

LARIMER BROADBAND NEWS FROM SOMEWHERE



Everywhere is **Somewhere** to be connected: **LARIMER COUNTY VOTERS AGREE**

It has been four months since Larimer County voters passed the ballot initiative for the County to be exempt from Senate Bill 05-152 (SB-152). This accomplishment opened the door to explore broadband development options for our communities and to be part of making the best ones happen. This issue of *News from Somewhere* will give you a snapshot of Larimer Broadband's actions that are moving that process along.

NEXT STEP: FEASIBILITY STUDY

As the first step in exploring and pursuing alternatives for broadband services, the County released a Request for Proposals (RFP; <http://www.larimer.org/bids/>), due March 31, 2017 to seek qualified experts to perform a broadband assessment, feasibility, economic viability analysis, and to develop written recommendations for presentation to County staff and the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) for further consideration.

The study should provide a reasonable assessment of citizens' interests in broadband service improvements and additional options, opportunities for the County to foster this interest, viable business, financial and operational models, and a deployment plan that will enable the County to take advantage of these opportunities.

PROJECT PLANNING AND FUNDING

Funding for the Larimer Broadband feasibility study is projected to be a combination of County general fund dollars and grant resources, with grantseeking efforts actively underway.

Funding needs for longer-term broadband projects will largely depend on recommendations from the Feasibility Study. Meanwhile, opportunities are proactively being researched and partnerships formed for a range of possibilities, including infrastructure project planning, implementation and use.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

With the passing of the SB-152 exemption, the overwhelming feedback in all communities continues to support County involvement in the development of broadband, with the goal of options for industry-standard speed and reliability in all areas.

Ongoing conversations with citizens, potential partners and constituents are forward-thinking

See **OUTREACH**, page 3



BROADBAND ACROSS THE STATE: SB 17-042

Colorado Senate Bill 17-042 (SB 17-42) was introduced on January 11, 2017 to repeal restrictions on the provision of cable television, telecommunications service, or high-speed internet access by a local

government, without the need for voter approval.

Though the bill failed in Committee on a 4-3 vote, Larimer County actively supported its message that Everywhere is Somewhere: Commissioner Lew Gaiter III and Broadband

See **SB 17-042**, page 3

LARIMER BROADBAND... AND THE INTERNET



In collaboration with the Information Technology Department, a Larimer Broadband web page has been launched: <http://larimer.org/planning/broadband/> .

The page will provide updates as applicable and includes the following components:

See **INTERNET**, page 4

COMMUNITY

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about expansion and improvements in Larimer County broadband, and increasing options for communities with substandard service.

Red Feather Lakes is one rural community that has been vocal about the topic of broadband and its impact on economic development and sustainable community development. Visits from representatives of Larimer County Economic Development and Larimer Broadband were planned for March

Citizen and Planning Advisory Committee meetings to receive and provide feedback.

Larimer Broadband will continue to make every effort to keep stakeholders apprised of steps and accomplishments in the broadband navigation process.



SB 17-042

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Program Manager Drew Davis testified at the Colorado Senate Business, Labor and Transportation Committee on February 13, 2017 as part of efforts to develop reliable broadband at a local, regional and state level throughout Colorado.

At the local level, SB 17-042 would impact Larimer County:

- Directly by removing SB-152 restrictions for all of our units of local government in all communities without the need for a lengthy and costly vote.

- Indirectly by increasing opportunities for regional and statewide partnerships and collaboration, with local units of government no longer bound by SB-152 restrictions.

Like electricity and telephone communication, broadband development is a process, with setbacks and successes: Larimer County is dedicated to overcoming each challenge to reach connectivity goals everywhere. Stay tuned!



INTERNET

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- Summary of Current Conditions
- Connection & Our Communities
- Project Status Update
- Collaboration/Partnerships

Thank you to the Poudre School District for photos of mountain school students engaged in digital school activities, illustrating the importance of broadband in education and developing skills vital to the well-being of Larimer County's future generations.



LARIMER BROADBAND WELCOMES YOUR QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK



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