

Mayor Soglin's Direction on City Wide Broadband -- May 12, 2015

The City will formulate a plan to implement broadband service via fiber to the premises in Madison. With the Digital Technology Committee, City Information Technology staff will research publicly-based fiber to the premises models, examples of possible models follow. The Digital Technology Committee should work with IT staff to provide recommendations to the Mayor and Common Council. These recommendations should include a plan with enough detail to allow the city to enter into contract negotiations with a vendor or vendors to implement fiber to the premises in Madison. The resulting fiber network should cover the entire city and include options to provide free or low-cost services to economically challenged households.

- Sandy Oregon: This city is using their in place sewer pipes to run special armored fiber optic cable to each household. The City of Sandy will operate the network and it will be privately owned, but Sandy will have the option to purchase the network after 10 years. <http://www.sandynetfiber.com/>
- East Central Vermont: This is a joint venture between 25 municipalities. Vermont law allows municipalities to build, own and operate local networks, but they cannot be financed using local taxes. They are trying to get local investors. The network is built, operated and governed by a by a non-profit called ValleyNet. This option somewhat resembles the MUFN consortium without federal grant funds. <http://ecfiber.net/>
- Chattanooga: The Electric Power Board (EPB) was awarded a \$111.5 million stimulus grant, primarily to be used to build a smart electric grid. EPB built a business case to expand the network to include Internet, television and telephone service. This is a privately owned and operated network. <http://chattanoogaig.com/>
- Winston-Salem: In 2013 a regional consortium of six cities and four universities in North Carolina, called North Carolina Next Generation Network (NCNGN), issued an RFP inviting one or more companies to build and operate a high-speed network. Last year AT&T was awarded the bid and NCNGN encouraged its members to enter into a master agreement with AT&T. In January of this year Google joined efforts with AT&T to build the broadband network. This is a privately owned and operated network. <http://www.cityofws.org/Portals/0/pdf/information-systems/DOT%20Fiber%20Project.pdf>
- Other models

The City's Chief Information Officer will provide the Mayor with an approximate time frame for producing this plan after initial meetings with the DTC.

In addition, the Digital Technology Committee should discuss and determine whether the current LTE wireless pilot project should continue.