



CITY OF KIRKLAND

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MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager
From: Brenda Cooper, Chief Information Officer
Date: 02/19/2010
Subject: Google Request for Information (RFI) for Community Interest in High Speed Broadband Network

RECOMMENDATION

Google has requested that cities, counties, and communities let them know if they are interested in being a development site for an experimental, very high speed broadband network that Google plans to build. We recommend that the Kirkland City Council support a response from the City to Google requesting consideration of Kirkland (including the annexation area) for this network. We also request that the Council support this application in its dealings with the community.

A brief presentation at the city council meeting will include playing the Google YouTube video about this RFI and collecting any questions or comments that you have.

We hope to return to the next Council meeting and present status, as well as collect a letter of support. We hope to have the draft of the RFP close to completion at that time as well.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

On February 10th, Google released a YouTube Video and website about this project, which you can find at <https://www.google.com/appserve/fiberrfi/public/options>. A narrative version of Google's goals that came from a Google spokesperson is:

Above all, we're interested in deploying our network efficiently and quickly, and are hoping to identify interested community partners that will work with us to achieve this goal. To that end, we'll use our RFI to identify interested communities and to assess local factors that will impact the efficiency and speed of our deployment, such as the level of community support, local resources, weather conditions, approved construction methods and local regulatory issues. We will also take into account broadband availability and speeds that are already offered to users within a community.

There are two types of responses that Google's RFI is requesting by March 29th:

- The City must complete a detailed informational questionnaire that requests information about a variety of processes such as permits, available conduit capacity, and demographic data. The Google RFI also includes questions about our city-based support for this project, including support from the Council and City Manager.
- Google has also asked that community members nominate their cities. There is a fairly simple questionnaire that citizens can fill out related to their nominations.

There are opportunities to use Google Maps and YouTube to submit supporting information and statements. The City will work on some of this with its part of the submittal, and is also supportive of citizen development of YouTube and Google Maps.

After March 29th, Google will evaluate the responses they have received and select some number of cities to learn more about. At this time we believe Google may select a city or cities near the end of the year in 2010 and want to start building the network shortly after that.

Although this causes some concern because of timing of this project and the effective date of the annexation, we believe that this network presents a nearly unprecedented opportunity to improve the lives of our citizens through access to an open network with multiple service providers which is also being used by a leading company in the Internet space to test and develop ideas and products that will be of value well into the next decade.