

Carrier Neutral Location (CNL)

Many communities suffer from substandard broadband services due to an uncompetitive broadband environment. This situation often begins with having a single Middle Mile service provider which enjoys a monopoly in both Middle and Last Mile services in a given market. Competing Last Mile service providers have but one source for internet bandwidth and may suffer from high prices and unreliable services. Communities have a relatively low cost method of addressing an uncompetitive broadband market.

That solution is a Carrier Neutral Location (CNL). A CNL is simply rack space in any location that is not owned and operated by a service provider. A CNL is where Middle Mile providers terminate their services (fiber, microwave) from the outside world and where Last Mile service providers originate their services to the homes and businesses of the community. Successful CNLs exist in Colorado in the city-owned Information Technology (IT) spaces in Cortez and Durango. One approach is for the CNL to be located in a publicly owned space such that the community holds the leverage on broadband environment over service providers. The CNL represents a “digital marketplace” not unlike Main Street shops. That is, the town maintains Main Street and the merchants enjoy the benefits of paved streets, sidewalks, police and fire protection, etc.

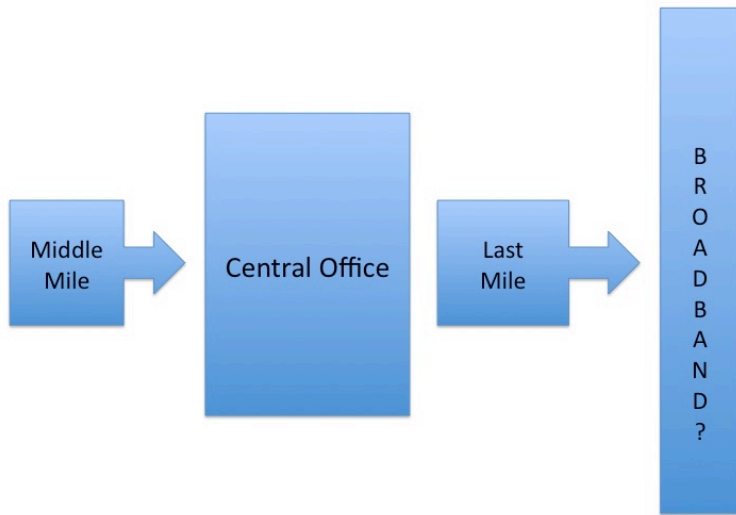


Figure 1 Uncompetitive broadband environment with single service provider

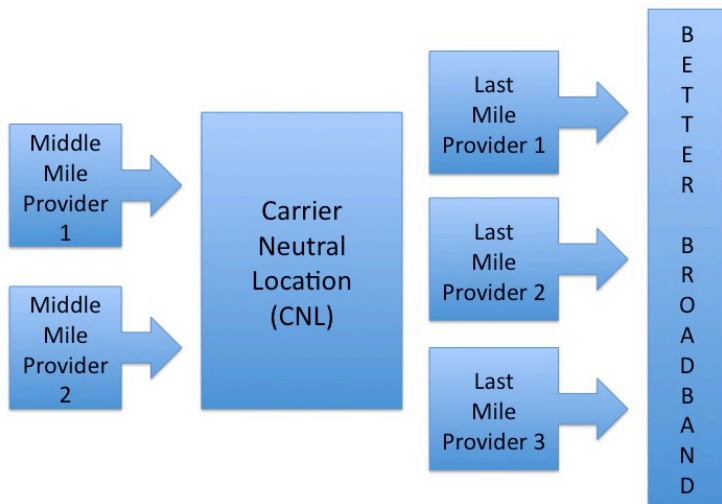


Figure 2 A Carrier Neutral Location brings competition into Middle and Last Mile markets



Figure 3 Planned CNL in Salida, CO



Figure 4 Diesel generator providing back-up power for City of Cortez' CNL



Figure 5 Uninterruptible Power supply (UPS) for Cortez CNL



Figure 6 Rack space for Middle and Last Mile service provider switching and routing equipment in Cortez CNL



Figure 7 Secure entrance to the CNL ensures security and reliability