

# City Council Considering **BROADBAND** Ballot Measure

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Fort Collins City Council is considering a ballot measure for the November election that would provide voters a say in what the future of high-speed next generation broadband may look like for the community.

### The ballot measure would include asking voters for permission to:

- Council to add a new telecommunication/broadband service to the City's electric utility or create a new telecommunication utility.
- Issue securities and other debt not to exceed \$150M
- Establish governance structure including the ability to:
  - Go into executive sessions for matters relating to competition
  - Establish and delegate Council's authority and power to a board and/or commission, except the power to issue debt
  - Delegate the ability to set and/or change rates or fees to the City Manager

**This does not mandate that the City will provide municipal retail broadband, or that a third-party internet service provider would offer the service.**

17-14833

For more information on this project visit  
**[fcgov.com/broadband](http://fcgov.com/broadband)**

*Auxiliary aids and services are available for persons with disabilities.*

#### Q: Didn't we already vote to get broadband?

**A:** Citizens voted in support of SB152 in 2015. This ballot measure was the first step in allowing the City to pursue ensuring broadband access community-wide.

#### Q: What does this ballot measure do?

**A:** This measure adds telecommunication services to the City's Utility Charter. Anytime there is a change to a City charter it is legally required to go to the voters. Although not required, Council would also like voter's "OK" before borrowing for this purpose.

#### Q: What happens if this ballot measure passes?

**A:** If the ballot measure were to pass, Council would be able to pursue the retail option. They would also have the option of a public private partnership. Adding this language to the Charter would also provide the City the ability to acquire telecom infrastructure if needed in the future.

#### Q: Who would pay if the City chooses a retail broadband option?

**A:** The City would issue bonds, which would be repaid by the network's users. Voters would not pay for this unless they subscribe to the service. There is no tax or fee associated with this ballot measure.

#### Q: When will service be available?

**A:** Service depends on a variety of factors. Once construction begins on a network, whether by the City or a private partner, full buildout is expected to take three to five years.

#### Q: What else would fiber provide us?

**A:** Next generation high-speed broadband is about more than downloading movies faster. A fiber network provides a competitive advantage to businesses and entrepreneurs and ensures capacity for future needs and uses that have yet to be invented.



# BROADBAND TIMELINE



## 2014

Community outreach prioritizes broadband in the City Budget for Outcome process

## 2015

Magellan hired to benchmark communities case studies

**NOVEMBER**  
SB152 overturned; passed at 83%

## 2016

Uptown Services LLC hired to complete feasibility analysis

### MARCH

Statistically-valid survey conducted for market demand

### APRIL - JUNE

Uptown Services and City create financial feasibility, begin modeling

### JUNE - NOVEMBER

Community Outreach conducted

### AUGUST

Request for Information issued to seek 3rd Party alternatives; Axia selected in October 2016

### NOVEMBER

1st ever Telephone Town Hall with City Manager, Mayor and CFO

### DECEMBER

Narrowed to two options - 3rd Party alternative and retail

## 2017

### JANUARY - APRIL

3rd Party alternative Due Diligence

### APRIL

Axia unable to move forward with the City

### MAY

Council direction to move forward with business plan for municipal broadband and issue Request for Proposals for 3rd Party alternative

### AUGUST

Council to review/adopt ballot language for November charter change

### NOVEMBER

Ballot measure put to voters to add telecommunication services to the Utility Charter and to gauge citizen support to bond up to \$150M should Council support a municipal retail model. Ballot measure does not require the City to provide broadband.

## LOOKING AHEAD → → →

## NOV 2017

If approved by voters

NOTE:  
If fails, no further action

DECEMBER 2017 → DECEMBER 2018

Design, planning and permitting

## 2019

Construction begins First customer service

2020 → 2022

Continued system buildout and increased customer availability

## 2023

Upgrades as needed following years 7 and 10 after buildout