

## AT&T California Fiber Optic and Broadband Failures, 1993-2019

- November 1993: Pacific Bell unveils plans to spend \$16 billion over seven years and deliver 5.5 million households with fiber optics and coaxial cable by 2000.
- December 1993: Pacific Bell files with the FCC to offer “video dialtone” services (federal version of the state plan), in Orange County, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego
- 1993: Pacific Bell takes a \$3 billion write off, which is part of the plan to replace the copper with fiber optics.
- January 1995: PacBell and city of San Diego sign "landmark" agreement; other agreements signed with CA cities.
- February 1996: the Telecommunications Act of 1996 passes, opening the state utility wires to competition.
- April 1997: SBC's purchase of Pacific Telesis becomes final.
- May 1997: PacBell launches 'wireless cable' service-Los Angeles & Orange counties.
- June 1997: SBC stops all building of fiber optic broadband and will move to offer DSL over the old copper.
- 2002: Regulatory Audit of Pacific Bell for 1998-1999 by the California Public Utilities Commissioning fines mistakes resulting in \$1.94 billion shortchange of payments for expenses. This included cross-subsidies of the other lines of business, customer funding DSL, and corporate expenses.
- SBC merges with AT&T and takes the name.
- Dec 30, 2006 AT&T-BellSouth Merger at \$85.8 billion acquisition goes through with a commitment to have 100% of the 22 state territories upgraded to broadband, albeit slow, by the end of 2007. AT&T never fulfilled this commitment and left parts of ‘unserved areas in California unserved.
- December 2006, Bait & Switch: AT&T launched U-Verse, a copper to the home service, that has a fiber optic node somewhere within ½ mile of a home offering broadband with limited speeds (as compared to fiber), Digital Voice and internet.
- 2013 announces its “VIP plan”; AT&T claimed that it would have 75% of their territories covered with wireline broadband networks by the end of 2015. “AT&T plans to expand and enhance its wireline IP network to 57 million customer locations (consumer and small business) or 75 percent of all customer locations in its wireline service area by year-end 2015. 25% of it would be wireless because it was not ‘economically feasible’ to build this IP broadband network.
- May 2014 [AT&T-Direct TV merger press release](#) of claimed that a major reason for the merger was that it would bring broadband to 15 million customers in AT&T’s territories that did not have high-speed service.
- 2014: [AT&T rolls out the IP Transition](#), a super-hyped con to claim that no one wants the copper wires and everything will move to “IP” protocol (with no regulations) and fiber, (which never happened, but the real plan was for everything should be moved to wireless.
- September 2016, AT&T removed "U-verse" brand renaming them "AT&T Internet" and "AT&T Phone", respectively.
- 2017-2019 [AT&T decides it will be a wireless media](#) and entertainment company and buys Warner Brothers, as well as rolls out a ‘fake 5G’, which is funded mostly through local rates.
- June 2019: AT&T has only 3.4 million fiber optic to the home or business lines, out of 76 million locations covered.