

# **B4B - *Build For Broadband* Webinar**

## **Broadband Technology 101**

June 13, 2019

Presenter: Joanne Hovis, CTC Technology and Energy



POWERFUL TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS  
FOR THE CITY AND PUBLIC WE SERVE



**Seattle**  
Information Technology



# B4B - *Build For Broadband* Initiative

Practices that support access to competitive, high-speed broadband for the current and future connectivity needs of Seattle residents.



POWERFUL TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS  
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**Seattle**  
Information Technology

# ctc technology & energy

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engineering & business consulting

Seattle B4B  
June 13, 2019

Broadband  
Infrastructure 101

# Agenda

## Where We Are

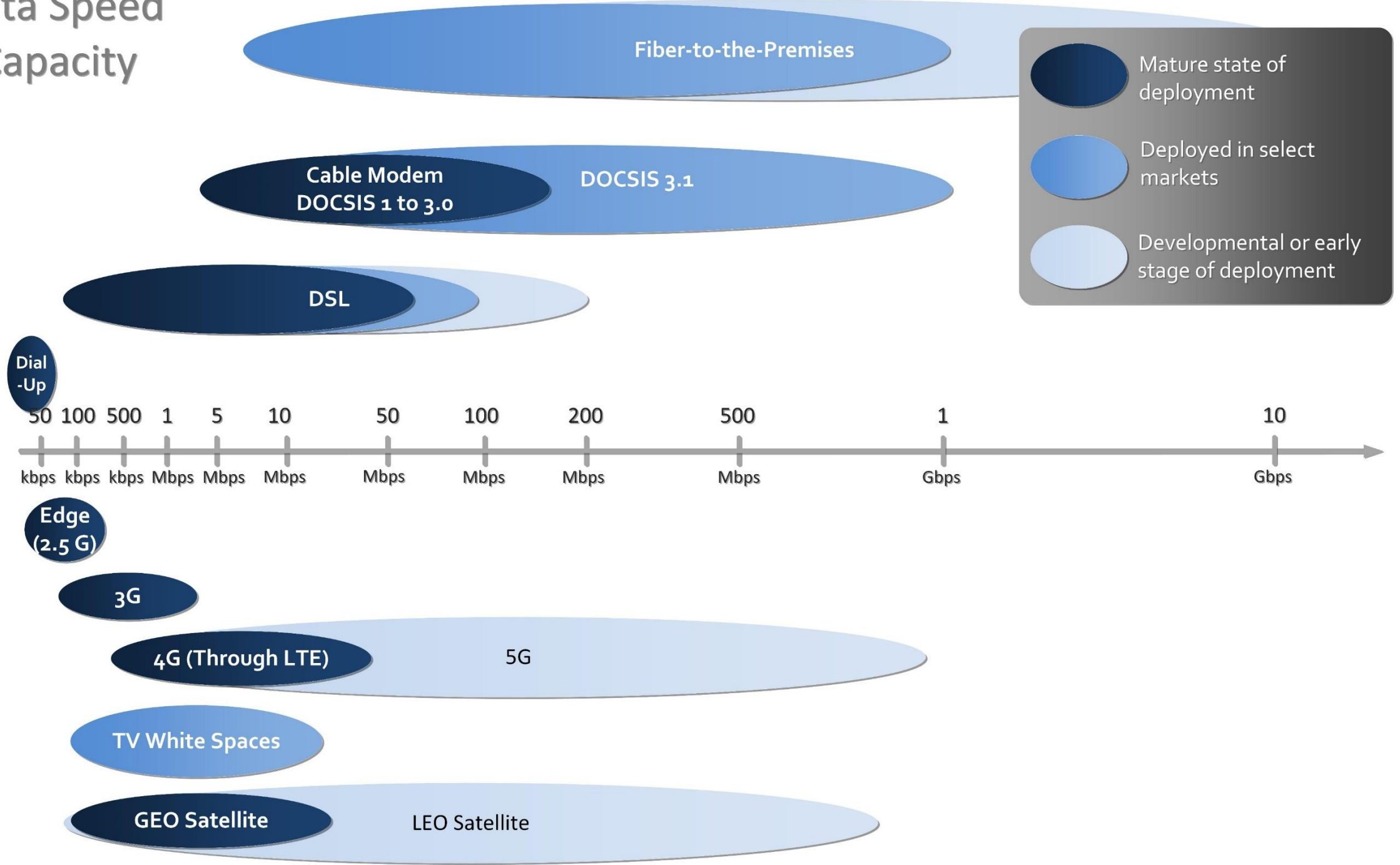
- The current state of broadband technology
- How we got here

