Municipal Broadband Fails to Connect Savannah.

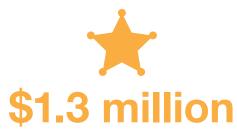


Some Savannah officials want to build an expensive government-owned broadband system that will compete with private sector companies to provide Internet services. In April, the Savannah City Council approved a \$65,200 contract with a consulting group to explore whether Savannah should build a municipal broadband network.

http://savannahnow.com/news/2016-06-14/savannah-city-council-oks-agreement-will-lead-250-million-parking-garage-hotel-and

Requests made in the 2016-2017 Chatham County budget highlight that there are much more pressing financial needs in the area.

http://savannahnow.com/news/2016-06-19/chatham-set-hold-final-public-hearing-spending-plan



The amount requested by the jail and sheriff's office to fill 60 positions for public safety needs.



The amount requested by the county for additional road maintenance.

There are also funds requested for schools, parks and recreation, and safer playgrounds.

Consider that Savannah has:



94.7%

The percent of Savannah residents who have access to high-speed broadband.

http://broadbandnow.com/Georgia#city-list



26

The number high-speed broadband providers in Savannah.



The city of Marietta built a government-owned network that eventually led to a \$24 million loss. Provo, UT lost nearly \$40 million on their network, after it failed and was sold to Google for \$1, leaving taxpayers responsible for the debt. Peachtree City also recently rejected a plan like this one because it was too expensive.

Savannah is not underserved. City officials should use constituents' hard-earned tax dollars to address their true needs, like public safety and schools, not to build duplicative broadband networks.

