

Southside Network Authority Board Meeting  
Southside Regional Connectivity Ring  
Strategic Planning Workshop

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**CTC Technology & Energy**

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# Agenda

Review SNA goals and vision for the fiber ring project

Review Business Case Analysis models developed for the Southside Network Authority

Examine various operating models being employed nationally

Consider industry best practices

Next steps

# Goals and objectives

# Balancing goals for the Regional Connectivity Ring

Scalable infrastructure for internal needs

Provide a mechanism for the Five Cities to meet internal communications needs while containing the financial risk associated with price increases for commercial services

Promote private investment that addresses the digital divide –service availability and affordability

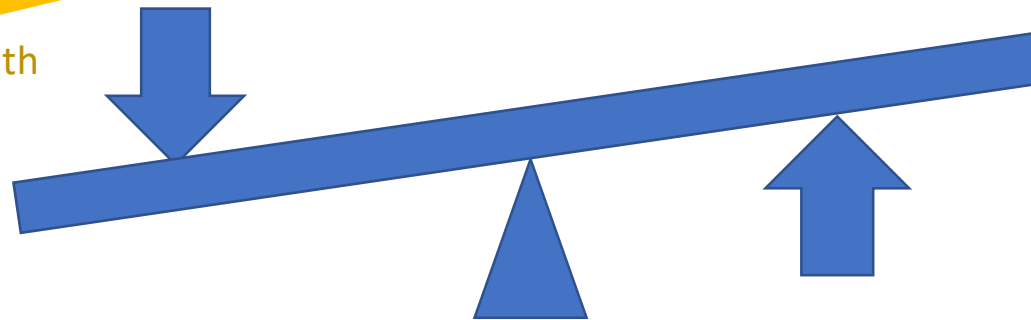
Reduce barriers to entry in new markets by making middle mile infrastructure available on a competitive and non-discriminatory basis

Economic development initiatives

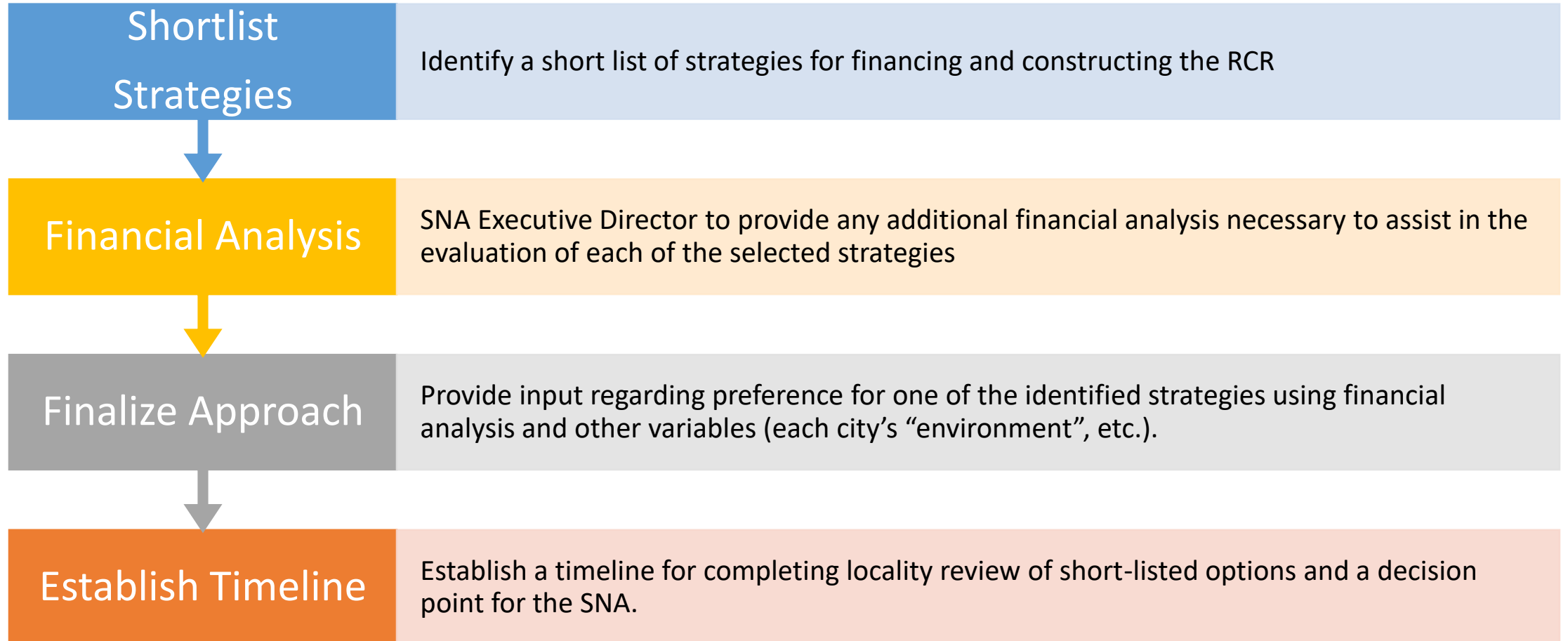
Facilitate economic development initiatives with low- or no-cost access to middle mile infrastructure

