

July 12, 2007

City of Bloomington Digital Underground Advisory Committee

Date of Record: July 12, 2007

Prepared by: Rick Dietz, ITS Director

Roll Call

Committee Members Present

Eric Ost
Brian Kleber
Mike Lucas

Committee Members Absent

Mark McMath
Greg Travis
Ron Walker

Vacancies

1 Common Council

City of Bloomington Staff

Danise Alano
Rick Dietz
Rick Routon

Visitors

Cullen McCarty - Smithville Digital
Karen Portle - MCCSC
Mike Sullivan - BEHC

Materials Provided

- Agenda

No quorum was present.

I. Staff Reports

- a. Rick Routon [RR] On VIM Clinic project: fiber is in the building, spliced and terminated. It's spliced into Henderson/Miller manhole and available in Telecom Hotel.
- b. Rick Dietz [RD] Text of agreement between City and BEHC is awaiting BEHC approval.

II. Member Reports

- a. None

III. VIM/BEHC Update

- a. Mike Sullivan [MS] Hospital approved medical health information system. Data source will be the Hospital; practices can access data. Challenge is enrolling other parties to provide/share data, not simply receive data.
- b. No news on the FCC grant proposal.
 - i. Mike Lucas [ML] What is the size of the proposal from the Bloomington perspective?
 - ii. [MS] Overall grant is \$10 million. Bloomington Hospital's Orange County Hospital would benefit in first year. No funds forthcoming for BEHC, Bloomington per se.
- c. Healthbridge deployment will be a true network, not an isolated deployment.

IV. Certified Technology Park

- a. Brian Kleber [BK] The challenge is that the CTP is just one building now. IU is looking to sell their land in CTP though. Could spur development.
 - i. The goal should be that... businesses be able to move around the park and/or have multiple locations without data interruption. We have multiple small data rooms popping up now. There is growing data processing in CTP. The BDU could possibly be of use – nice loop right through the CTP. Could assist with portability and redundancy.
 - ii. 11,000 sq of incubator space in CTP. IU showers is full and as downtown fills up (short of office space now), CTP space is needed. IU, Bender Lumber, First Capital, other are major land owners in CTP.
 - a. IU issued RFP to sell all of holdings.
 - iii. N. Showers building is a local peering point for Smithville, IU, Kiva.
- b. Telecom Hotel
 - i. Eric Ost [EO] No general-purpose co-lo carrier facility in Bloomington.
 - ii. [BK] Kiva moved operations to Carmel. Proslink has some capacity
 - iii. [RD] There are still lots of closets filled with servers with little cooling.
- c. What is the role of the BDU?
 - i. [EO] An opportunity in the tech park.
 - ii. [Lucas] Do you build houses and then a road? Vice versa?
 - iii. [CM] We have fiber to many buildings in tech park. It's not an unmet need situation.
 - iv. [BK] The question is redundancy. Need for it is growing.
 - v. [CM] We could use BDU fiber ourselves but in a commercial situation we prefer to use our own.
 - vi. [EO] BDU was to incentivize, but Smithville and others like AT&T go it alone where possible. How do you get the most public benefit?
 - vii. [CM] We try to take care of customer completely – including redundancy (loops).
- d. [EO] How would you (Smithville Digital) make use of BDU?
 - i. [CM] Take out the BDU fiber and put it in all over again. The fiber does not meet our standards. Or carrier specs. Not sufficient slack. We would find value in the conduit. It's the most valuable thing the City has.
- e. [EO] We should look at what the deficiencies are in the BDU and address them.
 - i. [MS] Has the City had any problems for performance of the BDU?
 - a. [RD] It took some work to close the loop across the Railyard. But we've had no line cuts. It's served us very well.
 - b. Karen Portle [KP] It's worked great for MCCSC too.

