



Fiber For Our Future

Tri-City Broadband Initiative: Information and Overview

 What is this about?	<p>The citizens group, Fiber For Our Future, believes the cities of St. Charles, Geneva, and Batavia should own and operate a municipally sponsored <i>fiber optic broadband utility for the Tri-Cities, just as they own and operate their own electric utilities.</i> The studies indicate that this state-of-the-art technology will improve major communications services in the Tri-City area for many years to come. The giant telecom companies, Comcast and SBC, are in a pitched battle with the citizens of the Tri-Cities on this issue. They do not want you to have this choice setting up a David v. Goliath battle that pits big business against the rights of the citizenry to control their telecommunications destiny via a municipally owned broadband utility.</p>
 What will they build?	<p>The cities, together, would build a fiber optic network that is a generation ahead of other options with older technology solutions. Like phone or electric service, every home and every business will have a fiber optic network connection “on their doorstep” to use if desired.</p>
 What will this provide?	<p><i>For starters, local and long distance phone service. Cable television service. High speed Internet service.</i> All of those services will be superior and at the same time priced significantly lower than currently available services in the Tri-City area. Fiber technology also makes future services such as telemedicine, emergency notification systems, fire alarms, security systems, and automated electric meter reading a reality, just to name a few.</p>
 Will I have to use this?	<p>No – you may stay with your current provider for all or any of these services. But if you switch, you will take advantage of <i>lower rates, a superior product along with more reliable and LOCAL customer service, and last, but not least, your money stays in the Tri-City area.</i></p>
 Why vote for this?	<p>Your elected officials want to know your opinion regarding this issue. Operating such a system requires a commitment from your cities to work together to bring the future to your doorstep.</p> <p>Most of all, a fiber optic network in your community is an investment in our future and will increase our <i>property values</i>. An installed fiber network will be attractive for new businesses and people thinking about moving to this area.</p> <p>If you DO use any of these services today, then this competition for your current provider may help keep your rates down and may increase the level of customer service you get from them. Even if you DON'T use any of these services, you will STILL BENEFIT because your city will be capable of using the network to benefit existing utilities such as electric and water, as well as new features yet to come.</p>
 What does this cost?	<p>NOTHING TO THE TAXPAYER. Private investors will fund approximately \$58M - \$62M to build the utility. The services offered will be 10 - 15% cheaper than those other service providers are offering.</p>
 How is it paid for?	<p>The necessary money will be raised ONLY by securing private investment. Much like a mortgage, the Cities will own and operate the system, while private investors will receive interest payments until the funding is repaid. Payments on the “mortgage” will be generated from the user fees.</p>
 Will it raise my taxes?	<p>No. Not a chance, because private investment backs the entire project. In addition, the referendum question <i>specifically prohibits the utility from using tax-backed financing.</i> Any allegations, which claim taxes will be raised to finance this project, are false and an attempt to mislead the voter.</p>
 Who will run this utility?	<p>The cities will own and operate this utility in the same manner that they own and operate the electric/sewer/water utility. This means the customer service to be provided will be local and far more responsive than what exists from the incumbents today.</p>

True local service. True local accountability. And your money stays here.
 Visit our website at <http://www.tricitybroadband.com> or call 630.938.7630