

# Fiber For Our Future

## Why Fiber Optic?

- **Speed:** Fiber optic line transports data at the speed of light. Data transmission over fiber optic line isn't subject to the electrical resistance, signal degradation, and distance limitations of copper line.
- **Flexibility:** Fiber optic line can contain over 100 independent fibers – each fiber is capable of transporting a massive amount of data from different sources to different destinations.
- **Capacity:** Fiber Optic is state of the art. Existing data transmission demands will only use a fraction of the Fiber's capacity. With **current** technology, Fiber exceeds copper's capacity 40 times over – and that number will only go higher with future technological advances.
- **Cost:** Municipal Fiber Optic will be managed as efficiently as municipal electric service. Subscriber fees need only cover the cost of operations, not multi-million dollar executive salaries and perks or shareholder dividends.

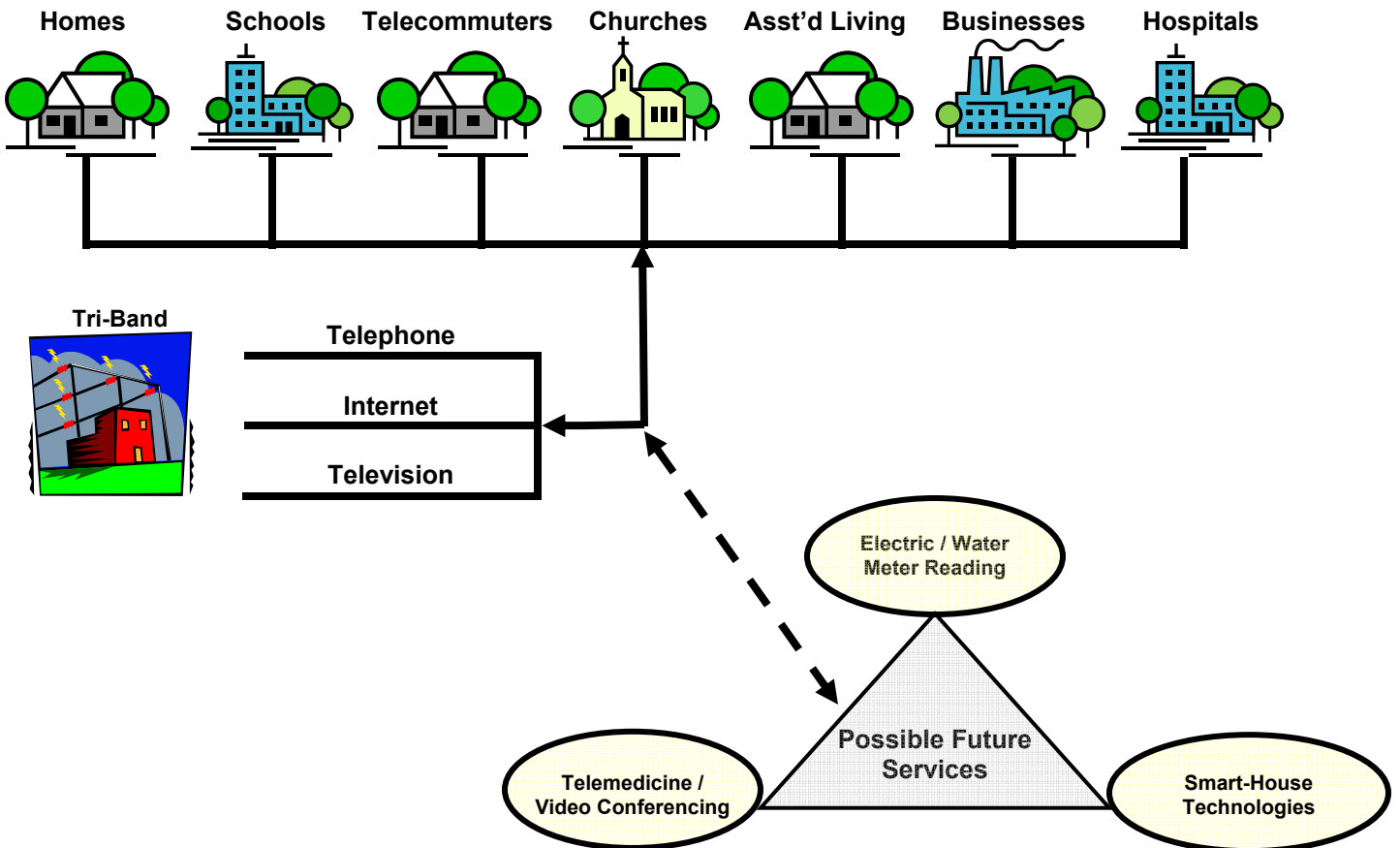
## Don't I already have Fiber Optic?

