

Friday, February 24, 2012

## **The speed of light: editorial**

***With plans to boost Ohio's broadband network, Kasich positions state for success***

With a plan to increase the speed of Ohio's existing broadband network, Gov. John Kasich seeks to elbow the state to the front of the line for jobs and investments from high-tech companies.

The plan, outlined this month in the governor's State of the State speech, would position Ohio as a center for research and product development by ramping up data transmissions tenfold, to 100 gigabits per second, on the already existing Ohio Academic Resources Network, or OARnet. This would be done by installing new hardware to speed data-bearing light pulses along glass strands — or "black fiber" — already underground on this network, which is used by universities, schools, governments and some private businesses.

The network, separate from the Internet people access in their homes, would improve service between Ohio's eight biggest cities by October, using \$8.1 million in Ohio Third Frontier money for hardware improvements. Another \$2.3 million, which includes some private investment, would establish a virtual research center at OSU to test and promote next-generation Internet technologies, applications and software.

Think of this announcement as the 21<sup>st</sup> century equivalent of building an interstate to replace a two-lane road.

**Editorial continued here: <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/editorials/2012/02/24/the-speed-of-light.html>**

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