

I have recently read an article in the Wall Street Journal Online, (“Fighting a Broadband Battle”), by Amy Schatz that commented on how you “[are]... open to the idea of allowing local governments to offer high-speed wireless Internet services”. I am intrigued enough by this idea to respond giving you my full support. I would like to give you a little bit of my background and conclude by offering to you any resources that I can make available.

My name is Marc Edwards. I am currently an Information Technology Support Specialist for the Washoe County government located in Reno, Nevada. I have been employed here for close to two years. My background is in computers, I graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a BSBA majoring in Information Systems. In the spring of 2006, I will be going back for my Masters most likely focusing in Information Systems.

For the past couple of months I have determined that the next “BIG” thing to happen to the Information Technology (and Communications for that matter) industry is uniform access to high-speed Internet connections. While this is technology offered by a select amount of providers, cost is still high and availability is very limited.

With the invention of WiFi coupled with a fiber optic back bone, the ability to build high speed wireless infrastructures that can umbrella large radiuses is now a reality. Both technologies offer very low latency and virtually limitless bandwidth as compared to traditional copper wire. This type of service can be delivered at much lower costs with limitless availability if planned strategically when compared to the current service providers.

This topic is the main reason I am choosing to go back to school. High speed wireless access is how I plan on focusing my studies when going through my Masters program. My goal is to create a profitable business plan that is able to determine the cost of such an infrastructure including all support services that the business should require.

Nevada is a perfect state for such a project. Aside from two large metropolitan areas (Las Vegas & Reno) all of the state is rural.

Most rural areas have no availability to high speed internet connections. Washoe County, being one of the largest counties in Nevada both geographically and population wise makes for a perfect candidate. If your words are sincere then maybe you will consider looking into the Washoe County government to pilot such an organization.

Thank you for your time and good luck in your efforts. I truly think you are on the right path.