



A New Mexico Integrated Strategic Broadband Initiative

The 1st-Mile Institute believes that the State of New Mexico has an exciting opportunity before it, and recommends that it can and should take actions to address the critical issues and solutions needed to strategically improve broadband infrastructure and services for all in this state.

The proposed **New Mexico Integrated Strategic Broadband Initiative** would coordinate a number of critical tasks.

- It would coordinate existing and pending network deployments.
- It would address technical, economic, security and strategic decision-making, in a more coordinated and inclusive way.
- It would help to substantiate planning, investment, cost-savings and ultimate economic benefits for statewide broadband improvements.
- It would strategically coordinate and leverage support for separate state networking initiatives, which would otherwise be unproductively competing for limited state funds.
- It would offer a guiding, comprehensive, dynamic vision for New Mexico's networked broadband future.

With support from the Governor's Office, State agencies and the Legislature, this Initiative should be undertaken with inclusive, multi-sector, state and local representation, to provide the foundation for advocacy, research and education, partnership development, policy-making, economic investment, seed funding, pilot projects, leadership training and constituency building.

This Initiative can help to more fully realize State programs for economic development, jobs creation, lifelong education, healthcare, supercomputing applications, film and media production, tele-work, energy conservation and rural community revitalization, while shining a spotlight on New Mexico as a much needed example for national broadband policies and strategies.

For this proposed Initiative to be successful, time is of the essence. Partnership negotiations, mapping and true-cost economic analysis and projections must begin immediately, particularly in preparation for upcoming Legislative Finance Committee reviews and a next Legislative session.

1st-Mile Institute P.O. Box 8001, Santa Fe, NM 87504 505-989-9110 www.1st-mile.com

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The NM Computing Applications Center (CAC) will be tele-connecting over 40 sites around NM as gateways to the “Encanto” supercomputer. The Center is partnering not only with the universities and colleges, but also with businesses, for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, K-12 schools, IDEAL NM, Wire NM, tele-health centers, museums, libraries, workforce development, economic and community development groups.

As a result, the CAC needs to draw on a wide range of connectivity capabilities in this state, and has started an initiative to better understand both the public and private aspects of wide-spread connectivity. In that effort, the CAC is working with Richard Lowenberg (from the First Mile Institute and Design Nine, Inc.) to develop an integrated strategic plan to determine how the Center can meet its needs for high-speed affordable broadband connectivity, as well as those of its full range of public and private partners.

The current NM CAC contract will result in:

A Report

The New Mexico Computing Applications Center is contracting with Design Nine, Inc., to deliver a Report by September 2nd, 2008, to substantiate the proposed: “New Mexico Integrated Strategic Broadband Initiative”.

The Report will include a comprehensive needs assessment and analysis; results of fact-finding meetings; analysis and preliminary mapping of current and proposed public and private telecom infrastructure in the state; strategies for broadband investments by the State and State agencies, private sector companies, regional community and economic development authorities and local governments; and key recommendations for next steps. Report sections include:

- **Introduction**

The Introduction will include a rapid assessment of broadband development, gaps, needs and opportunities in the State of New Mexico; report on technical considerations; partnership and investment strategies; needs for educational information dissemination; potential difficulties and problems; and recommendations for time-critical decision-making and actions, referenced by projects and funding requests to be submitted to the NM Legislature (LFC), as well as for DoIT consolidated planning for 2009-2010.

- **Fact-Finding Communications, Meetings and Workshops**

Documentation on conducting and participating in information dissemination and fact-finding communications, meetings and workshops during the month of August 2008, to target the intended outcomes of this contract.

Group and individual communications and meetings will be conducted, under the time constraints of the contract, with representatives of State departments, agencies and programs; universities and colleges; telecommunications providers and carriers; local community, business and institutional leaders; policy makers; economists and broadband experts; and individual users in New Mexico. Substance, phased outcomes and recommendations resulting from meetings and discussions will be included in the Report.

- **Pilot Projects**

Identification and substantiation of needs and next step actions for two selected local-regional 'Pilot Project' broadband development efforts (Las Cruces area; and the Santa Fe-Espanola-Los Alamos-Pueblos area).

Determine 'Pilot Projects' status; readiness requirements; participating entities; time-frames; needs; existing infrastructure resources; mapping; financial considerations; potential funding requests of the State and other sources; and strategic plans.

- **Economic Analyses, Projections and Options**

Preparation of preliminary economic analyses, projections and options for the 'Pilot Projects', for other selected rural and urban communities, and for New Mexico statewide "Integrated Strategic Broadband Initiative" needs and opportunities.

Gather local and State financial data and reports, to determine potential broadband telecommunications related project funding requests of the of the 2009-2010 Legislative session; by departments and projects, and in aggregate. Determine potential cost saving options and benefits that may result from a shared 'open' network strategy.

- **Mapping**

Production of preliminary, multi-sector broadband assets, needs, gaps, and recommended infrastructure GIS mapping; for 'Pilot Projects' and statewide.

The referred to multi-sectors include but are not limited to: State departments and agencies (DoIT, DoT, DoH, DCA, DHS, HED, PED, EDD, etc.); telecommunications providers and carriers (Qwest, Windstream, Level 3, etc.); utilities and other 'right-of-way' owners (PNM, FastTrack, etc.); counties and municipalities.

- **Conclusions, Final Recommendations and Attachments**

In addition to recommendations (short and long term, state and local), this section of the Report will include relevant attachments, documentation and letters in support of the proposed "New Mexico Integrated Strategic Broadband Initiative".