CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Information & Technology Services

Memorandum
Bloomington Digital Underground
Advisory Committee
Bloomington City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
McCloskey Room and on Zoom
Thursday, August 1st, 2024

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER [4:15 pm]
Facilitated by Rick Dietz

ROLL CALL:

Board Members present: Chris Robb and Michelle Cole
Board Members present via Zoom: none
Board absent: Mike Sullivan, Mike Trotzke, Marianne Chitwood, Mike Allen, Andy Koop
City staff, officials, and guests present: Rick Dietz, Victoria Jones, Dave Brodin

Dietz: Welcomes everyone and begins the meeting with department updates.

Information & Technology Services (ITS) Department Updates

- Public parks Wi-Fi update: The Seminary Park Wi-Fi project is nearing completion in the next few days to weeks. The previous cabinet installation delays have been resolved, and Parks and ITS Department hardware is being installed.
- ARPA updates: ITS has several ARPA funding projects in various stages of progress.
    - The Digital Equity Strategic Plan ARPA funding is moving forward.
    - The Digital Accessibility ARPA funding will support compliance initiatives for the City of Bloomington's web and digital applications to meet the new 2026 Federal accessibility guidelines for municipalities.
- The Indiana University (IU) Data Center agreement was finalized. This agreement is a significant step towards enhancing the City of Bloomington's digital infrastructure. IU technicians are setting up fiber connections and equipping the rack space in preparation for the City of Bloomington's use. Initially, the City will utilize the space as one of our many networked nodes, and eventually, the IU Data Center will become the primary location. The IU Data Center is the area's most protected and secure location.
- The 2024 Digital Equity Grant application process closed, and the Digital Equity subcommittee will outline allocations later this month (August) and report their funding decisions to the BDUAC and the public.

- Hoosier Fiber continues to progress, and the City continues to find ways to assist each other in digital equity initiatives, such as the work in the 2023 mapping project to connect Crestmont and the Bloomington Housing Authority with fiber services.
- The Federal Digital Equity Grants process opened earlier than expected and will be accepting applications through the end of September 2024.
  - Chris Robb inquired about this grant funding and whether it was connected with the other grant funding that the City of Bloomington distributes. Rick Dietz stated that it is a separate initiative and explained that federal grant funding is divided into three rounds.
    - The first round of federal funding was only for state government digital equity strategic planning initiatives.
    - The second round of federal funding allocations to the states will be administered by states to local governments.
    - The third round of federal funding will go directly to local governments, nonprofits, consortiums, and other entities.
  - Chris Robb inquired about applying for both State and Federal funding. Rick Dietz stated that we are considering both options and states are still determining the grant funding process for local governments.
  - Chriss Robb asked about any ideas we have for the federal government grant. Rick responded that the federal funding will be highly competitive. Ideally, we want to position ourselves for success by collaborating with the school system, Indiana University, the library, and/or a previous partner like Hoosier Fiber for training and device access. Rick continued to say that he would keep the committee posted, but with the early grant closing date, there would be little time to do so.

City-wide Fiber Broadband Initiative

- Dave Broden with Hoosier Fiber reported on recent Bloomington fiber work with three slides detailing their progress.
- Slide 1 was an untitled county map. Dave presented an updated progress map of Bloomington outlining the completed sections in green and the active construction sections in blue. Dave pointed out that larger sections of the city have been completed toward the east and north, and progress is being made toward the downtown area. The active area in blue is nearing the Crestmont community, and construction will begin there in the next week or so.
- Slide 2, titled *Right of Way Activity*, is a timeline indicating when preventable utility strikes per mile occurred. Dave noted that during June, AEG incidents were higher. However, this was proportional to the greater amount of work being performed. Of the four preventable strikes, those were mostly related to unmarked water and sewer lines. The nineteen homeowner concerns were mainly associated with readdressing sodding issues. David elaborated that depending on the weather and other factors sodding would not take root, and they would need to return to re-sod again. Additionally, volt or flower pot ground inserts can sink over time; the other causes for incidents stem from damaged irrigation lines that are typically unmarked and only run a foot deep.
- Slide 3, titled *Construction Progress*, displayed two graphs with timelines showing the construction progress of cumulative conduit feet and units passed. David mentioned that July was the best month for Hoosier Fiber sign-ups.
  - Chris Robb asked about the delay in his scheduled home installation from summer to spring. Dave responded that there were many reasons for shuffling the schedule, one being that they had moved from aerial to underground conduit

in previous months, which delayed the project early on.
- ○ Michelle Cole mentioned that her work building, the old IU Press building, tried to sign up for service. Dave suggested calling and speaking with the commercial property sales team. They are better positioned to assist with service in select areas since they have a different service process than their home service provider.
- Dave last mentioned that in August and September, once they have the two new cabinets in place, they will catch up from early project delays. For example, once the northside cabinet was installed, the conduit and fiber connection progressed much faster.

