
Deeper analysis of FCC's data reveals census blocks with partial coverage, where deeper shading shows higher percentage of unserved households per census block

Uncovered this by:

- Counting the number of served locations in every census block
- Filtering out business-only service
- Updating with latest FCC and broadband provider data



eCheckup Download Speeds



Almost one third of households/business do not meet FCC 25/3 Mbps standards based on eCheckup speed tests



Availability by Connection Speed

1.3.1 Broadband Availability by Connection Speed

1.3.1.1 Household Availability of 25/3 Broadband

Block Source	Household (2020)	% of Households	Population (2020)	% of Population	Avg. Fiber Cost	Avg. Wireless Cost
All Households	6,962	100.0%	19,364	100.0%		
Unserv'd 25/3	4,337	62.3%	11,332	58.6%	\$2,228	\$1,818
Fully Served 25/3	2,625	37.7%	8,032	41.4%		

1.3.1.2 Household Availability of 100/20 Broadband

Block Source	Household (2020)	% of Households	Population (2020)	% of Population	Avg. Fiber Cost	Avg. Wireless Cost
All Households	6,962	100.0%	19,364	100.0%		
Unserv'd 100/20	4,382	62.9%	11,499	59.4%	\$2,711	\$1,618
Fully Served 100/20	2,580	37.1%	7,865	40.6%		

Note that any household without access to 25/3 broadband will also lack access to 100/20 broadband, so some households counted in this table will also be counted in the previous table

BroadbandAnalyzer data reports:

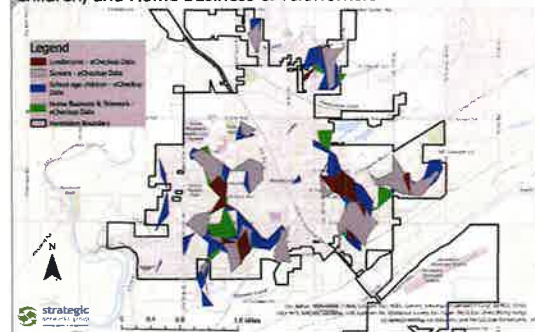
- 2,625 households (41.4%) served with 25/3 Mbps
- 4,337 of Hermiston residents (58.6%) are unserved with 25/3 Mbps
- 4,382 households (59.9%) are unserved with 100/20 Mbps
- 13 community anchor institutions (schools, medical institutions, government facilities) are located within the partially served census blocks



Digital Inclusion Analysis

eCheckup Respondents : Hermiston, OR

Aggregate Areas of Low Income, Seniors, School-aged children, and Home business & Teleworkers



- GIS analysis data for digital inclusion planning and network commercialization
- Map shows low income (brown), seniors (grey), school-aged children (blue), and home business and teleworker (green).



Pivot to Address Demand Side of Broadband

Broadband availability is often the primary focus, however ...

Availability



Adoption



Utilization

Economic Growth is Driven by Utilization

Utilization



Community Benefits



How Open Networks Work

Digital Infrastructure – one common fiber network utility

- Is built to be “open” to many uses (public and private)
- Links the internet to **every premise and building** in Hermiston
- Is owned by City of Hermiston – **to ensure local sovereignty over digital future**

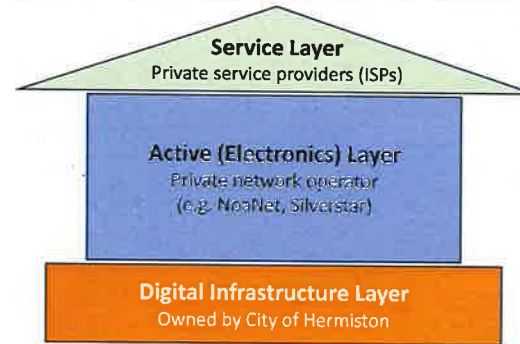
Structural separation of digital infrastructure and operations / service delivery with

- one experienced wholesale open access entity (NoaNet, Silverstar) connects providers, operates the network 24/7/365 and maintains the network
- many service providers use the digital infrastructure to provide choice of diverse services at competitive rates delivered to every premise



An economic development platform is created by the public and private sectors

Separation of Digital Infrastructure



ISPs with experience and technical expertise **compete to provide services to users**

