HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS
OPTIONS TO OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

FIRESTONE COLORADO

Board of Trustees – August 21, 2019

Fred Diehl

- Public service professional with over twenty years' experience in local government affairs including:
  - ✓ Community and intergovernmental relations
  - ✓ Project management
  - ✓ Municipal broadband initiatives

Assumptions

- Affordable high-speed broadband internet is a priority

- Broadband solutions must align with community needs

- Firestone voters approved local authority for broadband

- Resources & data needed to make informed decisions

Purpose

- Our purpose for bringing high speed broadband to <u>Firestone</u> is so that….

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    - ✓ Our seniors can…

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    - ✓ Business can…

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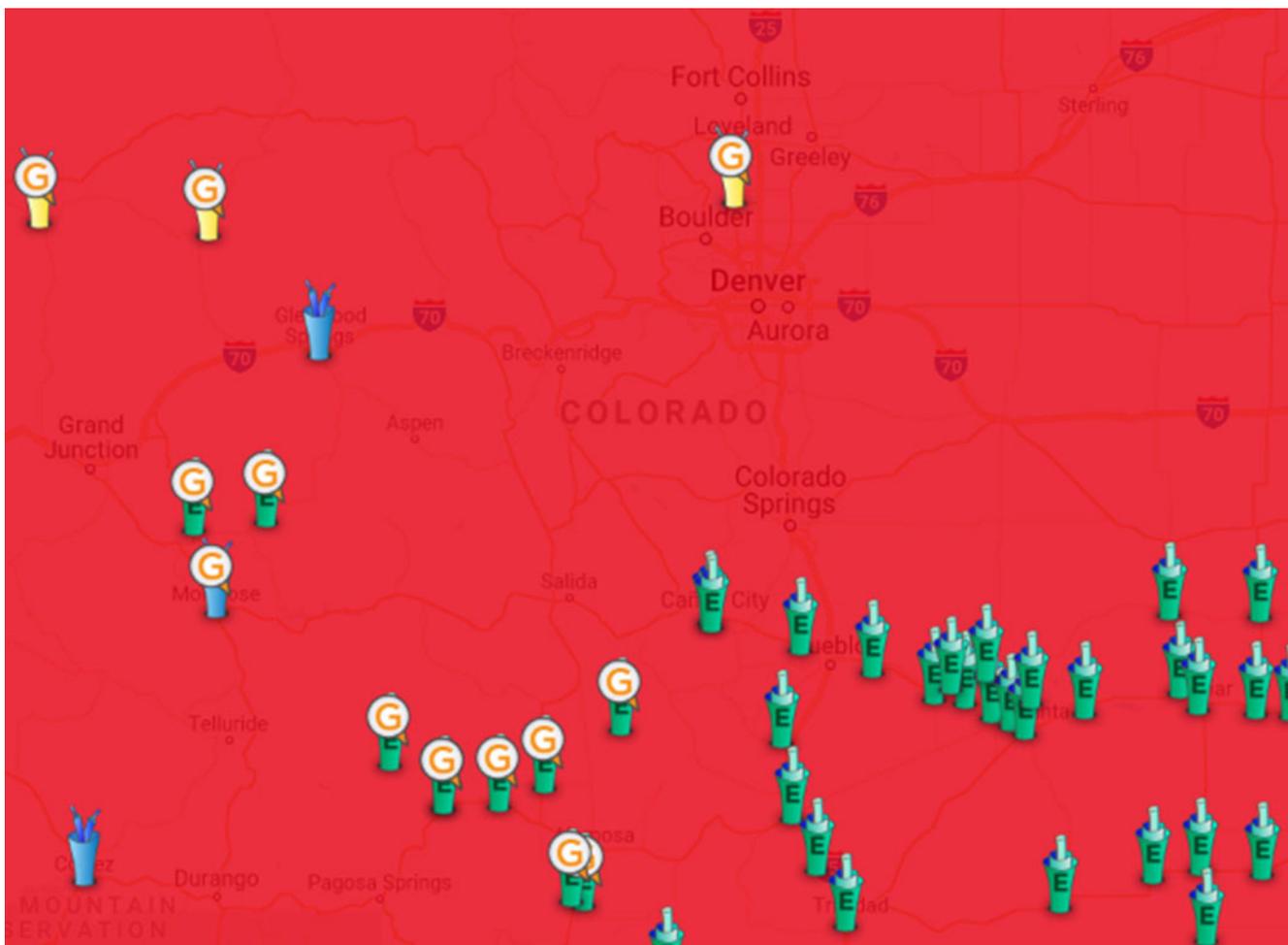 - ✓ Our seniors can…
  - ✓ Business can…
  - ✓ Public safety can…

National

- Half of Americans now have access to broadband at speeds of 500 Mbps or above.

- But less than half of Americans (48.5%) have wired broadband available at $60 or less per month.

- 6 of 10 fastest ISPs in US = public or public/private*.

*PC Magazine July 18, 2019

Colorado

- ❑ 160 Colorado entities have overturned SB-152
- ❑ 7 public networks/cooperatives currently in operation

Institute for Local Self-Reliance – Colorado Community Network Map

Recommendation

- Meet w/ stakeholders to inform next steps
  - ✓ Leadership
  - ✓ Incumbent ISPs
  - ✓ ISPs
  - ✓ Town staff
  - ✓ Partners

Leadership

- ❑ Board of Trustees
  - ✓ Define problem
  - ✓ Develop overarching purpose statement
- ❑ Dedicated employee/consultant to champion the issue

Recommendation

- Broadband Assessment & Feasibility Study
  - ✓ Review of current assets and providers
  - ✓ Create map of the Town's broadband environment
  - ✓ Identify opportunities & partnerships
  - ✓ Structured evaluation of business/funding models
  - ✓ Consistent, transparent and inclusive communications

Study Timeline

- Meet w/ stakeholders to inform RFP development
- Review existing conditions (studies, agreements…),
- Issue RFP
- Solicit proposals
- Review proposals/determine preferred vendor
- Assessment, study and survey conducted
- Consistent, transparent and inclusive communications
- Final report to Board of Trustees

Potential Support Agencies

- ❑ Colorado Communications Utility Alliance

- ❑ Colorado Municipal League

- ❑ National Assoc. of Telecommunications Officers & Advisors

- ❑ Next Century Cities

- ❑ Institute for Local Self Reliance

THANK YOU!