

# MEMORANDUM



**TO:** VICTOR CARDENAS, INTERM CITY MANAGER  
**FROM:** CHARLAINE STEVENSON, GRADUATE MGNT ANALYST  
**SUBJECT:** BROADBAND REPORT  
**DATE:** MARCH 20, 2023

---

Currently, the city of Novi has infrastructure that allows for Fiber internet access. The city also has sufficient internet speeds for present and future residential needs, but it is not a good long-term solution. Fiber would allow long-term connection and allows equal download and upload speeds and transfer of data. *The Foresite Group is suggesting the city should deliberate broadband strategy through a Broadband master plan*, this calls for the creation of policies for incentivizing private providers to continue to extend service to Novi Residents. (Examples on last page)

There are two kinds of internet speeds:

- **Cable-** AT&T, Spectrum and Comcast. The bandwidth to meet present-day and future needs but cannot transfer data symmetrically.
- **Fiber Internet-** has faster speeds that allow symmetrical transfer of data to be quicker. The more technology advances the more this will be more suitable than cable internet.

Novi has a very young, educated, multi-ethnic community that would benefit long-term from Fiber internet. (i.e., work from home, and remote learning) It is important for some of the top employers some being healthcare, education, transportation, and logistics industries increasing economic development in the city. The city would invite existing and prospective telecom providers to participate in ongoing construction to install their privately- owned conduits in the same trench. This would be conducted by the city incorporating an open-trench policy allowing city-owned and leasable to be installed in all public projects. Creating incentives for telecom construction within city and building ordinances allowing an expedited review process. Plans would include telecom designs to show their potential service locations on site plans within the limits of project areas receiving service. This is helpful with new developments and a record of telecommunication buildouts. In the past the city has expressed concern about not knowing what type of telecommunications infrastructure was being placed in new development and plans with newly created buildings would mitigate this.

Infrastructure would provide an opportunity for newcomers and help create a more competitive broadband market for providers. While the city has a presence from telecom service providers it does not have telecommunications coverage for residential and business customers. Technology for municipalities is advancing at an extremely rapid rate that includes optimized driving/walking routes, smart lighting

systems, and monitoring utility meters or waste management. *'The Municipal Broadband Committee'* with the master plan would be able to integrate the identified solutions into the current planning efforts. The Reclassify broadband services as a required public utility service.

#### [Kansas City Example 1](#)

#### [City of Eugene Example 2](#)

#### [City of Harvey Example 3](#)

Furthermore, Foresite included a Gap Analysis along with their recommendations in their Final Report (attached):

|             |                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gap         | Incumbent Internet Service Providers Not Meeting Local Demand for Fiber Service                                                            |
| Solution    | Incentivize Current Providers to Upgrade to Fiber Networks Through Revised Urban Policies Relating to Broadband Construction Permit Review |
| Opportunity | Develop Relationships with Current Internet Providers Through Broadband Permitting Process                                                 |
| Gap         | Lack of Knowledge of Existing Telecom                                                                                                      |
| Solution    | Require Permit Drawings Include Infrastructure Type and Service Locations                                                                  |
| Opportunity | Maintain a Robust GIS Database for Telecommunications within the City                                                                      |
| Gap         | Fiber Infrastructure not Included in Capital Improvement Plan                                                                              |
| Solution    | Synchronize Capital Improvement Plans with Conduit Deployment                                                                              |
| Opportunity | Invite Private Telecom Companies to Participate                                                                                            |
| Gap         | No Broadband Master Plan                                                                                                                   |
| Solution    | Create a Broadband Master Plan                                                                                                             |
| Opportunity | Create Guidelines that Promote Deployment and Implementation of Broadband Technology                                                       |

Broadband Committee has met six times.

- June 29, 2021
- August 3, 2021
- August 24, 2021
- March 16, 2022
- May 26, 2022
- August 4, 2022