



# Broadband Update and Broadband Strategic Plan

Jon Gjestvang, Chief Information Officer  
Mark Revis, ITS Broadband Project Manager  
July 23, 2024



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# On Today's Agenda

- Update on broadband-related activity in 2024
- Presentation of the Strategic Plan for Broadband
- Request Board adoption of the Strategic Plan for Broadband



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# County Broadband Activity - 2024



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- Developed a slate of “shovel-ready” deployment projects in 19 priority areas (LATA grant)
- Initiated a project to improve internet access for Farmworker Center residents (seeking CPUC grant funds)
- Received final Broadband Planning & Feasibility Study from Tilson (funded by RCRC)

# County Broadband Activity - 2024



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- Partnerships:
  - Initiating partnerships with local ISPs to collaborate on future grant programs
  - Engaging community organizations to plan digital equity and literacy programs / apply for grant funding
  - Engaging businesses and community organizations to implement internet-enabled technology
  - Napa County Broadband Partnership meeting scheduled for August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

# County Broadband Activity - 2024



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- Met with PBES and Public Works to discuss impacts of broadband construction (grants to ISPs are pending)
- Working with NBNCBC on initiatives for digital equity and future deployment planning
- Applied for a \$20,000 digital equity grant from CETF.

# Region/State Broadband Activity



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- CPUC announcing awardees of Federal Funding Account (FFA) grants (\$10,700,000 for Napa County projects)
- CPUC announced start of the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program (\$1.93 Billion statewide)
- \$17,000 available to Napa County via NBNCBC for digital equity.

# Region/State Broadband Activity



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- Additional NBNCBC funding available for planning of future projects (awaiting approval of new workplan by CPUC)
- State open-access middle-mile network is under construction
  - State Budget: New construction in Napa County is being deferred
- AB 2797 (COLR relief) was defeated.

# Federal Broadband Activity



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- Several bills pending in Congress to re-authorize the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
  - Spectrum and National Security Act of 2024 (S.4207)
  - Promoting Affordable Connectivity Act of 2024 (S.4208)
  - Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024 (H.6929)
  - Others



# Strategic Plan for Broadband



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- Broadband is an investment with a high rate of return.
- Studies indicate \$3 - \$4 for every dollar spent.
- Green / Quality of life benefits.
- Universal access and adoption is the goal.
- A plan is needed to establish the County's priorities and to adopt govt. and industry best practices.

# Elements of the Plan

## VISION

Empowering residents, businesses and governments within Napa County to better engage with the world using universal, affordable and reliable broadband internet service, and the technologies that are enabled by it.

## MISSION

Form strategic partnerships with Internet Service Providers (ISPs), federal, state and local government entities, non-profits and community organizations. Seek input and ideas from the business community, residents, community organizations and municipal governments within Napa County. Fund broadband deployment and adoption programs using grants to the greatest extent possible. Adopt “broadband-friendly” policies and best practices wherever possible. Encourage the implementation of broadband-enabled technologies.



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# Elements of the Plan



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## **ACCESSIBILITY**

- Work with ISPs to extend broadband to all areas of the county and upgrade existing obsolete services.
- Implement broadband-friendly policies and practices.
- Coordinate Napa County's broadband effort with other local governments.
- Support multiple broadband technologies.
- Enhance reliability of broadband services.

# Elements of the Plan



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## **AFFORDABILITY**

- Encourage ISPs to offer low-cost service plans for qualified consumers.
- Advocate for lawmakers to create subsidies for low-income and disadvantaged consumers.
- Assist low-income and disadvantaged consumers, schools and community organizations in obtaining low-cost computers and devices.



# Elements of the Plan



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## **ADOPTION**

- Improve public awareness of benefits and programs through an outreach program.
- Engage the community through the Napa County Broadband Partnership working group.
- Expand programs offered by the Napa County Library and community organizations for digital equity, digital literacy and personal cybersecurity.
- Encourage businesses and governments to adopt broadband-enabled technology to reduce costs, improve productivity and provide superior services.

# Thank You



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- Summary
- Questions/Comments
- Recommended Action: Adopt the Strategic Plan for Broadband

# For More Information



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- Email: [broadband@countyofnapa.org](mailto:broadband@countyofnapa.org)
- Web page:  
[www.countyofnapa.org/3592/Broadband](http://www.countyofnapa.org/3592/Broadband)