



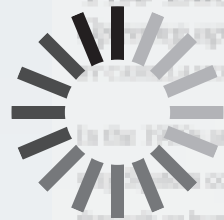
the status of broadband (high speed internet) in Eugene and Lane County

history of fiber lines

effects of net neutrality

Dark Fiber

Lighting up Lane County's internet access



The Last Mile

Lighting up Lane County's internet access

In the 1950s and '60s the new faster thoroughfares of the Interstate Highways could make or break the businesses of the towns they went through or bypassed. Oregon towns with flowery exits off I-5 often expanded, thanks to the advantages of being close to shipping and travel,

loading...

towns far from the new roads often withered. Further back in time, the same was true for towns along railroad tracks.

Former Lane County commissioner Cindy Wood-Woodbury says she knew that history of connectivity when she first became aware of what many in the '90s liked to call the "information superhighway," and she kept it in mind when she began working to bring fiber-optic cable to the area. "You follow the blueprint of history when you see opportunities coming down the road," Woodbury says.

In the 21st century high-speed internet access is becoming an essential to business, government, health, education and everyday life as telephones and highways were in the last century. Lane County started off a little ahead of the game when it came to broadband thanks to early work bringing broadband fiber to the area, and has continued to install fiber throughout the region. But if businesses such as those in Eugene's growing tech community, known as the Silicon Shire, want to expand, and if new businesses in rural areas want to grow, then most of our unused "dark fiber" needs to be lit up, and we need to find ways to get more people faster access to the internet.

