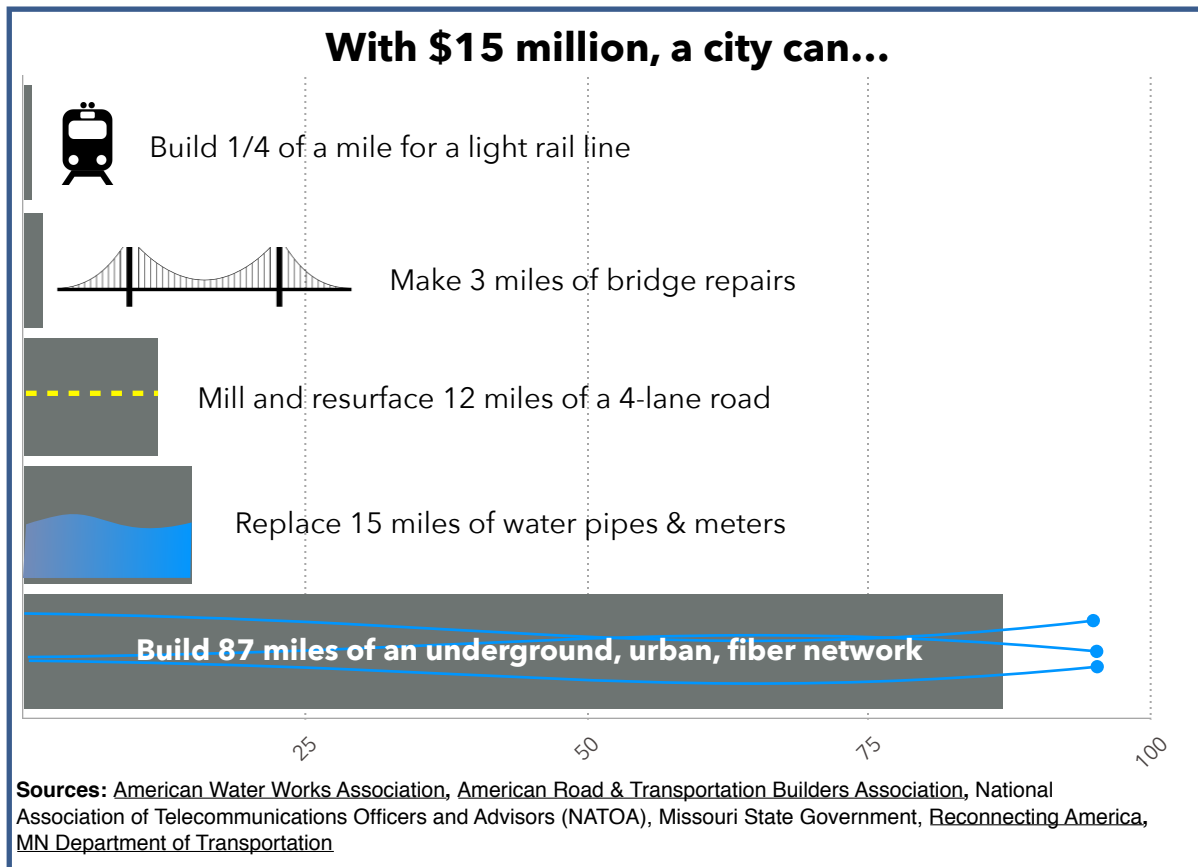


Broadband is Affordable Infrastructure

Local governments invest in the public good.

Local governments spend millions building electric systems, water lines, roads, and bridges. They subsidize the development of airports, sports stadiums, and public parks. Hundreds of communities across the U.S. have now also invested in municipal broadband networks.

These networks serve many different purposes. Some only connect **community anchor institutions**, such as government buildings and libraries. Others connect **businesses and industrial parks**. More than 100 communities have citywide publicly owned fiber networks that provide **residents** with affordable, high-quality Internet access.



(Actual project costs vary, all estimates include engineering and labor)

Communities invest in a **wide range** of infrastructure projects. Fiber optic networks fit well within the historic role of municipal investment to improve the **business climate** and **quality of life**, and are often **lower cost** when compared with other essential infrastructure.

