

# 1st-Mile Institute

Nov. 29, 2011 Presentation to the

## New Mexico State Legislative Committee on Science, Technology and Telecommunications

### 1. Issue: New Mexico Integrated Strategic Broadband Initiative (NM ISBI) Report

- **Problem:** The NM-ISBI was intended to be updated annually, to have an interactive web presence, to facilitate public-private win-win opportunities, and to guide this state toward a more economically vital, socially healthy, networked future. This has not yet happened.
- **Status:** NM DoIT's State Broadband Initiative, has now taken the lead on implementation of NM-ISBI recommendations, plus other forward moving programs, through end of 2014.
- **Recommendation:** NM DoIT's NTIA funded State Broadband Initiative (SBI) can have broad positive impacts. It should be supported and involved in by all of State government.

### 2. Issue: The State of Broadband in New Mexico

- **Problem:** New Mexico ranks 47<sup>th</sup> among U.S. states, for broadband access and adoption, undermining educational attainment, healthcare, governance, and economic quality of life.
- **Status:** There are currently over \$500 million in aggregated broadband projects' grants and loans, plus public and private sectors' investment statewide. There is no ongoing strategy.
- **Recommendation:** Cooperative steps ought be taken to leverage current investment and initiatives, to not lose momentum, to strategically extend current works and to determine next phase public and private sector investments, actions and best-practice outcomes.

### 3. Issue: Public and Private Cooperation

- **Problem:** Public and private sectors are all increasingly involved and invested in a broadband enabled future, yet working together for greatest mutual benefit is very difficult, overly contentious and too often litigious.
- **Status:** Interactions among government and telco representatives are always ongoing, but they are too often 'business as usual' interactions or unnecessarily adversarial exchanges.
- **Recommendation:** Facilitated working meetings with agreed strategic objectives should begin immediately among public and private sector representatives, for mutual benefits.

### 4. Issue: Community Broadband Initiatives

- **Problem:** Every locality has responsibilities and needs for a range of broadband related involvements, yet few understand, are prepared or able to adequately address these matters.
- **Status:** Well over 100 New Mexico communities are now having to make decisions and take actions that they are not prepared for. Many are making costly, harmful mistakes.
- **Recommendation:** The State (DoIT SBI) should provide required assistance to tribes and municipalities, to include creation of a comprehensive "Broadband Planning Guide".

### 5. Issue: Urgently Addressing Most Critical Gaps and Needs

- **Problem:** There are too many rural and urban households that are inadequately and inequitably served, have critical needs, and are not being helped in ways that help us all.
- **Status:** The DoIT SBI is NTIA funded to address this problem. The proposed 2012 Fast Forward NM Broadband Conference intends to identify problems and focus on solutions.
- **Recommendation:** Immediate public and private sector attention should be focused on ways to strategically and financially address most in-need broadband access, adoption and affordability problems in New Mexico. Greater State leadership involvement is required.