

Transforming Missouri via Public/Private Broadband Partnerships



“THIS PUBLIC/PRIVATE COOPERATION WILL CARRY LASTING BENEFITS IN BRINGING HIGH-SPEED COMMUNICATION TO MISSOURIANS ACROSS THE STATE, INCLUDING GIVING DOCTORS BETTER AND QUICKER RESOURCES TO TREAT THEIR PATIENTS; ALLOWING TEACHERS AND STUDENTS TO ACCESS THE POWER OF EDUCATIONAL TOOLS THAT OTHER SCHOOLS HAVE; AND PUTTING SMALL BUSINESSES ON A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD WITH THEIR COMPETITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.” -- GOVERNOR JAY NIXON



TRANSFORMING MISSOURI VIA PUBLIC/PRIVATE BROADBAND PARTNERSHIPS

High-speed connectivity, or broadband, is increasingly becoming essential to compete in the global marketplace, keep current with advancing technologies and maintain and enhance state and regional economic, social and political development.

Missouri is joining the National Broadband Initiative by developing public/private partnerships with

MoBroadbandNow, the state’s program to expand broadband capabilities to more of its residents.

Given the wide-reaching impact broadband service has on multiple aspects of everyday life, broadband access has risen to the level of a public utility; as essential for development as power and water.

Broadband, and the efforts to expand access to more citizens, is providing an ideal situation for a public/private partnership to

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function. Public/private partnerships have proven to be an effective model for expanding the availability of broadband and increasing computer literacy and Internet use.

Local, state and regional governments (public) have the means to assist in advancing the broadband climate -- existing utility grids, accurate access mapping, census data, the ability to reach all citizens and coordinate massive, cross-jurisdictional programs.

Telecom businesses, broadband providers, IT developers (private) have the associated knowledge and technology. Together, the public and

private sectors are making plans for expanding broadband access a reality.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC) NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN

The goals for broadband outlined in the FCC's National Broadband Plan are providing the impetus for public/private partnerships to emerge. These goals serve as a starting point for regional discussions about the best way to deliver and use broadband technology across Missouri. The Plan's recommendations encompass:

- Healthcare, 21st Century Care
- Government Performance (Local, State, Regional, National)
- Economic Development and Opportunity
- Education (K-12, Higher Education, Libraries)
- Energy and the Environment
- Public Safety
- Civic Engagement
- Agriculture

“TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULT CONDITIONS LIKE HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, MISSOURI MUST TRANSFORM ITS ECONOMY BY ADAPTING TO THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE AND EMBRACING HIGH-GROWTH INDUSTRIES. TO BE TRULY COMPETITIVE IN THE 21ST CENTURY WE MUST UPGRADE OUR TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE WITH THE GOAL OF GIVING EVERY MISSOURIAN ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY. BECAUSE THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR EDUCATION, FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOR INDUSTRY, I BELIEVE MISSOURI MUST PUT ITS BEST FOOT FORWARD IN WHAT WILL BE A FIERCE COMPETITION FOR FEDERAL BROADBAND GRANTS. SO THE STATE WILL WORK TOGETHER WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND USE THE STRENGTHS OF EACH TO PURSUE AN ACHIEVABLE VISION FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS.”

-- GOVERNOR JAY NIXON

How can Broadband Transform Public/Private Partnerships in my area?

Several other factors need to be considered along with implementing broadband technology. Are the right tools in place for public/private partnerships to leverage broadband? Do current processes and procedures allow enough room for use of broadband? Is everyone properly trained to use the technology effectively?

MoBroadbandNow, a five-year initiative launched by Gov. Nixon in 2009, is a public/private partnership that coordinates efforts to aggressively compete for federal funds under the 2009 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Commerce specifically set aside for broadband expansion in efforts. *MoBroadbandNow* seeks to expand broadband accessibility to 95% of the total population, a significant increase from the current projected accessibility of 79.7%.

MoBroadbandNow can provide education, awareness, and facilitate communication of funding opportunities for public/private partnerships.

But, we also need to more fully understand how local stakeholders would like to use broadband, and what are the barriers and challenges to integration?

Please share your stories with us at: <http://transform.mo.gov/broadband/>

Follow us on Twitter -- @MoBroadbandNow -- to stay up to speed on broadband news, program activities and funding opportunities.

How is Missouri being Transformed via Public/Private Broadband Partnerships?

<http://transform.mo.gov/broadband/>