

AURARIA HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

Network Infrastructure Modernization Project

Colorado General Assembly Joint Technology
Committee

December 11, 2023



Auraria Cooperative Technology Committee

Comprehensive Plan

- Review the current campus network (as a whole)
- Identify and alleviate current pain-points
- Implement solutions that offer state of the art wired/wireless internet connectivity
- Align with Institutional/CDHE Strategic Plans
- Focused on advancing the Campus' capability for learning delivery and accessibility



CAMPUS WIDE COLLABORATION

The Network Modernization Project

Creates a ubiquitous, robust wireless/wired infrastructure to facilitate postsecondary talent development for 40,000+ Campus Constituents across 36 buildings.

- Assisting students with blended learning
- Full access to educational services while on and off campus
- Increasing the capability for learning delivery and accessibility

A Foundation for the Future

- Robotic Simulations Labs
- Virtual Reality
- Innovative Partnerships



CURRENT SYSTEM LIMITATIONS

- Institutions using disparate systems
- Non-interoperable equipment
- Multiple SSIDs broadcast
- Cannot handle today's wireless demands
- Aging technology - Offers basic internet browsing capability



Wi-Fi Survey Results (2022)

- 83% - 2+ hours/day
- 57% - Poor-Fair
- 60% - 2 or more devices
- 80% - Campus Related Use
- 64% - Connection issues
- 21% - on poor performance

80% - Campus Wi-Fi is their primary connectivity



COVERAGE LIMITATIONS: TIVOLI STUDENT UNION

Auraria Campus buildings
comprise ~3.6 million
square feet of space

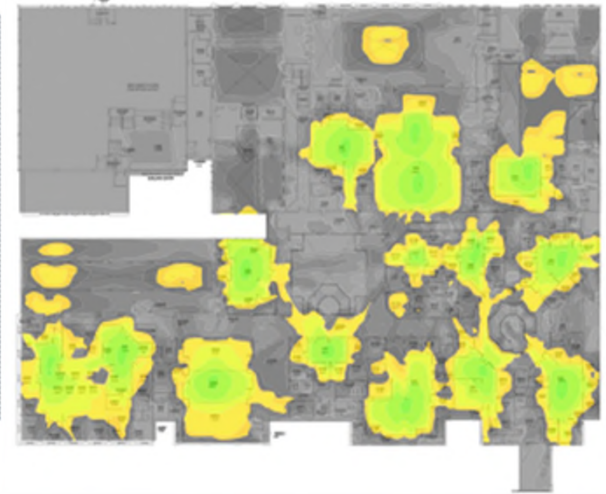
Professional RF Surveys
revealed ~1.8 million square
feet have minimal to no
wireless coverage. (2022)

Tivoli Student Union – 3rd
Floor

Wireless AP



RF Survey Heat Map

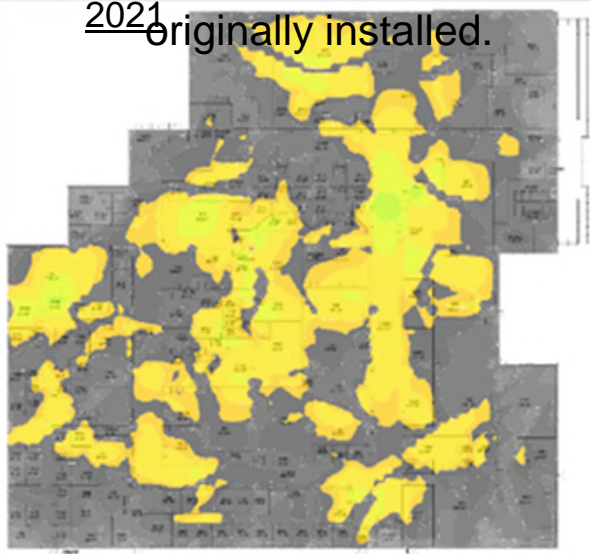


**Tivoli Student Union named #9 of the 25 best student unions
by Best College Reviews**

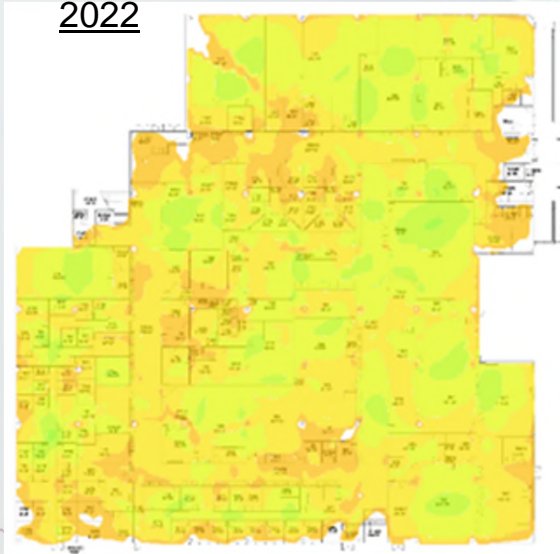
A PICTURE OF SUCCESS: ARTS BUILDING NETWORK MODERNIZATION

- Updated aging technology (switches, routers)
- Wi-Fi Analysis Survey results optimized AP placement plan.
- Achieving this level of coverage success required doubling the

