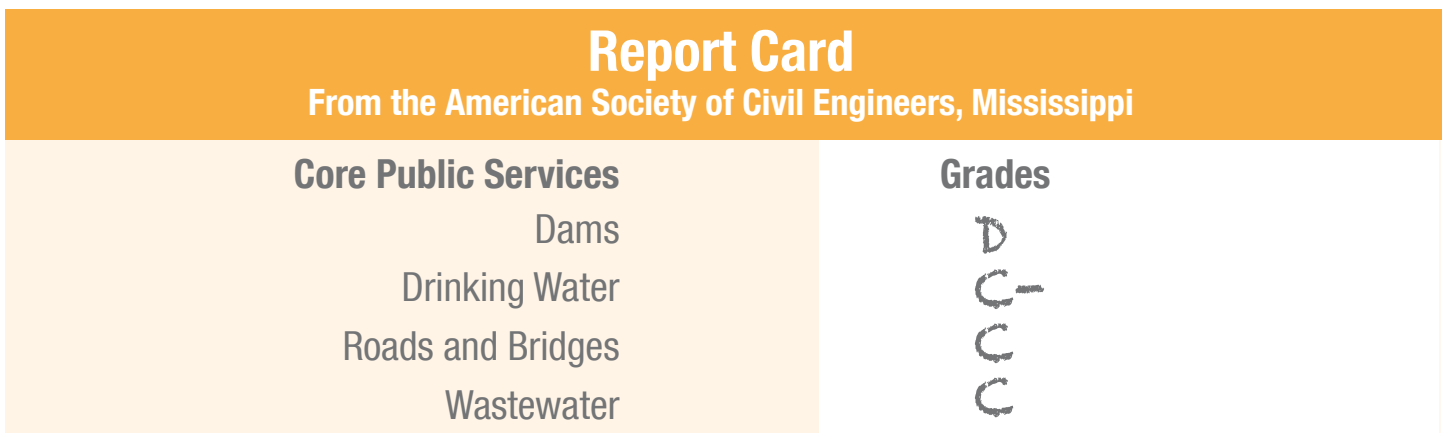


# Government-Run Broadband: A Bridge to Nowhere

A new plan in Mississippi proposes to use settlement funds from the British Petroleum oil spill to build a government-owned broadband "Fiber Ring" connecting a dozen Gulf Coast cities across three counties. It is estimated that the cost of the network could top \$100 million.<sup>1</sup> Across the country, other cities have learned that these networks often lead to overwhelming debt, cut into funding for public works, like traditional infrastructure improvements, and never result in a positive rate of return.

In the most recent Infrastructure Report Card from the American Society of Civil Engineers, Mississippi received low grades in several key areas, including roads and bridges.<sup>2</sup>



So what's happening in municipalities that have pursued GONs?  
Lots of spending, lots of debt, few subscribers.

## LUS Fiber, Louisiana



14,000 out of 48,800  
Potential Subscribers

## UTOPIA, Utah



8,240 out of 62,000  
Potential Subscribers

<sup>1</sup> Perez, Mary. "Biloxi's wish list: Waterfronts, connector road among projects." The Sun-Herald 17 Nov. 2015.  
<http://www.sunherald.com/news/local/counties/harrison-county/article45232245.html>

<sup>2</sup> [http://sections.asce.org/mississippi/sites/sections.asce.org/mississippi/files/u6/MS%20Infrastructure%20Report%20Card\\_2012.pdf](http://sections.asce.org/mississippi/sites/sections.asce.org/mississippi/files/u6/MS%20Infrastructure%20Report%20Card_2012.pdf)