

Municipal Networks: Speed Increases & Affordable Prices

An overview of the change in prices and speeds for Tennessee’s municipal networks

The price for home Internet service continues to climb across the country. National news organizations, like CBS,¹ Washington Post,² and NBC,³ have all noted repeated rate hikes. Many municipal networks, however, have kept their prices steady for many years or only raised them slowly while also increasing speeds dramatically.

Tennessee’s Fiber-to-the-Home Communities

This is a quick comparison of the current price and the original price for the standard tier of Internet service.

Chattanooga, Tennessee		
	2017	2009
Standard Speed	100 Mbps \$57.99	15 Mbps \$57.99

Chattanooga has **not raised their prices** since they launched. Their standard speed is now more than 6X as fast as when they first started. The city also has a low-income option for families with schoolchildren in K-12: 100 Mbps for \$26.99.

Clarksville, Tennessee		
	2017	2008
Standard Speed	250 Mbps \$44.95	10 Mbps \$34.95

Although the price for the lowest speed tier went up by \$10 over 9 years, Clarksville added another 240 Mbps to the speed. That’s incredible!

Jackson, Tennessee		
	2017	2010
Standard Speed	60 Mbps \$60	10 Mbps \$54.95

Over the past 7 years, Jackson’s price went up by about \$5, but they added another 50 Mbps in speed.

Morristown, Tennessee		
	2017	2006
Standard Speed	50 Mbps \$34.95	6 Mbps \$34.95

Morristown has **never increased prices** for their standard speed offering. It’s always been a solid \$34.95 each month. The speed has increased to 50 Mbps, an 8 fold increase!

Pulaski, Tennessee		
	2017	2007
Standard Speed	50 Mbps \$39.95	5 Mbps \$29.95

Pulaski’s prices have remained relatively stable with a \$10 increase in 10 years while increasing speeds by 10 times – easily surpassing the basic broadband definition of 25 Mbps from the federal government.

*Charter bought Bright House network and rebranded it Spectrum Internet Service. Charter promised not to raise rates for these customers. Some had been with Bright House for more than 10 years. **Charter then increased prices by up to 20% this February (2017)**⁴*

¹ CBS Money Watch: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/5-reasons-your-internet-bill-keeps-climbing/>

² Washington Post: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2015/07/23/why-your->

³ NBC News: <http://www.nbcnews.com/business/consumer/no-bundle-joy-cost-tv-internet-phone-service-rising-n443646>

⁴ The Tampa Bay Times reports: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/business/customers-spectrum-breaks-promise-it-wont-raise-rates/2311825>

Bristol, Tennessee		
	2017	2008
Standard Speed	30 Mbps \$49.95	6 Mbps \$49.95

Bristol has operated a municipal network since 2008. The standard speed is 5X faster than when the city started building the network.

Columbia, Tennessee		
	2017	2004
Standard Speed	100 Mbps \$50	2 Mbps \$49.95

Columbia uses a Hybrid-Fiber-Coax network, and they have increased speeds on their network significantly over the past 13 years without raising rates on this standard tier of Internet access.

Fayetteville, Tennessee		
	2017	2010
Standard Speed	30 Mbps \$46.99	3 Mbps \$37.95

Fayetteville also uses a Hybrid-Fiber-Coax network. Their rates have gone up about \$1/year over the past 7 years, yet the speeds are 10X faster.

For 2017, Comcast is raising rates for their Internet service by 3.8%⁵

Half of these communities have gone long periods without raising Internet access rates – because they are focused on meeting local needs, not extracting the maximum profit.

Municipal networks have led to a variety of benefits, from keeping more money in the community to spurring job growth and creating more educational opportunities.

Learn more about municipal networks at MuniNetworks.org

We have many resources, including:

- [Short Articles](#) about community networks across the country, published daily
- [The Community Broadband Bits Podcast](#), interviewing local officials and leaders
- [The Community Networks Map](#), tracking all the community networks in the U.S.
- [In-Depth Reports](#), exploring technical and policy issues of community networks
- [Informational Videos](#), such as [Why a Gig?](#) and [The Future of Open Access In Ammon, Idaho](#)
- **And even more [fact sheets!](#)**

⁵ Ars Technica: <https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2016/12/comcast-raises-controversial-broadcast-tv-and-sports-fees-48-per-year/>