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COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
The Voice of Colorado's Cities and Towns

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Moving past SB 152

Michelle Haynes, Executive Director
Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning, Inc.

REGION 10
Leveraging Resources for
Stronger Communities

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REGION 10
Leveraging Resources for
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West Central Colorado Service Area

COLORADO PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT REGIONS

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CML
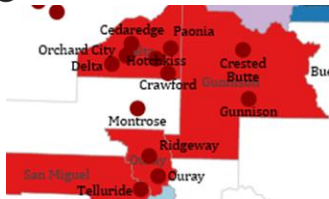COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
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Regional Background

- Broadband identified as key Economic Driver/Need
  - Significant Loss Of Coal-Related Employment->400 jobs
  - Difficult recruitment/retention of businesses
  - Population Outmigration

- DOLA funding for regional Broadband Plans
  - Funding for Implementation Plan (NeoConnect)
  - Implementation Funding to Leverage Project

- GOAL: **Abundant, Affordable, Redundant Service**

Opting Out SB 152

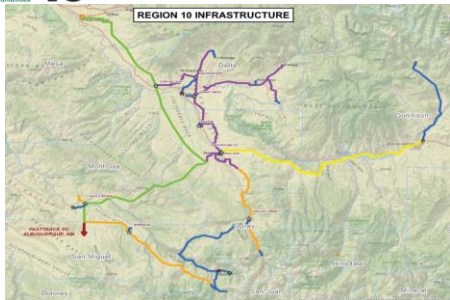Virgil Turner, Director of Innovation from the City of Montrose, describes what it is like when a community opts out of SB 152:

"We didn't know exactly what we'd do," Turner said. "But we no longer are under this dark cloud of not being able to be innovative."

https://muninetworks.org/content/voters-quiet-drums-polls-colorado Nov, 2014

The Regional Plan

REGION 10 INFRASTRUCTURE

Leveraging Service
City of Montrose

- Best Sign Systems:
  - ➢ Approximately 50 local employees
  - ➢ Extended fiber from city facility to industrial park,
  - ➢ Partnered with local ISP (Public/Private Partnership
  - ➢ economic development agreement-jobs for service
- Proximity Space:
  - ➢ Co-work space
  - ➢ Gigabit Service
  - ➢ Multiple Public/Private Partners
  - ➢ Attraction of Location Neutral Workers
- Recruitment and Expansion of new companies-
  - ➢ Travel Recon-14 New Employees
  - ➢ Outreach Smartphone Monitoring-5 New Employees

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Leveraging Service
City of Montrose

- Next Century Cities
  - ➢ **"Ensuring our citizens have access to robust broadband service is as much a quality-of-life issue as providing clean drinking water, safe neighborhoods, and affordable housing. If the private sector is unable or unwilling to meet our community's need for broadband services, it is imperative we as a municipal government act to meet this need." Mayor Bob Nicholson**
  - ➢ http://nextcenturycities.org/member-cities/
- Cool and Connected-
  - ➢ USDA/EPA Technical Assistance Grant,
  - ➢ 1 of 5 national awards from over 300 applicants,
  - ➢ First in planning process

  "Broadband has helped rural communities across the country gain access to improved health care, open the door to educational services and expand business and social opportunities," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. "The new Cool and Connected program will help these small towns use broadband to provide new opportunities for people and businesses in rural areas."
  http://epnewswire.com/stories/510724153-usda-and-epa-announce-first-five-cool-connected-communities

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Next Steps

- Regional Service Access (2016)
- Middle Mile service Cities of Delta and Montrose (2016)
- CNL access in remaining local communities (2017)
- Partnership with local ISPs
- Delta/Montrose Electric Association Last Mile Service
- Implementation of Economic Development Plans:
  - ➢ Delta/Gunnison County
  - ➢ Montrose Cool and Connected
  - ➢ West End
  - ➢ Better Tourist Experience in Resort Communities

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