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Council may give voters opportunity for faster internet and lower prices through advanced telecommunications

(Centennial, COLO) The Centennial City Council is exploring the possibility of placing a ballot question on the upcoming November regular election. The ballot question could potentially lead to residents and businesses gaining access to faster and higher capacity telecommunication services and enjoying lower prices for these services by increasing the competition between businesses providing these services.

The ballot question relates to the City's ability to use its existing fiber optic network. The City has developed an approximate 42-mile backbone of fiber optic lines in many City streets to operate the City's traffic control signals, weather stations and to connect public facilities. This infrastructure has improved traffic flow and reduced congestion within the City's transportation system. Thanks to improvements in technology, these fiber optic lines could now also be used in partnership with private broadband service providers to facilitate access to advanced telecommunications and internet services.

Approval of a ballot question by the electorate is needed to take advantage of the opportunity for faster internet and lower prices. In 2005, the State enacted Senate Bill (SB) 05-152 which prohibited local government's from directly or indirectly providing telecommunications services to their residents or businesses. This law prevents the City from partnering with private broadband service providers to use Centennial's existing fiber optic network to facilitate residents and businesses having access to faster and higher capacity internet and telecommunications, at potentially lower cost, leveraged through competition among service providers. Importantly, SB 05-152 allows municipalities to ask their voters for approval to take back the municipal right to determine how the fiber optic lines are used to benefit City residents and businesses.

"The opportunity this gives to our residents and businesses is extraordinary. Businesses consider access to telecommunication services and speed a priority when deciding where to locate their facilities. Through partnerships with the private sector, our residents and existing and future businesses could enjoy faster internet services and possibly lower prices," says District 3 Council Member Ken Lucas. "It is the City's intent to partner with the private sector by making our telecommunications infrastructure available which would benefit residents and businesses in such a positive way."

For additional information visit [Potential Ballot Question](#).

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