CONNECT

A Newsletter About the South Bay Fiber Network Published by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments

COVER STORY

Opening Virtual Doors

L.A. County's Internal Services Department Details How the South Bay Fiber Network will Reshape County's Digital Landscape

The Los Angeles Internal Services Department (ISD) provides a range of support services to other county departments in the areas of purchasing, contracting, facilities, information technology, as well as other resources such as energy and environmental programs management, parking and mail services.

The ISD's Director Selwyn Hollins recently addressed how the South Bay Fiber Network will benefit his department, the county and its residents now and in the future.

Q: How will the South Bay Fiber Network help the county enhance its operations?
A: Inter-agency data sharing is a huge challenge. A lot of effort has been spent over time just to get connections between the various agencies at both the county and 88 cities in Los Angeles County. Having a common, secure, and scalable fiber optic network will simplify these connections and lower the cost among the SBCCOG members. From there, we can move from not just a shared fiber network but to collaborating on regional systems that take advantage of data sharing. This is essential to delivering resident-centric digital services, where the public and businesses can go through any virtual door and still receive the services they need.
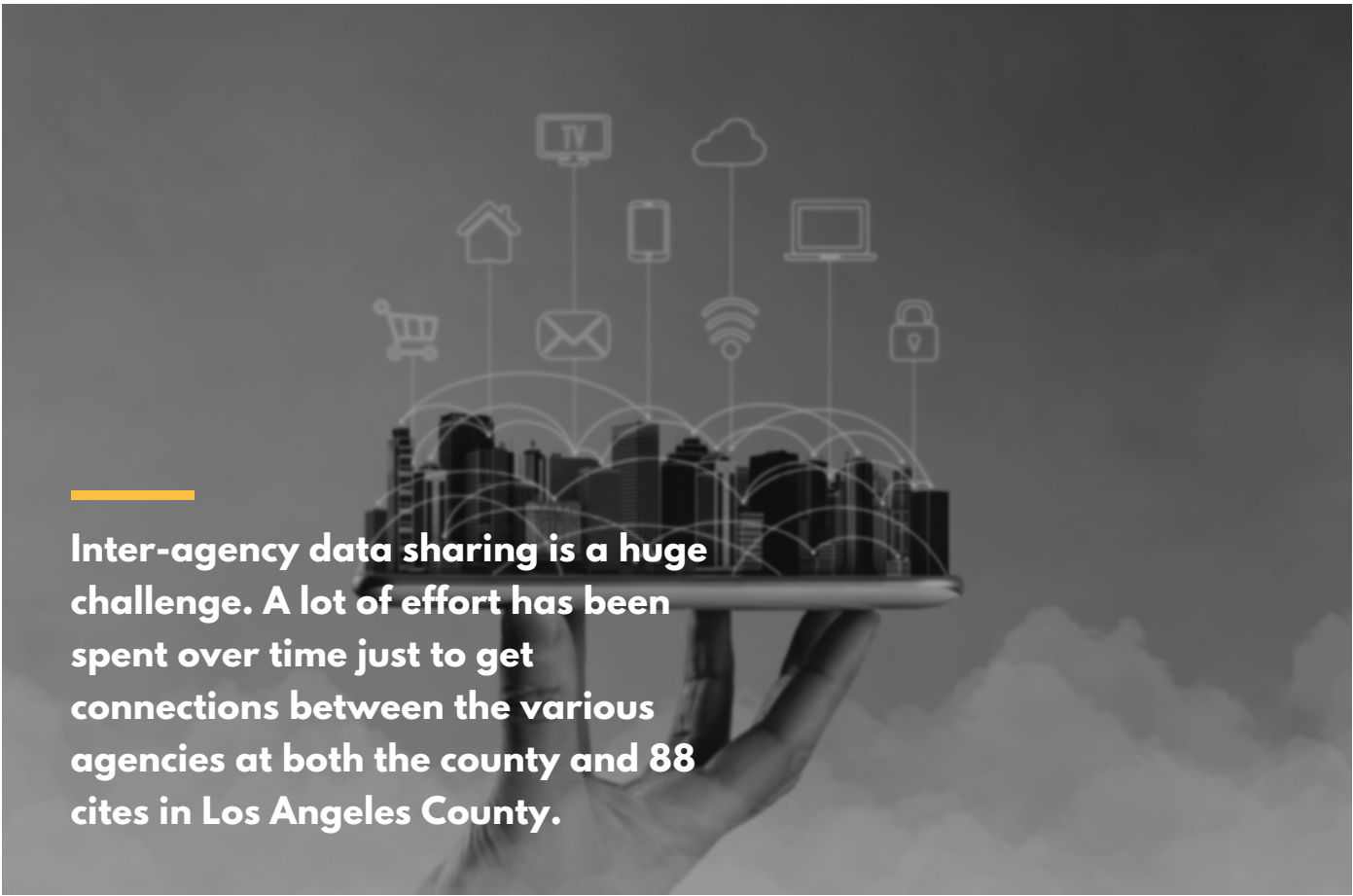
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South Bay Fiber Network

