

Pioneer Square Fiber FAQ

1. What is the city doing?

The city hopes to lease extra space in a conduit that City Light has been installing along First Avenue South in Pioneer Square. This conduit was installed to house fiber optic cables for King County Metro. Since we had the street open for scheduled maintenance, this Request For Proposals from internet service providers is a way of getting more value out of that work while helping Pioneer Square's businesses and residents get access to the best available broadband connectivity.

2. Where is this project taking place?

Four blocks on either side of First Avenue S between Cherry St. and Jackson St.

3. What would ISPs (Internet Service Providers) do with the leased space?

A qualified provider would lease the conduit space from the City for the costs of making it available. This provider would then pull fiber optic cable through the conduit, and hook it up to businesses and residences along the route.

4. Why are fiber optic cables better than copper or coaxial cables?

Fiber optic-based broadband would allow connection speeds up to 100 times as fast as what is available in Pioneer Square today. They also allow businesses and consumers to upload as much data as they download. Upload speeds are currently limited by providers of coaxial and copper-based networks because of the physical limitations of existing infrastructure. Some businesses need . While some parts of the city already has access to fiber connections, much does not, including Pioneer Square.

5. When would fiber broadband service become available?

We hope to receive responses from providers by June 6, and if we are successful in negotiating a lease, install fiber by the end of August. We hope service will be available by the end of September.

Persons appearing at 5/23 Press Event

Mayor Mike McGinn

Former Mayor Charles Royer

Seattle Chief Technology Officer Bill Schrier

Jeff Strain, CEO, Undead Labs