



Nevada
Hospital
Association

Broadband Telemedicine Initiative

June 22, 2020 • Bill M. Welch, President/CEO

Broadband Grant

- In 2010, the Nevada Hospital Association (NHA) received a \$19.6 million federal grant
- Build and operate the Nevada Broadband Telemedicine Initiative (NBTI), a state-wide fiber network to provide carrier-grade broadband services to hospitals, healthcare facilities, non-profits, government agencies and others
- Technology provides access to patients in rural Nevada through telemedicine
- Project completion: August 2017

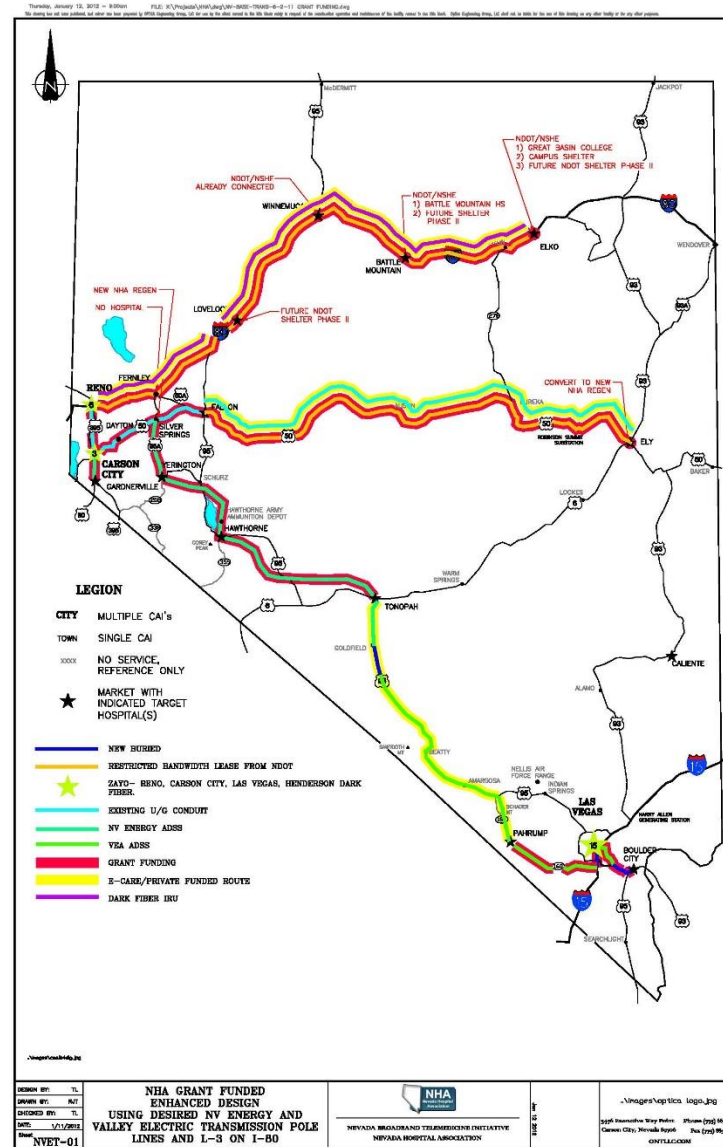
NBTI

- First all-fiber broadband connection between Reno and Las Vegas
- NHA collaborated with Switch in 2016 on the completion of the project
 - Network is managed and operated by Switch and has been integrated into their overall network
- Other essential partners: University of Nevada System of Higher Education, NDOT, Nevada Energy, Valley Electric
- Project Cost: Approximately \$40 million (federal grant and match dollars)

Connecting Nevada



Connecting Nevada



What the NBTI Accomplished

- Ensured broadband fiber direct connectivity between Reno and Las Vegas
- Improved broadband between Reno and Elko
- Improved broadband between Carson City and Ely
- Provided funding for the last mile of hospital connections

Where the NBTI Struggled

- Funding not available for the last mile to other providers – CHCs, rural health centers, physicians' offices
- Still a concern today

Future of Broadband and Telemedicine

- In 2015, Nevada enacted a telemedicine parity law
- Federal challenges
 - Low reimbursement for the originating site fee limits those willing to invest in equipment and staff the originating site since the Medicare fee does not cover costs
 - Limits coverage of health care services to originating sites that are a licensed health care facility
 - Only covers telemedicine were the patient is in a rural location seen by a provider in an urban setting

Questions

Bill M. Welch, President/CEO, Nevada Hospital Association

bill@nvha.net • 775-827-0184