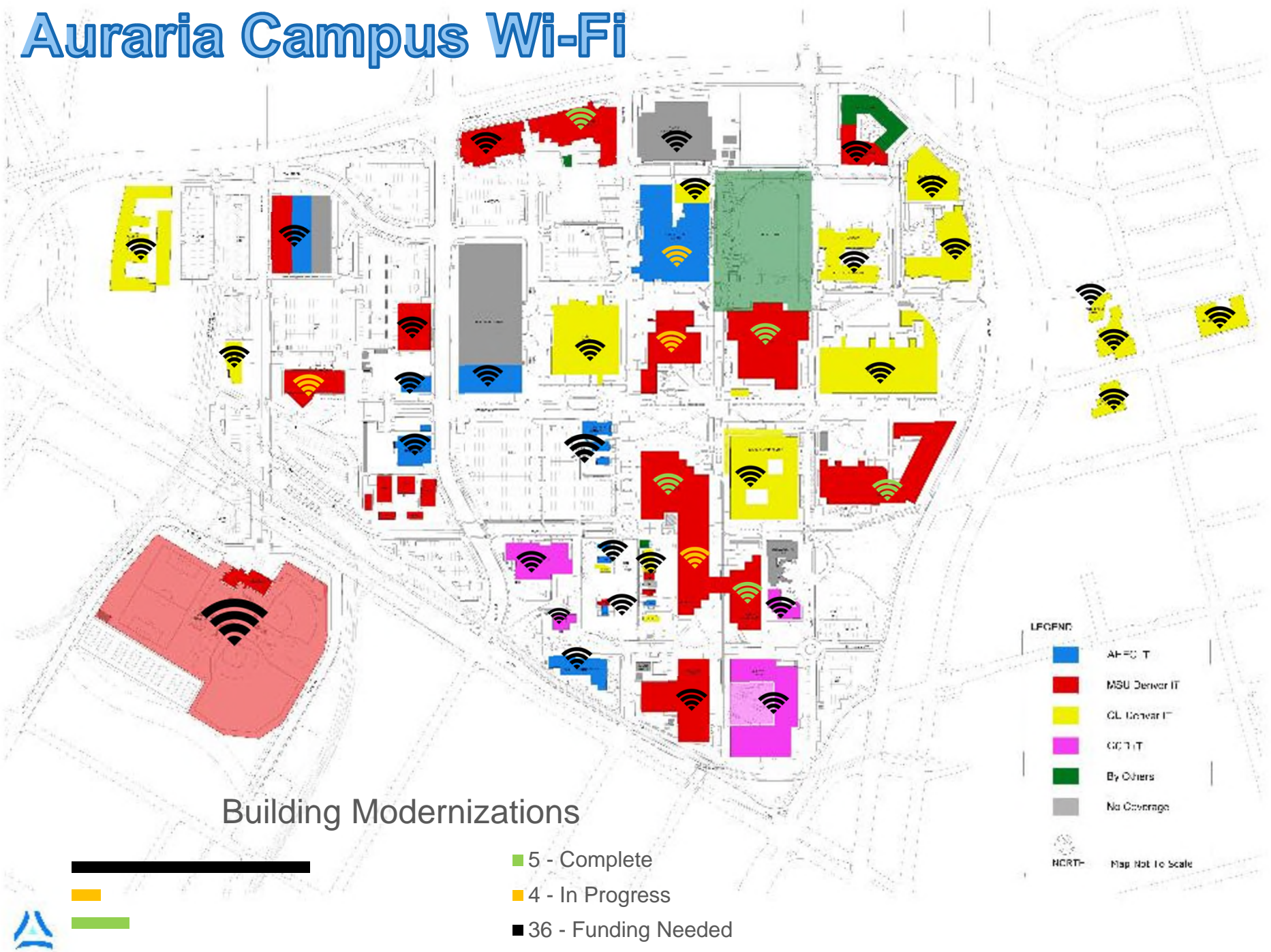
ARTS 1st Fl - Fall 2021
number of APs originally installed.



