CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Information & Technology Services

Memorandum
Bloomington Digital Underground
Advisory Committee
Bloomington City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Hooker Conference Room and on Zoom
Thursday, September 26th, 2024

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER [4:06 pm]
Facilitated by Rick Dietz

ROLL CALL:

Board Members present: Mike Trotzke and Mike Allen
Board Members present via Zoom: Michelle Cole and Marianne Chitwood
Board absent: Chris Robb, Mike Sullivan, Andy Koop
City staff, officials, and guests: Rick Dietz, Victoria Jones, Dave Brodin, and Taylor Brown, City Legislative Affairs Specialist

Dietz welcomes everyone, mentions possible low attendance, and begins the meeting with an overview of committee work and broadband updates.

City-wide Fiber Broadband Initiative

- The physical infrastructure of the build is 40% complete, and it has 1 million feet of conduit, which equates to almost 200 miles.
- The latter part of the project will mainly be aerial work.
- Dave Broden with Hoosier Fiber later reported on recent Bloomington fiber work with three slides detailing their progress. Slides are at attached.
- Slide 1 was an untitled county map. Dave presented an updated progress map of Bloomington outlining the completed sections in green. Dave pointed out that some of the green sections extend past the city limits, and the priority is to bring service to the city residents first but then go back and establish connections with residents outside the city limits. Rick clarified that servicing city residents first is a requirement of the agreement.
- Slide 2, titled *Construction Progress*, displayed two graphs with timelines showing the construction progress of cumulative conduit feet and units passed. David mentioned that they had passed 1 million feet of conduit, and there was a significant escalation of feet completed from May of this year to date.
- Slide 3, titled *Right of Way Activity*, is a timeline indicating when preventable utility strikes per mile occurred. Dave noted that during August, there was only one preventable utility strike where the line was properly naked. The eighteen reported homeowner concerns stemmed from grass disruption holes not appropriately filed, and these were easily fixed

in a timely manner. David anticipated the downward trend to continue as work moves to denser areas where there are fewer homeowner strike opportunities.

- Rick shared his findings, which he presented to the Budget Council earlier this month. The agreement goal is one hit for every four miles. However, Hoosier Fiber exceeds that and only averages one hit per every five miles.
- David shared that they are looking forward to the Crestmont launch party on October 8th, where they will provide service for Bloomington Housing Authority (BHA) residents, provide WiFi access in the Community Center, and host a class for all City residents. Rick added that events like this, servicing the BHA and the section eight communities, are part of the 2020 Digital Equity strategic plan.
- Rick answered Mike Trotzke's question about internet plans for the Forge building. The plan is to have two service providers and City fiber to project from the building to the outdoor areas' public WiFi service.

Information & Technology Services (ITS) Department Updates

- Public parks Wi-Fi update: The Seminary Park Wi-Fi project is within weeks of completion. A press release will be announced soon.
- ARPA updates:
  - The Digital Equity Strategic Plan ARPA-funded project will begin soon. The consultant will revise and update the 2020 Digital Equity strategic plan. They will conduct a survey similar to the 2020 one. The members will be engaged in the process of feedback as things progress.
  - 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 hardware has been installed, and we anticipate establishing the connection sometime next week. The partnership with IU is compelling and cost-effective.
- The NTIA Federal competitive Digital Equity Grants process has closed, and our application was submitted last Sunday, ahead of the deadline this week. The request was over 12 million, with 11.5 million from the federal government and the remaining difference from matching funds. We have partnered with SCCAP, Beacon, and BHA. We are unsure what to expect, but we have several years of history of activity managing and distributing resources. This will be the most significant funding for digital equity in our area. The request will fund device distribution, training, and technology support services to benefit our community, nonprofit partners, and sub-recipients. Later, Rick replied to Mike Trotzke's question about partial funding; that is not likely. However, the work that Columbia Telecommunications Corporation (CTC) and Jonas Chang, the City's Grant Manager, did to help build out the grant is very appreciated, and we are hopeful of getting the federal grant, but other opportunities exist.
- Our guest, Taylor Brown, introduced himself. He works out of the Mayor's office and is the new Legislative Affairs Specialist for the City of Bloomington. His objectives are to support transparency initiatives, inform the Mayor of community concerns, serve as a communications resource, and track state and federal legislation, especially funding opportunities.
- The city is finishing up the 2025 budget process. Rick appreciated that the city prioritized capital projects like establishing backup storage with the local income tax fund. ITS has budgeted $5.5 million in 2025 for capital replacement and anticipates decreasing to around $4.5 million or less in 2026.