## Where We're Going

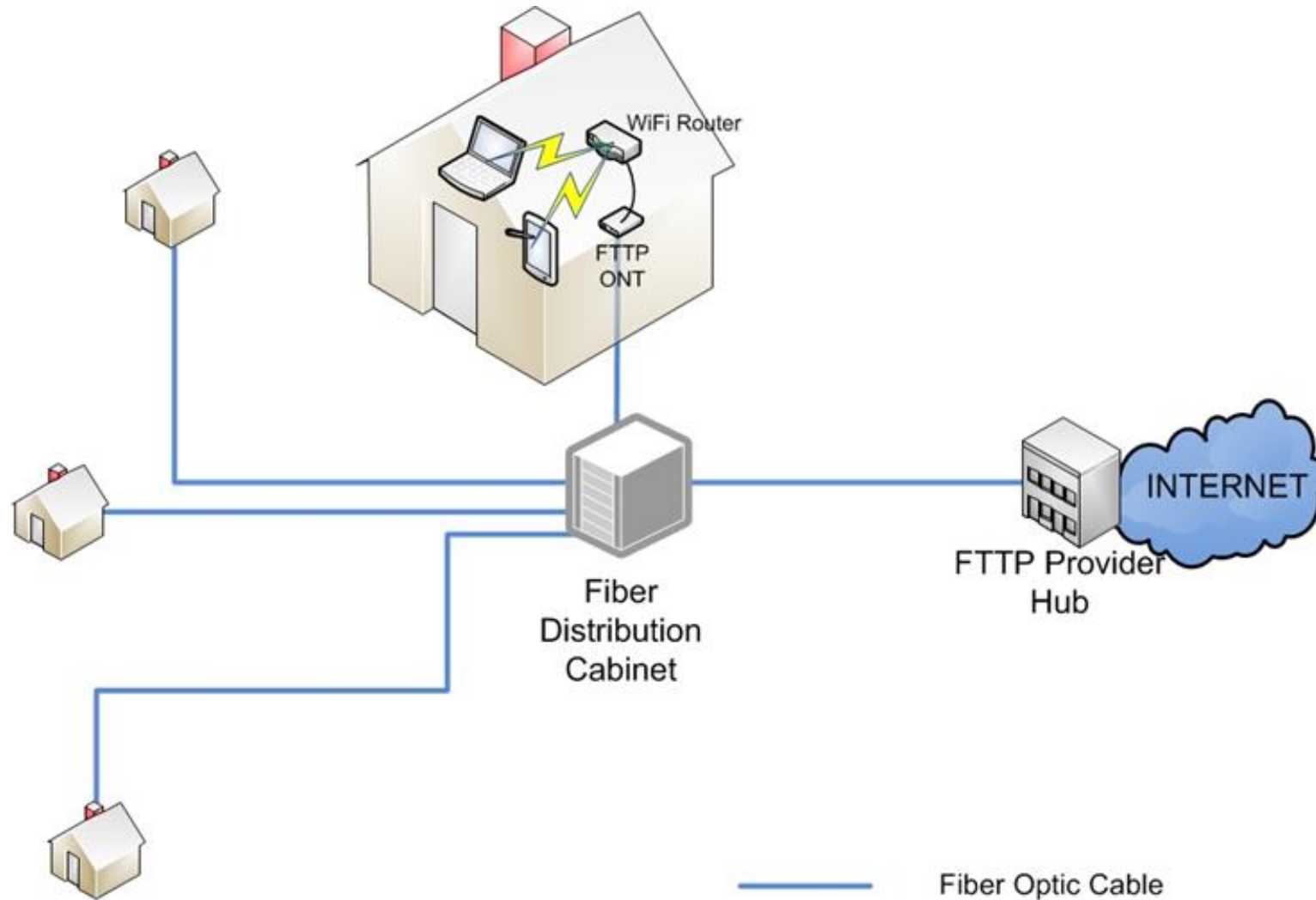
- Wireline
- Wireless
- Satellite



# Data Speed Capacity

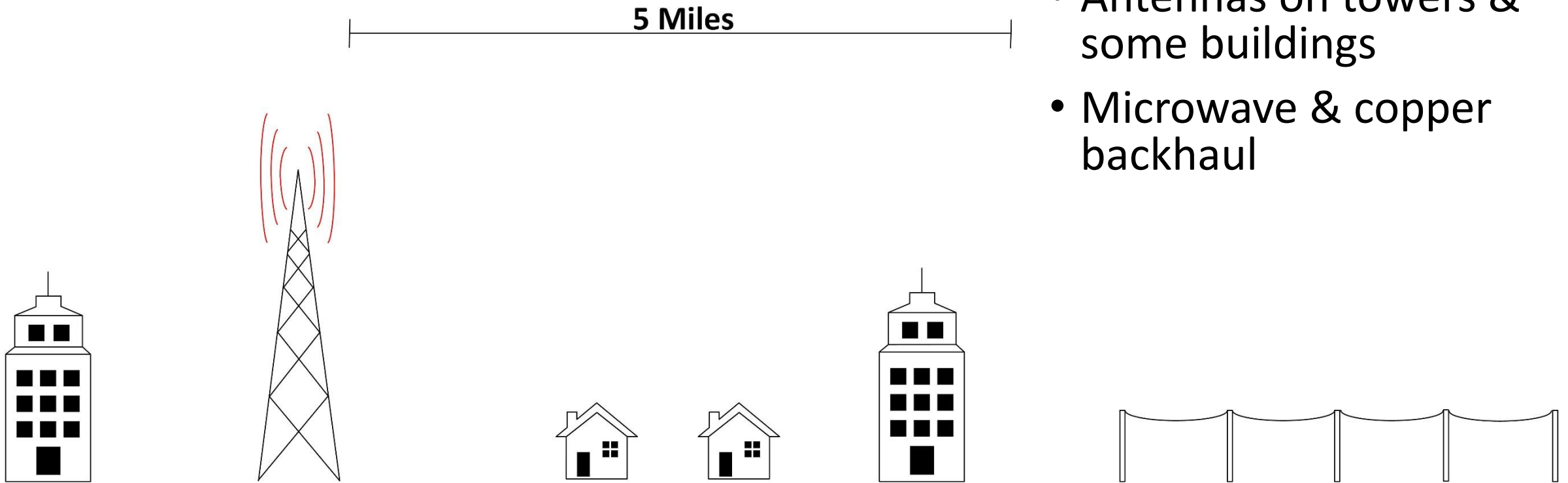


# Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP)