ARTS 1st Fl - Spring 2022



Auraria Campus Wi-Fi



Building Modernizations



- 5 - Complete
- 4 - In Progress
- 36 - Funding Needed

- LFCFNC
- AFPC IT
 - MSU Denver IT
 - CU Denver IT
 - CU Boulder IT
 - By Others
 - No Coverage
- HCRT- Map Not to Scale

ACTC – RECOMMENDATIONS

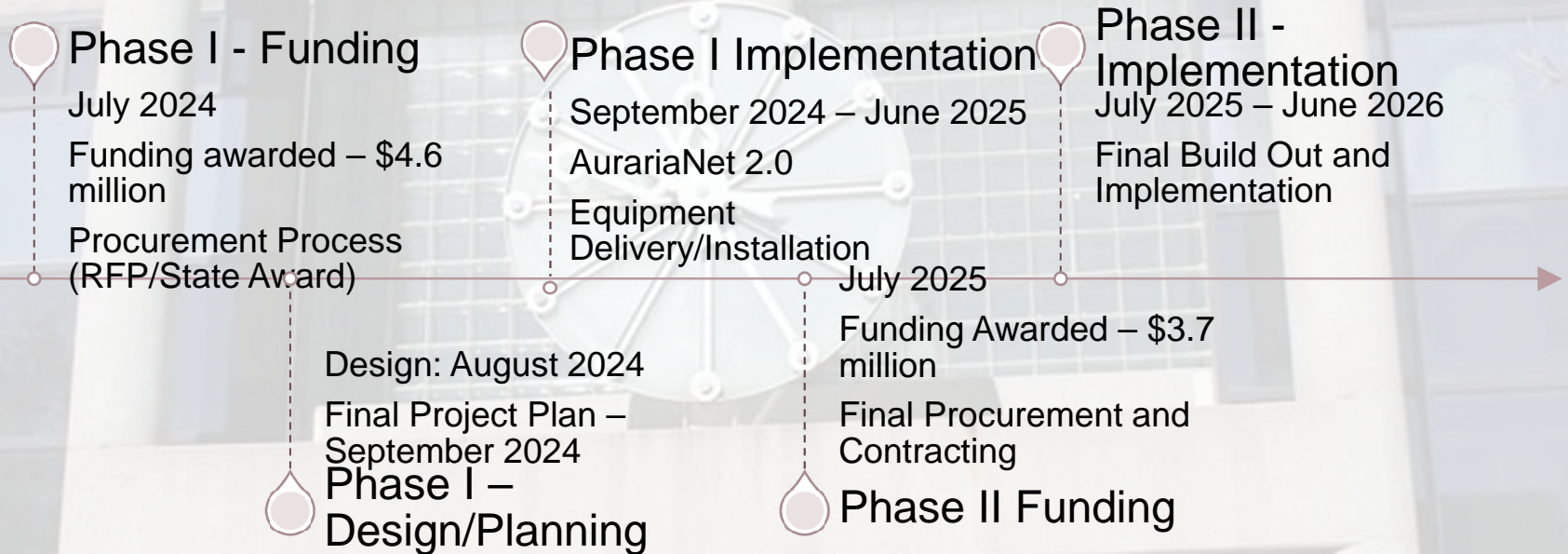
REPEAT SUCCESS

Implement the same Network Modernization process that was successful in the Arts building to improve the wired/wireless network functionality across all buildings on campus.

OBJECTIVES

- Floor-by-floor wireless survey of every affected building to ensure proper network design and AP placement to establish complete internal building Wireless Coverage and Roaming. **(Completed Spring 2023)**
- Upgrade of each institution's "back-haul" equipment (switches and routers), where necessary, to provide adequate connectivity and POE power for the large increase in the number of APs in every affected building.
- Campus Institutions adopting a Wi-Fi 6 platform **(Cisco Meraki/MIST)**
- Unified Campus - Network Peering, RADIUS Federation, and vLAN tagging to facilitate the AurariaNet 2.0 Wireless Connection Process

TIMELINE



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Infrastructure for Strategic Initiatives
- Unified Campus Experience
- Complete Wi-Fi Coverage
- Impact the digital divide
- Future Proofing
- Reduce Total Cost of Ownership

LIFE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

- Emergency Notification Delivery
- Camera/Security Monitoring
- ACPD Dispatch/Communications
- Campus Access Control





DISCUSSION

Ron Mitchell

Director of Information Technology – ACTC Chair, Auraria Higher Education Center

Kevin Taylor

CIO/Associate VP Information Technology Services, Metropolitan State University of Denver

Leisa Schievelbein

Director of Information Technology, Community College of Denver

Douglas C. Sicker

Vice Chancellor of Technology, Strategy, and Innovation & CTO, University of Colorado Denver

THANK YOU!