



# Seattle City Council

March 18, 2010

Dear Google Fiber for Communities:

The Seattle City Council applauds Google's decision to build Fiber-to-the-Home networks. Google should be commended for its spirit of innovation and for providing great applications to the public. Open community access to 1 Gigabit per second (Gbps) connections will drive innovation and the creation of many exciting next-generation applications. Seattle has a great history of supporting our renowned developers and researchers in the development of technology, biotechnology, green technology and web service applications. The Seattle City Council and Seattle Mayor McGinn are excited to partner with Google in this endeavor. We also believe that no other community in the U.S. can rival Seattle's combination of elements that are crucial to Google's success.

**1. A tech-savvy community:** Seattle exceeds the national average in both broadband penetration and, more specifically, in broadband usage. Seventy-four percent of homes connect to the Internet at speeds greater than dial up. This statistic indicates that not only does a highly receptive market exist today, but more importantly, the high use of existing broadband indicates consumers who are more tech savvy than in other markets, and who are willing to explore and adopt innovations and developments in broadband services. A recent survey revealed that 90% of Seattle residents indicated that speed was their most important consideration in Internet service. A Google network in Seattle will gain considerable market share. High adoption rates will create the critical mass and the needed consumer awareness to demonstrate the full potential of the many new applications that will be developed.

**2. A wealth of technological talent:** Our general level of digital literacy is based on the fact that many residents of Seattle work in the software and biotechnology industries. These residents will experiment with the unprecedented bandwidth - the raw material of the information age - to develop creative and innovative new services, applications and technologies. Google's fiber network will serve as a platform for continuing innovation that will bring to bear the formidable technological talent in Seattle. Moreover, the collective ingenuity and enterprise of our residents can develop creative new solutions for the increasingly complex issues affecting our communities.

**3. Significant experience and knowledge in building fiber networks:** Since 1998 the City has deployed over 485 miles of overhead and underground fiber cable. Seattle staff have gained valuable knowledge in all aspects of building fiber networks. Our experienced staff will be available to assist Google as it plans and implements its deployment.

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**4. Physical Assets:** The City has conducted an extensive inventory of City-owned assets that can be leveraged to support a Fiber-to-the-Home network. Examples of assets that the City owns and controls are the electrical poles and our extensive network of underground conduit. Additionally we own utilidors that cross waterways and other key assets such as land and buildings.

**5. Extensive Fiber network connecting Anchor Institutions:** Our public schools are already connected to fiber, as are other public entities such as libraries, police precincts, most fire stations, and hospitals. Google's fiber network can interconnect with this existing institutional fiber network so that residents and public institutions can work together to explore the potential for new services and applications.

**6. Political leadership:** Google will find a united Mayor, Council, and civic leadership ready to create the conditions necessary to facilitate rapid deployment of Google's critical infrastructure in a manner consistent with local laws and regulations.

We look forward to working with Google to bring the benefits of an advanced Fiber-to-the-Home network to the residents of the City of Seattle. We believe that as Google looks closely at Seattle's advantages it will agree with us that no other community is better positioned to exploit the potential of open access Gigabit networks.

Sincerely,



Bruce Harrell  
Seattle City Councilmember  
Energy, Technology, and Civil Rights  
Committee Chair



Richard Conlin  
Seattle City Council President



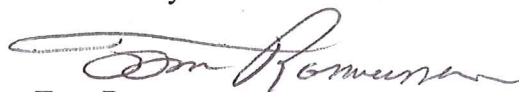
Sally Bagshaw  
Seattle City Councilmember



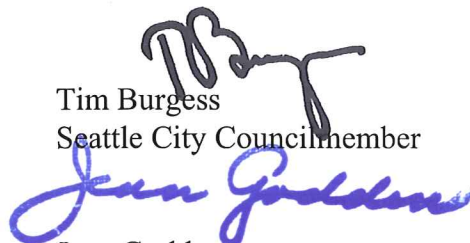
Sally Clark  
Seattle City Councilmember



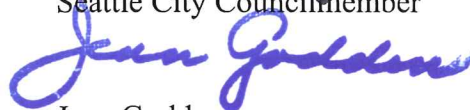
Nick Licata  
Seattle City Councilmember



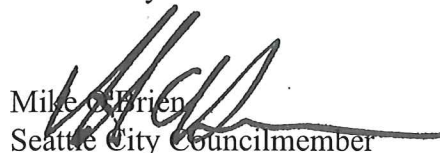
Tom Rasmussen  
Seattle City Councilmember



Tim Burgess  
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Mike O'Brien  
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