

# NATOA

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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### Public Wireless Initiatives Today and Tomorrow

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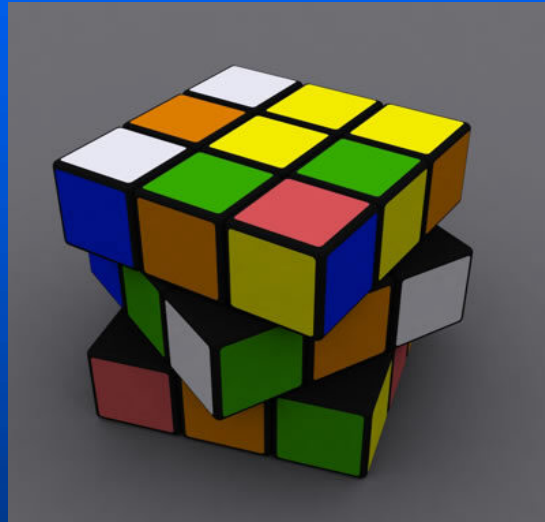
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# The Big Picture



# Overview

- History and Status
- Key Drivers
- The Big Issues
- Tomorrow and Beyond

# History and Status

- Community self-help an American tradition
  - Electricity, telephony, CATV
- Pioneering public communications projects
  - Cable: Frankfurt (1952), Glasgow (1988)
  - Fiber: Grant County, Kutztown, Bristol (2001-03)
- Early wireless initiatives
- Key events – Esme; CUWin; PA HB30; Munis 13, Incumbents 1; US 16<sup>th</sup> in the World
- The floodgates open

# Status

- 35 Public safety and municipal-only networks
- 32 City hot zones
- 59 Regional and citywide networks
- 121 RFP/RFI or deployment stage
- 17 Under consideration
- 247 (122 a year ago)

- MuniWireless, June 2006

# Primary Drivers

- Control own destiny
- Improve quality and reduce cost of government service
- Public safety and security
- Economic development
- Digital inclusion – rural and urban
- Educational opportunity
- Urban core revitalization
- Local, regional and global competitiveness
- Quality of life

# Key Issues

- Authority
  - Barriers to entry
  - COPE and Stevens Bills
  - Dillon's Rule v. Home Rule
  - Franchises, pole agreements, bond restrictions ...
  - Federal and State classifications
  - Process
- Public involvement models
- Infrastructure issues
- Other recurring issues

# Public Involvement Models

Local government “hats”: Buyer, facilitator, aggregator, lessor, service provider

Services: Voice, video, broadband, security, safety, utility support (e.g., meter reading) ...

Advantages/Limitations: **Champions**, community leaders, experience, available funds, priorities, access to infrastructure, demographics, attitude toward risk, state and local politics, competition ...

# Public Involvement Models (continued)

## Possible Roles :

- Infrastructure provider, aggregator/marketer, self-provisioner, wholesaler, retailer, combination

## Organizational Structures:

- Branch of local government (existing or new)
- Board, authority, or commission (~independence?)
- Non-profits (§§ 501(c)(3)...501(c)(12))
- “Partnerships” - public/public or public/private

**Beware of “Private Use” tax rules!**

- Many other models, issues

# Infrastructure Issues

What does the locality bring to the table?

- Pole attachments /Lighting Facilities
  - Who owns or controls poles, light standards?
  - Who has attachment rights? What are they?
  - Applicable law? Agreements? Franchises?
  - Dozens of technical issues (location, tariffs, etc.)
- Towers, buildings, other public facilities
- Public Rights of Way

Must comply with all applicable federal, state and local non-discrimination, procedural, and procurement rules

## Other Recurring Issues

- Privacy
- Copyright and Other Usage-Related Issues
  - DMCA, DRM, Defamation, etc.
- Health effects of radiofrequency radiation
- Service-related issues (quality of service, outages, interference, bankruptcies...)

Who will the public call if something goes awry?

- First Amendment (Adult content, COPA ...)

## Other Recurring Issues (continued)

- Competition (antitrust, unfair competition...)
- Personal injuries and torts
- Tax issues
- Many other issues...

# Tomorrow and Beyond

- There will be successes and failures, but public wireless will continue to grow
- Public involvement models will sort themselves out
- Public will want both mobility and higher bandwidth
- Incumbents will come to see public wireless as pump-primer for higher bandwidth wireline services
- Wireless and fiber will stimulate demand for each other
- US will recover global standing



Questions?

Baller the Barbarian