Revenue generation

Enable revenue generation through dark fiber leases and/or lit service offerings



# Workshop outcomes



# Business Case Analysis Overview

# Operating Costs for RCR

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## Conduit & dark fiber O&M

Utility locates & ticket processing (i.e., “811” tickets)

Required relocations

Repairs

Maintenance of network documentation

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## Network O&M

Network maintenance contracts

Engineering and technician support

NOC services

Funded depreciation (7-year hardware refresh)

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## Financing costs for capital additions

Model assumes 15-year financing term

Does not include debt service reserve or bond issuance costs

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# RCR cost estimates

Cost Component	Estimated Cost
Fiber Optic Outside Plant (OSP) Construction	\$22,962,000
Network Hardware	\$658,000
Network Integration and Testing	\$165,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,785,000</b>

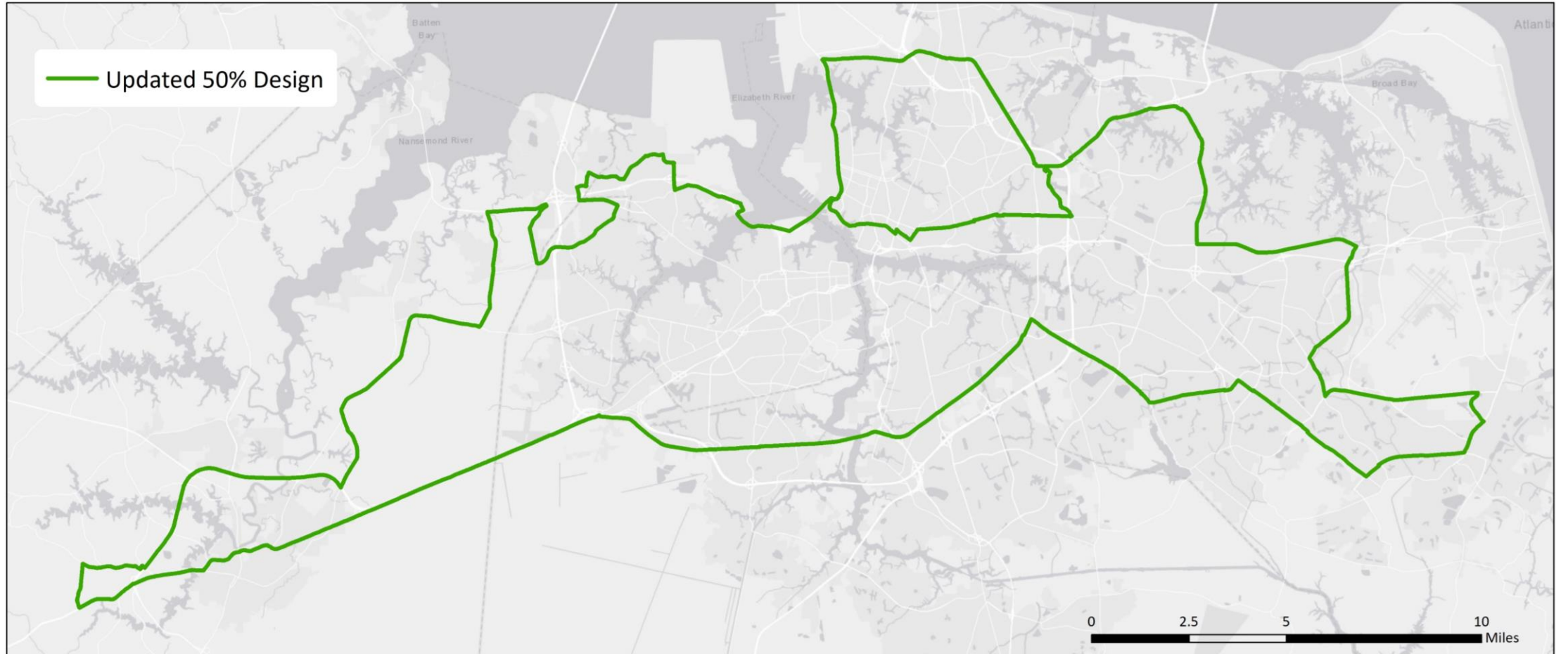
## Capital Construction and Equipment

## Fixed Operations and Maintenance

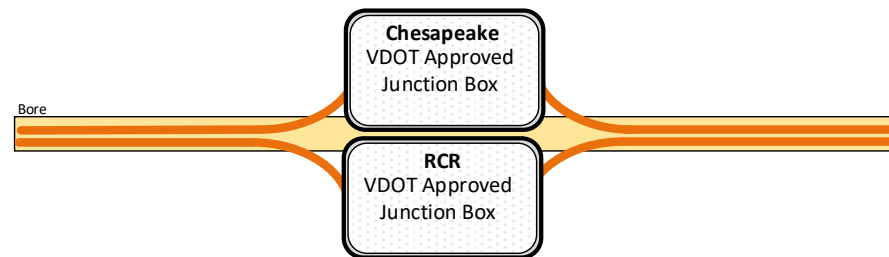
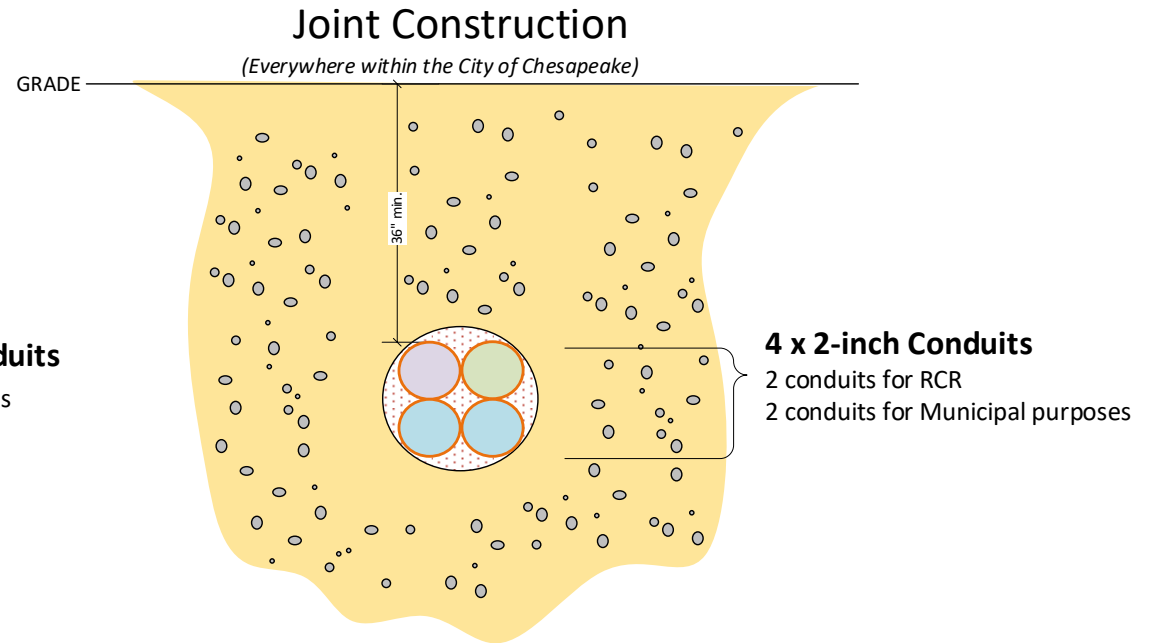
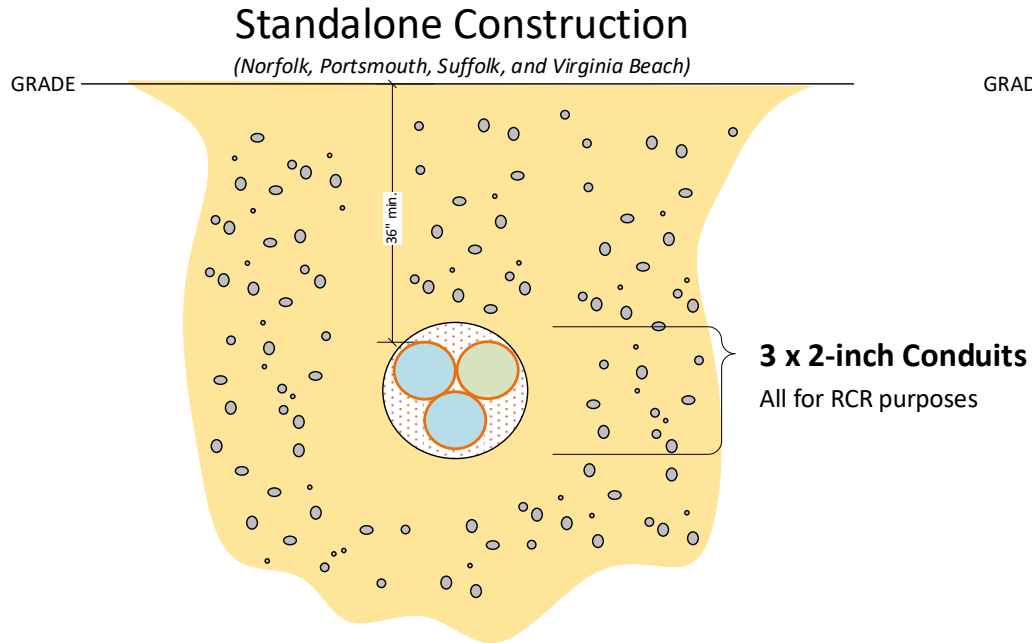
Maintenance and Operating Costs	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
Fiber Plant Maintenance	119.1	Mile	\$3,600	\$428,760
Equipment Maintenance Contracts (Year 2+)	1	Year	\$60,000	\$60,000
NOC Fee (\$150 per element per month)	10	EA	\$1,800	\$18,000
Network Engineer	0.25	FTE	\$200,000	\$50,000
Network / GIS Manager	0.50	FTE	\$150,000	\$75,000
Network Technician	0.25	FTE	\$100,000	\$25,000
Incidentals	1	EA	\$10,000	\$10,000
Equipment Replacement Fund (7-year lifecycle)	1	EA	\$94,000	\$94,000
<b>Total Annual Maintenance and Operating Costs</b>				<b>\$760,760</b>