Currently, telephone and cable providers are running *some* signals through fiber optic line – **however, no existing provider in the TriCities currently offers fiber optic line all the way to your home or business.** The population density of our cities is too low to make full fiber installation profitable enough for the existing providers. They exist to make money – any project that doesn't make enough money will never take place.

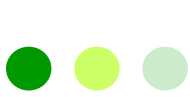
The TriCities already operate and maintain Fiber Optic 'backbones' linking government buildings, schools and electrical substations. Negotiations are underway for TriCity involvement in a Fiber Optic network linking NIU in Dekalb with FermiLab in Batavia. **Please note** that these are government Fiber Optic networks and will **not** be available in the foreseeable future to the citizens and general business community.

## How does Fiber Optic work?

Fiber optic line is composed of glass fibers (just like you might have seen in recent years on holiday decorations). Data signals (phone, internet, television) are converted into light pulses and sent through the lines. At the destination point, the light pulses are converted back into data signals (and routed to your telephone, computer, TV).



**True Local Service, True Local Accountability - And Your Money Stays HERE.**



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## Last year SBC and Comcast both said this would raise my taxes.

SBC and Comcast spent hundreds of thousands of dollars last year to tell you that a municipal broadband utility would certainly raise your taxes (they then recouped the cost of this advertising/ mailing blitz by increasing our rates). While a total failure of the utility is a near-zero possibility (considering 40% of the voters approved last year's broadband referendum – and a 40% subscription rate is well over the break-even point for the utility), last year's referendum did call for General Obligation bonds – which could impact tax rates under the worst-case scenario. For this reason, we have researched other financing options and we can now announce that a municipal fiber optic broadband utility will have:

## ZERO IMPACT ON YOUR TAXES – GUARANTEED!

This year's referendum question will again ask for you to grant authority to the TriCities to build and operate a municipal fiber optic broadband utility in a manner which carries **ZERO TAX RISK**. There are several possible financing methods available to the TriCities. While these methods may require a longer repayment period or a higher interest rate than last year's proposal, the utility will remain **100% independent of your tax dollars**.

### Will I have to subscribe?

Absolutely not! The goal is to provide **state of the art infrastructure** and **more choice** to your selection of internet/telephone/television provider(s) at **lower prices**. The TriCities broadband utility will offer tiered pricing, making a total subscription (all three services) your best economic choice – but **it will never require you to accept any services you don't want**. SBC and Comcast's existing copper wire connections will remain and a Fiber Optic line will not be run from the pole to your home unless **you** choose to subscribe. A TriCities broadband utility will offer services at competitive rates as well as **local** customer service contacts and **local** management. The decision to subscribe and the choice of services will always remain with **you**.

**EVERYONE in the TriCities will benefit** from a municipal broadband utility. By adding competition to a market that's currently one step from a monopoly, existing providers will be forced to reduce rates and improve customer service if they want to remain competitive.

### What does my city know about running this type of utility?

Your cities have successfully run water and electric utilities for over 100 years. They run and maintain fiber optic networks between government buildings, schools and electrical substations. A TriCities broadband utility will be staffed and run by professionals in the telecommunications field. Many highly-qualified local candidates were left jobless in the corporate downsizing and outsourcing of recent years. The original business model for a TriCities broadband utility included the hiring of over 40 new employees - local employees contributing to our local economies.

### How can I get more information?

Please visit our website:

[www.tricitybroadband.com](http://www.tricitybroadband.com)

Or call:

630.938.7630