



TO: Chair Ellen Troxclair

FROM: Rondella Hawkins, Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs Officer

DATE: July 28, 2015

SUBJECT: Replacement Site for the Google Fiber Community Connections Program

This memo provides additional background information on the Google Fiber Community Connections Program and the site replacement process.

Background:

On April 9, 2013 Google Fiber announced its plans to build an ultra-fast fiber network with Internet speeds of one gigabit per second. Under an agreement with the City of Austin, Google Fiber agreed to provide up to 100 public and non-profit sites with free, high-speed broadband Internet connections through its fiber network until April 8, 2023 once Google Fiber builds out in their fiberhood. Google Fiber uses the term fiberhood, which is a neighborhood with enough pre-registrations to meet Google's sign-up goal to qualify for installation and service. Additionally, City Hall and the new Central Library will be included in the program, bringing the total to 102 Community Connections program sites. The Community Connections program has the potential to serve in the public realm as a laboratory for innovation and digital inclusion, resulting in advancements unique to Austin.

City Council approved Resolution No. 20130822-083 (attached) that included the review and assessment criteria, the selection process and timeline to create a list of sites to be recommended to Google Fiber for the Community Connections program. Using this criteria, staff developed the program application.

The City received applications from 158 different organizations applying for a total of 310 sites. Of the applications submitted, only eleven were disqualified for not complying with the application requirements.

Based on the criteria approved by City Council, staff reviewed and assessed each application using a tiered scale in four evaluation categories: Community, Innovation, Pragmatic, and Organization. The applications were organized into four types of organizational sectors:

1. Social, Health and Well-being, including Family Services
2. Arts, Culture, and Community
3. Education, Workforce, and Higher Education including professional development and skills associations
4. Public facilities and entities including but not limited to City of Austin, Independent School Districts, and the Housing Authority of the City of Austin

The former Emerging Technology & Telecommunications Council Committee proposed a list of 100 sites to City Council for approval based on a combination of scoring, geographical diversity, and the allocation to a broad array of organizational sectors.

Per Council Resolution No. 20131212-070, City Council adopted a list of 100 proposed sites which was provided to Google Fiber.

Site Replacement Process:

One of the Community Connections recommended sites respectfully withdrew its application:

Austin Travis County Integral Care – Dove Springs Integrated Care Facility

5015 S 1H-35, Austin, TX 78744

Category: Social, Health and Well-being, including Family Services

Google Fiber has requested a decision for a recommended replacement site by *August 31, 2015* should the site be located within the same geographical area.

Council Resolution No. 20131212-070 states in the event of a vacancy that the City Manager will collect suggestions for a replacement site from City Council members and provide this to the Emerging Technology and Telecommunications Council Committee (which is now in the form of the Economic Opportunity Council Committee) which will recommend a replacement site to City Council for approval.

At its March 11, 2015 meeting, the Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission voted unanimously to recommend the City Council select a replacement site utilizing the adopted review and assessment criteria. On June 8, 2015, City staff presented an overview of the program to the Economic Opportunity Council Committee who was scheduled to take up the item on August 10th. However, due to a budget session, the item will be presented to the full council in lieu of the committee vote.

As you requested, attached to this memorandum is a list of the eligible sites (who originally applied but were not selected) in the same geographic area (78744) for the Community Connections Program

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at 512.974.2422 or you can email me at rondella.hawkins@austintexas.gov.

Attachments: Council Resolution No. 20130822-083 and No. 20131212-070
City Council adopted list of 100 proposed sites to receive a Community Connection
List of eligible sites for Community Connection replacement site

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Mark Washington, Interim Assistant City Manager