Build It And They Will Come
Project THOR Turns 2
Panelists

- Andy Attencio - Summit County IT Director
- Tim Miles - Steamboat Springs Schools IT Director, NCB
- Dan Endries - Ciena Regional Sales Manager
Project THOR Network

- 9 Counties, 15 rural towns and cities
- Assists economic development regions 9, 11, 12
- Scalable to serve other communities
- Provides support for adjacent regions and communities
- Network expansion reduces long monthly costs to all members and communities
Telecom Grade Resilient Infrastructure
Project THOR Services

- Open Access transport network
- Dynamic resilient network architecture
- Affordable IP with provider choice optional
- NWCCOG owned PoP in Denver - Open to all
Driving Broadband Wins

- Project THOR Beta Launched in May 2019
- Full Commercial Availability April 2020
- IP bandwidth price driven down 28%
- Incumbent providers are getting ‘creative’ and reducing prices
- Network connected providers have increased service reliability to customers
- Partnerships are creating new connection and collaboration opportunities
Regional Broadband Innovations

- Project THOR is changing the landscape
  - A public benefit network
  - Our partnerships are strong
- Partners are driving new network infrastructure
  - New middle mile fiber deployed
  - New last mile networks have been created
- Publicly owned regional and local networks and network connected providers are collaborating to innovate
- Support for public safety communications leveraging our infrastructure
Partnerships = Success
New and notable Regional Partnerships

- State of Colorado and Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Holy Cross Energy
- Mountain Parks Electric
- Yampa Valley Electric/Luminate grant funding support through DORA and RDOF (Federal funding)
- Western Area Power Authority
- Platte River Power Authority
- New Grand County Broadband Working Group and locally owned and funded middle mile fiber project through Mountain Parks Electric
- Estes Park, Ft. Collins Connexion
- Region 10 - Project THOR Connection
- UCAR Bison West Project in partnership with Region 10
- Larimer County, Larimer County 911, Lumen,
- Comcast Xfinity
Project THOR CDOT Partnership
Lessons learned

- Flexible partnerships are essential
- Network management automation and alarming is essential
- Having multiple levels of network connection resilience ensures a good nights sleep
- Expecting technically oriented people to have marketing skills is a stretch
- Having strong and creative financial support resources are invaluable
- Create and maintain a reserve fund - There are always unanticipated costs

- Middle mile is essential, meeting local community needs is a necessity
Next Steps

- Network Operator/NOC RFP on the street
- Leased circuit rebid and RFP in process
- Fiber repair and restoral contract in process
- Network Security audit in progress
- RFP for bandwidth and additional IP provider mix in process
- Renew Meet Me Center and Meet Point pricing and contracts
- Update MSRP pricing based on competitive market changes
Rural Community Broadband Exemplars

- Aspen and Pitkin County
- Breckenridge
- Clear Creek County
- Estes Park
- Kremmling
- Park County
- Rio Blanco County
- Steamboat Springs (NW Colorado Broadband)
- Summit County
Andy Atencio
Summit County
Tim Miles
SSPS and NCB
Thank You

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