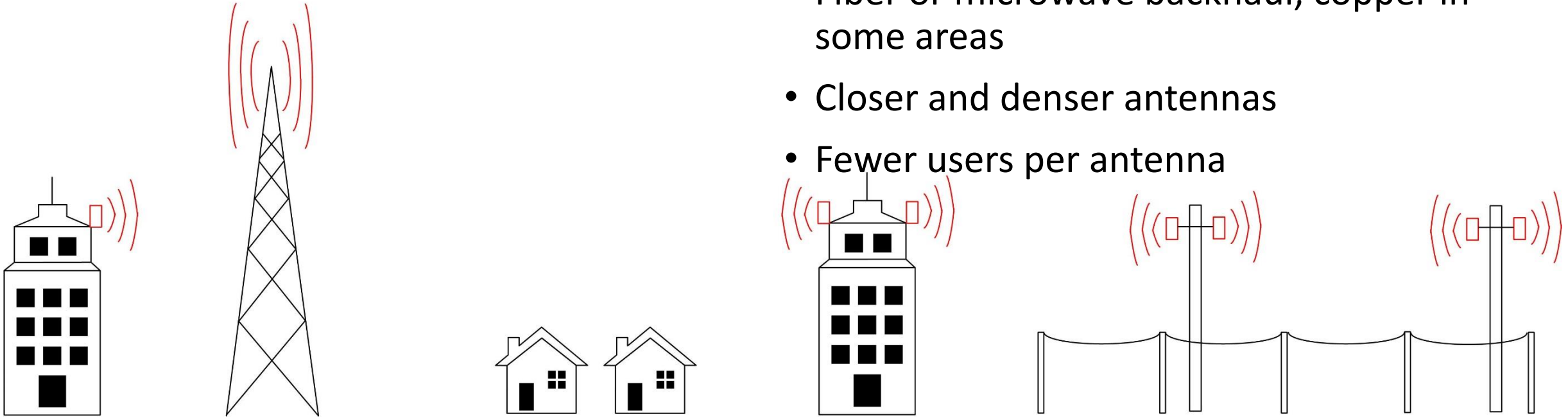
# 1G/2G

- 1990s urban/suburban
- 2000s/2010s rural
- Voice, text
- Low-speed data
- Antennas on towers & some buildings
- Microwave & copper backhaul



# 3G

1-2 Miles

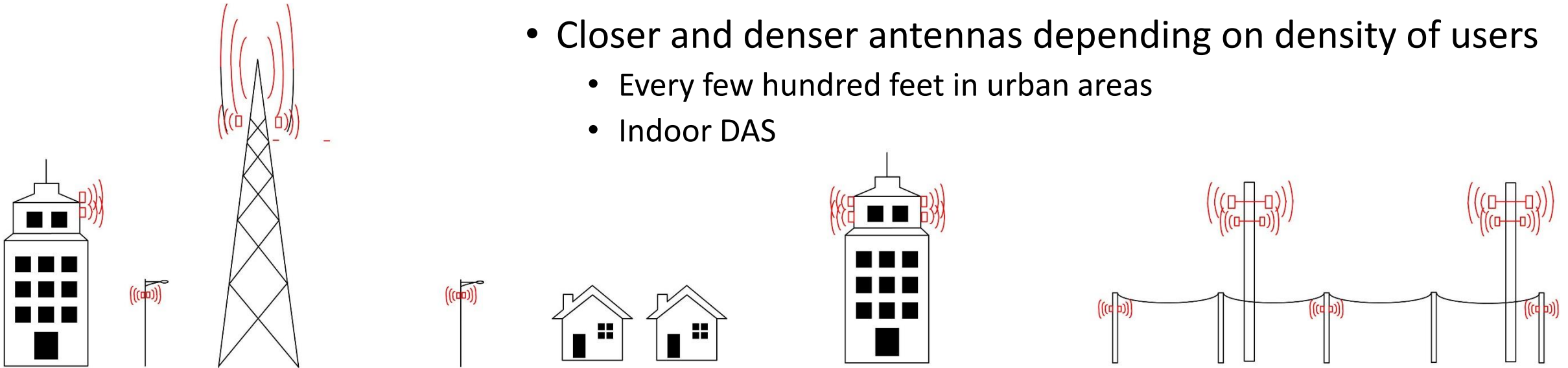


- 2000s urban/suburban
- 2000s/2010s rural
- Voice, text
- Medium-speed data
- Antennas on towers & buildings
- Fiber or microwave backhaul, copper in some areas
- Closer and denser antennas
- Fewer users per antenna



