NET NEUTRALITY 101

City of Fort Collins

- **What is net neutrality?**

  Net Neutrality, or open internet, is the principle where services are not blocked, slowed down, sped up, or otherwise manipulated based on who is accessing the internet or from where. The foundation of net neutrality is transparency – providers were required to provide easy to understand disclosures for pricing, bandwidth, network management, etc. In essence, Net Neutrality means the internet is open to everyone.

- **How has it changed with the recent FCC decision?**

  On Dec. 14, 2017, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to repeal net neutrality rules put into effect in May 2015. The new 2017 order places Internet Service Providers (ISPs) under the jurisdiction of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) when broadband providers engage in anti-competitive, unfair, and/or deceptive acts or practices.

  This means that Internet Service Providers companies may:

    - **Block** websites or apps from consumers
    - **Throttle**, or slow down, transmission of data based on content
    - **Prioritize** websites that pay for faster speeds

- **City's net neutrality stance?**

  The City will build out the infrastructure, known as Fiber to the Premise (FTTP), and operate as an internet service provider (ISP). As the ISP, the City has the control over its network and can operate an open, or net neutral, internet.
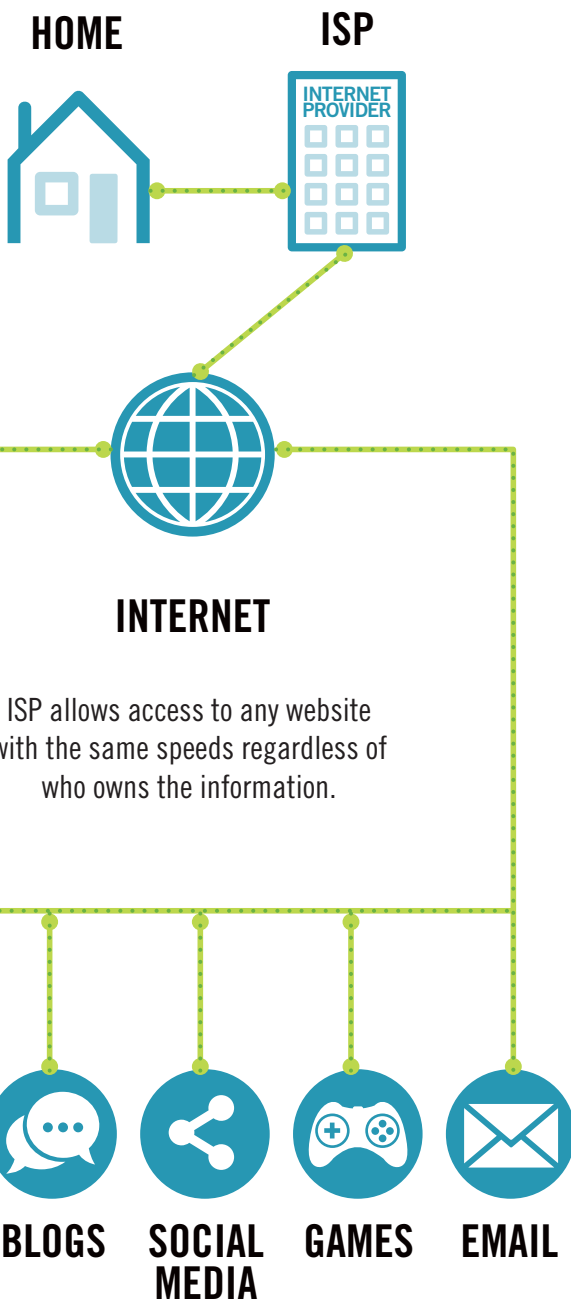
  The City of Fort Collins is committed to the principles of Net Neutrality. The City Broadband Plan does not call for any restrictions on access including uploads, downloads, delivery methods or providers (email, Skype, Netflix, etc.)

- **How does the FCC decision, if any, affect the City's Broadband efforts?**

  The FCC's decision, while it will not impact the networks operations, could set Fort Collins apart from its competitors. Many Fiber providers are embracing Net Neutrality as a market differentiator. Their premise is the fiber networks are not bandwidth constrained as many competitors' networks are so why limit usage. The City values an open unthrottled network for all residents and will be developing a policy on net neutrality and a policy to protect personal data and information.

  * For more detail on Net Neutrality see page 48 of the Broadband Business Plan.

NET NEUTRALITY 101

City of **Fort Collins**

TODAY'S INTERNET

INTERNET WITHOUT NET NEUTRALITY

HOME   **ISP**

INTERNET PROVIDER

INTERNET

ISP allows access to any website with the same speeds regardless of who owns the information.

YOU TUBE   **BLOGS**   **SOCIAL MEDIA**   **GAMES**   **EMAIL**

HOME   **ISP**

INTERNET PROVIDER

INTERNET

$ ISP may block, slow or prioritize content due to special agreements with other service providers. $

YOU TUBE   **BLOGS**   **SOCIAL MEDIA**   **GAMES**   **EMAIL**