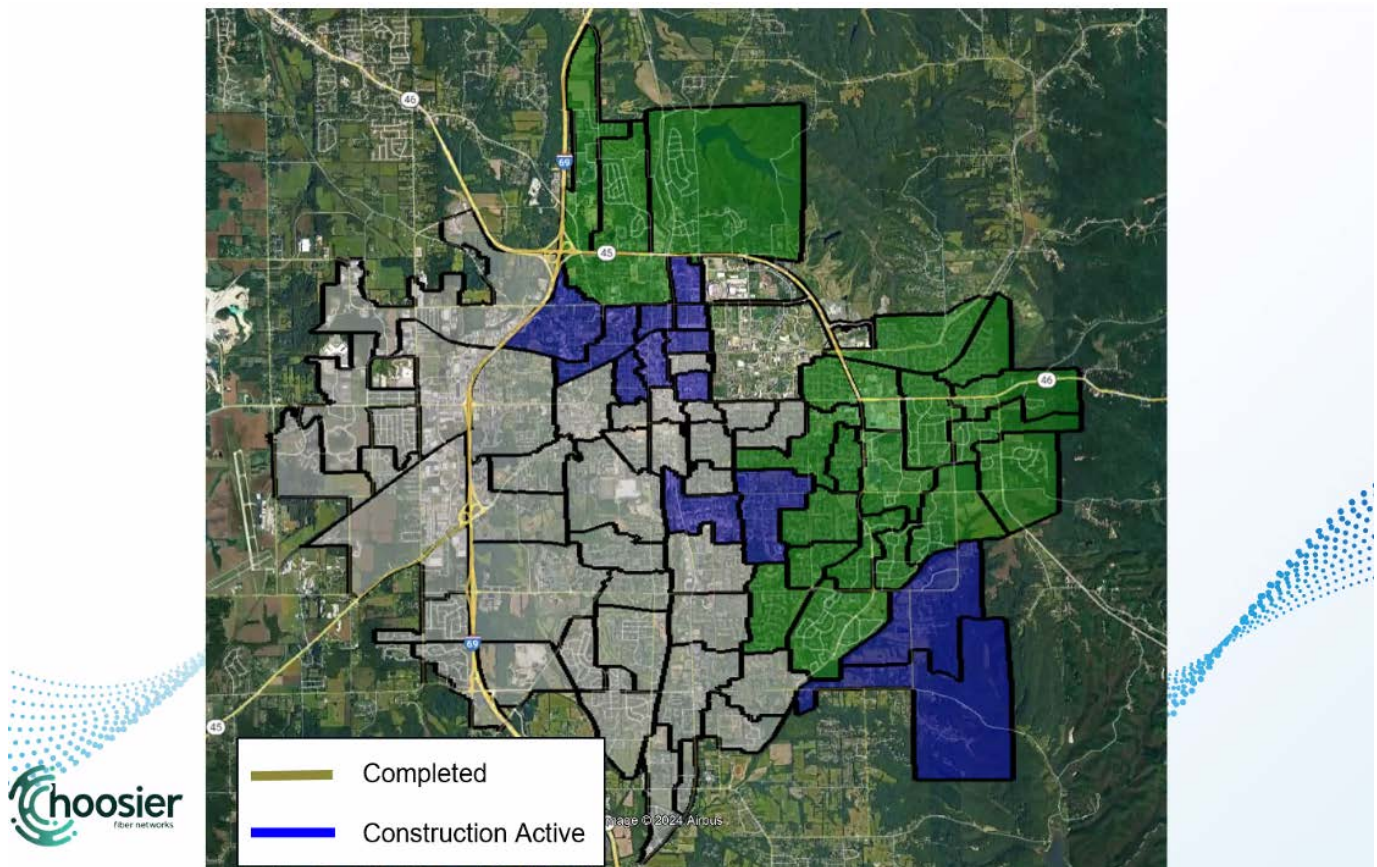**MEMBER REPORTS (Items not on the agenda)**

- Michelle Cole shared that several counties have engaged with Dimension Mill to host technical training sessions like Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Security Plus, where the students receive Ivy Tech credit. Michelle commented that it is shocking how hard it is to find the digital bandwidth to stream live training videos in some nearby counties adequately. They are also looking for other populations of students, like recent high school graduates, to take advantage of this free education opportunity during a gap year. They recently hosted the Start-Up launch. Another program pays college students to execute their entrepreneurial business plans. Paragraph Venture Studio and Flywheel collaborated in an investment to fund an Indianapolis business, Bereave. The Periodic website has a new "facelift." The Forge is on track. While the Kiln power issues continue, they anticipate being online in October, a month sooner than expected. Their new marketing staff member has updated the Dimension Mill website.
- Chris Robb stated that they are progressing with finalizing the design plans and that the firm is working on the final design draft.

ADJOURNMENT [4:47 pm]

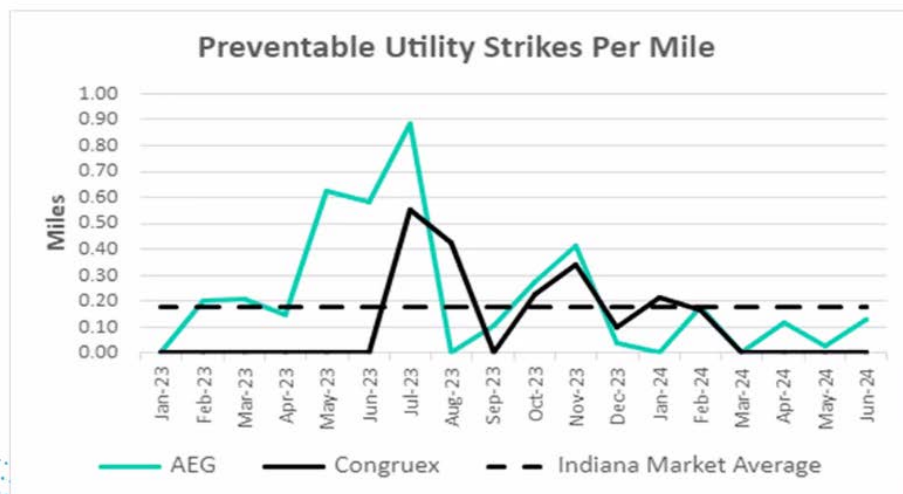Contact: Rick Dietz / 812-349-3485 / dietzr@bloomington.in.gov

Memorandum prepared by:
Victoria Jones

Slide 1 was an untitled Monroe county map of Hoosier Fiber Progress

Slide 2, titled Right of Way Activity

Slide 3, titled Construction Progress