

Parkland County Broadband Program

Overview of Broadband Initiatives



Essential Service and Economic Development

Importance of Broadband

Fast and reliable broadband internet is essential for innovation, public safety, and quality of life

Economic Development

Broadband access attracts businesses and residents to rural communities, fostering participation in the digital economy

Sustainability for Communities

Ensuring residents have internet access is crucial for sustainable community development and better local service delivery

Parkland County Initiatives

Parkland County has made investments to improve broadband access through towers, fiber, and wireless services

Broadband Investment

Expertise

Since 2019, the County has partnered with industry leader IBI/Arcadis to enhance broadband internet

Grant Opportunities

Original UBF application to connect the entire County faced significant delays

- ▶ Returned as a high-cost, significantly downscaled and isolated opportunity in the far west
- ▶ Was not moved forward

Second application submitted for high-demand, under-served areas

Innovation Initiatives

Satellite Internet Rebate Trial and Wireless Internet Rebate Program options had limited subscription

Strategic Improvements

Leadership shift to TDS for technical program delivery

Timeline

2019

Strategic Initiatives leads
Partnered with IBI/Arcadis

2022

Additional UBF changes requested
Protracted grant application response

2024 - Present

TDS Leads
Wireless Internet Rebate Program
New UBF application
Program Strategy Pivot
Administrative engagements for grant application changes

UBF Application and- Response
received with reduced area coverage
Administrative engagements for grant application changes

2021

Growth & Strategy leads
Starlink Proof of Concept
Administrative engagements for grant application changes

2023



Program Strategy

- ▶ No response on new UBF application
 - ▶ Building five-year strategy roadmap to
 - ▶ Include telecom asset valuation (Entwistle) and funding approaches (grants, private equity, in-kind)
 - ▶ Incorporate existing and planned County and commercial infrastructure
 - ▶ Recommend service delivery model (public, private, 3P) and investment options
 - ▶ Implementation plan
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