Neutral operator brings technical knowledge and resources to partnership **to efficiently operate and maintain network**

With a large asset base already, Hermiston is setup to invest longer-term (15-20 years)



Delivery of services by private sector, with local stewardship over digital infrastructure

Pro's and Con's of Ownership

Ownership	Pro's	Con's
Traditional private sector Internet Service Providers (ISPs) Pro's and Con's of Digital Infrastructure Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Hermiston does not need to deal with broadband – someone else will 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No guarantee that 100% of premises will be connected • No control over timelines for build-out • No recourse for City of Hermiston with service levels or quality • Taxpayer funds could subsidize one private sector provider and limit competition • Will still require oversight of franchise agreements
Digital infrastructure (ownership of infrastructure by broadband utility, or special purpose vehicle)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sovereignty of Hermiston's digital future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ encouraging competition ◦ setting priorities and timelines for build-out across Hermiston. ◦ ensuring all premises are connected ◦ incentivizing customer service • Reduced costs in serving Hermiston's municipal and community anchor sites • New revenue streams from digital infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight costs of broadband utility

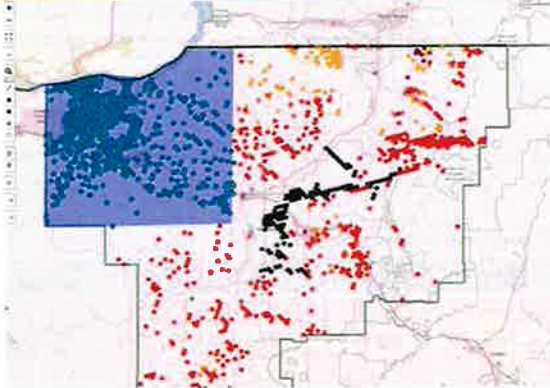
ZiPLY Fiber

- Approached the City in 2023.
- Connect the Residents and Businesses.
- Asked for a Co-Location Agreement to Use City Hall.
 - **Trade Services for Co-Location.**
- Connect Majority of City Facilities.

ziPLY
fiber



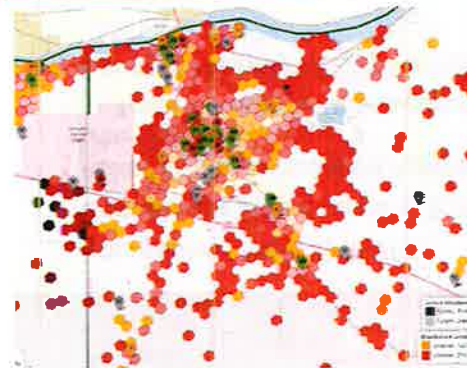
New Opportunity



- Total of 16,145 premises within selected area
- Broadband can be delivered to 12,232 unserved and 9,493 underserved locations
- Selected (blue) area is eligible to receive BEAD funding



Leverage Community Assets for Broadband



- Significant number of unserved locations (red hexagons) beyond Hermiston city limits.
- Digital infrastructure investments should enable regional economic and community development.
- BroadbandAnalyzer analysis shows community facilities and anchor institutions (schools, hospitals, municipal, public safety, etc.) that can empower regional network.
- Leverage assets such as utility poles and other community infrastructure to supplement grant matching and enable broadband planning.



Next Steps for Regional Digital Infrastructure

1. **Validate boundaries of network with potential partners**
 - a) Localities (city, county, etc.)
 - b) Network operators and service providers
 - c) Community stakeholder organizations
2. **Identify partnership roles in the regional network**
 - a) Network operations
 - b) Investment and funding
 - c) Ownership and governance – options include local overlay district, special purpose vehicle, etc.
 - d) Outreach, engagement, and digital inclusion partners
3. **Prepare business and economic plan, governance model, funding model**
4. **Pursue funding (public grant funding and private)**