Comparing infrastructure projects in smaller cities

HIGH-SPEED FIBER NETWORK

Wilson, North Carolina

Population: 50,000
Total Cost: \$37 million
Local Investment: \$37 million

Wilson, North Carolina built the Greenlight network in 2008. Two private Internet Service Providers had refused to improve their unreliable services, and the city was looking to strengthen the local economy after the loss of key industries. Wilson used Certificates of Participation, which are similar to revenue bonds, to fund building the network. They now have a network that connects every home and business in the city and provides some of the fastest connections in the country. Greenlight has helped Wilson become an important source of economic growth in the region, with new businesses, including a film production company's special effects studio, coming into town to take advantage of the network.



Fiber installation. (Photo credit: btphotosbduk, licensed through Creative Commons)

WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

Boynton Beach, Florida

Population: 78,000
Total Cost: \$30.8 million
Local Investment: \$30.8 million

This award winning, state-of-the-art water treatment plant in the coastal city of Boynton Beach provides 24 million gallons of potable water to residents each day. The city was growing and needed higher capacity treatment plants, and decided to design a new facility with environmental sustainability in mind. Existing utility customer rates and developer capacity fees paid for the project.



ONGOING ROAD RESTORATION

Parker, Colorado

Population: 48,000
Total Cost: \$26.5 million
Local Investment: \$26.5 million

Over the last three years, Parker, Colorado, has spent and budgeted millions of dollars on revitalization and expansion projects for its road systems. These improvements included \$6 million to widen two major thoroughways in the city.

Comparing infrastructure projects in larger cities

MUNICIPAL NETWORK

Lafayette, Louisiana

Population: 124,000

Total Cost: \$140 million

Local Investment: \$140 million

Using revenue bonds, the city of Lafayette built an extensive fiber network in 2009. In Fall 2014, three high tech companies committed to bringing approximately 1,300 new jobs to the "Silicon Bayou" thanks to the presence of the network and the University of Louisiana's top-ranked computer science program. In April 2015, Standard & Poor gave LUS Fiber an A+ bond rating.

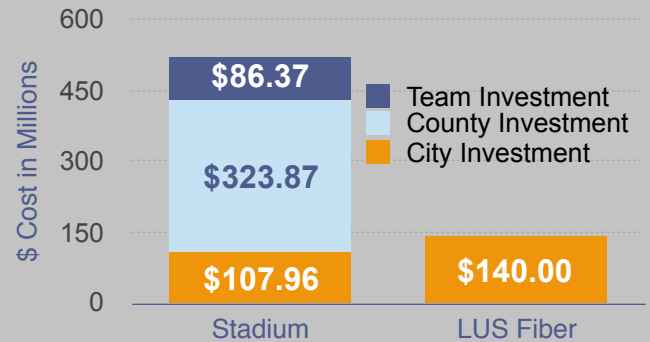
STADIUM

City of Orlando and Orange County, Florida

Population (Orlando): 270,000

Total Cost: \$518.2 million

Local Investment: \$431.83 million



MUNICIPAL NETWORK

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Population: 176,000

Total Cost: \$369 million

Local Investment: \$219 million

\$169 million in bonds, a \$50 million line of credit from the electric utility, and \$111.6 million from the federal government funded this Fiber-to-the-Home project that serves Chattanooga and the surrounding region. EPB Fiber's network provides an annual benefit of \$23.1 million to the utility, including revenue and avoided costs. More than 100,000 homes and businesses have now chosen EPB as an Internet access provider.

Sports stadiums are a mixed bag for community life and economic development. **Municipal networks**, however, have a strong record of encouraging **economic development** and improving **quality of life**.

WATER RESERVOIR

Atlanta, Georgia

Population: 486,000

Total Cost: \$280 million

Local Investment: \$280 million

A defunct quarry became a 2.4 billion gallon water reservoir that increased Atlanta's water storage from a three day back up supply to a 30 day reserve. The city-funded project updated aging infrastructure and drilled new tunnels for the water supply.

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