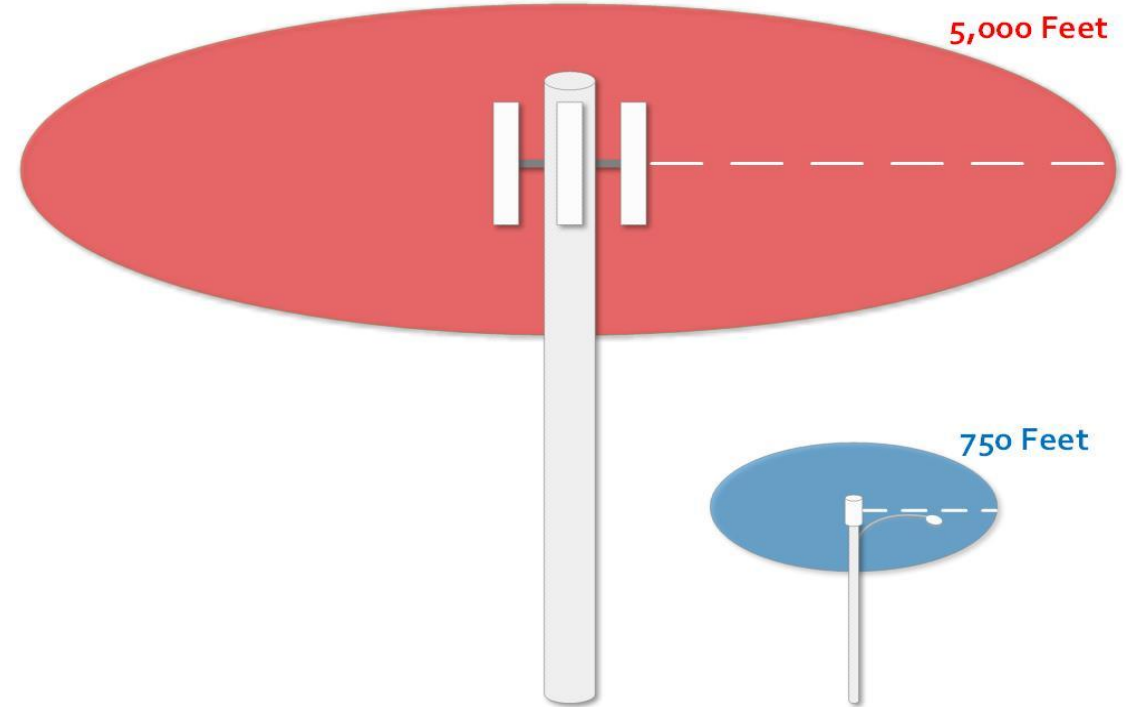
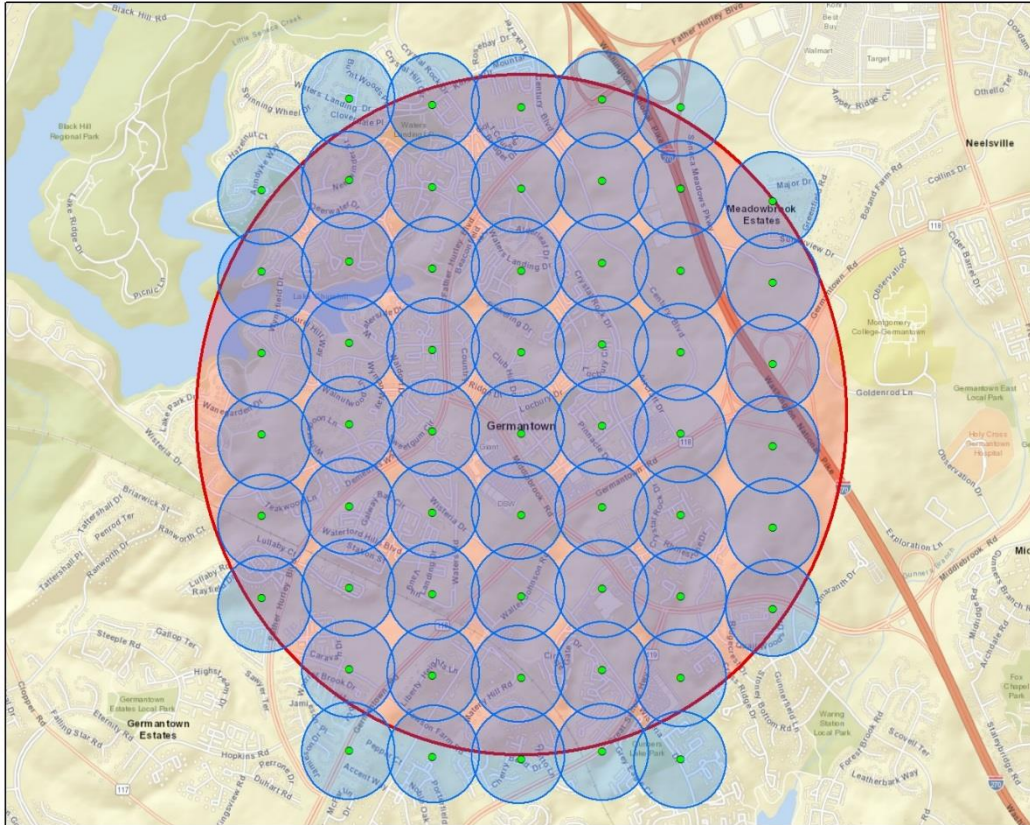
# 4G

- 2010s urban/suburban, some rural
- Voice(VoIP), text (IP)
- Smartphone service, speed few to 50 Mbps
- Antennas on towers, poles and buildings
- Multiple spectrum bands on antenna
- Backhaul fiber, occasional wireless
- Closer and denser antennas depending on density of users
  - Every few hundred feet in urban areas
  - Indoor DAS



