Next Century Cities

Utah was among the first states to get involved in broadband mapping and has maintained that map for the past decade. In the words of Governor Gary Herbert, *"Our successful efforts to develop broadband throughout the state are setting the foundation for opportunities we can't yet even imagine."*

The Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development hosts a Utah Residential Broadband Availability Map. The map offers filters that show download speeds in intervals of .7 to 1,000 Mbps and upload speeds in intervals between .2 and 1,000 Mbps. Filters also include transmission type wireline (cable, fiber, or DSL), as well as fixed and mobile wireless. Utah's map is designed with users in mind, with updates to the map including color coding and smartphone access.

In addition to making the broadband map available online, the Utah Broadband Project has hosted booths at the state capitol to raise awareness for broadband mapping. Broadband mapping in Utah is not only prioritized, it's become part of the state Code. The data are sourced directly from providers.

After surveying 3.2 million people in Utah, the FCC found that 3 million (95.7%) had access to a fixed broadband connection at minimum 25/3 Mbps speeds. It found that 308,000 of 427,000 people (72.3%) in rural areas have fixed access to broadband. Of 2.8 million urban residents, the agency found that 99.3% had access to a fixed broadband connection at minimum speeds.

To the contrary, private mapping efforts show that access continues to lag behind what the FCC's data show. BroadbandNow found that 88.4% of Utah has broadband coverage and only 26.3% access to a wired broadband plan priced at or below $60 a month, which may contribute to the approximately 991,000 people in Utah who do not use the Internet at broadband speeds according to Microsoft's data.

Additional Resources:

- Utah Residential Broadband Map
- Here's why the nation's fastest Internet is coming to a small city in Utah

In addition to making the broadband map available online, the Utah Broadband Project has hosted booths at the state capitol to raise awareness about broadband mapping. Mapping broadband is required by state law.