

City of Bloomington: Bloomington Digital Underground Advisory Committee

Date of Record: February 3, 2005

Prepared By: Matt Nagle, ITS/SPEA Intern

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Summary

Bloomington Underground Advisory Committee (hereafter "Committee") meeting held Thursday February 3, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in the McCloskey Room of City Hall at Showers, 401 N. Morton St., Bloomington, IN.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present

Brian Klebur, Small Business Development

Mark McMath, Bloomington, Hospital

Bruce Myers, Kiva

Charlie Webb, CallNet

Linda Williamson, Bloomington Economic Development Corporation

Committee Members Absent

Brian Voss, Indiana University

City of Bloomington Staff Present

Rick Routon, User Support & Network Operations Manager, ITS

Rick Dietz, Chief Information Officer, ITS

Guests Present

Duane Busick, TCC

Brent Engle, Network Engineer, InfoComm Systems

Eric Ost, TCC

Brett Skilbred, InfoComm Systems

Bill Haden

Handouts

1. February 3, 2005 Meeting Agenda
2. InfoComm Presentation Outline

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

- I. Minutes approved by quorum for January 6, 2005 meeting.
- II. Update from Brett Skilbred on Strategic Plan Progress
 - A. Brett Skilbred stated that he worked with many people on the contact list in January and found that there were disparate views of BDU and its mission.
 - i. At the procedural level, Brett Skilbred talked with City of Bloomington departments and assessed how BDU would integrate their activities and services.
 - ii. At the political level, Brett Skilbred talked with City Council members and with county authorities and economic development contacts to integrate their concerns into the process.
 - B. Brett Skilbred called attention to the InfoComm/BDU statement of mission, goals, scope, and guiding principles to verify that everyone agreed on the wording and content (see handout). Brett Skilbred attached an expanded list of the project goals with summary notes from interviews on the topics.
 - i. Goal I ("Ensure that the technology/telecommunications needs expressed by City and/or Economic Development strategies are met"): Brett Skilbred stated that input from the small business and economic development interviews showed that the BDU plan would not hinder their development.
 1. Brett Skilbred clarified that the surveys were technical in nature (e.g. capacity issues, networking) directed at "business leaders". Brett Skilbred raised the question of whether these responses need to be quantified for effective information gathering.
 2. Brett Skilbred also asked how to phrase the economic development portion of the mission to be consistent with development policies. Specifically, these goals should be phrased so as not to "corner" the project but to allow it to help the city grow within development guidelines.
 3. Rick Dietz stated that both Ron Walker and the Mayor could articulate the economic development issues.
 4. Brett Skilbred reiterated that these clarifications on policy should happen ex post the InfoComm project.
 5. Rick Dietz added that economic development should be a goal for the project and it is important how the Committee expresses that policy goal.
 6. Charlie Webb stated that, given private & non-profit input from the surveys, the Committee should be able to determine whether economic development goals are being facilitated and how to improve on the process.
 - ii. Goal IV ("Determine the impact the BDU Advisory Committee has had thus far and develop ways in which to guarantee future impact"): Brett Skilbred stated that the Committee should examine how limited development in certain areas will affect how the BDU infrastructure is implemented (i.e. how to justify continued fiber optic expansion in the absence of considerable development).
 1. Brett Skilbred noted the concerns over residential connectivity in outlying areas.
 2. Mark McMath stated that, given the scope of the project, the question of "should we be considering this" should be built into the surveys and analysis; specifically, issues with outlying area development bring many political and intangible factors that the Committee would have to consider.
 - iii. Goal II ("Update policies and positioning governing the BDU Advisory Committee"): Brett Skilbred stated that the Committee should discuss the general issue of BDU governance, as well as suggestions to consolidate with the Telecommunications Council and how this potential consolidation would benefit the city.
 1. Rick Dietz stated that governance going forward should be a concern for the BDU Committee and strategic plan.

