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An Invitation To Fiber-to-the-Home Communities

Has fiber broadband helped your community? Broadband Communities invites you to share your story with other communities embarking on the journey to FTTH.

When FTTH was first deployed, it was sold as “future proof.” That’s still true. However, the last decade showed that fiber’s greatest advantage for subscribers is offering *broadband without limits*. FTTH lets users do what they need and want to do. With other broadband technologies, service can be slow, congested or unreliable; when speeds are upgraded, usage is then capped or throttled. Broadband should flow like water, users say, but that abundance is possible only with FTTH. That’s why almost no one ever gives up FTTH service.

The benefits of FTTH for communities go beyond the benefits to individuals. Fiber broadband makes communities more attractive places to live and work. It adds to the value of homes and commercial properties, and it enables municipalities to improve public services. By increasing competition, it can push down prices for other types of broadband and save money even for those who do not subscribe to fiber.

About one in six U.S. households can now subscribe to fiber-to-the-home services. About one in 14 households actually subscribes. (For all the details, see the FTTH Industry Report in this issue.) Considering that the industry started at essentially zero a decade ago, that’s an amazingly rapid development – and a very significant one.

This issue of Broadband Communities includes stories about fiber broadband projects in out-of-the-way places. The au-

thors document innovations, successes, challenges and lessons learned. Nearly every one of these projects arose from a perception of being left behind and a recognition that FTTH was a key – not the only key, but a necessary one – to improving a community’s competitiveness and quality of life. Nearly all the projects that have been around long enough to show results have shown results.

TELL YOUR STORY

Here’s an invitation to all fiber communities: If your community is seeing results from FTTH, please let us know about it.

Is FTTH bringing new businesses into your town? Is it enabling young people to stay closer to friends and family? Is it improving the quality of education or health care? Send us links to local press reports that we can include in the “Community Benefits” section of the FTTH database at www.fiberville.com. Write an article for this magazine, or send us information we can use to write an article. Or volunteer to host one of our new Towns and Technologies economic development conferences – the first one will be in Danville, Va., in November.

Let us help you tell your community’s story, and other communities that are just starting to learn about fiber will also benefit.

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