

Next Mile Project Analysis:

- Providing the connectivity infrastructure is a necessary prerequisite of the entire project but it is only a minor part of the much larger and difficult project of implementing a shared software and data architecture for the six counties.
- There is a significant benefit in using local suppliers, creating synergies in local communities and maximizing the positive reception of the project. Using local suppliers is also compatible with the local nature of the present phase of the project.
- There are several existing local suppliers in the Valley with valuable discrete physical assets who expressed interest in participation in the project. There are significant differences in the business focus of the various vendors, their technical expertise, as well as physical presence.
- The deployment of the connectivity infrastructure seems to have been a daunting task in itself. In the existing multi-vendor environment, there were difficulties even with simple tasks initial tasks, such as getting straight forward information about existing fiber optic assets.
- There is a significant risk that the connectivity part of the project will be delayed if it is tied to the more complex data sharing project.
- The utilization of the State's MNT network is a requirement for a cost-effective network deployment. The basic infrastructure is available but not practically usable without "last mile" connectivity.
- An integrated network design and a master implementation plan are required for the project to take full advantage of the skills and contributions of the participating vendors, their physical assets and the MNT network.
- The DRG needs to provide a strong Business and Technical Project Management function for the successful deployment of all phases of the project.
- A Network Operations Management function has to be provided for a successful operation of the deployed network after the "Go Live" date. Difficulties and finger pointing which are typical in a multi vendor environment would jeopardize the early success and acceptance of the project by critical stakeholders.