Questions

Where Life is Sweet™

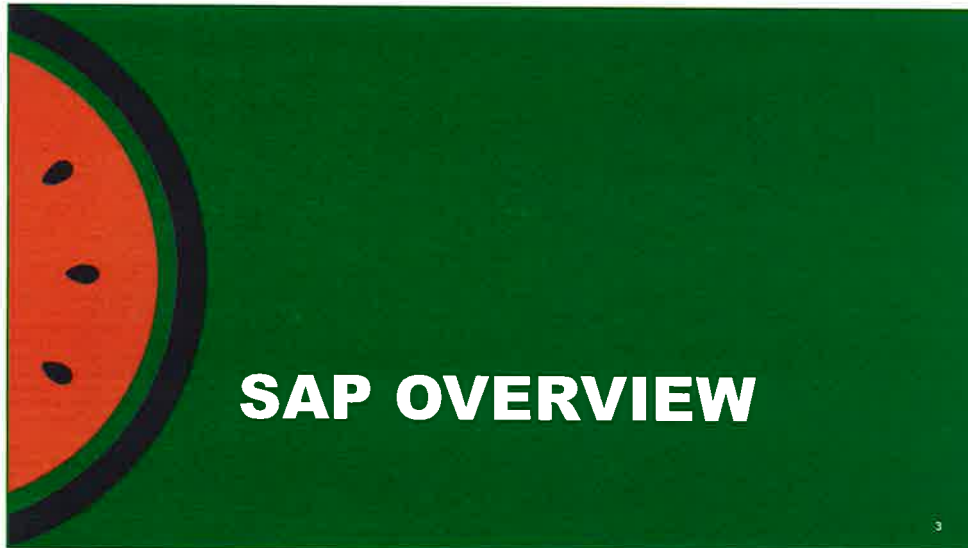


AGENDA

- Safety Action Plan Overview
- Community and Partner Organization Engagement
- Discussion
- Next Steps

HERMISTON SAFETY ACTION PLAN

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PROJECT PURPOSE

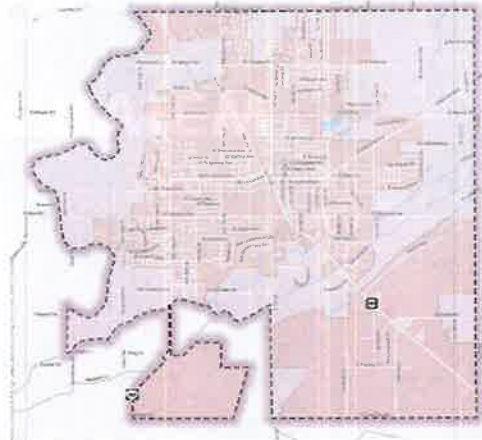
- SS4A Compliant Safety Action Plan
 - Reduce Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes
 - Identify and Prioritize Projects and Strategies
 - Engage Community
 - Address Underserved Communities
 - Data-Driven
 - All Users

HERMISTON SAFETY ACTION PLAN

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PROJECT SCOPE

- Public roads within Hermiston urban growth boundary
- Roadway owners
 - City of Hermiston
 - Umatilla County
 - ODOT



SS4A ACTION PLAN COMPONENTS

- Vision & target(s)
- Oversight group
- Data-driven
- Engagement
- Equity/Demographics
- Projects/strategies
- Performance measures

Safe Streets and Roads for All
4 A Self-Certification Eligibility Worksheet

All applicants should follow the instructions in the NPO to correctly apply for a grant. See the [2024 Action Plan](#) for more information.

Table 1 of the SS4A NPO describes [eligibility requirements](#) and [application steps](#) when corresponding to the questions in this worksheet. Applicants should use this worksheet to determine whether their existing plans contain the required components to be considered an eligible Action Plan for SS4A.

This worksheet is required for all SS4A implementation grant applications and any Planning and Demonstration Grant applications to conduct Supplemental Planning/Demonstration Activities only. Please complete the form in its entirety, do not adjust the formatting or layout of the worksheet, and upload the completed PDF with your application.

Eligibility

An Action Plan is considered eligible for an SS4A application for an implementation grant in a Planning and Demonstration Grant to conduct Supplemental Planning/Demonstration Activities if the following four components are met:

- You can answer "YES" to Questions 3, 7, and 9 in the worksheet.
- You can answer "YES" to at least four of the six remaining questions, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8.

If both conditions are met, an applicant is still eligible to apply for a Planning and Demonstration Grant to fund the creation of a new Action Plan or updates to an existing Action Plan to meet SS4A requirements.

