



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of BIS

Date August 10, 2009

To: The Honorable Paul Ostrow, Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Subject: Minneapolis Economic Recovery Strategy: Approval to apply for funding from the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program.

Recommendation Authorize proper city officials to apply for funding from the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program provided through the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Prepared by Robert Arko, Contract Administrator, 673-3984

Submitted by Lynn Willenbring _____, 673-2927
Chief Information Officer

Approved by Steven Bosacker _____
City Coordinator

Presenter in Committee Lynn Willenbring

Policy Review Group Not Applicable

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) Approval Not Applicable

Financial Impact: Not applicable.

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to department's finance contact prior to the Committee Coordinator

Background/Supporting Information

The Recovery Act directed The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) to expand broadband access to unserved and underserved communities across the U.S., increase jobs, spur investments in technology and infrastructure, and provide long-term economic benefits. The result is the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP). BTOP will provide grants to fund broadband infrastructure, public computer centers and sustainable broadband adoption projects.

BIS has partnered with the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) and seeks approval to apply for two grants:

1. Infrastructure - to bring broadband into Minneapolis Public Housing highrises
2. Sustainable Adoption - to develop and deploy an awareness campaign; provide training; purchase and distribute hardware to connect with mobile and WiFi (iTouch, Netbooks); and to update the Minneapolis Civic Garden portal to provide multi-lingual support, mobile accessibility, and ideation software. The sustainable adoption project will reach out to all MPHA residents including Section 8.

In addition to MPHA, BIS is partnering with area organizations.