



MEMORANDUM

TO: Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission
FROM: Rondella Hawkins, Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs Officer
DATE: February 10, 2016
SUBJECT: Google Fiber Community Connections Program

During the agenda planning process for the February Commission meeting, Commissioner Ghosh requested a memo describing the process for the selection of the 100 public and non-profit sites to receive Google Fiber broadband internet services. This memo is provided in response to that request.

Under an agreement with the City of Austin, Google agreed to provide up to 100 public and non-profit sites with broadband Internet services through its fiber network free of charge until April 8, 2023. Additionally, City Hall and the new Central Library will be included in the program, bringing the total to 102 Community Connections program sites.

On August 22, 2013, Council approved Resolution 20130822-083 adopting the criteria to assess submitted applications for public and non-profit sites for the Community Connections program. The Resolution defined the selection process and timeline to create a proposed list of recommended public or non-profit sites for the Community Connections program. That process included city staff evaluations, Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission (CTTC) review and Emerging Technology and Telecommunications Council Committee (ET&T) recommendations.

Staff developed the program application following the criteria adopted by the Resolution. The City received an overwhelming response to the Community Connections Application process with 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.

The City, in cooperation with Google Fiber, held two public informational meetings on August 1st and 2nd, 2013 with over 200 representatives from public and nonprofit organizations to discuss the selection process and selection criteria for the Community Connections program.

From October 1st to October 31st, 2013 city staff, led by the Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs Office, administratively reviewed and assessed each application using a four tiered criteria matrix, comprised of Community, Innovation, Pragmatic, and

Organization. Per the suggestion from the CTTC, staff also assessed each application, where applicable, on the demographics of age served, ethnicity served, geographic area served, and social demographic served to ensure broad community representation in the categorized rankings.

At the November 6, 2013 CTTC Special Called Meeting, staff presented the reviewed and assessed applications in the following four categories:

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

At this meeting, the Commission reviewed and assessed the rankings within the four categories listed above. The application data also allowed mapping by category to show program representation by the geographic areas of the City.

The CTTC review and assessment was included in the data staff provided to the ET&T members at its November 13, 2013 meeting. Noted in the subcommittee's site selection recommendation process was to ensure geographic diversity, a broad array of types of organizations, specific demographics and with a focus on the underserved, strong creative ideas for innovation, promotion of digital inclusion, and accessibility to everyone throughout Austin (i.e.; all 23 public libraries, all AISD High Schools and one school from all other ISD's in the city).

The ET&T's final recommendation included:

- 55 sites – Public
- 20 sites – Social, Health & Well-being
- 13 sites – Arts, Culture & Community
- 12 sites – Education, Higher-education & Workforce (does not include public schools)

ET&T voted to present a resolution to the City Council with their 100 Community Connections recommended sites for Google Fiber. Google will have final approval authority for each site's connection, and has approved all sites as recommended by the City.

The Austin City Council approved the recommended list on December 19, 2013 and subsequent site replacements on August 28, 2014 and June 18, 2015.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 20130822-083

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2013 Google announced its plans to bring Google Fiber to Austin residents, building a network with Internet speeds of one gigabit per second, up to 100 times faster than normally available broadband access to Austin's homes; and

WHEREAS, Google has agreed to provide broadband Internet services through its fiber network free of charge until 2023, to City Hall, the new Central Library, and up to 100 sites, primarily public or non-profit facilities, in the City of Austin that provide access and services directly to Austinites through what is being called the Community Connections program; and

WHEREAS, under the agreement with Google, the City is responsible for creating the list of proposed sites to be included in the Community Connections program; and

WHEREAS, the Council's goal is to ensure that the community maximizes the opportunity that the Community Connections program offers by having an application and selection process that is transparent, available to all, and utilizes a clear set of selection criteria; and

WHEREAS, Google has asked that the City provide the Community Connections proposed site list by the end of 2013; and

WHEREAS, the City has gathered feedback on a proposed process and criteria for the Community Connections site selections from (1) public and non-profit organizations at well-attended meetings on August 1, 2013 and August 2, 2013 respectively, (2) the Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission on August 14, 2013 and (3) the Emerging

Technology and Telecommunications Council Committee on August 21, 2013; and

WHEREAS, 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's spirit; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The Council adopts the following criteria for consideration in crafting the Community Connections site list and directs the City Manager to include these criteria for reviewing and assessing applications for proposed public or non-profit sites to receive free Google Fiber broadband Internet service:

Individual site considerations:

- Will a Community Connection 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 connection?
- Are there potential innovative applications?
- Does the entity have or foresee high bandwidth applications?
- Does the entity have an interest in advancing their technologies?
- Does the entity have the capacity and resources to advance their technologies?
- 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?
- Will the connection serve multiple co-located organizations that are on one network?

Collectively, the sites selected should:

- Be geographically dispersed to the extent possible
- Serve diverse populations by ethnicity, gender, age, and income
- Serve diverse sectors, e.g. public government services, education, social services, creative endeavors, health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Council adopts the selection process and timeline for creating a list of proposed public or non-profit sites for the Community Connections program in accordance with the following, to the extent feasible:

August 26, 2013: Make site applications available on the City's web page

September 30, 2013: Deadline for submission of site applications

October 1 – October 31, 2013: Staff review and assessment of site applications

November 6, 2013: Discussion and review of applications for proposed sites by the Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission

November 13, 2013: Emerging Technology and Telecommunication Council Committee discussion and recommendation of site list to Council

November 21, 2013: City Council discussion and adoption of site list

ADOPTED: August 22, 2013 ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk