

How you can get involved?

We need your data!!!
Take the online survey –
go to

<http://www.fremontconnect.com>

For contributions or to volunteer to be part
of Fremont Connect
contact Judy Lohnes at
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or
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What is Broadband?

A communications network in which the bandwidth can be divided and shared by multiple, simultaneous signals (such as voice, data, or video). Broadband is also referred to as "Internet".

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Fremont County

took its name from famed western explorer Captain John C. Fremont, "The Pathfinder," who, along with his scout Kit Carson, mapped the territory in 1843. Fremont County is nestled along the Arkansas River valley in south central Colorado at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. The majestic Royal Gorge Canyon has been the focal point of Fremont County history since prehistoric times. For centuries Ute Indians knew its secrets as did later groups of Spanish Conquistadors. Lt. Zebulon Pike explored the canyon in the winter of 1806 by traveling up the frozen Arkansas River.

Fremont County encompasses an area of 1,533 square miles and has a population of 47,426. Mild weather and beautiful landscapes make Fremont County a tourist attraction in all seasons. Towns such as Cañon City, Florence, Penrose and Cotopaxi reside within the County.

We are home to the famous Royal Gorge Bridge and the Arkansas River, one of the most rafted rivers in the United States. Canon City is also home to many of Colorado's state and federal prisons.

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Local Broadband Planning Team



Dedicated to bring
ABUNDANT,
REDUNDANT
and
AFFORDABLE
broadband services to
Fremont County

What is Fremont Connect?

Fremont Connect is a local broadband planning team working in conjunction with the Colorado Office of Information Technology and other surrounding local broadband planning teams dedicated to acquire high speed broadband services for all of Fremont County and beyond. We believe that high speed broadband services is a necessity to the economic growth and everyday life for the citizens of Fremont County. High speed broadband must be:

ABUNDANT – Plenty of bandwidth services to address the needs of the county now and well into the future;

REDUNDANT – Connections coming to our communities from several directions as to maintain services in the event of a failure

AFFORDABLE – Services for rural areas should not cost more than most urban areas.

Currently, broadband services in Fremont County IS NOT abundant, redundant, or affordable. Without high speed broadband, rural areas such as Fremont County will fall behind without improved broadband. High speed broadband has a larger impact to a community than just Internet services to your home.

The impacts include:

1. Business/Economic growth and sustainability –

Businesses must have an Internet presence to be successful in the 21st century.

2. Emergency services –

911/Dispatch services rely heavily on broadband infrastructure for communication between private phone lines to coordinated 911/dispatch service among all emergency response agencies such as police, sheriff, fire, hospital, and ambulatory services.

3. Government services – communication and the sharing of information between government agencies requires high speed broadband to provide services to local communities.

4. Education – 21st century skills are extremely important in the learning environment for kids. Information is readily available in the forms of websites, video and audio streaming, as well as distance learning all of which require large amounts of bandwidth to support.

5. Homes – Convergence of home entertainment such as cable TV, movies on demand, and radio on demand as well as Internet access and communications (phone service and video teleconferencing) all require large amounts of broadband services.

Why Pursue Broadband Now?

Broadband will not bring immediate economic transformation to rural America. But regions that lack broadband will be crippled. Having broadband may not necessarily mean a sharp increase in jobs; however, not having broadband will probably mean fewer jobs. This paradox exists because Internet connectivity increasingly is necessary for many political, economic and social transactions — in everything from contacting elected representatives to filing insurance papers to keeping up with classes offered at the local community center. Not having access to these mechanisms means being cut off from opportunities and from what is now defined as normal communication channels. Broadband is expected — by employers, job seekers and businesses looking to bring goods to markets. Having access to broadband, therefore, is simply trading water. Not having it means you sink.”

Sharon Strover,
Director, Telecommunications and
Information Policy Institute
at The University of Texas at Austin.

What is a Carrier Neutral Location (CNL) facility?

A Carrier Neutral Location facility (a.k.a. CNL) is essentially a small room located in a public building that has no influences upon broadband service providers to be able to implement and co-locate their services in a centralized location and provide much needed, affordable broadband services to all customers in the region. The facility is a secured room that includes redundant power and cooling/heating systems along with equipment racks for broadband service providers to co-locate their equipment and services. Space in the CNL is leased to both middle mile and last mile service providers. Middle mile providers are companies that bring large bandwidth “pipes” to the CNL which services are then sold, usually at wholesale prices, to last mile providers who then extend the broadband services to buildings, homes, etc. A CNL allows for competition to thrive between service providers at a low cost to help bring abundant, redundant, and affordable broadband services to Fremont County.



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Fremont Connect's "7 A's" of Success

- Aggregate Experience
- Assess Broadband Environment
- Assess Demand
- Aggregate Demand
- Aggregate Resources
- Aggregate Solutions
- Aggregate Sustainability

Aggregate Experience

Identify and bring together local team resources such as technology personnel, elected officials, anchor institutions, and service providers that will facilitate and leverage high speed broadband initiatives for the county.

Assess Broadband Environment

Inventory resources currently available to support high speed broadband initiatives such as existing technology infrastructure (fiber optics, DSL, wireless, etc.) and available and willing service providers and their products. Identify areas of under-served areas for broadband. Determine redundancy of services.

Assess Demand

Determine broadband demand and needs for businesses, government agencies, homes, and other anchor institutions in the county. Are the available services affordable?

Aggregate Demand

Collect data to show demand for broadband for Fremont County.

Aggregate Resources

Acquire funding for broadband initiatives to bring high speed, abundant, redundant, and affordable broadband to the county. Attract competitive options to broadband services to all customers.

Aggregate Solutions

Build a Carrier Neutral Location (CNL) facility to bring high speed abundant, redundant, and affordable broadband connections to the community that is not controlled by any private or commercial interests and provides a level “playing field” that will allow high speed broadband service providers to bring their services to the county.

Aggregate Sustainability

Develop a plan to allow future demands and needs for high speed broadband services to grow, much like the demands and needs for other utilities such as water, electricity, and natural gas services.