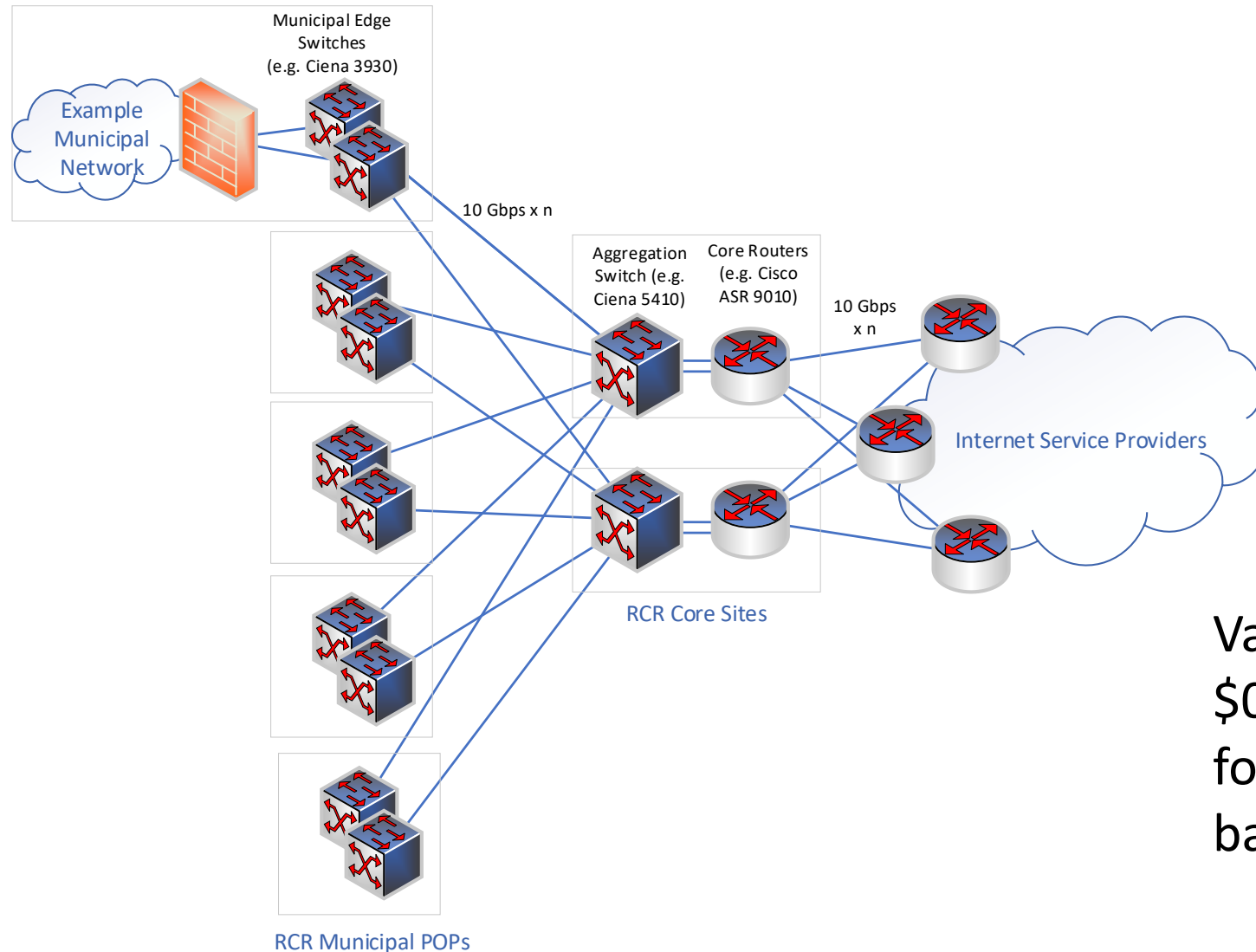
# 50% Design – Routes



# Conduit configuration



# Network electronics configuration



Variable operating expense of \$0.25 Mbps / month included for commodity internet bandwidth from ISPs

# Business Case Analysis Considerations

## Identified opportunities for near-term cost avoidance

- Bulk purchase & backhaul of commodity internet capacity
- Transport to cloud service providers in regional data centers

## Projected requirements for long-term cost avoidance & regional collaboration

- Public safety interoperability
- Mutual aid / disaster recovery

## Explore partnership strategies for revenue generation and economic development

- Fiber leasing
- Backhaul for wireline and mobile broad service providers
- Managed services for business

# Cost avoidance opportunity – commodity internet for the Five Cities

Municipality	Connection Type	Capacity (Mbps)	Monthly Fees
Chesapeake	Internet	1,300	\$11,730
Norfolk	Internet	1,000	\$3,500
Portsmouth	Internet	2,000	\$6,250
	Data Center Transport	1,000	\$1,895
Suffolk	Internet	700	\$3,282
Virginia Beach	Internet	6,000	\$15,414
	Data Center Transport	10,000	\$7,959
<b>Total</b>		<b>22,000</b>	<b>\$50,030</b>

