



The Broadband committee was formed with the purpose of:

- To help the Town of Eagle by being a sounding board for broadband solutions both public and private
- To assist with the feasibility study conducted by Uptown Services
- To provide local expertise in the process, recommendations to the board and implementing solutions

## Comments and questions from the first broadband meeting 7-31-19

Common **comment** themes:

- No uniform or adequate internet throughout Town
- Need for more internet – better internet - no excuse why we don't have high level broadband in this town
- This is a chance to look at our infrastructure, power lines and poles, etc., and evaluate our systems. Trenching would be a measure to investigate.

## **Question and Answers:**

The intention from the Town is to enable and allow for more competition in the broadband market serving the Town of Eagle.

Other rural counties have done a regional broadband project like Project THOR. Rio Blanco County, DMEA, etc. Northwest Colorado Broadband, NC3.

The study needs to lead with understanding “what it is we want to do” as a community first, then have that direct our next steps.

There are different considerations for a new franchise agreement vs. renewals. New construction, right-of-way easements, and infrastructure investment is different here than other communities.

Assumptions that any upgrades or buildout for Project THOR beyond the initial spend would cost taxpayer money are not determined. Different operational programs have different funding mechanisms, some work like enterprise funds where the water rates pay for upgrades to the water service rather than taxpayer money.

Business corridors and business/industrial services could be served by Project THOR, as well as non-profit anchor institutions. The Town will be able to help instigate economic development with pricing and deployment for major institutions.

**Is there any enforcement action that the Town of Eagle can take against Centurylink?** Residents feel like they are not getting what they're paying for. Franchise agreement does not cover Broadband at all, it only covers cable access.



**Is there a way to put pressure on providers for more equitable service in town?** We are obligated to give Comcast the same deal we gave CenturyLink.

**How are we looking to scope out the services?** The feasibility study will be phased – starting with vision, what is it the Town wants. Second will be the policy and planning, we will get that together and assess policy options. Third will be the design and data for the potential O/M, what level of build (middle mile, last mile), in scenarios so that the Town Board of Trustees can make an informed decision on how to proceed.

**Will the study consider what has happened before, Eaglenet?** The study and the consultants will look to the committee to assist with knowledge that might not be apparent. They want to know the temperature of the Town and the demand for service from the public. With that bubbling up from the public, we can direct the study to investigate these interests and produce a better, more accurate report.

**What about redundancy with THOR?** The plan is to have redundancy with routes and circuits available to the west, to the east, and to the north. THOR is also convening a security committee to address the security of the entire network in such a way that the network is secure regardless of the individual Town actions regarding security.

## Next Steps:

**September-October:** Feasibility study outreach and community vision compilation, in-depth interviews with stakeholders, businesses, residents, HOA's and anchor institutions.

**September:** Phone survey of residents to understand Broadband needs.

**Early October:** Reconvene Broadband committee for feedback on community vision.

**October:** Network design documents and draft system plans drafted for feedback.

**November:** Presentation of different options for public, private, and public private partnership scenarios presented to the Town Board of Trustees for feedback.

**December:** Final publication of report, including policy suggestions for best practices.