For more information on the South Bay Fiber Network, contact Aaron Baum, SBFN program manager at aaron@southbaycities.org, 310-371-7222 or visit SouthBayCities.org.

> **Inter-agency data sharing is a huge challenge. A lot of effort has been spent over time just to get connections between the various agencies at both the county and 88 cites in Los Angeles County.**

Q: What benefits do you see the SBFN bringing to the residents of the county?

A: One of the most immediate needs for our communities is the lack of available and affordable Internet at home. Without Internet and the computing devices needed to use them, not only are you disadvantaged compared to those who do have access, you are unable to participate meaningfully in our digital world. During the pandemic, with at-home learning, job losses, and in-person restrictions on many businesses and services, the impact is even greater. The SBFN can be the foundation for efforts to close the digital divide, not in just in the future, but today as well. SBCCOG started the process of building this fiber network five years ago and is well-positioned to respond to these challenges. Additionally, it helps attract world-wide companies to the region and increase the number of digital jobs, which are crucial to solving the disparity.

Q: How does presence of the SBFN fit into the county's overall vision—specifically achieving broadband for all?

A: It's clear that fiber optic networks are going to be key for all "broadband for all" efforts. It's clear that fiber optic networks are going to be key for all broadband for all efforts. Whether internet services to our homes, businesses or communities—delivered through fiber to the home, wireless, cable, or satellite—what is common to all are robust and widespread fiber networks behind the scenes. This is going to be an area of significant infrastructure investment in the years to come—and vital in making possible ubiquitous and equitable broadband access. However, SBCCOG has brought that regional fiber network into reality in SBFN. It's available today and able to grow to meet the demands of its members and the communities they serve. It very well could expand into providing direct broadband to our residents and businesses in the future. Immediately, we see the possibility of leveraging the SBFN to connect new technology centers for youth, small businesses and the community.

SBFN also provides a way to improve how governments collaborate with each other.

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How many of us have experienced the frustration of having to navigate jurisdictional boundaries? With common systems and platforms—and the data connections between them—it is possible to offer a much more integrated and streamlined experience to our communities. Shared infrastructure like SBFN not only brings us closer together, it helps to lower cost and reduce complexity around the region.

Q: Smart Cities is a common buzz phrase at the moment. What does that concept look like exactly for this county and how does SBFN get the county closer to realizing that vision?
A: An example of an early smart cities approach was with the regional traffic management network, which ties traffic signal data and controls throughout the cities in the county.

The South Bay Fiber Network enables both the connections and the capacity for evolving smart cities projects.

With the availability of fiber and wireless networks, it's possible to bring similar management and collaboration concepts to other areas, such as smart parking, digital signage, street lighting controls, video cameras, public Wi-Fi, and much more. All of these efforts take connectivity between all of the stakeholders and ample bandwidth. The South Bay Fiber Network enables both the connections and the capacity for evolving smart cities projects. ☞

Thirty-Six South Bay Sites Now Connected to the South Bay Fiber Network

Measure M construction funds will make it possible for the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to solicit new public and private, non-residential sites to join the South Bay Fiber Network. This summer and fall the Regional Public Communications Authority located in Hawthorne, will connect to the SBFN, as well as the Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation in Torrance.

