

Ravenna Facilitates Permitting, Has Fixed Wireless at 150 Mbps Down

Fixed Wireless Can Offer Better Speeds

Prairie Hills Wireless is providing high-speed wireless internet access in central Nebraska with a service area including Amherst, Boelus, Cairo, Hazard, Kearney, Litchfield, Loup City, Miller, Pleasanton, Ravenna, Rockville, Riverdale, Dannebrog, and Farwell. Prairie Hills Wireless is owned and operated by Kent and Sara Urwiller. Kent Urwiller, who is a native of Ravenna, has been in the industry over 10 years.

Prairie Hills Wireless offers residential broadband of up to 150 Mbps down with up to 500 Mbps available. Plans include 10 Mbps upload, but upload speeds can be increased through traffic shaping if needed.

“We are using MicroPoPs in Ravenna,” said Urwiller. “This is a new concept. We are one of the first to do this. We deployed a bunch of small cells scattered at 18 sites in Ravenna. They are low to the ground covering 10 to 20 customers per site with 1 gig or more to each site. We do a lot of beta testing.”

MicroPoPs can be a cost-effective method of high-speed

broadband deployment in suburban areas and small towns, especially in areas with 400 or more households per square kilometer and which do not have broadband service being provided over fiber.

Facilitate Permitting and Easements



Wireless equipment on the Ravenna water tower.

The City of Ravenna worked with Urwiller on special use permits and allowed Prairie Hills Wireless to use the municipal water tower.

Offer Tower Space in Return for Free Internet Service

When asked about advice on attracting a competitive provider, Urwiller suggested contacting nearby wireless providers and offering tower space in return for free internet service.

Ravenna

Nebraska

Model: Work with telecommunications providers by facilitating permitting and by making tower space available

Funding: No funding from the city was provided

Key Takeaways

Fixed wireless technologies can provide broadband of 150 Mbps down or greater.

Facilitate permitting and easements and make tower space available.

Contact nearby wireless providers and offer tower space in return for free internet service.

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Streamline Permitting, Rights of Way Access and Inspections

Navigating bureaucratic application systems and long, unpredictable waiting periods increase costs for telecommunications providers. Municipalities and counties can facilitate broadband deployment by streamlining and publicizing procedures and timeframes for permitting, rights of way access and inspections.