



A.J. Bowen, of Schupp's Line Construction Inc., works on fiber-optic installation in Vermont in 2007.

Biden’s broadband plan aims to narrow digital divide

By TALI ARBEL
Associated Press

The problems with U.S. broadband networks have been obvious for years. Service costs more than in many other rich nations, it still doesn’t reach tens of millions of Americans and the companies that provide it don’t face much competition.

Now the Biden administration is promising to do something about all of those issues as part of its proposed \$2.3 trillion infrastructure package. The plan, which would devote \$100 billion to get all Americans connected, is more idea than policy and lacks a lot of important detail.

But it sketches out a striking new vision of activist government measures intended to improve high-speed internet service, following decades in which the government has largely left the job to private companies.

The plan would spend \$100 billion to “future-proof” broadband as part of an eight-year infrastructure plan, calling high-speed connections “the new electricity” that’s now a necessity for all Americans. (That’s a reference to the Rural Electrification Act — Depression-era legislation that sped the extension of power lines to farms and rural communities.)

It could signal a major policy shift toward lowering the high cost of internet service, rather than just handing money to broadband providers for building out networks. “Americans pay too much for internet,” the plan bluntly states.

It pushes for greater competition that could lower prices, by encouraging and supporting networks owned or affiliated with local governments, cooperatives and nonprofit organizations. Roughly 20 states restrict municipal broadband. Prioritizing such networks could give them a leg up when the government does out money for extending service.

“The most important thing about what President Biden has done in the proposal is that he’s redefined the digital divide,” said

Larry Irving, a top telecom official in the Clinton administration. “The simple act of recognizing that poverty is a bigger indicator of lack of access than geography is a huge statement.”

It’s not clear how the Biden administration plans to bring that about.

The coronavirus pandemic has made clear that millions of Americans are not online, a problem that isn’t limited to rural areas but includes cities too. The White House says more than 30 million Americans don’t have access to high-speed internet at all, and millions more can’t afford it.

The divide persists even after the government has spent billions encouraging broadband providers to connect far-flung and often isolated communities. From 2009 through 2017, federal spending on such programs totaled \$47.3 billion, according to a government watchdog report. An additional \$20 billion is lined up over the next decade for rural broadband, and another \$9 billion for high-speed wireless internet called 5G in sparsely populated regions. Billions more flowed to broadband from the three huge relief packages enacted during the pandemic.

America’s rural-internet policy has been an ongoing mistake, said Gigi Sohn, an official in the Obama-era FCC. “A lot of what we have is very slow,” she said. The White House now says it wants “future-proof” networks “in unserved and underserved areas,” so they don’t have to be rebuilt again years later because they’re out-of-date.

Exactly what those terms means for what gets built and where isn’t clear, either, and many Republicans oppose putting federal funds to work in areas that do have internet even if it’s slow — what’s called “overbuilding.”

The \$2.3 trillion infrastructure plan has its detractors. Some Democrats are disappointed because they wanted more. On the other hand, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky called it a “Trojan horse” for tax hikes.

OBITUARIES

Patrick Joseph Carroll

Warrenton

Jan. 18, 1934 — March 26, 2021



Patrick Joseph Carroll, of Warrenton, went home to be with the Lord on March 26, 2021. He was born on Jan. 18, 1934, in New Albany, Indiana, to Charles and Ruth Jones Carroll.

Patrick is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 65 years, Rosalie Beck Carroll; his daughter, Judy; two sisters, Marilyn and Kay; and in-law Bill Beck.

He is survived by his two sons, Kenneth and David; daughters-in-law, Ona and Lynn; two grandchildren, Jason and Joshua; several great-grandchildren; brother, Creel (sister-in-law, Tei); and in-laws, Anne and Cletus Graf, Albert Beck and Arthur Beck. Patrick had several nieces and nephews.

Patrick served in the U.S. Navy from 1952 to 1956 and was a veteran of the Korean War.

He moved his family to Oregon after living in New Albany, Indiana, and South-

ern California. Patrick was employed as a machinist at Carruthers Equipment Co. in Warrenton.

After retirement, he enjoyed woodworking at his shop, Harbor-Lite Woodcrafts in Hammond.

Patrick enjoyed serving the Lord, engaging in church activities, listening to Christian music and watching boats on the Columbia River. Pat also enjoyed joking with family and friends. He also liked bonfires on the beach.

A veteran burial service will be held on Friday at 1 p.m. at Greenwood Cemetery in Astoria.

Flowers may be sent to Greenwood Cemetery, 91569 Highway 202, Astoria, OR., 97103.

Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements. An online guest book may be signed at oceanviewastoria.com



Patrick Carroll

David Lee Forbush

Edmonds, Washington

1940 — 2021

David Lee Forbush passed away March 22, 2021. He was born in 1940 to Frank and Hazel Forbush in Longview, Washington.

He married Katherine Eagen, his wife of over 60 happy years of marriage. Together they raised 10 wonderful children and created a big loving family. He was proud of each of his children and the family he had.

David made the Alaska seafood business his career. He spent 40 years doing what he loved, going to Alaska every summer to manage salmon operations there, and returning in the fall to plan and prepare for the next year. In 40 years, he never missed a summer in Alaska.

David designed their retirement beach

house, and upon retirement, he and Katherine moved in. Gardening and bird watching became his passions. He grew enough

potatoes, corn and other vegetables to send every member of the family home with a sack of fresh produce every time you visited.

He is survived by his wife, Katherine; nine children; 15 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

David was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was a trusted friend to many. He will be greatly missed by all.

Funeral services will be held at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Edmonds, Washington, on April 15 at 10 a.m.

Please share memories with the family at beckstributecenter.com



David Forbush

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
52 41	50 40	51 35	51 38	52 33	52 35	57 38
Some sunshine	A brief shower or two	Clouds and sun; cool	A little p.m. rain	Chance of rain	Showers possible	Partly sunny

ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday

Temperatures	
High/low	51/35
Normal high/low	55/40
Record high	78 in 1966
Record low	30 in 2009

Precipitation

Sunday	0.00"
Month to date	0.01"
Normal month to date	0.83"
Year to date	32.82"
Normal year to date	25.67"

Forecasts and graphics provided by
AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Orion, the Hunter, is fading into the west before midnight.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:46 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:51 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:58 a.m.
Moonsset today	2:11 p.m.

	New	First	Full	Last
Apr 11				
Apr 19				
Apr 26				
May 3				

TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
9:23 a.m.	7.2	3:41 a.m.	3.5	
11:09 p.m.	6.9	4:44 p.m.	0.3	

Cape Disappointment

9:06 a.m.	7.2	3:11 a.m.	0.0	
11:03 p.m.	6.8	4:03 p.m.	0.4	

Hammond

9:17 a.m.	7.3	3:25 a.m.	3.6	
11:09 p.m.	7.1	4:15 p.m.	0.2	

Warrenton

9:18 a.m.	7.6	3:25 a.m.	3.6	
11:04 p.m.	7.3	4:28 p.m.	0.4	

Knappa

10:00 a.m.	7.5	4:42 a.m.	3.0	
11:46 p.m.	7.2	5:45 p.m.	0.3	

Depoe Bay

8:22 a.m.	7.2	2:38 a.m.	3.8	
10:18 p.m.	6.8	3:27 p.m.	0.2	

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	78/56/pc	80/61/pc
Boston	55/44/pc	55/46/pc
Chicago	79/58/pc	77/58/c
Dallas	82/68/pc	81/55/pc
Denver	57/35/pc	61/39/pc
Honolulu	78/67/pc	80/67/pc
Houston	81/70/pc	82/65/t
Los Angeles	74/55/pc	75/56/pc
Miami	80/65/s	82/66/pc
New York City	66/47/s	66/48/s
Phoenix	90/61/s	91/66/s
San Francisco	62/50/pc	59/49/pc
Wash., DC	72/56/pc	71/54/pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Seattle	58/41	
Tacoma	58/37	
Olympia	60/39	
Longview	62/38	
Portland	63/42	
Salem	62/37	
Corvallis	63/37	
Eugene	62/37	
Bend	68/35	
Medford	73/41	
Klamath Falls	66/29	
Wenatchee	66/42	
Moses Lake	70/38	
Yakima	69/38	
Kennewick	72/40	
Hermiston	71/46	
John Day	63/35	
Burns	64/26	
Spokane	60/39	
Pullman	58/36	
Walla Walla	65/44	
Lewiston	65/39	
Enterprise	60/31	
Pendleton	67/41	
La Grande	64/32	
Ontario	67/33	
Caldwell	66/32	

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Baker City	65/29/pc	69/35/pc
Brookings	55/41/pc	53/42/pc
Ilwaco	50/43/pc	48/42/sh
Newberg	63/37/pc	54/39/c
Newport	52/39/pc	49/39/c

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
North Bend	54/42/pc	52/42/c
Roseburg	68/39/pc	62/41/pc
Seaside	52/40/pc	48/40/sh
Springfield	65/36/pc	59/41/pc
Vancouver	64/40/pc	54/41/c