2. Several Committee members expressed reservations on discussing this issue before a finalized strategic plan has been developed with which the BDU Committee could understand and communicate its vision.
 3. Brett Skilbred stated that a rising concern was the interconnectivity between emergency response systems (e.g. fire, police).
 - iv. Goal III ("Determine physical expansionary policies for the BDU"): Bret Skilbred stated that he was researching infrastructure maps with SBC & Smithville and wanted to ensure that the BDU plan was not creating redundant lines and that the GIS collaboration would identify uncovered areas.
 1. Charlie Webb asked about competing with these providers. Brett Skilbred reiterated that the BDU isn't intended to compete and should work with existing telecommunications providers.
 2. Bret Skilbred stated that he wanted to create a "master plan" for both city and county levels that is adaptable to change and consistent with economic development standards.
 3. Ron Walker stated that the majority of new road construction is from private developers and this project must consider the City's relationship to these private businesses to effectively install the infrastructure within zoning guidelines.
 - v. Goal V ("Align Bloomington with federal, state, and local level communications based projects and initiatives"): Bret Skilbred noted that the Department of Homeland Security has been integrating new standards for wireless interoperability and the Committee would have to evaluate these standards with the project plan.
 1. Bret Skilbred also stated that House Bill 1148 could potentially prevent the City of Bloomington from owning fiber optic infrastructure, effectively forcing the city to contract these services out to private companies.
 2. Charlie Webb asked about the effects that House Bill 1148 would have between new and existing construction projects. Bret Skilbred stated that existing projected would be "frozen" and new projects forbidden unless they were bid out to private contractors.
 - vi. Goal VI ("Define area of general usage and additional purposes besides connecting city buildings"): Bret Skilbred stated that the Committee needed to determine the appropriate costing method for the project and to provide metrics for valuing its success.
 1. Brent Engle stated that the project should be viewed as a future revenue generator that will fund itself and bring in future funds for the city and county.
 2. Brett Skilbred that the goal of projecting cost should be to make the project as attractive as possible to providers so that these providers work with BDU instead of being legally mandated to do so.
- III. Public Meeting: Feb 8, 2005. 7pm; Monroe County Public Library Room 1C
- A. Rick Dietz stated that the meeting would not be a typical presentation by the Committee; rather, the Committee would provide a brief introduction to the project and open the meeting to public comment. In the public comment aspect, Rick Dietz elaborated that the public attendees should form "working groups" to consolidate interests and questions rather than the typical microphone/question format. Rick Dietz added that the Committee would present several area maps to provide visual reference for the attendees.
 - B. Charlie Webb asked if the Committee would distribute the survey, or if that survey was too technical in nature for the purpose of the public meeting.
 - i. Mark McMath replied that he felt the Committee should distribute the survey to distill the important aspects of the project, to identify areas missing from the survey, and to provide the public attendees with a better understanding of the scope of the process.
 - ii. Brett Skilbred stated that, in his view, the public meeting would highlight strategic initiatives for the attendees and the quantifiable data would become relevant at a later point in the process (from the public's perspective).

- iii. Brett Skilbred confirmed that the results of the meeting would be included in his report for the next BDU Advisory Committee meeting.
- IV. House Bill 1148 – Anti-Municipal Broadband Infrastructure (“the Bill”)
- A. Rick Dietz summarized the proposed House Bill 1148: The Bill would, in effect, restrict municipalities from owning/operating broadband infrastructure, regardless of its purpose.
 - B. Rick Dietz added that SBC was probably the main lobbyist for the Bill; the Bill is at the state level and Rick Dietz and Rick Routon were preparing a synopsis of the BDU in conjunction with the Indiana Association of Towns & Cities. Rick Dietz added that local economic development corporations expressed concerns about the Bill whereas state development agencies seemed to be more accepting.
 - C. Rick Dietz concluded that the Committee should take a vote (with a quorum present) to formalize a position on 1148 and stated that the Telecommunications Council was in the process of doing the same thing.
- V. Miscellaneous
- A. Broadband connectivity in the Bryan Park area.
 - i. Bill Haden stated that he would have to work with local providers to establish/modify networks.
 - ii. Bruce Myers stated that a “K-Spot” (local node) existed within the park on the western side and that approximately 12 K-Spots were located throughout the city.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Matt Nagle, March 3, 2005