

## Silicon Valley leaders may boost regional Internet access speeds

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20070707-1340-ca-brf-norcal-internetspeed.html>

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SAN JOSE – Silicon Valley business leaders say the nation's high-tech hub should speed broadband Internet access and improve spotty cell phone connections to make the region more competitive with Asian rivals such as Japan and Korea.

On Monday, community and corporate officials will discuss ideas to speed broadband Internet download times, streamline city permit processes and make it easier to license cell towers and cable lines. A regional effort could be similar to the “Connect Kentucky” project, which organized private companies to invest in broadband services statewide, said Jim Wunderman, president and chief executive of the Bay Area Council, which is organizing the effort.

“I think we're behind, it's fair to say,” Wunderman said. “Other nations have made this a top priority.”

Earlier this month the Communications Workers of America released a study concluding that residents of Canada, Sweden, South Korea and several other countries have faster Internet connections. People in Japan can download an entire movie in two minutes, but it can take two hours or more in the United States – yet people in Japan pay roughly the same monthly cost as Americans, according to the research.

“The trend is going the wrong way,” said Joseph Bonocore, president and chief executive of Bonocore Technology Partners, which will participate in the Silicon valley conference Monday. “We want to look at those trends, understand those trends.”

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