MEMBER REPORTS (Items not on the agenda)

- Michelle Cole announced the Mill's Innovation Week event and welcomed members to participate. For more details, visit www.dimensionmill.org/innovation-week. Paragraph will soon have new investment opportunities.
- Mike Trotzke announced that the Kilns open house event will likely be on either November 18th or 19th and welcomed everyone to attend. That Monday morning before, they will have tours of the new Forge space. The Kiln's drywall is up and complete. They anticipate a December 1st setup date. The CCC Grant funded the land purchase from the Redevelopment Commission by the Triads District Advisory Group. The fiduciary board will be better positioned to sell sections of the property and will look into how best to invest the proceeds.
- Marianne Chitwood announced that I-Light will host its annual members' meeting in Indianapolis on October 8th and 9th. More information can be found at www.ilight.net. Additional IU network refreshes and upgrades will be occurring in early 2025.
- Mike Allen updated the group on recent cybersecurity concerns. His clients are seeing increased financial transfer fraud attacks across various business sectors, more from domestic actors than ever before. Rick added that he had seen an increase in vendor fraud, but most of the time, the incident does not meet the mandatory reporting to the state. However, the state has requested to be notified. Mike A. said the FBI has also been very helpful and asked to be notified. His office has undertaken the transfer of its internal backup infrastructure from Google to Box.
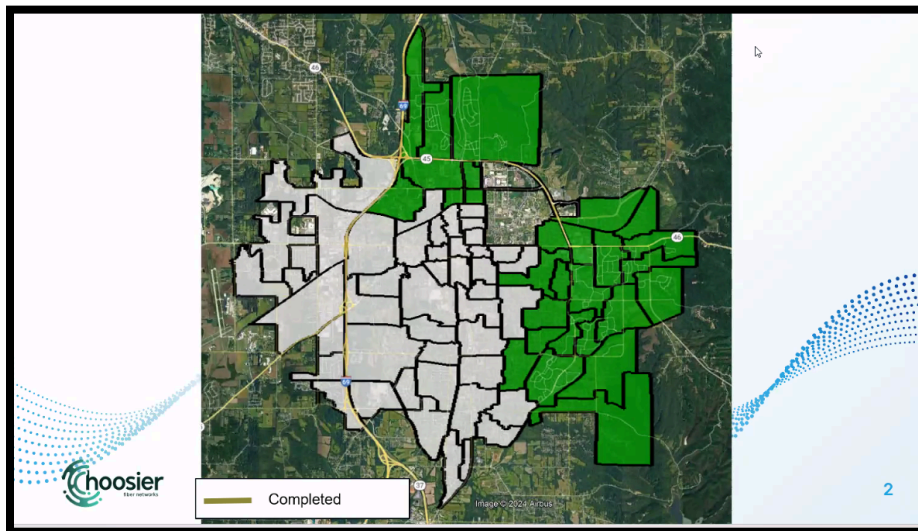
ADJOURNMENT [4:59 pm]

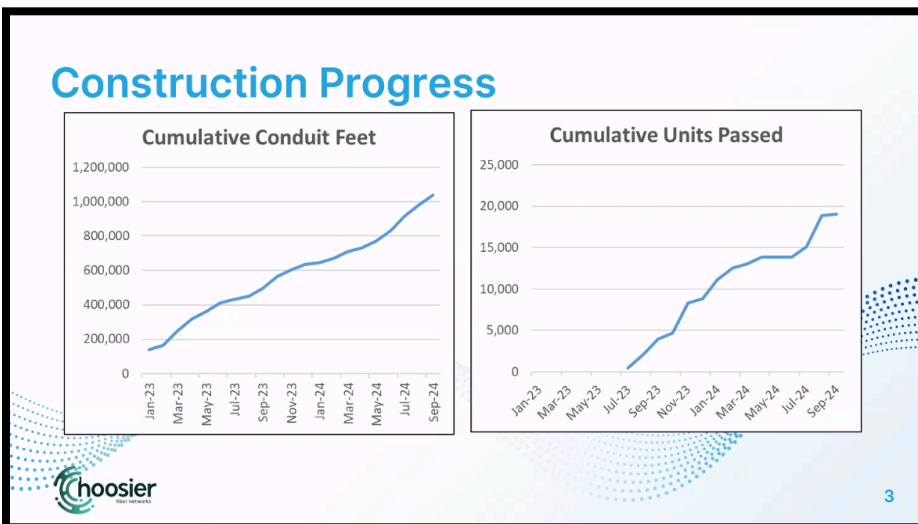Contact: Rick Dietz / 812-349-3485 / dietzr@bloomington.in.gov

Memorandum prepared by:
Victoria Jones

Hoosier Fiber Side Presentation

Hoosier Fiber Slide 1

Hoosier Fiber Slide 2

Hoosier Fiber Slide 3