Meanwhile, work has forged ahead, unabated during COVID-19 restrictions to complete the "Core Middle Mile Ring." Thirty-six South Bay sites now have lateral connections to the network. Included are 15 South Bay Cities' designated buildings (primarily city halls), as well as two connections for Beach Cities Health District sites. Also connected are West Basin Municipal Water District's headquarters and water recycling facility, and seven South Bay Workforce Investment Board facilities for training and services. ☞

American Dark Fiber completes the trench for the SBFN connection at SBCCOG's new office at 2355 Crenshaw Blvd.

Enhanced Fiber Speed Capability to Improve Traffic Flow and Safety in Manhattan Beach

The city of Manhattan Beach is in the design phase of its proposed Manhattan Beach Advanced Traffic System (MBATS) project that will enhance commute times and improve the efficiency of traffic signals.

The project would extend the South Bay Cities Council of Government's South Bay Fiber Network' (SBFN) core fiber optic ring. It proposes to upgrade traffic signal control equipment, according to Helen Shi, senior civil engineer for the city of Manhattan Beach.

This will help to support emerging traffic management technologies, such as dynamic signal timing, vehicle-to-vehicle communication, autonomous vehicle communication, emergency response priority treatment at traffic signals, and other smart cities initiatives that will relieve congestion during peak hours, improve safety, reduce traffic delays and allow the system to be more responsive to changes in traffic conditions.

The project will also allow city and county staff to remotely monitor and control the signalized intersections to maximize synchronization and minimize backups through real-time data analysis and timing changes.

LA Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) is already connected to the SBFN, enabling its systems to collect information on current events, and traffic conditions from

The technology will allow for interactive communication with all users of the roadway to make intelligent decisions of their travel plans.

South Bay agencies, and provide it to third-party companies such as Google and WAZE, which pass on the information to the public. The enhanced connection will enable the provision of information on traffic conditions and events within the city of Manhattan Beach to these LA Metro systems.
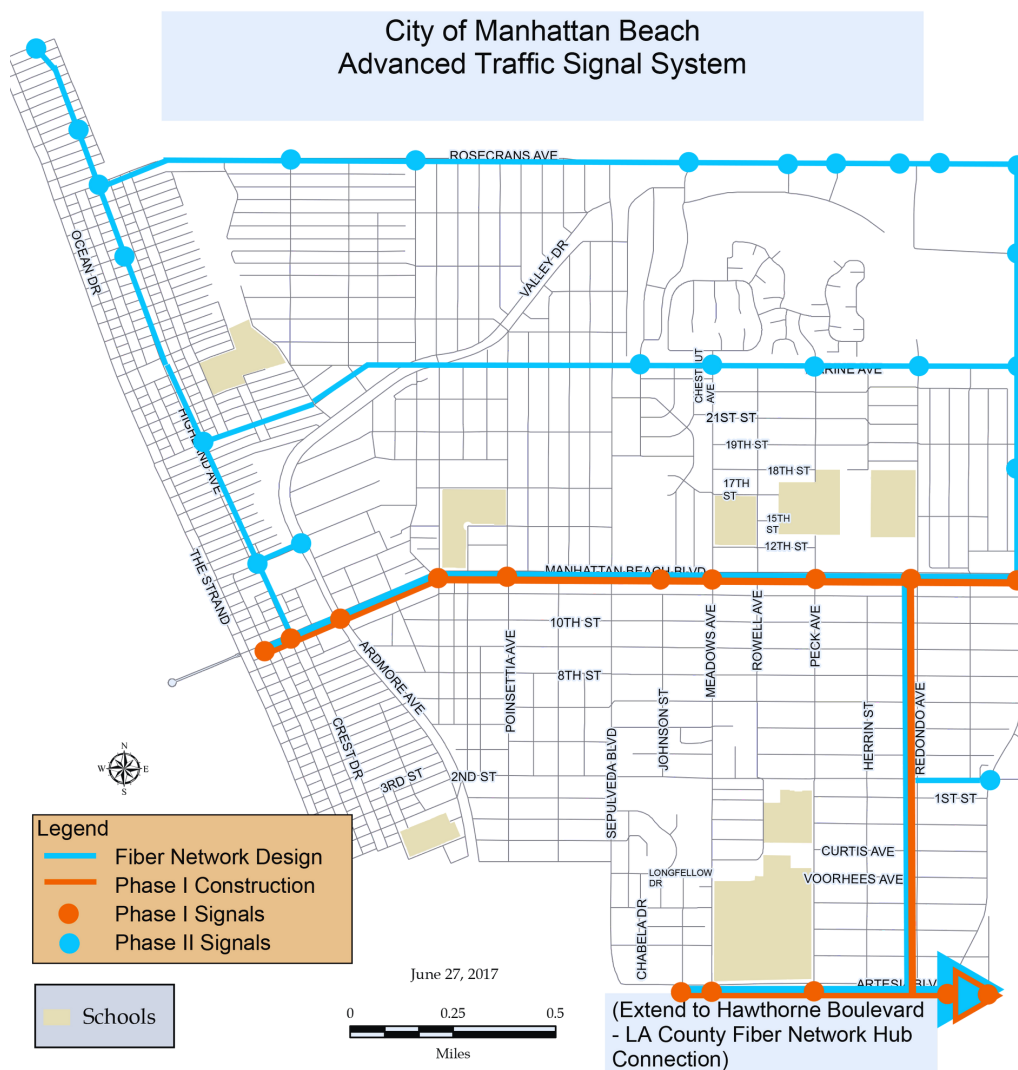
"The project is going to improve traffic flow in the city and enhance incident management on our roadways. The technology will allow for interactive communication with all users of the roadway to make intelligent decisions of their travel plans," Prem Kumar, city engineer for the city of Manhattan Beach, said.

