



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL      DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

**FROM: INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT      WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH SUPPORT FOR AND PARTICIPATION IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S COUNTYWIDE BROADBAND FIBER TO THE PREMISE MASTER PLAN**

## **ISSUE:**

Adopt a Resolution setting forth support for and participation in Riverside County's Countywide Broadband Fiber to the Premise Master Plan.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council adopt the attached Resolution to support and participate in Riverside County's Countywide Broadband Fiber to the Premise Master Plan.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On September 20, 2016, the County of Riverside adopted Resolution number 2016-197 which set forth their Broadband Fiber to the Premise Master Plan. This initiative is known as RIVCOconnect. The plan seeks to remove the barriers currently obstructing service providers from building out an improved communications infrastructure to 21st century capabilities.

One of the County's principal goals is to present a Request for Participants (RFP) in early 2017, to invite the private sector, either incumbent vendors or business entities new to the City and County, to work in cooperation and create partnerships to deliver Broadband services throughout the City and County of Riverside at speeds of one Gigabit of data transferred per second (Gbps) and above. It is not intended that this new broadband infrastructure and service will be owned and operated by the City of Riverside, County of Riverside, or any other public agency. Rather, the goal is to create the conditions for the private sector to see the new opportunities that will lead to the construction of the largest such high-speed broadband network in the country.

Providing affordable service to all residents is another goal of the plan, service that allows our citizens to access high-speed connections to information, entertainment, health care, government services, employment opportunities, and educational growth. This collaborative effort calls for the development of expedited permitting procedures, providing cost effective locations for broadband equipment and offering incentives such as anchor tenancy. These efforts will be in cooperation with the County, City of Riverside, twenty-seven other cities, numerous unincorporated locations, and twelve tribal communities within the County.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The attached resolution establishes the City's support for the County of Riverside's Broadband Fiber to the Premise Master Plan. The City will join other community partners to lower the cost of entry and operation of systems, reduce the risks of delays during the planning, permitting and construction phases, provide opportunities for increasing revenue, and creating new avenues for competitive entry. The County will seek out broadband providers who will work with the County to ensure that every home and every business within the City and County has access to high-quality broadband services, at affordable rates. Riverside County has established a Broadband Master Plan and the City wishes to adopt and endorse the plan within City jurisdiction and commit to work with the County as this process moves forward.

The attached Resolution does not strictly commit the City, but provides conceptual approval for these processes:

### **Expedited broadband permitting processes**

The City supports the concept of a consistent expedited broadband permitting process within the City and other participating jurisdictions. During the implementation stage of the plan the process will be fully defined and staff will work with Riverside County to develop those processes. It is the City's goal and intention to align this effort with Streamline Riverside.

### **'Dig once' policy**

The City supports the concept of "Dig Once" where conduit for future and immediate use for fiber optic cable is installed whenever underground construction occurs in a roadway. The City will need to establish standards and procedures to ensure installed conduit does not restrict or impede the City's ability to perform timely repairs or service its core infrastructure in the future.

### **City-owned parcels available for lease**

The installation of a "Fiber to the Premise" network requires geographically located 36 foot by 20 foot structures, termed "fiber huts". These "fiber huts" house equipment for the fiber network and will serve areas of approximately 30,000 customers. The City is working to provide information and specifications for available portions of City owned parcels which have potential value for the network operator and may be available for a leasing opportunity with the City. The current criteria are basic, such that the City owned parcel would accommodate the physical dimensions of the "fiber hut" and would allow ingress and egress by a network operator without impeding City operations. This information will be included in an RFP the County will be publishing in the first quarter of 2017. Any selected network operator is then free to work with the City on the terms of a leasing deal, or to choose locations that better meet their needs.

### **Anchor tenancy**

In adopting the Resolution the City would be endorsing the concept of anchor tenancy, if acceptable services are available. This would provide aggregation of demand by participating communities as an incentive for a provider. The City currently purchases many telecommunications and data network services and, as agreements expire, is willing to evaluate services. Any selected service by the City will be selected according to the City's procurement requirements and standards and demonstrate a fair and reasonable cost for services.

The Riverside Public Utilities General Manager, the Public Works Director and the Community & Economic Development Director concur with this report.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Lea Deesing, Chief Innovation Officer  
Certified as to  
availability of funds: Scott G. Miller, PhD, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer  
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, Assistant City Manager  
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

**Attachments:**

1. Resolution setting forth Riverside's support for Riverside County's Broadband Fiber to the Premise Master Plan
2. Riverside County's Broadband Fiber to the Premise Master Plan
3. Presentation