# 4G Densification

Small cell sites added where needed to boost capacity



# Trends to understand

5G does not yet exist

- Current small cell land (pole) rush is for 4G “densification”

“5G” is marketing and lobbying term

- Almost any new wireless deployment is being called “5G” regardless of whether it aligns with 5G definition or standards

Risk that hunger for hyped “5G” will trump other considerations and local process

- Small cell deployment entails safety, interference, and other challenges
- Requires utility oversight



# Technology categories: 2 forms of wireless to consumers

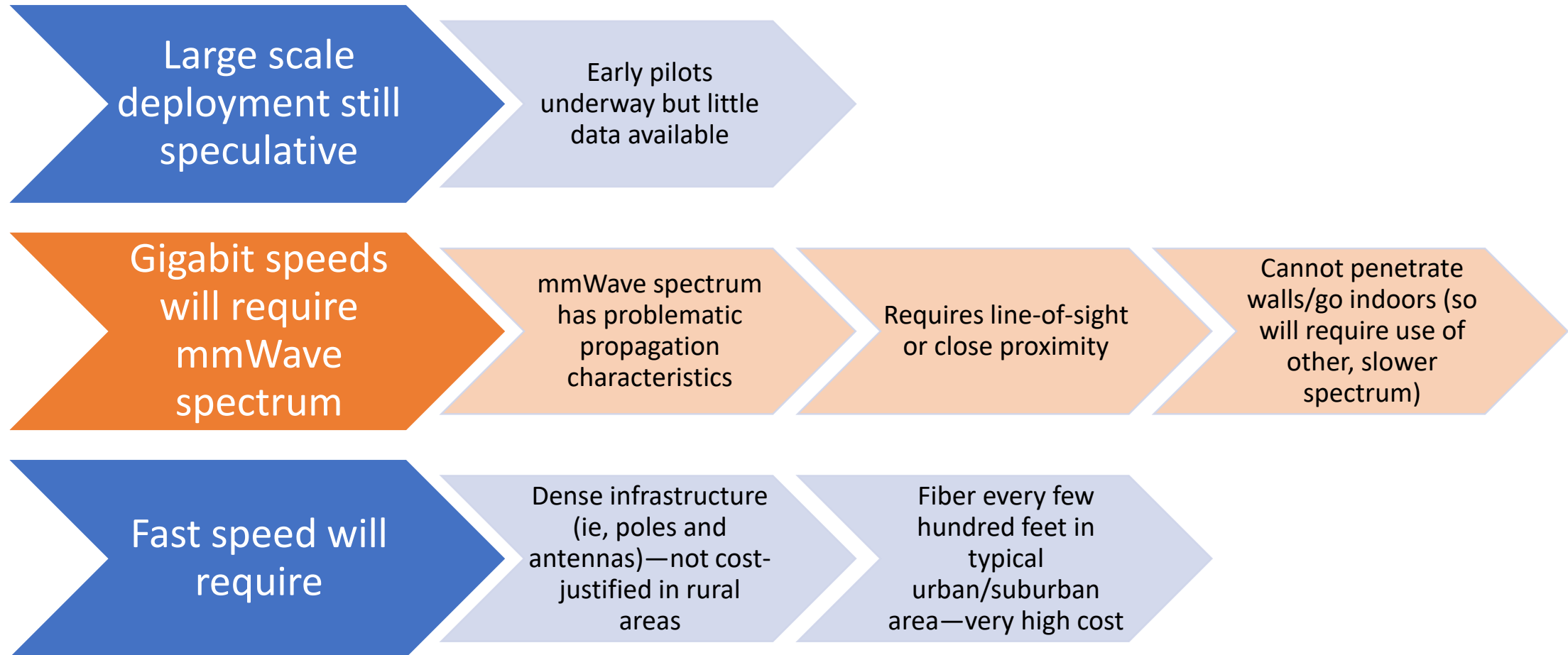
## Mobile wireless

- Travels with us around town & around the country
- Service purchased is designed for mobility first (with speed a lesser goal)
- Comes with a price—usually slower and less reliable than “fixed”

## Fixed wireless

- Attempts to replace a wire—is a service to a particular location
- Effort to compete with (or alleviate need for) cable or telco connection

# 5G technical challenges



# 5G economic challenges

## High cost of deployment + fiber

- Unclear what the potential is in urban/suburban
- *No business case in rural areas*
- Wall Street thus far unconvinced

## Market opportunity not yet apparent

- Fixed: Verizon pilots panned; AT&T holding back for now
  - Will compete with cable's huge advantages
- Mobile: Unclear whether consumers will pay more
  - Enormous incremental cost to deploy but modest incremental revenues (ie, 5G customers are not new customers; they are converted 4G customers)



# 5G timeline & development path

## Still in development stages

- Emerging in coming year or two
- Standards-writing underway
- Manufacturing path uncertain & pricing undetermined

