

# CITY *of* BOSTON

## SUBMISSION TO #SOLUTIONS2020 CALL TO ACTION PLAN

NOVEMBER 23, 2016

The City of Boston is working to ensure that the city's broadband ecosystem fully serves the connectivity needs of constituents. At present, roughly 90% of Bostonians have only a single option for home broadband service. In addition, over 1 in 5 Bostonians do not subscribe to high-speed Internet in the home, primarily for reasons of affordability. The City of Boston is enacting both short- and long-term strategies to address these interconnected challenges.

In the near term, Boston will continue to work with non-profit, commercial, and academic partners to:

1. Increase the rate of home broadband adoption by expanding the availability of low-cost offerings
2. Expand current opportunities to acquire affordable, up-to-date digital tools; and
3. Ensure that all Bostonians are able to build the digital skills they need to leverage broadband connectivity to meet individual, family, and community goals.

Boston's "Technology Goes Home" has often been cited by the Federal Communications Commission for its success in putting into practice this three pronged approach to advancing digital inclusion.

With the long term goal of creating a Boston broadband ecosystem that offers each household, business, and institution the choice of 2 or more broadband providers, Boston is pursuing the following steps:

1. Streamline policies and processes to encourage new and additional private sector investment in the City's broadband ecosystem while preserving Boston's historic appeal and the unique boldness and diversity of its neighborhoods.
2. Make available on a nondiscriminatory basis and attractive terms City assets such as fiber, light and power poles, rooftops, street furniture and traffic signals, to reduce a provider's market entry costs. The City has made available a map of city owned shadow conduit and is incorporating market feedback as to the attractiveness of its current pricing.
3. Create broadband ready building stock by integrating future looking broadband practices into the process of developing residential and commercial real estate.

These are just some of the steps that Mayor Martin J. Walsh has directed his staff to pursue. We look forward to hearing the ideas of our colleagues across the nation.