- ii. [RD] We have 3 conduits. Could pull additional fiber through active conduit. Others are open.
 - a. [RR] Varies throughout the loop. If open-trenched, it's PVC conduit; if directional bored, its innerduct.
- f. [RD] What provider needs can be met with the help of the BDU?
 - i. [CM] We'd be willing to work with the City, we partner when necessary to meet our needs.
- g. Danise Alano [DA] This discussion answers some of my questions.
 - i. [EO] We have fairly wide-ranging discussions and are open to many perspectives.
- h. [ML] If someone develops the CTP, what will you do (Smithville)?
 - i. [CM] We'd approach the developer and see what they needed in connectivity. We wouldn't need BDU.
- i. [EO] What about AT&T?
 - i. General discussion – AT&T is not in Telecom Hotel. They have offered Gigaman service. They were providing fiber but maps are not available.
- j. [ML] What are the obstacles to having someone be the infrastructure company that everybody uses? Everybody building out infrastructure is insane and drives up costs to end user, because of build-out costs.
 - i. [CM] A carriers' carrier?
 - ii. [EO] The last thing you want is a private monopoly provider. Create a level playing field.
 - iii. [ML] Monopoly providers don't want this. They own too much already. Seeing AT&T re-form after all these years...
 - iv. [CM] It's frustrating. Smithville invested in own network to bypass AT&T and Verizon because of costs. The price-point was there. It was the same time the City started the BDU. It just made sense.
- k. [DA] How can we use the BDU – to build the road. If the market is doing this already how can we influence this and should we? But having everyone duplicate infrastructure doesn't make sense.
 - i. [ML] It's a lot of money and somebody pays for it: it's us, the consumers.
 - ii. [EO] From a taxpayer and customer perspective I want to see prices as low as possible. We can drive those costs down by providing infrastructure. We need to have a sane conversation about this. We don't want to harm business, but the government represents the broader public. I think everyone can win.
- l. [RD] The interest from a provider standpoint is probably limited to conduit.
 - i. [BK] Would you even be interested in using BDU?
 - ii. [CM] It would depend on the circumstance. We would entertain it.
 - iii. [ML] But the city would want everyone to do that as well. Doing it with Smithville on a per case basis make no economic sense
 - a. [RD] A conduit is a lot of capacity for assisting one entity case-by-caes.
- m. [EO] Greg's suggestion was providing level 2 network services. It needs to be a nonprofit – neutral. Everyone can access it and it has to work.
 - i. [ML] This is the question that should have been addressed when it was put in... who is going to run this?
 - ii. [RD] City currently provides only minimal management. City, County, MCCSC, MCPL are users of our fiber. City provides dark fiber only at this time.

- iii. [CM] If BDU pursues a utility model and costs become prohibitive we may just pull out of market.
 - a. [EO] Other communities are doing this, we need to get past the controversy. You want infrastructure that works.
- iv. [MS] City does sewer, water, fire – should the City do packets?
 - a. [ML] You've got to have the right people. IU investment in fiber is successful because of our engineers.
 - b. [RD] If we were to pursue a utility model it would require a human infrastructure investment equivalent to our existing utilities, or a similar investment in 3rd party management. We don't have the capacity within my department currently. Managing our own network and some dark fiber is small compared to a network utility
- n. [Some guests leave]
- o. [DA] The owner of Steven Olds Honda site will be putting in some office space.
- p. IU and the BDU
 - i. [ML] It's in IU's best interest to peer any place that we can. Tech park will be sold so IU's interest is not clear.
 - ii. IU can help with consultations – advice on technology.
- q. [EO] You can make profit off of anything, but what do we allow to be profit making? Businesses are making profit from the infrastructure the BDU represents.
 - i. [ML] They put a ton of money into lobbying against municipal broadband. They're not going to play unless they can make money. Cullen said case-by-case, but it would have to be a phenomenal cost to them to not use it, for them to ever use utility network infrastructure.
 - ii. [EO] Isn't this something that should be developed in the public interest?
 - iii. [MS] The goal of trying to use this asset as a service for a vendor like Smithville may be Pollyanna, or any vendor. If he has something he can't do any other way, then maybe he'll deal with you....
 - iv. [KP] Why let communications providers build all this redundant infrastructure?
 - a. [ML] You can't prohibit, you need a better model. You don't do that with fiber in the ground, but by developing an organization, showing you know how to run it, building a business model, more competitive, provides a service.
 - v. [RD] We manage our dark fiber and provide for our needs. Providing services above dark fiber is on a different scale.
 - a. [EO] What is that investment? What would it cost? That is something the board could explore.
- r. [RD] Raise the issue of cost. The 'northern loop' was not cost effective for City – few locations to connect. Northern office park did not materialize.
- s. [MS] Mark Bruhn & Matt Davy have participated in discussion of our local health network project. What could IU contribute?
 - i. [ML] I'm changing out all my edge switches. Might be useful for BEHC.
- t. [EO] Original talk of BDU was very open, but then the policies really stymied use that could be remotely perceived as competing with business.
 - i. [MS] Maybe VIM model will help. It's a level of collaboration more than in the past.

V. Meeting Adjourned