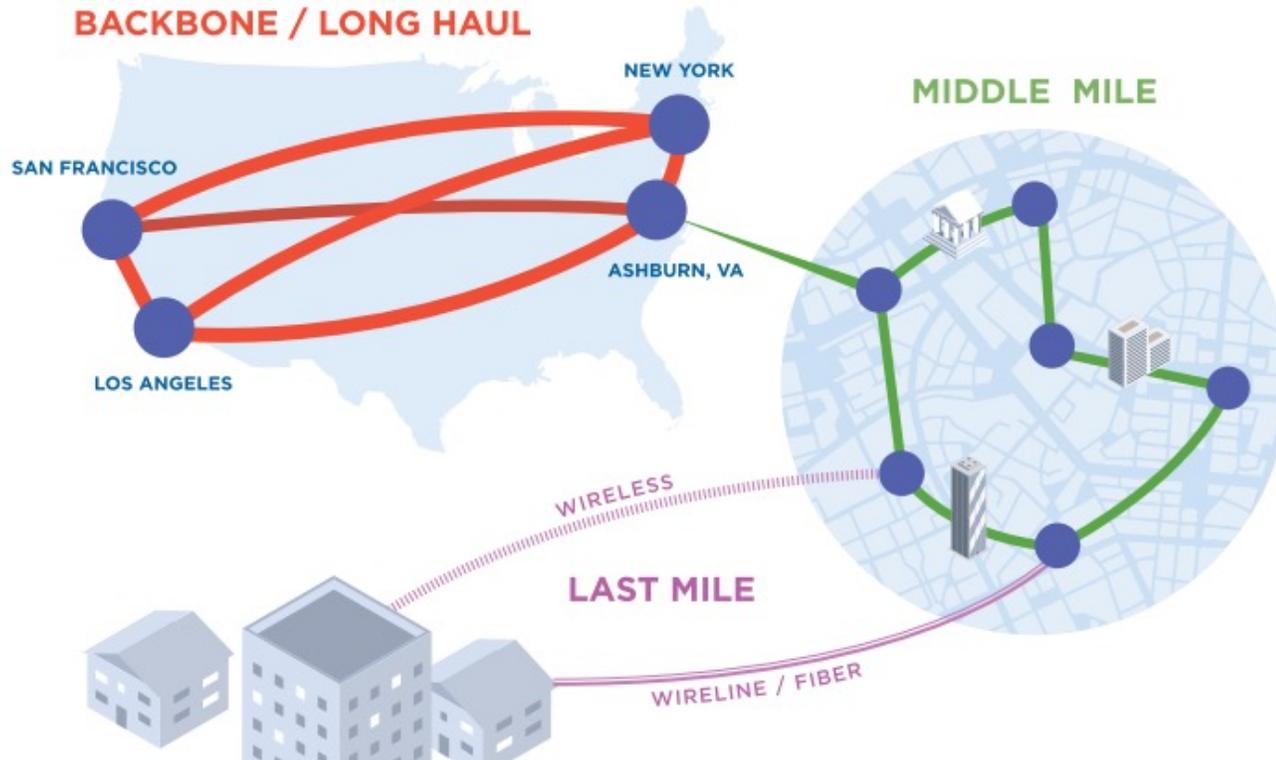


Statewide Middle Mile – \$3.25 Billion



“Middle-Mile” refers to the high-capacity fiber-optic cables that traverse long distances (i.e., 10s-100s of miles) to connect communities to the Internet backbone. These high-capacity lines are analogous to transmission lines for electric utilities, or aqueducts and rivers for water utilities.

Source: [Benton on Open-Access, Middle-Mile Networks](#)