

4 mbps is too low a threshold to be considered broadband given the current nature of the internet. Wide availability of streaming video, offsite backups of multi-TB hard drives, user generated content sharing require much faster download and upload speeds. Symmetric service should be a public goal, with upload speed increasing to match typical download speeds. The minimum speed to be considered broadband at this moment is 10mbps and this number should probably increase about 10% per year.

Additionally, while some form of traffic shaping to alleviate network congestion might be necessary in some cases, bandwidth caps are blunt, useless tools that do not address the problem they are designed to solve for the most part. Therefore, bandwidth caps should be done away with.

In general, I do not favor government regulation. However, broadband service in many parts of the U.S. (everywhere I've ever lived, which is in large metropolitan areas) are generally only served by one true broadband provider, cable. And these companies use their position of power to exclude competition (see North Carolina legislation, I believe, which puts municipal broadband at a large disadvantage). The FCC should take steps to increase competition in markets and regulating speed and cap limits will be a non-issue (see the example of many European and Asian markets). Current connectivity providers preach that wireless internet service is the answer to many of these issues but the services are not comparable. Having a faster internet connection on my phone than in my house is nice, if a little bizarre, but having only 1/100th of the total permitted bandwidth in a month (250 vs 2GB) demonstrates that these services are not in the same class and that the proliferation of 4G networks will do nothing to promote broadband expansion in the U.S. because of the severely limited total amount of data allowed. A high speed limit and lots of great roads mean nothing if you're only allowed a gallon of gas a month.