



Initiative Overview

In today's digital age, affordable high-speed Internet is a necessity. Basic access should be available to all, regardless of income or neighborhood. As many as 30 percent of City of Los Angeles residents do not have high-speed Internet, while many businesses and residents pay higher prices for slower speeds when compared to other global cities.

CityLinkLA is an initiative designed to address both the digital divide and our virtual competitiveness. Launched in 2014 by Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, CityLinkLA is an effort to encourage the private sector to deploy advanced wireline and Wi-Fi digital communications networks so that every residence and business in Los Angeles has access to world-class, high-speed Internet and at prices comparable to those in other innovative communities around the world. The goal is to provide basic access to all for free or at a very low cost and gigabit (1 Gbps) or higher speed access at competitive rates. CityLinkLA is envisioned to include wired gigabit access to every home and business and as close to ubiquitous wireless coverage for the entire City as possible.

Other cities across the nation and globe are working rapidly to ensure that their communities are served by advanced communications networks, some building their own fiber systems and others working with private broadband providers. Here in Los Angeles, City leaders are focusing on a unique public-private partnership as they strive to encourage deployment of affordable, privately-financed and privately-owned broadband systems at 1 Gbps speeds and higher. CityLinkLA allows private companies to take advantage of select City assets and infrastructure in exchange for participating in the initiative. In addition, the City is streamlining its permit processes to make it simpler to plan and deploy major telecommunications projects rapidly. The City is joined by other public agencies, including Metro and the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, as well as its own Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Department of Recreation and Parks in identifying and making critical infrastructure available to initiative participants. This commitment to working with providers to make Los Angeles a true "Gigabit City" is at the heart of the partnership.

Universal access to high-speed Internet is essential to the City's progress, and will drive Los Angeles' entertainment, tech and entrepreneurial activity into the economy of the future. In addition to economic benefits, the City's education, health care and public safety sectors will directly benefit from the implementation of a citywide high-speed network, ultimately ensuring a safer and more secure future for the City of Los Angeles and its residents.

Initiative Goals

- Ensure residences and businesses in the City of Los Angeles have access to a fast, affordable and reliable broadband internet network.
- Eliminate barriers to access in underserved areas in order to bridge the City's digital divide.
- Establish an essential investment in Los Angeles' leadership role in the digital economy.
- Ensure universal access to information and technology to stimulate employment and improve education, health care and public safety throughout the City.