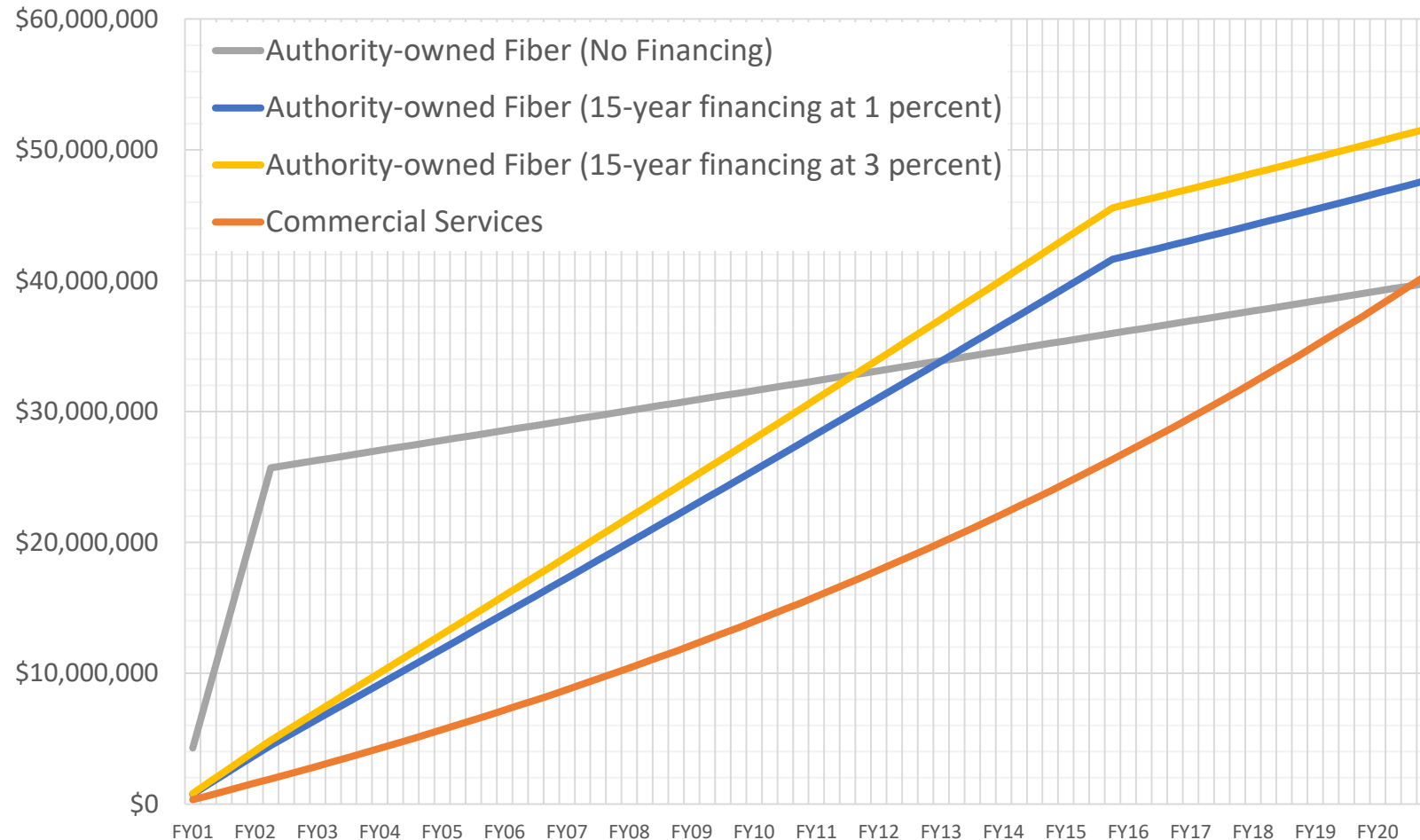
Existing internet expenditures

Forecasted monthly fees are based average existing monthly costs per Mbps for internet (\$3.65/ Mbps) and data center (\$1.12/ Mbps) connectivity.

## Forecasted near-term internet expenditures

Jurisdiction	Connection Type	Capacity (Mbps)	Estimated Monthly Fees
Chesapeake	Internet	2,000	\$7,305
	Data Center Transport	5,000	\$5,581
Norfolk	Internet	2,000	\$7,305
	Data Center Transport	5,000	\$5,581
Portsmouth	Internet	4,000	\$14,609
	Data Center Transport	5,000	\$5,581
Suffolk	Internet	2,000	\$7,305
