



To: Board of County Commissioners  
From: Gary Schmidt, County Administrator  
Subject: Next steps on broadband expansion  
Date: August 13, 2020

As a follow up to your prior discussions on an Internet Service Provider proof of concept, I'm writing to provide you with an update on the status of Clackamas Broadband eXpress (CBX) potentially becoming an internet service provider (ISP).

After further discussions with Commissioners and staff, I am proposing the following next steps:

- Continue to apply for state and federal grants in partnership with an existing ISP. SandyNet is a good example where we have already partnered on projects.
- Seek input from local businesses, education, and residents living in rural Clackamas County regarding the advisability of the County becoming an ISP. This will be done through existing groups such as the Superintendents' group, Chambers of Commerce and inviting people to participate in one or two meetings.
- Release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the study and development of a County-wide Business Plan to identify options for best practices, business models, costs and direction for expanding connectivity to all areas within the County and the appropriate sustainable schedule to be used during this process. The business plan will determine the need for an ISP in Clackamas County and will outline the advantages and disadvantages of Clackamas County becoming an ISP.

Staff have already begun to apply for grants with partners and are drafting an RFP which will be reviewed by several departments before being released. County Administration will lead the oversight of both the RFP and public input, in consultation with the County departments of Technology Services, Treasurer's Office, Business and Community Services, Finance and Public and Government Affairs.

I will discuss this with you at Issues on August 18 for your approval or revisions. Should you approve of these steps, my intent is to move this process forward as expeditiously as possible and I will keep you updated on its progress.