



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Information & Technology Services

Bloomington Digital Underground BDUAC Meeting Memorandum

Per Executive Orders issued by the Governor, this meeting was conducted electronically.

Thursday, September 2nd, 2021 4PM

Location: Zoom
Facilitator: Rick Dietz
Board Attendance: Mike Allen, Chris Robb, Tim Pritchett, Mike Sullivan, Mike Trotzke
Staff Attendance: Desiree King, Rick Dietz

ITS Department Updates

Rick: Bringing garage projects to completion. Have a new data center at Trades and some office space for garage management team.

At 4th street, have some office space for Parking,

Conclusion of project is leading to availability to focus on larger infrastructure mapping project.

(Garages, BDU Mapping, others)

Recently completed moving the fire department HQ into the old Bunger and Robertson building due to the June flood damage. Building was originally acquired to expand the convention center but that project has been put on hold due to the pandemic.

City-wide Fiber Broadband Initiative

Rick: We continue to have positive discussions with a potential fiber provider. The City has just signed an NDA with the provider. We are currently working on a letter of intent announcement. Provider seems to be more focused and aligned with the City's vision on digital equity, digging deep into what the poverty and low-income situation is like in Bloomington. They are unique from other providers and are prioritizing equity and low income programs. Trying to develop something that goes beyond what incumbents and community are currently doing that is sustainable and impactful.

Ask BDUAC members for ideas to promote ensure residents aren't left behind:

- Michelle: Neighborhoods should have high-quality access that don't. Understand that a lot of kids are accessing their classrooms from their parents' phones.
- Allen: Concerning City utilities, are there boards that decide rates and are there programs that subsidize costs? Rick: For water, the City offers debt relief and payment plan programs. Unsure of the specifics. Don't think there are any County programs, but townships have subsidy and emergency support that they provide. Historically, broadband hasn't been treated like other utilities.

- Allen: If we decide this is a critical utility, don't want to see it throttled like broadband traditionally is. Robb: If throttling were put in place, need to have policies be transparent, in layman's terms so residents understand.
- Pritchett: Currently sitting on advisory committee for ROI, currently proposing hotline. Current onboarding process is tedious. Current utilities come to house. Maybe \$30,000 bond for affordable housing could build grid so that internet is always on at BHA housing. Rick: Potential provider wants to know priority areas in terms of their overall build and what kind of initiatives do they need to build on top of that so infrastructure gets used.
- Trotzke: What can be done to address literacy issues? Just because you can offer the service doesn't mean users are going to be able to successfully use it. Rick and Pritchett discussed the City-wide tech support hotline initiative presented to ROI. Users don't know who they need to call when they have tech issues. Ivy Tech is interested in partnering on this. Would be similar to Rose Hulman homework help line. Could be a game changer in rural areas.
- Chris: Making sure that community resources like libraries, schools, and hospitals are settlement-free peering (no one exchanges fees). Keeps traffic local, more robust. Would assist in services like telehealth, CATS video services. Rick requested Chris to write up a paragraph so City can include this in conversation with potential provider.
- Mike S.: Asked if Rick can share anything about what this service is shaping up to be? Rick: Service area would be City limits, annexed areas, and from there anywhere they see an opportunity. Want long, robust relationships with the Cities they want to build in. They don't do short-term investments. Provider is not an ISP, they would contract with an ISP for a few years, and then onboard other ISPs that would want to use their network. They would then possibly partner with other organizations that want their fiber managed by this group.
- Robb: Do they have a default operator in mind? Rick: Yes, they have begun negotiations with one. Sullivan: Sounds like the ISP is not a "big boy." Not a name I would recognize. Could complicate their ability to be settlement free. Rick: Not a trivial player, but they're not Google Fiber. They have been receptive to most suggestion we've made so far.
- Chris: Some sort of public oversight would be good. Fall to Utility board. Rick: Wouldn't fall to Utilities. Regulation would fall back on IURC. Receptive to having City involvement. Trotzke and Robb discussed injecting some kind of accountability, community involvement. Rick: Point being made is good, want some kind of structure so partnership continues to be positive and have transparency so we know they're meeting our objectives.
- Robb: If ISP ever wanted to provide roaming hotspots, adding Eduroam would be good, used mostly by higher education. Rick asked Chris to share documentation on Eduroam.

Rick encouraged members to keep providing ideas as the City continued to talk to the potential provider.

Member Reports (Items not on the agenda)

- Allen: Breakthrough COVID is no joke. Have known several vaccinated people who have been careful and have still contracted it.
- Sullivan: Yes, even though most of the breakthrough is mild, people should still be cautious.
- Trotzke: Update on Kiln building. Applied for redevelopment tax credits with help from ESD department at City. Couldn't potentially earn \$1.5 million to help remodel the building that has been on hold due to high building costs. Could probably get started on building updates in the fall.

- Cole: Envisage Technologies has a press release coming out next week detailing a huge proposal and a DHS project.
- Also had an acquisition even on August 17th, super great outcome for investors.

Meeting Adjourned

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