Problems:

There are laws in 18 states that thwart the ability of municipalities in providing city broadband access see this map:
http://www.muninetworks.org/communitymap

Also, in the past ISPs used to ask if you wanted your network to be password protected now password protection is the default. If you could legally and easily share your signal with your neighbors more easily, more people would be able to get online.

Also, if you didn't allow service providers to have data limits there would be more competition among wifi service providers because mobile hotspots would be competitive with broadband service providers. As it is in our city (Pittsburgh) there are no providers that offer unlimited wifi through a hotspot. This causes problems for people who have to rely on hotspots or mobile wifi as their only service.

Further, if you did not allow copper wire service to disappear when FIOS was installed more service providers could offer DSL which goes over copper wires--the more service providers the better. Also in the event of an emergency, copper wires would serve as a good emergency backup plan since they are not connected to the power grid.

Solutions:
In San Francisco there is an ordinance so that every time the street is dug up, they will lay tubes for fiber cables--this stops the cost of laying fiber from being high and "bundles" it with the cost of other public projects.

San Francisco also provides free wifi in public housing, bridging the digital divide.

In NY, the public library loans out wifi hotspots so that community members can have access to the internet even if they can't afford it.

We could have a tax for providing free Internet to all customers and make this a nationwide project like the rail system--I am sure that wouldn't go over well but who knows...

In rural and remote areas there are landlines, that's what DSL goes over so really, you need to prevent the destruction of copper wires especially in those areas, it's pretty much essential.

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