



# Broadband Master Plan

## Project Summary

Project Number

1708

<b>Budget Year:</b>	2017
Year Identified:	2017
Department:	Information Technology
Questica Reference:	IT-17-05
Priority:	C

<b>2017 Budget:</b>	\$60,000
Project Type:	Studies
Multi-Year Approval:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual Approval:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Project Description:

This project will engage an external consultant to investigate the feasibility of providing municipally owned fiber-optic based broadband internet access in Canmore. This study will investigate the available methods of building the network, the scope of availability to institutions, businesses and homes, funding and operational models, potential for providing services via the network, methods of connecting Canmore to the Internet, and integration opportunities with existing providers. The information gathered in the study will be used to provide recommendations on how the Town can best implement Municipal Broadband to the community.

END

### Budget Funding:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Economic Development Reserve	\$60,000	0	0	0	0	\$60,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

### Operating Budget Impact:

None at this time. A likely result is a future capital project to implement the Broadband Master Plan.

END

### **Project Rationale:**

Fiber-optic based broadband networks are capable of delivering speeds of 1,000 megabits (also known as a Gigabit) per second to subscribers and can be used to deliver a variety of services including Internet access, television programming and telecommunication services.

Broadband networks provide support to Economic Development by improving the productivity of existing businesses and attracting new businesses to communities, allowing individuals to work from home more effectively, supporting advanced healthcare and security systems, strengthening local housing markets, and represent long term social investments in the form of better-connected schools and libraries. They also create significant opportunities for revenue and savings that can be reinvested into local economies.

Conducting this study in advance of providing or building a Municipal Broadband network permits us to properly plan implementation of this service, building on the work being done in other Municipalities throughout Canada.

Municipal Broadband supports the goal of Economy by providing a support for economic development. Fully investigating broadband implementation and developing a Master Plan supports the goal of Service by ensuring our programs are delivered in an effective, innovative and fiscally responsible manner.

END

### **Options Considered:**

Leaving the free market to determine what incumbent providers build Gigabit capable broadband networks in Canmore could take a large number of years to come to fruition as these organizations use market forces to drive large projects in communities. This can also lead to having multiple networks installed through the Town that are divergent from one another.

Entering an agreement for an existing private-sector service provider to build and operate a broadband network within Canmore is a potential option and should be considered as part of this plan.

END