

# Irrigating Digital Deserts The Dayton Experience







# **Our Story**



Where Have We Been?

Discussion of How We Got Here.



Where Are We Headed?

What to expect in the coming months and years.



The Ending

Because all great things must come to an end.

# A Little About Dayton

- Rural Character, Agricultural Roots
- Grown from 7,200 (2017) to 9,400 (2020)
- School District Population
- Annexation Prowess Over 32 Sq Mi
- Grand Parkway
- Large Tract Developments

# Recognizing a Digital Desert



## **Economic Development**

Prospects needed to bring fiber on their own dime

AT&T was the only one willing to expand to industrial parks



## Residential

Community Survey

Discussion of Limitations

# What do we do next?



## **Dialogue**

- AT&T No Fiber
   Where DSL
   Currently Exists
- Comcast No Answer at All



## Middle Mile?

- Lack of Quality
   Control
- Equity
- Why Partner with AT&T and Comcast?



## **Feasibility**

- Hired Magellan
   Advisors
- Looked at Multiple Business Models





# Dayton Goes It Alone

- Council Sees Feasibility
   Study
- Over 60% of Dayton Residents has DSL as only option
- \$60/month DSL service
- Council Agrees to Pursue Retail Option

# ▶ Limited Precedent



#### **Mont Belvieu**

- Grand Daddy
- Financial Model Could Not Be Duplicated by Dayton



## **Build Portfolio**

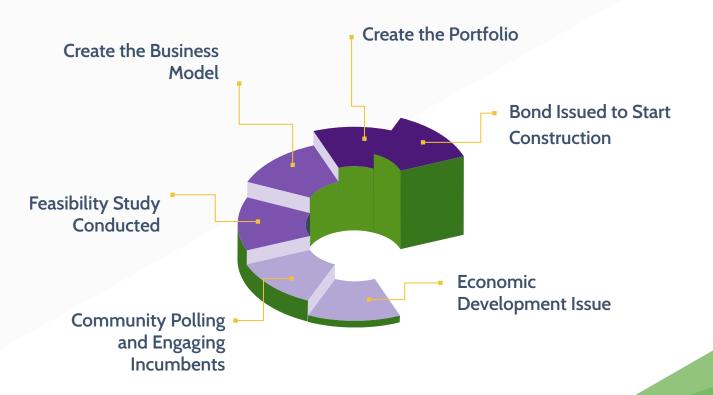
- Feasibility Study
- Business Plan
- Dayton's Excellent Bond Rating



## **Bond Market**

- Bond Market Collapse of 2020
- 2.56% Interest Rate for 20 Year Note

# Where Were We?



# Where Are We Headed?

Roadmap to the Future



To Understand Dayton... You Must Understand our S.H.I.N.E. Principles...

What are Dayton's S.H.I.N.E. Principles?

## Service

Public Service is a Badge of Honor

## **Humility**

It is a Privilege to Serve

## **Integrity**

Transparent, Open Communication

## **Nobility**

We are Held to a Higher Standard

## **Excellence**

Efficient and Effective Work

# Dayton's Worldwide Competition

## **United States**

Houston Metro

Nashville

Raleigh-Durham

Atlanta

Baton Rouge

Dallas

## Asia

Hong Kong

Kuala Lumpur

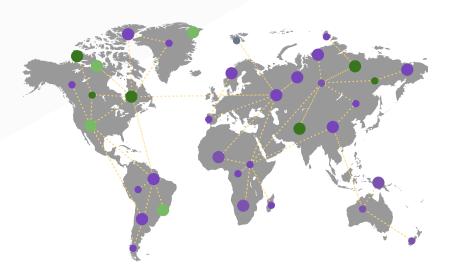
Calcutta

Foshan

Singapore

## Europe

Rhine Industrial Region



# Dayton's Holistic Approach

#### Leverage Industrial Strategic Location

Gulf Inland Logistics Park Future Rail-Served Parks Cater to Logistics Firms

#### **Quality of Life Initiatives**

Fiber-to-the-Home Spreading Tax Base for Infrastructure New City Facilities

#### **Public-Private Partnerships**

Mixed-Use Development Privately-Owned Public Open Spaces Expand City Capacities through Partnership Agreements



#### **Promote Positive Growth**

Unified Development Code Landscape and Signage Requirements Promote Facade Standards

#### Social Infrastructure

Sidewalks Central Meeting Place in Downtown Adding Park Amenities

#### Promote Retail/Office

Downtown Revitalization
Facade Standards for Commercial
Recruit White Collar Jobs

# Current State of Affairs



## **Construction is Underway**

Conduit is being laid throughout the community

Network Operations Center Under Construction

Planning to serve over 90% of residents



## **Staff Assembly Underway**

General Manager Hired

Provide Local Customer Service

# Considerations



#### **Stream of Commerce**

- 18th Century Canals
- 19th Century Railways
- 20th Century Roads
- 21st Century Data
- Businesses of All Sizes
   Need Quality Internet
   Service



#### **Equity and Inclusion**

- No Skipping "Less Profitable Areas"
- No Skipping
   Historically Neglected

   Areas
- Expansion of Rural Broadband
- Expanded Social Services



#### **Quality of Life**

- Telecommuting
- Telehealth
- Distance Learning
- Cord Cutting
- Better Value
- Smart Homes

# Even More Considerations



#### **Partnerships**

- Subdivision Requirements
- Smart Home Ready Initiatives
- School E-Rates
- Industrial Parks
- Multi-Family
- Housing Authorities



#### **Pitfalls**

- Public Buy-In
- Economic and Social Services Buy-In
- Financial Management with other Enterprise Funds



#### **Entrepreneurial**

- Must be Run Like a Business
- Change How City
   Operates
- Rebrands the Community
- Sets a Tone with Developers
- Changes the Conversation



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"In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable."

-Dwight D. Eisenhower





# From Desert to Oasis!

**Questions?** 

Theo Melancon
City Manager
(936) 258-2642
citymanager@daytontx.org