	Data Center Transport	5,000	\$5,581
Virginia Beach	Internet	10,000	\$36,524
	Data Center Transport	10,000	\$11,163
<b>Total</b>		<b>50,000</b>	<b>\$106,536</b>

# Break-even analysis – Cumulative cost of RCR vs. forecasted commercial services



## Assumptions:

- Assumes 18-month fiber construction timeframe before elimination of leased service costs
- Does not include inflation for RCR O&M or commercial service costs
- 5% annual increase in internet costs / capacity demand

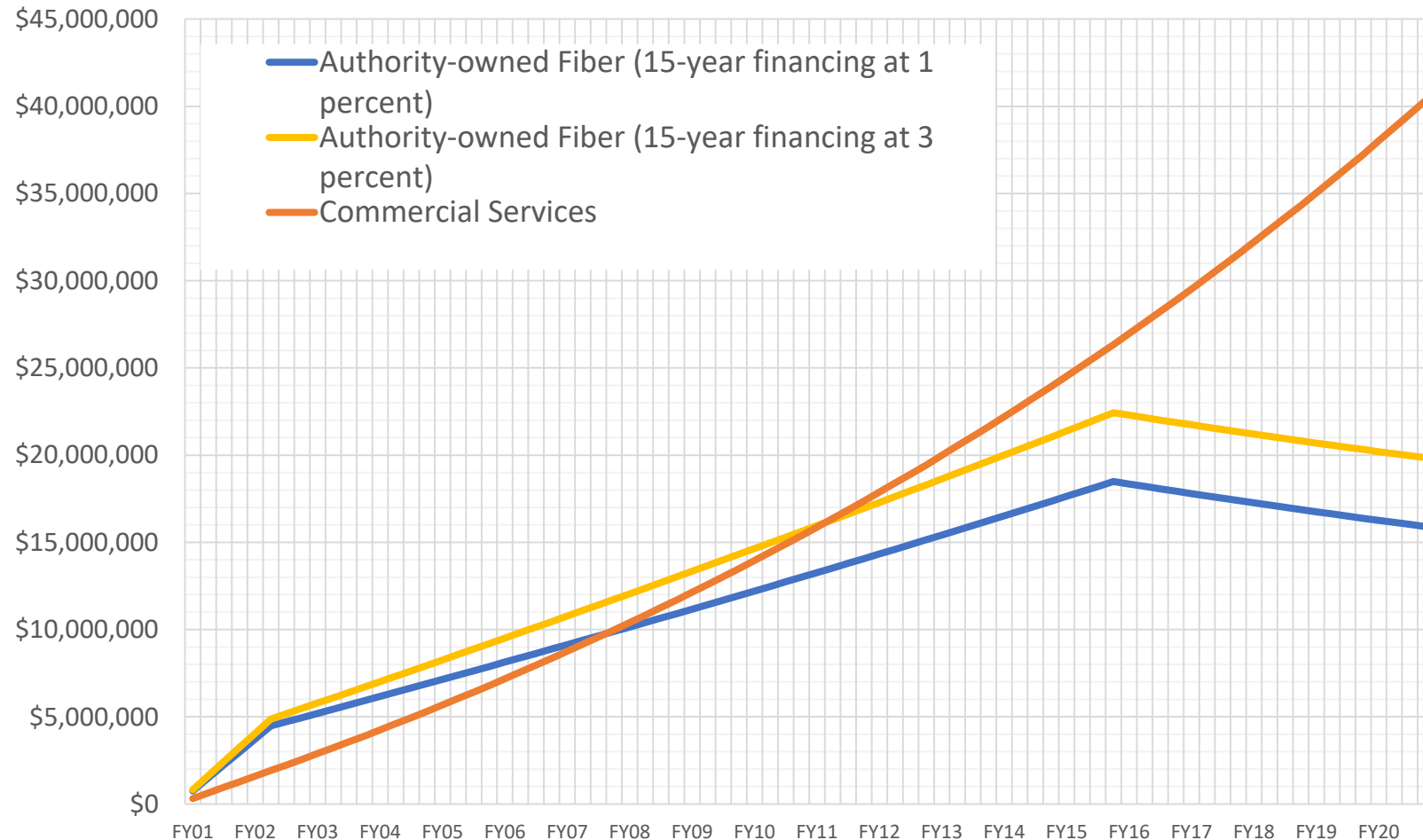
# Dark fiber revenue – market perspective

