ENABLING SMARTER, MORE CONNECTED RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH BROADAND CONNECTIVITY

Broadband touches almost every aspect of our lives — from electronically paying the balance of your utility bill to doing research online. Yet, those in rural communities don't always enjoy the same access to broadband as those living in larger communities. To help alleviate this digital divide, underserved and unserved rural municipalities are taking responsibility for building the infrastructure necessary to bring high-speed broadband services to their communities By doing so, they have taken a significant step forward in providing their citizens with the same economic advancement opportunities as those in larger metropolitan districts.

AMMON, ID

The City of Ammon is an eastern Idaho community located a few miles outside of Idaho Falls with just under 15,000 residents. Concerned with negative impacts that slower, more expensive internet services had on its economy, the City pledged to build, own a and operate open access fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) network. Designed to increase service provider competition, residents and businesses enjoy a significantly greater choice in broadband service providers and service options. The Active Ethernet FTTH network utilizes Software Defined Network (SDN) technology to deliver vastly higher bandwidth and allow subscribers to switch between multiple providers almost instantly through a cloud environment using a specially designed portal.

After being denied federal government funding assistance, Ammon creatively developed and utilized Local Improvement Districts to fund the infrastructure. Residents who chose to opt in, voluntarily shared network build costs equally among other participants. Ammon's plan has proven cost-effective, spurring economic growth and increasing property values. The network has since become a national next generation, true open access network model and was named the "2016 Community Broadband Project of the Year" by the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA).

eX² Technology worked closely with the Ammon Fiber Optic Department providing requirements specification, procurement support and design assistance for all of Ammon's pre-construction preparation and engineering activities, including the best locations to place fiber throughout neighborhoods. For more information about Ammon's next generation broadband model, please visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSQVvFY4lPI&feature=youtu.be.

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