## Deployment path unclear

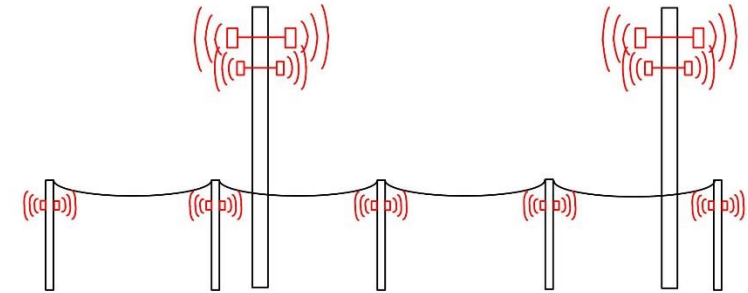
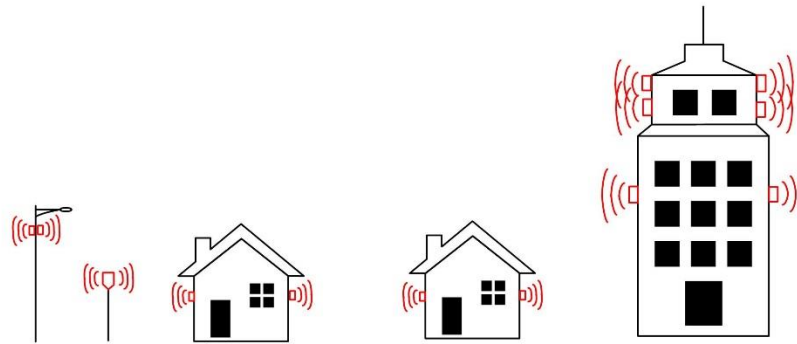
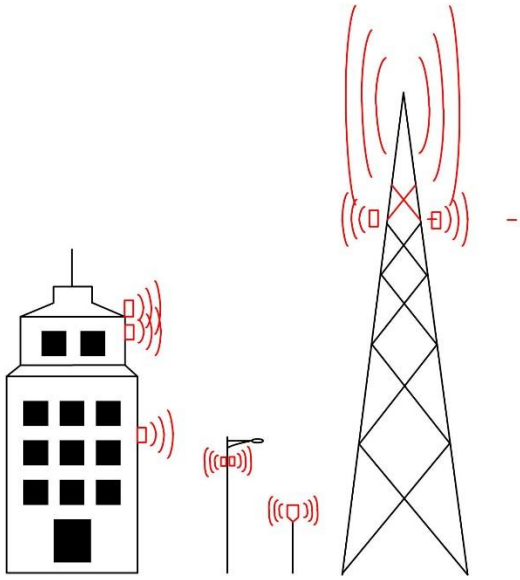
- Fixed: Verizon suggesting imminent deployment in some urban areas
- Mobile: Some deployment in 2020 for urban/suburban
- Neither mobile nor fixed deployment in rural, other than on major highways (possibly)

## Even best case deployment will be uneven

- Focused on “high value” areas
- Service available only to some locations
- Likely increase in rural/urban and have/have not divides

