# County of El Dorado

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## Legislation Details (With Text)

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| **File #:** | 18-1289 | **Version:** | 1 | |
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**Title:** Broadband Ad Hoc Committee, in coordination with the Chief Administrative Office, recommending the Board receive and file the final presentation and report from NeoConnect regarding the Broadband Feasibility Study in El Dorado County, focusing on financial analysis and options related to implementing a Broadband strategy in El Dorado County.  (Est. Time: 2.0 Hrs.)

FUNDING:  50% Economic Development Administration grant, 50% General Fund.

**Sponsors:**

**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:** 1. A - County of El Dorado, Financial Considerations, Gigabit Strategy Models, 2. B - Presentation - Financial Considerations, Gigabit Strategies, 3. B - Revised Presentation - Financial Considerations, Gigabit Strategies

| Date | Ver. | Action By | Action | Result |
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| 9/18/2018 | 1 | Board of Supervisors | Received and Filed | |

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## DISCUSSION / BACKGROUND

On September 1, 2015, following a presentation on the state of Broadband infrastructure in the County, the Board established a Broadband Technical Advisory Committee to work on broadband issues and appointed two Board members to that Ad Hoc Committee (Legistar 15-1020).

On January 12, 2016, the Board adopted Resolution 013-2016, approving the submittal of an application for an Economic Development Agency (EDA) Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program Grant for the purposes of completing a Broadband feasibility study (Legistar 16-0006).

On September 27, 2016 the Board authorized acceptance of a $75,000 grant award from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program for the purpose of conducting a Broadband feasibility study in El Dorado County, and committed $75,000 for the purpose of the 50% County match required by the grant. The resolution states that improved Broadband service fits strongly within the County's Economic Development Strategic Plan and that building Broadband capacity in El Dorado County is "a way to create and retain jobs, educate and retain students, and position the County in the 21st century economy."

A technical advisory group was assembled to assist with technical expertise in the area of Broadband policy and infrastructure. This group includes members from non-profit organizations with special interests in Broadband technology and stakeholder community members.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Broadband Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study was launched and subsequently awarded on April 25, 2017 to NeoConnect, a Colorado-based consulting firm specializing in Broadband planning and analysis (Legistar 17-0442).  A subgroup of the technical advisory group and the Ad Hoc Committee participated in the RFP evaluation process.  A contract was negotiated and executed with NeoConnect, with an effective date in late September of 2017.

Since September of 2017, NeoConnect has initiated regular bi-weekly meetings with members of the Ad Hoc Committee and technology advisory group to discuss the status of Broadband in the community, both in the Lake Tahoe basin and on the west slope.  The first priority item is the approval of policy revisions that will better prepare the County for Broadband development.  Policy initiatives include a "dig once" policy that would allow for the installation of fiber conduit when a trench is open for streets, developments, and other construction projects.  NeoConnect has been working with City of South Lake Tahoe and City of Placerville staff and community members who participate with the advisory group to assess current policies and Broadband needs.

During the week of January 16th-19th NeoConnect conducted several stakeholder community group meetings as part of the outreach component of the Feasibility Study project. These groups included El Dorado County residents and professionals from various community stakeholder groups including education and libraries, public safety, healthcare, and business.

On January 23, 2018, NeoConnect presented to the Board of Supervisors a summary of their efforts so far, including the current broadband environment and infrastructure in El Dorado County, and results of surveys and community engagement.  Their presentation also included examples of policies and ordinances that facilitate broadband deployment, such as "dig once" or "shadow conduit" policies (Legistar 18-0077).

On June 26, 2018 NeoConnect presented to the Board of Supervisors further progress on the Feasibility Study project, including a discussion of various levels of County investment, initial financial modeling and best options for the County to explore further (Legistar 18-0950).

This is the final presentation within the current scope of the contract with NeoConnect and will include final findings and financial analysis to the Board.

**ALTERNATIVES**
N/A

**OTHER DEPARTMENT / AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**
N/A

**CAO RECOMMENDATION**
It is recommended that the Board receive the presentation and provide feedback to staff and the Ad Hoc Committee.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

A $150,000 budget ($75,000 EDA grant, $75,000 General Fund/Economic Development budget) has been established for the Broadband Feasibility Study effort, with $126,000 of that budget dedicated to the contract with Neoconnect.

## CLERK OF THE BOARD FOLLOW UP ACTIONS
N/A

## STRATEGIC PLAN COMPONENT
Economic Development-Infrastructure to improve and maintain competitiveness
Good Governance-Infrastructure

## CONTACT
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