Applicant Information

Local Applicant: URL:

Action Plan Documents

SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH

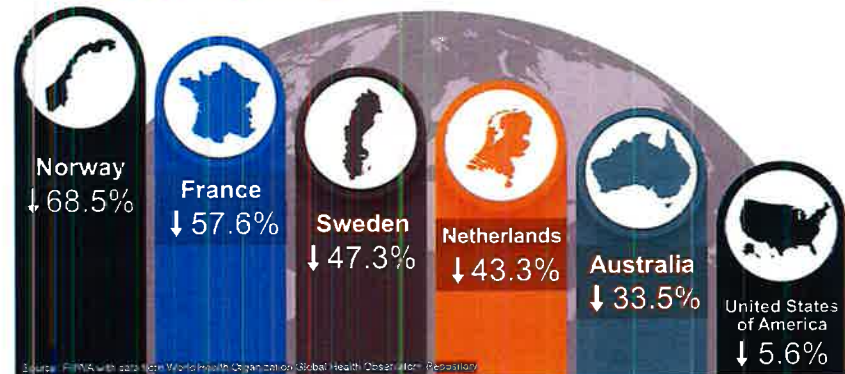
- Mindset shift
 - Injury prevention vs. crash prevention
 - Less emphasis on people's choices -> will make mistakes

Imagine Hermiston as a place where **nobody** has to die or be seriously injured from crashes



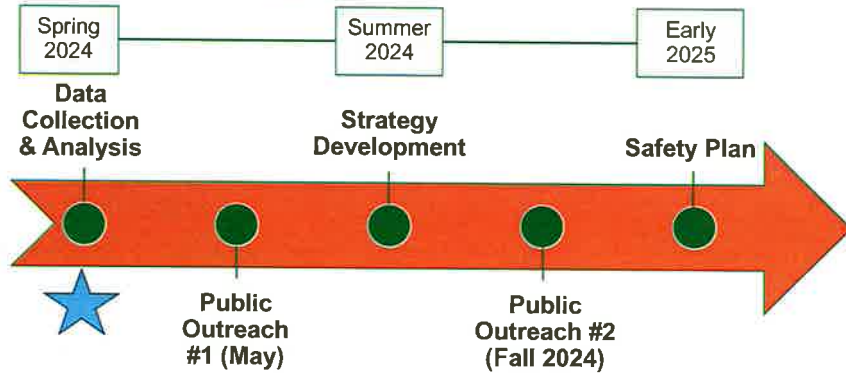
Figure source: transportation.gov/NRSS/SafeSystem

PROVEN SUCCESS



Source: FIVRA with data from World Health Organization Global Health Observatory Repository

PROJECT SCHEDULE



HERMISTON SAFETY ACTION PLAN



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GOALS AND APPROACH TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1. Provide a range of opportunities to provide input into the plan
 - In-person and virtual opportunities, with a focus on targeting underserved communities
2. Inform what is affecting traffic safety in Hermiston
3. Solicit feedback on project, program, and policy solutions

Phase 1 will gather input on existing conditions and concerns around transportation safety and identify possible locations and ideas for improvements.

Phase 2 will gather input on proposed countermeasures.

HERMISTON SAFETY ACTION PLAN

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

April-August 2024 Activity	Phase 1
SAP Fact Sheet <i>Project Overview</i> <i>Contact Information</i> <i>How to provide input</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic Version for Distribution
Project and Meeting Notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media releases • E-mails • Press Release
Virtual "Open House"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-line "StoryMap" for people to visit at their convenience
Interactive Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-line map for community members to share comments about specific locations
Questionnaire/Comment Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-line form community members to share comments and locations of concern
In-Person Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 different locations

HERMISTON SAFETY ACTION PLAN

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DISCUSSION

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VISION AND TARGETS

- Long-term vision = Zero fatal or serious injuries
- Two options for targets:
 1. Zero fatal or serious injuries by year 20XX
 2. Set an interim goal of a significant (50%?) reduction by year 20YY



HERMISTON SAFETY ACTION PLAN

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ITEMS TO ADDRESS IN THIS PLAN

- Desired outcomes
- High-level safety concerns
- Particular locations
- Barriers to addressing safety
- Groups that are most impacted
- Partnerships in place or needed

NEXT STEPS

HERMISTON SAFETY ACTION PLAN

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NEXT STEPS



Public Outreach Round #1 – *Mid-May*



Existing Conditions Technical Memorandum – *May 17th*



TAC Meeting #2 – *Week of May 20th*