

ATIC PLATFORM STATEMENT

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

History shows that economic prosperity closely follows the development of a community's infrastructure. A hundred years ago, lack of a railroad stop condemned many towns to a lingering death. Thirty years ago interstate interchanges helped many communities to prosper, while those on back roads stagnated. Now the information superhighway is coming. The telecommunications infrastructure, high-speed Internet access and other advanced communications services are essential for Arizona's educational, economic and community development. It is essential for the continuing development of Arizona's economy and for continuing improvements to our quality of life that this state's leaders commit to developing and maintaining an advanced telecommunications infrastructure.

If Arizona is to attract new sources of capital, jobs and revenue, its telecommunications infrastructure must adapt to new and emerging technologies. Arizona's telecommunications infrastructure must be capable of supporting the voice, video and data communications demands imposed by its general population, and must meet the evolving needs of its governmental, industrial, business, health and educational sectors as they seek to make their services more convenient and efficient. The benefits of advanced telecommunications technology should be available to all Arizonans, regardless of geography, economic, social or cultural distinction.

To achieve this goal:

1. Our state's leaders must ensure that the state's regulation of telecommunications providers and services is appropriate to the time and market, and it must reflect the emergence and evolution of new media and transport methods, for which existing regulatory methods and policies may be inappropriate.
2. Policies must embrace market driven investment solutions first, by encouraging competition among providers without favoring one provider or transport method, and by creating an environment that facilitates private investment in telecommunications infrastructure.
3. Public policies should minimize regulatory risk and uncertainty for potential investors to complete telecommunications infrastructure projects, while also protecting consumer interests for receiving adequate and reliable service.
4. Where market-driven solutions fail to generate sufficient private investment, the State of Arizona and its local governments should consider public programs, such as expansion of the state's Universal Service Fund program and other options, to support infrastructure development for the benefit of all Arizona's citizens.
5. Arizona should utilize best practices for managing the access to rights of way to promote and support infrastructure development.