

Memo

To: Partner City Representatives
From: Colorado Wireless Communities (CWC)
RE: CWC Project Overview for Partner Cities
Date: July 21, 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In April 2006, the Cities of Arvada, Broomfield, Boulder, Lakewood and Thornton (CWC) launched a formal initiative to evaluate the feasibility of deploying a community wireless broadband network to improve the efficiency of government, promote digital inclusion, and stimulate economic development. The CWC members anticipate accomplishing these goals through a competitive procurement process aimed at securing private partner(s) to fund, build, own and operate a citywide network.

The CWC members individually retained Civitium, LLC, the market-leading consulting firm for Municipal Broadband and Digital Community initiatives, to assist with its initiative by performing data collection and analysis and recommending a course of action consistent with each initiative's objectives. To this end, Civitium in conjunction with CWC members conducted a municipal wireless broadband planning process carefully assessing technological, regulatory, political and financial opportunities and challenges, and municipal and local community needs. This effort culminates with both individual and a comprehensive CWC Report (in-progress) which identifies the information needed, including overall requirements, methodologies and timelines necessary to organize and manage a successful municipal wireless broadband initiative.

The planning process commenced with a series of stakeholder interviews comprised of multiple participants representing several internal and external stakeholder groups. Participants provided valuable input and had definite opinions on perceived opportunities and challenges. In addition to their unique backgrounds, all participants brought overwhelming enthusiasm and interest in support of a wireless broadband initiative.

Participants were also asked to share perceptions about potential risks and challenges presented by this initiative. Some perceived risks and challenges included: 1) Cost 2) Radio Frequency Emissions 3) Realistic Network Performance Expectations; 4) Industry Opposition 5) Network Aesthetics 6) Network Security 7) End-user Privacy and 8) Pole Ownership issues.

The Final CWC Report with recommendations is in the final stages of completion and will be delivered to the member communities by 30 August, 2006.

Regional Benefits

The CWC seeks to confirm the premise that their communities would benefit from access to an affordable wireless broadband service. The CWC core cities of Arvada, Broomfield, Boulder, Lakewood and Thornton are collaborating with adjacent cities on the initiative - with the belief that the vendor community would find a regional initiative more attractive than individual city initiatives. The combined population of these additional Cities is approximately 800,000.

Identified CWC Partners Communities:

1. Federal Heights
2. Golden
3. Lafayette
4. Louisville
5. Northglenn
6. Superior
7. Westminster
8. Wheat Ridge

Beyond the indirect benefit gained from enhancing the market from the vendor perspective, there are direct benefits to the quality of life in the CWC area that could be achieved through a collaborative regional wireless initiative, including enhanced interoperable communications among emergency mutual aid responders, improved ability to support telecommuting employees residing in one city and employed in another, distance learning, and telemedicine to name just a few.

Project Schedule

There CWC decided on the following schedule for several reasons 1) Maintain project momentum 2) Release an RFP by the fall of 2006 – with responses back by the beginning of 2007, and 3) Establish a leadership position in a fast growing market.

While aggressive, the CWC members are confident to meet the following timelines:

- **Phase 1:** Feasibility Studies
 - Individual Reports: August 15, 2006
 - Collective Report: August 30, 2006
- **Phase 2:** RFP Development and Release
 - Start: August 15th, 2006
 - RFP Release: November 1, 2006
 - Vendor Responses: January 1, 2007
- **Phase 3:** Vendor Selection and Build
 - Selection: Q2 2007
 - Build: Q3 2007

Next Steps and City Participation Requirements

For Cities interested in joining the CWC, the following requirements are needed to participate:

- Political and Executive support for the project
- Assigned internal resource
- RF Study: Scan for RF interference in unlicensed bands (2.4GHz and 5-6GHz bands)
- Quantify demand for potential anchor tenancy
- Assess assets for value for the project
 - Physical (height, power, owner, etc)
 - Terms of use
- Assist in negotiations for any commercial assets required for the project
- Fiber may or may not be needed
- Assist in packaging assets for potential bidders

In order to maintain the CWC project schedule (above), Cities interested in participating must **VERBALLY** notify the CWC of their commitment by the end of business 15 August, 2006.