



Telecommunications

Principles for Colorado

developed by Action 22, Club 20 and Progressive 15

The mission of Action 22, Club 20 and Progressive 15 is to speak with a single, unified voice on issues of mutual concern in Denver and Washington, D.C.

Colorado counties represented by each organization:

Action 22

Alamosa, Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Cheyenne, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Mineral, Saguache, Otero, Park, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande, and Teller

Club 20

Archuleta, Delta, Dolores, Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Jackson, Lake, La Plata, Mesa, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, San Miguel, Summit

Progressive 15

Adams, Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Douglas, Ebert, Kit Carson, Larimer, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld, Yuma

Introduction

Global competition today requires a major shift in planning for Colorado's future competitiveness.

Availability and accessibility of telecommunications services is an essential part of the equation, not only for economic development but to the quality of life of all Coloradans.

By developing our telecommunications assets, we design our future, enhancing economic development, health care,

education, government and other sectors of our global community.

Telecommunications infrastructure and capacity development is a complex task and must be ongoing with communities offering creative solutions.

These principles are the basis of discussions and are designed to assist policy makers in enhancing Colorado's telecommunications infrastructure.

Connect and Collaborate for Colorado's Future



Telecommunications *Principle Statements*

- 1.** Affordable, quality, widely available access to advanced telecommunications services and broadband service is important to the present and future viability of Colorado communities, businesses and residents.
- 2.** The proper role for local government is to serve as demand aggregator and facilitator for the deployment of advanced broadband networks in partnership with the private sector in partnership with the private sector.
- 3.** Competition in the free market is generally recognized as beneficial for consumers, but there are markets that – due to factors of distance, density and terrain – may not lend themselves to the development of competition. In those areas, it is a proper role for local interests to work together to generate creative solutions to broadband access needs and encourage future competitive alternatives.
- 4.** Policies that create options for local solutions to advanced service and broadband technology needs should be supported, as long as those policies provide for local determination and encourages private sector involvement. This may include legislative action for the creation of rural information technology authorities, complete with bonding capacity.
- 5.** Establish a funding mechanism to provide hard-to-find capital investment in the advanced infrastructure that broadband access often requires in rural areas.
- 6.** Any community approach to providing incentives to the private sector for infrastructure development should ensure that access is available to all sectors of the community – government, schools, libraries, hospitals/medical clinics, non-profits, main street businesses and residents, alike.
- 7.** The State should explore potential funding options and roles for encouraging the provision of seamless, statewide coverage of wireless services to ensure public safety and homeland security.
- 8.** If necessary, the State should explore the use of incentives as an inducement to the private sector to provide advanced services, including broadband service, and upgraded infrastructure for all areas of Colorado, not just the densely populated metropolitan areas.
- 9.** Local state and federal governments should be encouraged to have rights-of-way access policies that do not present a barrier to cost-effective infrastructure deployment by the private sector.
- 10.** Competitive fairness is important to continue the long-standing goal to provide for equal opportunity for any and all would-be local exchange carriers to be able to effectively compete in the market place. Therefore, any legislative, regulatory or incentive-based policies should provide an open and equitable process for all private sector interests to participate.

