Broadband in Oregon

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Broadband as Essential Service

“Like electricity a century ago, broadband is a foundation for economic growth, job creation, global competitiveness and a better way of life. It is enabling entire new industries and unlocking vast new possibilities for existing ones. It is changing how we educate children, deliver healthcare, manage energy, ensure public safety, engage government, and access, organize and disseminate knowledge.”

-The National Broadband Plan
Continuing Digital Divide

A Story Map

The Digital Divide: Polk County Rural Broadband Study

Respondents were asked to select a standard speed category based on the number of devices category and approximate use as summarized below (to the nearest 1%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Devices</th>
<th>Speed Range</th>
<th>Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simple</td>
<td>1 Device</td>
<td>&lt; 2 Mbps (Email/Email)</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>2-4 Devices</td>
<td>2-4 Mbps (Email + Simple video)</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>5-10 Devices</td>
<td>5-10 Mbps (Basic + videos)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced</td>
<td>10-20 Devices</td>
<td>&gt; 10 Mbps (Standard + Hi Def Video)</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadband</td>
<td>&gt; 20 Devices</td>
<td>&gt; 20 Mbps (Enhanced + Gaming)</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approximately 90% of the respondents answered this question. The remainder either did not have service (3.4%) or did not feel they could answer this question.

Respondents with simple or basic service (speeds less than 5Mbps) are widely distributed throughout the rural areas of the county, illustrated by the map which shows the percent of respondents per square mile that have poor (Service < 5 Mbps) Internet service.

**Level of service summary**:
- Over 25% of respondents have services below “standard” internet access (speeds less than 5Mbps).
- Almost 90% have service that is well below the federal definition of broadband service.
- According to reports from broadbandnow.com, the average speed of internet in Oregon is 42.8 Mbps and 90% of Oregonians have access to 100 Mbps or faster service.
Pubic Policy: HB 2173 (2019)

The Oregon Broadband Office shall:

• Advocate for the adoption of public policies that remove barriers to and support broadband infrastructure deployment to close the continuing digital divide.

• Develop broadband investment and deployment strategies for unserved and underserved areas.

• Promote private sector, public sector, and cooperative broadband solutions.

• Support and promote local and regional broadband planning.
The Oregon Broadband Office shall:

• Pursue and leverage federal sources of broadband funding to achieve state broadband goals.

• Manage and award funds allocated to the office for broadband projects.

• Engage with stakeholders; elected officials, government officials, healthcare providers, educators, business, agriculture and other community leaders, and broadband service providers; to facilitate communications and aggregate the demand of the different segments of the community to help make a business case for broadband investment.
The Oregon Broadband Office shall:

- Develop and maintain a broadband map as a platform for data collection to track the availability of broadband services and measure progress as well as other related information and provide public access to the data.

- Promote digital equity and inclusion.

- Advise the Governor, state agency leaders, and the Oregon Congressional Delegation on broadband.

- Support and coordinate efforts with the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council.
Oregon Broadband Advisory Council

Council Mission:

• Encourage coordination and collaboration between organizations and economic sectors

• Leverage the development and utilization of broadband for education, workforce development and telehealth

• Promote broadband utilization by citizens and communities.

www.broadband-oregon.org
Oregon Broadband Advisory Council

The council members are community leaders appointed by the Governor and representing a broad range of sectors and interests.

Cities
- Jeremy Pietzold (City of Sandy)

Counties
- David Yamamoto (Tillamook County)

Service Providers
- W. Holmes, J. Franell, R. Petersen

Tribes
- Lonny Macy

Educators
- Anne Carloss

Economic Development
- Dave Sabala

Public Safety
- Major Tom Worthy (OSP)

Healthcare
- Dr. Miles Ellenby

State CIO
- Kurtis Danka

ODOT
- Galen McGill

Consumers / Public-at-Large
- Vacant

Public Utility Commission
- Commissioner Stephen Bloom

Also
- State House of Representatives
  - Representative Pam Marsh
- State Senate
  - Senator Arnie Roblan

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Public Policy

Existing Public Policy

• “...it is the goal of this state to promote access to broadband services for all Oregonians in order to improve the economy in Oregon, improve the quality of life in Oregon communities and reduce the economic gap between Oregon communities that have access to broadband digital applications and services and those that do not...” [ORS 759.016(1)]

• “It is the policy of the State of Oregon to promote, facilitate and encourage activities, projects and businesses that improve Oregon's Internet Protocol network infrastructure, performance and connectivity to the Internet backbone network and World Wide Web for the benefit of Oregon's commercial, educational, governmental and individual users.” (SJR 19 (2007))
OREGON BROADBAND OFFICE

Oregon has a world-class telecommunications infrastructure extending throughout the state. Multiple fiber optic backbone networks with diverse routing provide excellent network reliability and connectivity delivering reliable high-capacity digital services throughout the state. Broadband internet access is widely available for businesses and residents.

The Oregon Broadband Office was established in December 2018, by Governor Brown’s Executive Order, to promote access to broadband services for all Oregonians in order to improve the economy and quality of life. The office will:

- support and coordinate efforts with the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council;
- develop and maintain a broadband map as a platform for data collection to track the availability of broadband services and measure progress as well as other related information and provide public access to the data;
- develop broadband investment and deployment strategies; manage and award funds allocated to the office for broadband projects;
- Advocate for public policies that remove barriers, promote and coordinate solutions, support and promote broadband planning.

Read the executive order for a full list of activities the office will undertake.

www.broadband.oregon.gov
Oregon needs your input
to expand broadband across the state

The Oregon Broadband Office within Business Oregon, an agency of the State of Oregon, is excited to take next step toward advancing broadband access and utilization across the State. While Oregon has made great progress toward getting high-quality broadband for our communities, we know that we still have more to do so that all residents and businesses can get the Internet access they need to thrive and succeed. We are developing our plans to make this possible and we need to hear from you!

If you have a household in Oregon, please click here to tell us what is available to you, how you are using the Internet, and what you need going forward.

If you are a business or organization operating in Oregon, please click here to tell us what is available to you, how you are using the Internet, and what your organization needs to succeed.

For more information about this important initiative for Oregon broadband, please read Business Oregon press release.

Thank you for your support!
Opportunities

• Source of funding for planning, engineering and building infrastructure

• Source of matching funds for federal and private foundation loan and grant programs

• Technical assistance

• Data collection and reporting

• Networking (building a community of interest)

• Education

• Digital Inclusion
A Challenging Work in Progress

• Broadband infrastructure will always be a work in progress as technologies and applications change over time.

• What constitutes broadband, e.g., transmission speeds of thousands of bits per second, millions of bits per second, or billions of bits per second will be a moving target.

• The Internet has emerged as the global platform for communication, business, government, education, information storage and distribution, and entertainment.

• Competitive high-speed access to the Internet and telecommunications networks is essential for Oregon’s institutions including schools, businesses, government, health care and individual citizens.
Thank You

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