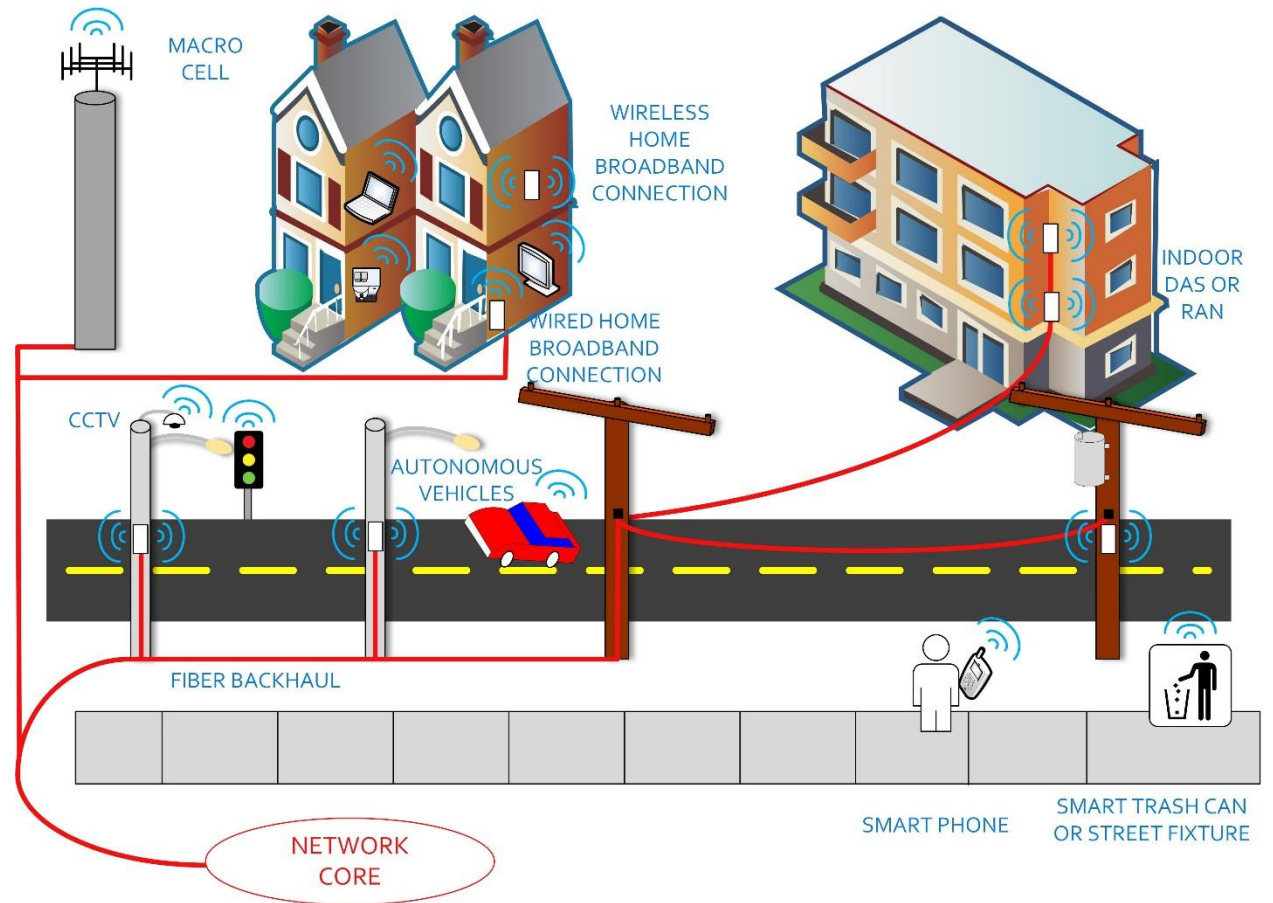
# Potential 5G

- 2020 projected urban/suburban, unclear for rural
- Few hundred Mbps to Gbps (higher speeds require mmWave)
- Mixture of small & large multiple spectrum antennas
- Fiber every few hundred feet
- Closer and denser antennas depending on density of users
- mmWave requires line-of-sight or close proximity
- No building penetration



# Emerging 5G architecture

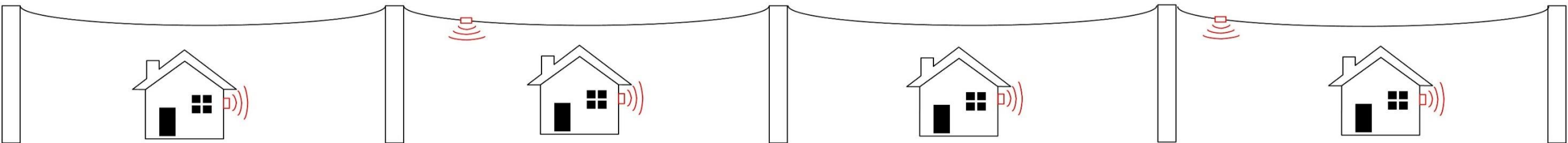
- Millimeter wave spectrum requires direct line of sight
  - Radios every two utility poles
  - Indoor & outdoor radios
  - Widespread fiber



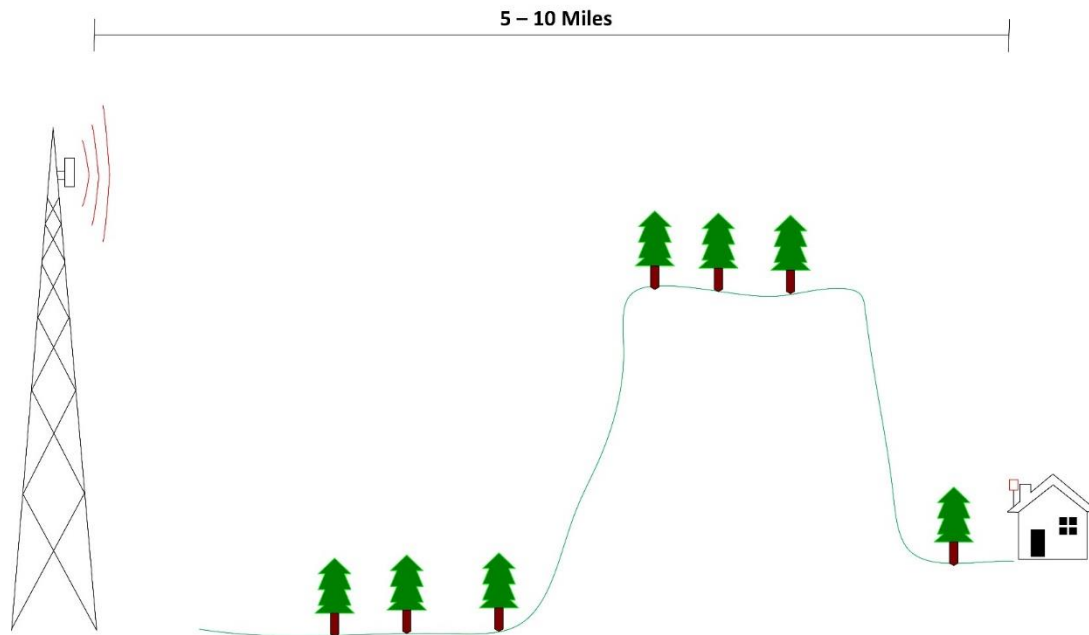


# Cable cos poised to compete with 4G/5G in mobile

- Cable modem products now available
  - Marketed as Xfinity Mobile, Spectrum Mobile etc
- Spectrum
  - Uses WiFi and other unlicensed and lightly licensed
  - May soon use CBRS (3.5 GHz) and licensed (600 MHz)
- Backhaul
  - Uses existing cable (hybrid fiber/coax) networks as community-wide backhaul networks
- National footprint emerging
  - Roams to other cable networks in other cities and to carrier



# Alternative rural wireless technologies



- TV White Spaces
  - can complement unlicensed
  - well suited for terrain and foliage
  - spectrum widely available in rural areas
  - long range may reduce need for fiber

# Alternative rural technologies

## Unlicensed spectrum

- 5 GHz similar to WiFi
- Longer-range 3.5 GHz CBRS spectrum potentially emerging
- 60/70/80/90 GHz mmWave for high-speed and backhaul
  - Unlicensed and lightly licensed, augments fiber

