



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission

FROM: Rondella M. Hawkins, TARA Officer  
John M. Speirs, Program Coordinator *JS*

DATE: August 14, 2013

SUBJECT: Google Fiber Community Connections Program Site Selection Process

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview of the proposed process, criteria and timeline for site selection recommendations from the City to Google Fiber for the free 1 gig fiber community connections and to seek input from the Commission.

### BACKGROUND

On April 5, 2013, the City entered into a Network Cooperation Agreement, (the Agreement), with Google Fiber Texas, LLC, (Google), describing the terms and conditions under which Google would construct a fiber network, (Network), in the City capable of delivering one Gigabit broadband Internet connectivity speeds. Google Fiber will also offer video services. Google has received a state-issued cable franchise agreement (SICFA) from the Public Utility Commission of Texas. The City Agreement also establishes the possibility that Google will design, construct, and install a Wi-Fi network once the broadband fiber network construction is complete.

The Agreement specifies that Google will provide up to one Gigabit capable broadband Internet services through the Network to public facilities chosen by the City, followed by the possibility of providing Wi-Fi access within a limited number of areas open to the public. The City broadband services will be the same as those provided to residential customers, and they may not be used for any emergency or mission critical services or functions of the public facilities.

The City is responsible for providing site recommendations to Google. The goal is to develop a site application process that is:

- Transparent
- Utilizes Clear Selection Criteria
- Efficient
- Available to all ...to ensure our community maximizes this opportunity

Google will provide City Broadband Services to City Hall, the New Central Library, and up to one hundred (100) additional public facilities chosen by the City, subject to the following conditions:

- The public sites shall primarily be public or non-profit facilities that provide access and services directly to citizens.
- Each site shall be subject to reasonable acceptance of Google based on the proximity of the Fiber Network to each site within a Fiberhood and reasonable technical requirements and cost considerations.
- The City shall be responsible for any drop, (connection to the network), costs and other construction and upgrade costs for each public site that may be required to enable the public sites to receive the City Broadband Services.
- Google will provide the City Services at no charge until April 8, 2023, after which time the services will be available to the public sites at the then current rates for comparable commercial services.

#### COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of this initiative is for the City to become actively engaged with community organizations and stakeholders to better understand the parameters, help determine prioritization and for all to have a voice in the *Google Fiber Broadband Services to Public Facilities Selection Process*, also known as the *Google Community Connections Program*. This also includes providing educational outreach for the current site selection criteria such as “Fiberhoods”, including the approval process by the Austin City Council through the Council Committee for Emerging Technology & Telecommunications. Mayor Leffingwell, Councilmember Morrison and City staff will gain a greater understanding of the challenges of the organizations who nominate their facilities for final consideration and ways for the City to help address those challenges. The City’s engagement and outreach in this process will help address organizations to be a part of the conversation and staff can hear where organizations would like the City to focus its priorities and efforts. The City is also developing [austintexas.gov/digitalinclusion](http://austintexas.gov/digitalinclusion) website to launch with the application.

#### Scope

The City will hold sessions in Austin to engage community organizations, governmental entities and non-profit organizations in the discussion to better understand their needs and review and evaluate the criteria throughout the process. This will also serve as an outreach effort to the community to inform organizations and other entities of site selection criteria they may not be aware of. The intent is to have informed, interested organizations and entities in Austin to ensure the input and feedback are heard, and directly reflected in the final site selection list approved by the Austin City Council.

**Proposed Timeline for Site Selection Recommendations from the City to Google Fiber**

- August 1 - Informational Session with Governmental and Educational Entities
- August 2 - Informational Session with Non-profits

***Adoption of Process & Criteria***

- August 14 – *Community Tech & Telecommunications Commission (CTTC) Review & Comment* - CTTC Discussion & Review of Process & Criteria
- August 21 - Emerging Technology & Telecommunications Council Committee - (ET&T) Discussion of Process & Criteria
- August 22 - Council Resolution Adopting Process & Criteria

***Community Applications***

- August 26 - Community Site Applications Available
- September 30 - Deadline for Site Applications for Community Connections
- October 1-31 - Staff Review & Assessment

***Site List Adoption***

- November 6 - CTTC Discussion & Input
- November 13 – ET&T Discussion & Recommendation to Council
- November 21 - Council Discussion & Adoption of Community Connection Site List
- End of Year Google requested Deadline for Community Connection Site List from City

## Proposed Criteria for Site Selection Recommendations from the City to Google Fiber

- Proposed Criteria for Site Selections Individual Site Considerations- **Community**

Will it enhance public participation in the entity's service?

Does it promote digital inclusion?

Will it serve the underserved?

How much of the community will benefit from the connections?

- Proposed Criteria for Site Selections Individual Site Considerations- **Innovation**

Are there potential innovative applications?

Does the entity have or foresee high bandwidth applications?

Does the entity have interest in advancing their technology?

Does the entity have the capacity and resources to advance their technologies?

- Proposed Criteria for Site Selections Individual Site Considerations- **Pragmatic**

Will the connection help the entity financially?

Will this be the entity's primary or secondary connection?

Does the entity have (or will they) have equipment necessary to connect?

How long will the entity be at their current location?

- Proposed Criteria for Site Selections Collectively, the Site Selection List should-

Be geographically dispersed

Serve diverse populations by ethnicity, gender, age, and income

Serve diverse sectors, e.g. public government services, education, social services, creative endeavors, health

## CONCLUSION

Staff is recommending that the Commission approve the proposed process, criteria and timeline for site selection recommendations from the City to Google Fiber.