

RESOLUTION NO. NS-

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ APPROVING THE INITIAL POLICIES FOR THE BROADBAND MASTER PLAN, INCLUDING A DIG-ONCE DRAFT POLICY, A MASTER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES, A STREAMLINED ENCROACHMENT PERMIT PROCESS, AND DIRECTING CITY STAFF TO PURSUE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2011, City Council unanimously approved the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Technology, including developing a Broadband Master Plan as a comprehensive, city-wide policy for the development of the infrastructure that makes the fast, affordable internet access possible; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2014 and again on October 28, 2014, City Council unanimously approved the policy direction updates provided for the Broadband Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Cruz is soliciting implementable ideas for upgrading Santa Cruz's broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Cruz is evaluating long-term City networking needs by reviewing existing City broadband facilities and budgets with due consideration to expected future traffic loads and expectations of available resources, and identifying infrastructure development projects which are potentially of mutual interest to the City and private sector providers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Cruz is pursuing upgrading broadband availability in publicly subsidized housing by identifying private and public sources of investment in broadband facilities and service in public housing and develop implementable initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Cruz is identifying immediate opportunities for City investment, including evaluating funding available for economic development initiatives, developing further recommendations for submission to the City Council for applying such funding to current broadband construction plans – both public and private sector – and determining if those funds can be directed to support those projects, either through direct investment or indirectly through administrative means; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Cruz is validating broadband infrastructure mapping and reviewing the fiber survey conducted by the Central Coast Broadband Consortium and other research, incorporating the information into the City's GIS system and making it publicly available; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Cruz is developing a long-term broadband infrastructure roadmap, taking into account existing resources, City networking needs, economic and social development objectives and private sector investment plans, and drafting specific objectives for high-speed network expansion into commercial and residential areas; and

RESOLUTION NO. NS-

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Cruz is reviewing existing City of Santa Cruz draft policies and similar documents from other local jurisdictions, identify gaps and consolidate into a final broadband master plan with specific policy recommendations for Council consideration, including long-term investment in broadband infrastructure development; and

WHEREAS, a dig-once policy is the first pivotal step to help streamline broadband infrastructure improvements when any entity is proposing to open streets and rights-of-way for utility construction, cost efficiencies can be realized because multiple entities can join in the single dig, reducing costs as well as reducing disruption to the road surface; and

WHEREAS, the proposed dig-once policy is consistent with the County of Santa Cruz, Central Coast Broadband Consortium and Next Century Cities' recommended best practices; and

WHEREAS, providing a master lease agreement enables a fair and efficient manner for providers to install equipment on City property to help reduce costs of infrastructure improvements, streamlining the process and reducing uncertainty involved for telecommunications providers; and

WHEREAS, to assist providers in deploying new and improved infrastructure, the City of Santa Cruz can create further permitting efficiencies by allowing the installation of broadband-related equipment within public right of ways, subject only to "time, place and manner" of access, through the City's encroachment permit process; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Cruz understands that the 21st-Century economy is dependent upon affordable, high-speed internet access that encourages competition and enables the entire community to access the internet and compete in the world-market with gigabit fiber infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Cruz is pursuing potential broadband infrastructure opportunities that advance the economic and community benefits of robust broadband infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Santa Cruz approves the following initial policies of the Broadband Master Plan:

1. Establish the proposed Dig-Once Policy and adopt it as the Telecommunications Improvement Ordinance at a future public hearing.
2. Approve the Master Lease Agreement so telecommunications providers can lease city-owned assets to install broadband-related equipment.
3. Approve a streamlined encroachment permit process by allowing the installation of equipment within public right of ways, subject only to "time, place and manner" of access, through the City's encroachment permit process.
4. Direct City staff to continue to pursue broadband infrastructure opportunities that advance the economic and community benefits of robust broadband infrastructure.

RESOLUTION NO. NS-

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of March, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

APPROVED: _____
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk Administrator