## Large advantage to infrastructure owners

- Cable companies on existing attachments
- Power companies on existing poles

## Potentially low cost, low barrier to entry



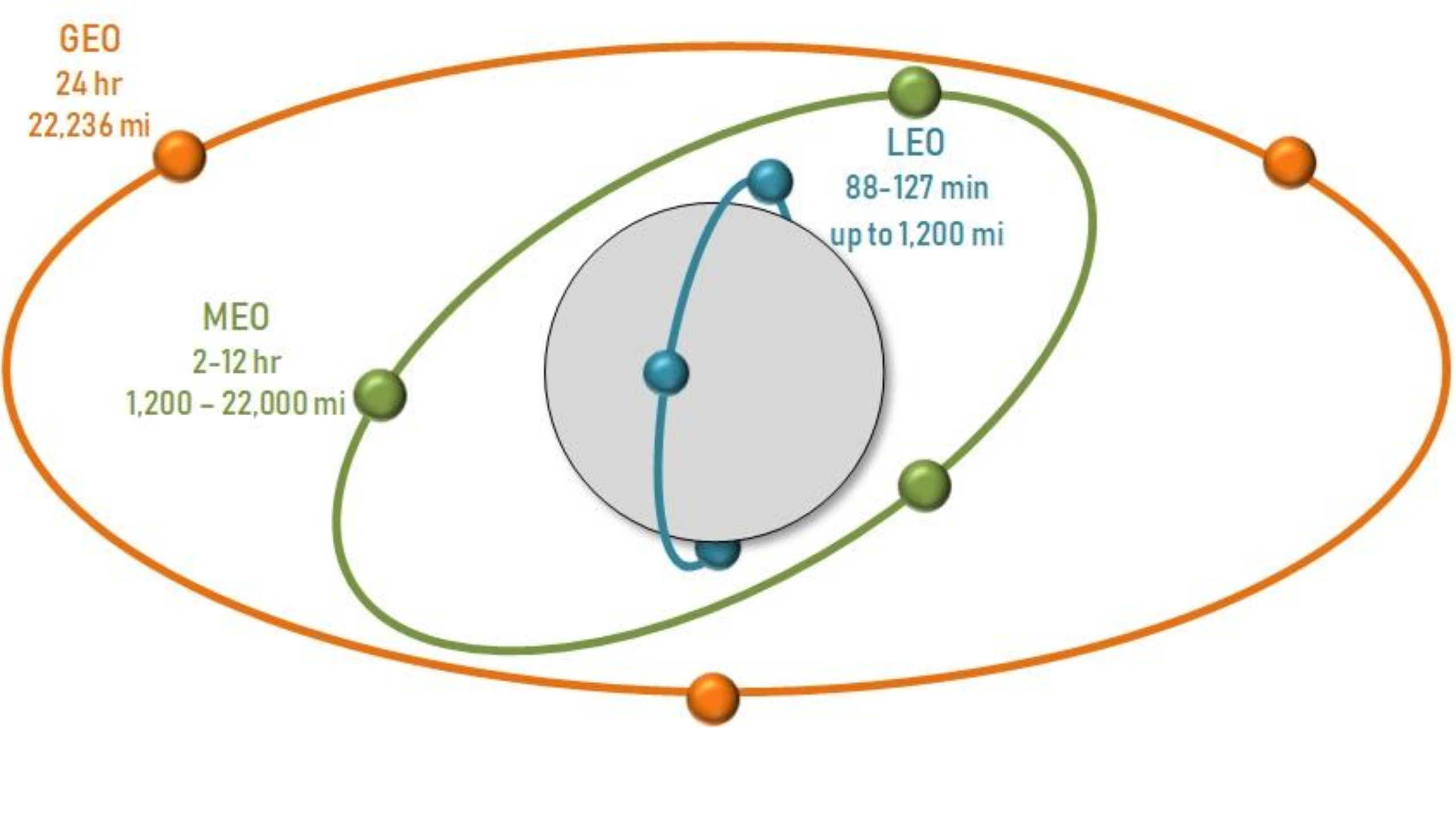
# Satellite broadband potential

## Historic challenges

- Latency
- Deployment (and service) cost
- Bandwidth limitation

## Potential opportunity

- Move from GEO to LEO
- Reduction in deployment costs



# Satellite broadband: orbit and latency

|  | Orbit          | Broadband speed   | Latency |
|--|----------------|---|---------|
| <b>Geostationary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hughes</li><li>• Viasat</li></ul>                     | 22,236 mi      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 to 30 Mbps down</li><li>• Far less up</li></ul> | 600+ ms |
| <b>Low earth orbit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SpaceX</li><li>• Telesat</li><li>• OneWeb</li></ul> | up to 1,200 mi | ?   | 25+ ms  |

# B4B-Build For Broadband Initiative



## Building Community Awareness

- Early Telecommunication Planning
- Benefits of Infrastructure Investments

*Planning problems magnified by trying to design for something that's hard to predict*

Tips

Website

Webinars

[www.seattle.gov/tech/initiatives/broadband/build-for-broadband](http://www.seattle.gov/tech/initiatives/broadband/build-for-broadband)



# Thanks for Participating!

[www.seattle.gov/tech/initiatives/broadband/building-for-broadband](http://www.seattle.gov/tech/initiatives/broadband/building-for-broadband)

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