

Summary of Jurisdiction Interviews: Broadband Planning, Permitting, and Implementation in the San Diego Region

To identify existing conditions, best practices, opportunities for expanding broadband infrastructure, and to inform the development of the Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan, interviews were conducted with planning and public works representatives from jurisdictions in the San Diego region. This included 15 cities, the County of San Diego, Caltrans, and the Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association. The interviews focused on three core areas pertaining to facilitating broadband access: long-term broadband planning, broadband policies and permitting practices, and implementation strategies. Key findings in each category include:

Planning

- Only one city in the region has conducted a comprehensive broadband gap analysis, however 11 jurisdictions have fiber infrastructure maps or location data. Some of this data contains proprietary information and is not publicly available. Consistent with their data sharing policies, 7 of these jurisdictions have shared their fiber location data with SANDAG.
- The City of Chula Vista is the only city in the region with a master plan for broadband and digital equity. The Master Planning Best Practices section below contains more information.
- Coordinated planning for broadband infrastructure to connect Tribal Nations is lacking.

Permitting

- There is significant variation among local jurisdictions' permit fees, processes, and timelines for broadband deployment.
- Many cities meet [Federal Communication Commission \(FCC\) requirements](#) for wireless.
- Many jurisdictions don't have adequate or publicly accessible information available on broadband permitting, policies and guidelines.
- Only a few jurisdictions allow microtrenching, and no jurisdictions have microtrenching policies.

Implementation

- Jurisdictions expressed a desire to partner with internet service providers (ISPs) to find solutions that address digital equity in historically underserved areas.
- Seven cities use master agreements to facilitate routine broadband projects, establish by-right uses that reduce application and engineering site review requirements, and ensure mutual understanding and collaboration between municipalities and applicants.

- The City of Carlsbad and Caltrans are the only agencies that have formal programs and/or policies for sharing fiber and other assets.
- Several jurisdictions indicated that lack of resources and interest from the private sector were some of the largest challenges they face with deploying fiber.

More detailed information on the interview findings is available in the San Diego Region Broadband Interview Matrix.

Best Practices and Resources

A summary of best practices and resources for broadband planning, permitting, and implementation are highlighted below. This information can guide public agencies with the development of strategies, policies, and programs that address digital equity within their jurisdictions.

Master Planning Guides

California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) - [Getting Connected: A Broadband Deployment and Adoption Resource Guide](#)

This resource guide is a starting point for local and regional government leaders who are looking to advance access, deployment, and adoption of broadband through their many leadership roles. It includes an overview of policies for replication or adaptation, case studies, and a list of additional resources.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) - [Implementing a Broadband Network Vision](#)

This toolkit covers the steps necessary for local and tribal governments to implement broadband infrastructure projects.

Master Planning Best Practices

City of Chula Vista – [Telecommunications Master Plan \(TMP\)](#)

The [TMP](#) is part of the City of Chula Vista’s Smart City Initiative and is a reference for planning telecommunications and network buildout through the city. It also includes project prioritization and development of critical policy pertaining to data sharing.

City of Chula Vista – [Digital Equity and Inclusion Plan \(DEIP\)](#)

To close the broadband access gap and support the TMP, the [DEIP](#) lays out a series of actions the City of Chula Vista will take to ensure residents have affordable access to high-speed

internet, as well as the skills and devices needed to use it. The plan consists of 3 goals, supported by 8 objectives, and 37 strategic actions.

[City of New York – The New York City Internet Master Plan \(IMP\)](#)

The City of New York’s IMP lays out a vision of Universal Broadband, creates an economic impact analysis, a gap analysis, potential solutions, and phases of implementation.

Permitting Best Practices

[City of Lemon Grove – Small Cell Wireless Facility Design Standards](#) and [Questionnaire](#)

The City of Lemon Grove’s Small Cell Wireless Facilities Questionnaire is succinct and easy to use and is accompanied by their Small Cell Wireless Facility Design Standards policy. Updating wireless policies and procedures to meet FCC guidelines and developing clear design standards is recommended.

[City of Los Angeles – U-Permit Checklist \(full webpage\)](#) and [Online Permitting](#)

The City of Los Angeles’s U-Permit checklist is fully integrated into an online portal where applicants can submit and track applications online. Los Angeles also meets monthly with ISPs to coordinate and adjust policies and processes as needed.

[City of Los Angeles – Microtrenching Ordinance](#) and [Standard Plan](#)

The City of Los Angeles has created a microtrenching policy that addresses concerns with unregulated microtrenching such as depth, quality, and visual standards. This could serve as a resource to other jurisdictions interested in developing similar policies to facilitate broadband infrastructure deployment.

[City of San Clemente – Utility Annual Encroachment Permit](#)

The City of San Clemente’s Utility Annual Encroachment is an annual encroachment agreement that covers routine utility work in the public right-of-way that could be extended to broadband infrastructure. It was created in collaboration with the Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACCOC) in order to streamline permit processing for routine utility projects in the public right-of-way.

Implementation Best Practices

[City of Riverside – Dark Fiber Leasing Program](#) and [One Stop Shop](#)

Riverside Public Utilities offers dark fiber leases on its 120-mile network, which connects office buildings, industrial properties and data centers, and serves 5G-ready sites throughout the City

of Riverside limits. ISPs or wireless operators can lease fiber and use it to deliver connectivity to customers, and businesses can use it to create their own wide area enterprise networks.

South Bay Cities – [South Bay Fiber Network](#) and [Fiber-Optic Master Plan](#)

South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) worked with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) to develop a regional broadband, fiber-optic network. Through funding from the SBWIB, fiber-optic master plan was prepared by Magellan Associates to address the feasibility of a regional broadband network that would connect to at least one city facility in each of the South Bay cities and play a pivotal role in the region's future.

City of New York – [Universal Solicitation for Broadband: Citywide RFP](#) ([more info on RFP](#))

New York City released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Universal Solicitation for Broadband. This RFP invites the telecommunications industry to create new affordable broadband service options through a coordinated system of access to more than 100,000 City assets.

Digital Equity Adoption Best Practices

City of San Diego – [SD Access 4 All](#)

Through the SD Access 4 All program, the City of San Diego is now offering free internet access at over 300 public locations. Locations include City libraries and recreation centers, as well as over 250 street locations in historically underserved neighborhoods.