FCC Broadband Plan for the U.S.

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16 April 2010
About the Plan

• Mandated by Congress as part of stimulus law
  Other provisions: $7.2 bil for unserved; mapping

• FCC to issue recommendations to further deployment of, and use, of broadband technologies

• Recommendations not limited to what FCC can do, but what other branches of government & agencies can do
  • Half of recommendations directed to other agencies

• Not self-executing – FCC and other agencies must act to implement
Major Recommendations

• 100 Mbps to 100m households by 2020
• Auction 500 MHz of spectrum for wireless broadband by 2020
  Use spectrum auction proceeds to fund the plan
• Realign $8b federal universal service fund from PSTN to broadband; reach 99% over 10 years
• Fund $12-16b public safety wireless broadband network
• Use plan to integrate broadband deeply into key sectors for “National Purpose”
Broadband Goals

**Goal No. 1:** At least 100 million U.S. homes should have affordable access to actual **download** speeds of at least 100 megabits per second and actual **upload** speeds of at least 50 megabits per second.

**Goal No. 2:** The United States should lead the world in **mobile innovation**, with the fastest and most extensive **wireless networks** of any nation.

**Goal No. 3:** Every American should have affordable access to robust broadband service, and the **means and skills to subscribe** if they so choose.
Broadband Goals

Goal No. 4: Every American community should have affordable access to at least 1 gigabit per second broadband service to anchor institutions such as schools, hospitals and government buildings.

Goal No. 5: To ensure the safety of the American people, every first responder should have access to a nationwide, wireless, interoperable broadband public safety network.

Goal No. 6: To ensure that America leads in the clean energy economy, every American should be able to use broadband to track and manage their real-time energy consumption.
Specific Goals

• 4 Mbps broadband access to 99 percent of US households (95 percent today)
• Adoption from 65% to 90+%  
• Digital literacy for every child by high school graduation
• Transform federal universal service to support broadband instead of voice telephony
• Promote competition, remove barriers to entry, promote transparency of information to consumers and others
• National public safety wireless broadband network
Tune Up Competition Policies

• New proceeding on wholesale pricing to virtual network operators (fixed and mobile)
  Key concerns: capacity available to mobile providers, small business and large enterprise

• Wireless competition
  More spectrum for broadband –licensed and unlicensed
  Rule changes to better support wireless backhaul
  Rules to ensure data roaming

• Municipal competition – clarify permissibility
Importance of Anchor Institutions

• 90% of those who didn’t have broadband at home access the Internet at other locations

• Need for schools, libraries and hospitals for affordable high capacity circuits such as Gigabit Ethernet

• Recommends federal and state policies should compel aggregation of demand
Broadband in the Workplace

• Telework policies reinvigorated
  Promote federal government
  Congress should remove tax and regulatory barriers

• Integrate broadband into economic development planning at local level; create benchmarks
  Create national data warehouse and knowledge management tool

• Dept. of Labor should create virtual employment assistance and online job training tool

• Nat’l Science Foundation: Support regional technology transfer centers
Key Spectrum Recommendations

• Licensed bands
  
  500 MHz repurposed; including
  120 MHz at 700 MHz (in addition to 108 MHz) India’s advantage

• Unlicensed—new dedicated band

• Public Safety—no new spectrum but recommended Congress fund 12 MHz nationwide for broadband
Next Steps: Implementation

• FCC published timetable of 60 proceedings
• FCC creating Broadband Performance Dashboard to measure progress
• Executive Branch created Broadband Strategy Council to coordinate the implementation across agencies

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, National Economic Council, Office of Management and Budget, FCC, NTIA