

# Why Publicly Owned Fiber is the Answer to our Broadband Needs



Russell Senior  
*Secretary*

Personal Telco Project, Inc.  
*a 501(c)(3) non-profit*



**Own your networks**

**Wifi as a medium**

**Wifi is nice, but limited**

# Broadband Needs

Faster

Cheaper

More freedom

# The Problem

Jumping the Last-Mile Gap

# Why Fiber?

Capacity  
Capacity  
Capacity

# Massive Capacity

14 Terabits/second  
14,000,000,000,000

dialup: 56,000  
dsl: 7,000,000  
cable: 15,000,000

# What about wireless?

Nice for mobility

Sucks for capacity

# Why public?

Because private demonstrably sucks

Neutral

Non-profit

# Incumbent's conflict of interest

Higher speeds undercut existing  
businesses:

Comcast (video)

Qwest (voice)

# Last Mile gives Control

Constraints on kinds of usage

Dichotomizing producers/consumers

**The Internet means we can all  
be producers**

**Producing is fun**

**Just consuming is boring**

**Be a producer!**

# Think Streets

Neutral

Non-profit

Accountable

# How would it work?

Fiber-speed transit to a co-location facility

Third parties provide services from there

# Non-Discrimination

Fiber network is vendor neutral

Inexpensive to provide services

Many providers, much choice

# Financing?

Like other utility infrastructure

# How much does it cost?

City of Portland  
(passing 284 thousand premises)

\$450 million

# How much per service?

Per house/business passed: ~\$1k

Each service connected: ~\$1k

Construction costs = about 3 years of  
Comcast service

# User Owned Networks

Did I mention there were advantages?

# Other places have fiber!

In Japan, a 100 Mbps internet connection is \$11/month for a year, then \$75/month.

Other Asian and European cities are building this stuff.

We should too!

# How to make this happen?

Be willing to pay

Tell the City Council

Support community efforts

Russell Senior  
russell@personaltelco.net