The South Bay Fiber Network, still in the construction stage following the core ring's completion in November 2020, provides

fiber-optic infrastructure that offers cost-effective, high-speed broadband to municipal facilities throughout the South Bay subregion.

The fiber ring will support enhancements to the region's mobility and accessibility systems, and to the networks that provide community services to South Bay residents, such as the city of Manhattan Beach. ▣≼

A map that shows the South Bay Fiber Network and Manhattan Beach Fiber Network that would facilitate the Manhattan Beach Advanced Traffic System (MBATS).

City of Manhattan Beach
Advanced Traffic Signal System

Legend
— Fiber Network Design
— Phase I Construction
● Phase I Signals
● Phase II Signals
▨ Schools

June 27, 2017

0   0.25   0.5
Miles

(Extend to Hawthorne Boulevard - LA County Fiber Network Hub Connection)

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Legislation We're Watching

- **Assembly Bill 14 - Communications: Broadband Services Advanced Services Fund (Aguiar-Curry) -** Would require the office to coordinate with other relevant state and local agencies and national organizations to explore ways to facilitate the streamlining of local land use approvals and construction permit processes for projects related to broadband infrastructure.
  SBCCOG Supports 👍

- **Assembly Bill 41 - Broadband Infrastructure (Wood) -** Would state the intent of legislature to enact future legislation that will improve California's "Dig Once" policy and expedite the deployment of broadband infrastructure in underserved communities.
  SBCCOG Supports 👍

- **Senate Bill 4 - The Broadband for All Act (Gonzalez) -** Would require the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) to work with state and local governments on streamlining land use approvals and construction permitting for broadband infrastructure projects related to broadband infrastructure deployment and connectivity.
  SBCCOG Supports 👍

- **Senate Bill 556 - Street Light Poles, Traffic Signal Poles, Utility Poles and Support Structures: Attachments (Dodd) -** Would prohibit a local government or local publicly owned electric utility from unreasonably denying the leasing or licensing of its street light poles or traffic signal poles to communications service providers for the purpose of placing small wireless facilities on these poles.
  SBCCOG Opposes 👎