



Austin, Minnesota's effort to collectively create a vision for a better community  
where all ideas are welcome and the best are brought to life.

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[www.vision2020austin.com](http://www.vision2020austin.com)

Date: July 17, 2014  
To: Austin Community  
From: Vision 2020 Community Wide Technology Committee  
RE: Ultra Broadband Feasibility

Results of the Ultra-Broadband Feasibility Study commissioned in December 2013 are available today on [www.gigaustin.org](http://www.gigaustin.org).

### **Parameters of Study**

The study documents the feasibility of an infrastructure project to deliver access to up to **One Gig** (1 Gbps) data transfer speeds to every building (home, school, business, hospital, etc.) within the geographical borders of the Austin Public School District.

### **Results of Study**

Study results show that ultra-high-speed Internet is feasible in Austin if community support generates a high rate of households choosing to use the service. According to the study, fiber optic cable is the best choice of technology for the project because of its data transfer speeds, reliability and 'future-proof' status.

### **Recommendations**

The Community Wide Technology committee recommends pursuing a Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) project in Austin without delay because:

- Bandwidth needs—business and residential—roughly double every two years.
- FTTP will deliver up to **One Gig** data service which is rapidly becoming an expected utility for businesses and residents choosing a location. Fiber today is the equivalent to building railroads in the nineteenth century and electricity infrastructure in the twentieth century.
- Fiber-to-the-premises infrastructure will increase property values.
- **One Gig** data speeds become a competitive advantage for local business and help improve employee recruiting and retention. FTTP delivers reliable data service to make

- telecommuting feasible and productive.
- Ultra high definition video conferencing is supported by **One Gig** data service. Ultra HD video's speed and image accuracy make virtual conferences with health care providers or classroom teachers highly productive.
  - FTTP networks often have a lower costs of operation—and lower energy use—than other types of broadband.

### **Gig Austin**

The Community Wide Technology committee is also launching a Gig Austin campaign to share information about ultra-high-speed Internet service, Fiber-to-the-premises and plans for Austin. Information can be found at [www.gigaustin.org](http://www.gigaustin.org). Residents are encouraged to sign up for the Gig Austin email newsletter to receive news about the project.

### **Next Steps**

To ensure the future success of a FTTP project in Austin, community support and likely service subscription rates must be documented. The Community Wide Technology committee will conduct a canvas to help quantify and confirm support from the community. The survey is planned to be completed in the summer of 2014.

### **Seeking Partners**

The Community Wide Technology committee is also seeking partners in the project. Any private business, philanthropic organization, cooperative or government unit with interest in the Austin FTTP project is asked to contact Chris Holt at 507-437-2002 or [chrisholt@crc.coop](mailto:chrisholt@crc.coop). Mr. Holt is the chair of the Community Wide Technology committee.

### **Study Funding**

Ag Star Financial, the Blandin Foundation and the Hormel Foundation funded the feasibility study.