

# Eugene Area Telecom Development Activities



## PUBLIC AGENCY NETWORK (PAN)

Formed in 2000, the Public Agency Network, known as PAN, is a cooperative network formed and operated for the public agencies in the Eugene-Springfield area. Twelve local agencies (cities of Eugene and Springfield; Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB); Springfield Utility Board; Lane County, Lane Council of Governments (LCOG); Lane Transit District; Lane Educational Service District; Lane Community College; and Eugene 4J, Springfield and Bethel school districts) as well as three state agencies (Department of Administrative Services, Oregon Department of Transportation and the University of Oregon) make up the PAN now.

Eugene contributed optical fibers, equipment, and professional know-how in setting up the PAN and to keeping it running. Originally a lit service, the network has developed enough resources and technological advances to allow migration to a primarily dark fiber, user lit network. The network consists of the use of: (1) Several routes of fiber optic cable connecting demarcation points at offices and other locations of the members and/or (2) Equipment attached to the PAN-allocated fiber optic resource. Where constraints require the use of shared fiber optic strands, the network includes passive optical equipment which allows members to share use of the network fiber through coordinated assignments of frequencies.

The PAN retains its functionality through the voluntary contributions of the use of fiber optic cable owned by members. It is a PAN principle that members are credited for their contributions of fiber, equipment and services. It is not necessary or expected that all members make a contribution of fiber optic cable or equipment to be a member or to use the network.

One of the most important aspects of this agreement is the credit model. It provides credit to agencies for the fiber and equipment they contribute, creates a method for recovering operations and maintenance costs, and collects funds for eventual equipment replacement. The other critical element is the full participation by the PAN members via the PAN Advisory Committee organized and staffed by LCOG. The PAN Advisory Committee provides planning and maintenance directions to the system manager, originally EWEB, now LCOG.

The PAN is a successful attempt to leverage the variety of projects in the Eugene-Springfield area. Cost and bandwidth targets have been met, and customer reaction to high-capacity connections exceeds expectations. The PAN effort has borne fruit thanks to some extraordinary efforts. Some keys to the success are innovative design and cost modeling, built upon simple yet powerful technology, to fit the needs and styles of the customer/owners.

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