- Typical dark fiber lease pricing structures:
  - Long-term Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) (15+ years)
    - Upfront payments of \$1,000 to \$3,000 per strand-mile
    - Annual maintenance payment of \$250 to \$350 per route mile per year (independent of the number of strands leased)
  - Monthly or annual lease
    - Recurring payments per strand-mile typically ranging from \$50 to \$500 per month
  - Specific pricing is highly market-specific

## • Example revenues:

Monthly Lease Rate	Strand Miles Leased to Cover P&I and O&M (Less Cost Avoidance)			
	1% Financing		3% Financing	
	Strand-Miles	Percentage of Total RCR Capacity	Strand-Miles	Percentage of Total RCR Capacity
\$50	3,261	9.5%	3,699	10.8%
\$75	2,174	6.3%	2,466	7.2%
\$150	1,087	3.2%	1,233	3.6%

# Net cumulative costs with example dark fiber lease revenues



## Assumptions:

- Assumes 18-month fiber construction timeframe before elimination of leased service costs
- Does not include inflation for RCR O&M or commercial service costs
- 5% annual increase in internet costs / capacity demand
- Authority-owned fiber scenarios assume lease of 8.33% of fiber capacity (24 strands along all routes) at \$50 per strand-mile/month



# Summary of Strategies, Case Studies, and Lessons Learned

Model	Example project	Additional capital cost	Additional operating cost	Mechanism	Risk	Cover business case shortfall?
<b>1. Private leasing/services</b>	PA Turnpike Authority	None	None	RFP	Low	Possible
<b>2. Private turn-key concessionaire</b>	KentuckyWired	None	High (in form of availability payments)	RFP	High	Unlikely
<b>3. Authority dark fiber leasing</b>	Arlington County	Minimal	Minimal	Internal structure	Low	Possible
<b>4. Authority lit service sales to anchors</b>	Garrett County, MD	Modest	Low	Internal structure	Low	Possible
<b>5. Authority lit service sales in commercial market</b>	Howard County, MD	High	High	Internal structure	Medium	Possible

