

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray believes internet access is the infrastructure challenge of the early 21st century, and is committed to ensuring all Seattleites have access to competitive, affordable, and equal broadband internet options.

When the Mayor took office in 2014 he found telecom investment had stagnated, in part due to onerous City rules. The Mayor introduced his strategy to increase broadband deployment adoption – with a key focus on reducing regulatory barriers to attract investment and incent the competition that reduces prices and improves service. Thanks to these initial changes 160,000 residences gained access FTTH gigabit broadband internet service since 2014.

5G has the potential to revolutionize our internet landscape. We are taking several steps to manage the impending demand for fiber and small cell buildout to make this a reality: creating capacity for permitting and make ready work; creating a utility stakeholder committee to understand upcoming construction and shared build-out opportunities; and streamlining permitting of small cells.

We believe programs like these will help speed deployment of 5G technology in our city. But we also need help from carriers and the FCC. Specifically:

- Local governments need transparency, just like the industry insists on it from us. To evaluate proposals in a timely manner, we need accurate, complete information and detailed plans. The more information we have, the more we can help carriers work with the desires of our community and ultimately be more successful.
- Local governments should not be viewed as roadblocks or barriers to entry. Rather, acknowledge that we must balance the need for 5G deployment with the competing needs for the use of our limited right-of-way and other publicly owned assets, while also maintaining public safety, upholding the law, providing equitable access, and preserving community aesthetics.
- We want to work with providers to reduce remaining barriers to helping the 90,000 Seattle households without internet access get online and to make low income discounted programs more prevalent.

Seattle is excited for the 5G revolution and the benefits it will provide. We thank Commissioner Clyburn for her leadership with the Solutions2020 initiative and allowing the City of Seattle to contribute.