



CITY COUNCIL

**Darryl Moore**  
Councilmember District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 9, 2010

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Darryl Moore  
Councilmember Gordon Wozniak

Subject: City Manager Referral: Google Fiber for Communities

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct the City Manager to submit an application for Google’s Fiber for Communities project by the March 26, 2010 deadline.

The City Manager should evaluate the application and RFI to determine whether the proposed fiber optic network would be feasible in Berkeley. If found to be infeasible or impractical, the City Manager should report back to the City Council the specific reasons that this type of network would not be a viable option for Berkeley.

BACKGROUND:

Google is planning to build, and test ultra-high speed broadband networks in a small number of trial locations across the country. It will deliver Internet speeds more than 100 times faster than what most Americans have access to today with 1 gigabit per second, fiber-to-the-home connections. Google will offer service at a competitive price to at least 50,000, and potentially up to 500,000 people.

As a first step, Google is putting out a Request for Information (RFI) to help identify interested communities, including local government and members of the public.

The goal of this project is to deploy the network quickly and efficiently, and to identify interested communities that will work with Google to achieve this goal. One of the main considerations for Google is to work with a community where the network can bring significant benefits to residents and develop useful proofs-of-concept that can have a broader impact. For example, they are particularly interested in developing deployment techniques that can inform and accelerate broadband deployment elsewhere as well. To that end, the RFI will be used 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. Broadband availability and speeds that are already offered to users within a community will also be a consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The target community in which the project will take place will likely be responsible for some of the costs associated with implementing the network, although the exact commitments are unknown at this time.

CONTACT PERSON:

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