# Private Fiber Commercialization: Pennsylvania Turnpike Authority

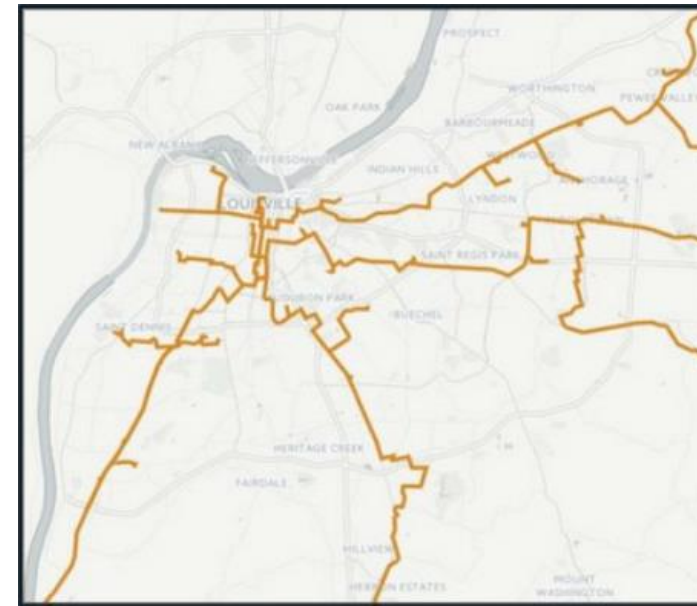
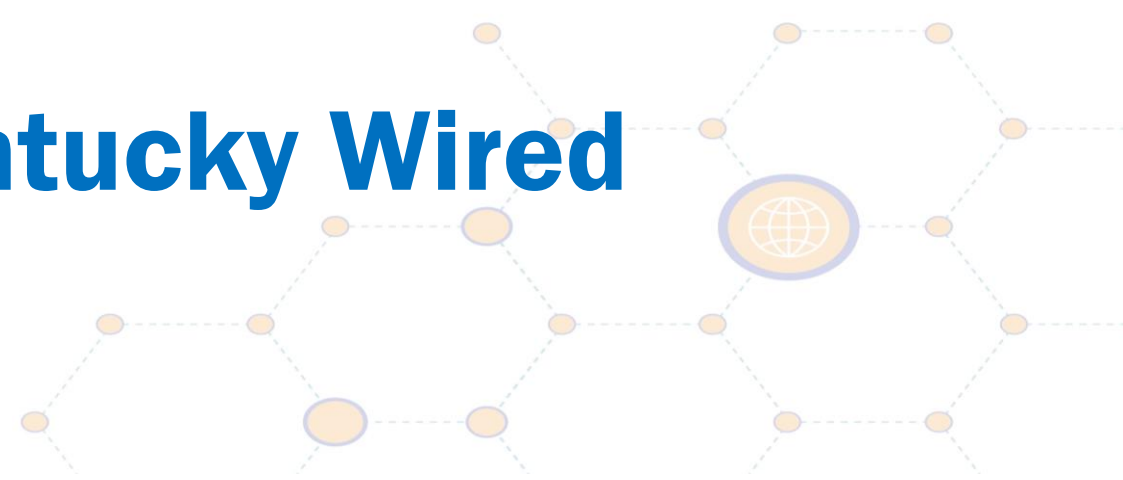


## **Award of commercialization opportunity to private company**

- Authority granted to private entity opportunity to commercialize assets while retaining control over assets
- Part of a state effort to bridge rural digital divide
- Private sector capabilities, with potential to Authority for modest revenues
- Competitive procurement secured best outcome for Turnpike Authority

# P3 Concession: Kentucky Wired

- Commonwealth selected private partner consortium to design, build, finance, operate, & maintain statewide middle mile network
- Public ownership of assets with private execution
- Commonwealth payments to private partner funded in part by avoided costs of leased circuits
- Extensive excess fiber available for private use with shared revenues
- Differentiators for Kentucky were bipartisan recognition of need & willingness to test new model



# Middle Mile Fiber Lease: Lincoln, NE

## Lease of assets to private company

- City used conduit and real estate assets as incentive to attract private partner while retaining control over assets
- City economic development effort & mechanism to address digital divide
- Private sector capital costs reduced & city realizes modest revenues
- Differentiators for Lincoln were scale of conduit assets & commitment of a private partner



# Dark Fiber Lease Model: Public Utility

## Lease of public fiber

- Municipal light plant built a fiber loop to support utility operations
- Crown Castle approached seeking to lease spare strands to provide data services to local enterprises
- Utility now realizes steady annual revenue stream to help support electric operations



# Lit Services Lease Model: Howard County, MD



## Sale of commercial services

- County uses fiber to provide services to wide range of entities
- Has effectively competed to serve school system, non-profits, and some commercial entities
- Modest revenues secured

# Best Practices



1

Define goals

Decide what you want and what is important to you, regardless of who initiated the project

2

Assess assets

Fully understand the value of the assets

3

Develop business case

Assess the financial potential through the development of a business case (and benchmarking)

4

Engage potential partners

Build a process that includes relevant internal and external stakeholders

5

Analyze options

Identify and evaluate all structuring options that align with your goals and requirements

6

Ensure “value for money”

Ensure fair market pricing either through benchmarking or through a competitive process