

## Spotlight City: Ammon, ID

### About Ammon's Broadband Work

In 2008, Ammon's elected officials recognized broadband as an essential service and began to take steps to improve both the service and price within the City. The anchor tenant for the system is the City utilities. Today all City properties and utilities benefit from the fiber system. The City also provides high-speed connectivity for the local school district and a number of area businesses. The Ammon fiber optic system is an open access network with multiple providers offering service. The City is just now rolling out a fiber to the home pilot in support of public safety.

### What Drove Ammon's Decision?

The project has always enjoyed good support from a number of elected officials. Technology Director Bruce Patterson has been responsible for the City's strategy, design, and installation. Today, the most informed and strongest support for continuing the development of the City fiber system comes from Mayor Dana Kirkham and City Council President Brian Powell.

### What Challenges Did Ammon Have to Overcome?

Idaho's statutes regarding a municipality's authority to build, operate and finance 'telecommunications' don't provide clear authority, although it is implied. This raises the potential for legal challenges with no clear direction from the State to resolve.

### How Has Broadband Benefitted Ammon?

The City's fiber network has enabled better utility services. Both water and waste water systems are now much more reliable. Ammon is also able to do a much better job of planning with the increase in available data.

Local schools have increased and more reliable connectivity as well as redundant path, all of which was only made possible through City fiber. Businesses in Ammon can now obtain up to 1Gbps speeds through the City fiber.

Ammon is developing improvements in Public Safety through the fiber optic system. As an example, we [recently built and tested](#) an active shooter alarm and dispatch system.

### What Lessons Has Ammon Learned?

Through its broadband initiative, the City has learned some very important lessons to guide successful broadband work:

1. Political will and champions from both the elected officials and staff are important.
2. Need to maintain as much flexibility as possible in your thinking and design.
3. The City should be the anchor tenant.
4. Incremental moves that are self-sustaining can keep the system virtually debt free.

### **What Does the Future Hold for Ammon?**

Ammon is currently engaged in a fiber to the home pilot to plot our course forward as we work to develop more of a utility model and gauge the desire of the residents to have a city fiber available at their homes.