



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Departments of BIS and Communications

Date: May 7, 2007

To: Committee of the Whole

Referral to: N/A

Subject: Wireless Minneapolis implementation update, including an update on the Digital Inclusion Fund and Community Advisors Group, and a presentation on the concept and strategy for the creation and oversight of citywide, regional and neighborhood Wireless Minneapolis portal pages.

Recommendation: Receive and File

Prepared by: _____
Sara Dietrich, Assistant Director, Communications

Approved by: _____
Steven Bosacker, City Coordinator

Presenters in Committee: Bill Beck, BIS; Catherine Settanni, consultant; Sara Dietrich, Communications

Reviews: N/A

Financial Impact

√ No financial impact

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification
- City Goals
- Comprehensive Plan
- Zoning Code

- Other

Supporting Information

In 2006 the City of Minneapolis signed a 10-year contract with US Internet to build and manage a wireless network across the city. US Internet is currently in the process of constructing the wireless network.

As part of the contract the City negotiated a comprehensive set of community benefits that go far beyond what any other city in the country has negotiated. Included is the provision of a set of network "portal" pages that can be established from geographic (i.e., citywide, regional, or neighborhood) or non-geographic (community) perspectives. Through these portal pages, the City can offer neighborhood and community organizations with a powerful communication and community-building tool.

The presentation will provide an overview of the neighborhood and community portal strategy, framework, community engagement plans and timeline.



Communications Department

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Neighborhood and Community Portal Pages & Wireless Minneapolis update

1. **Technical/construction update on Wireless.** Review of timetable for all six regional construction areas, City application process, and emerging opportunities and partnerships.
2. **Digital Inclusion.** Update on the Digital Inclusion Fund, the Minneapolis Foundation sponsorship, Digital Inclusion Fund and Community Advisors Group.
3. **City, community and neighborhood portals.**
 - **What are portals,** how do they fit into Wireless Minneapolis, and how will they be a value to our neighborhoods and communities? What will the deliverables be for first phase (through end of the year, when network goes live)?
 - **Citywide** view (temporary users/ visitors, and users who select “Citywide” view rather than a “Region or Neighborhood” view when available)
 - **Regional/Phase** view (6 regional areas as currently defined, will include links to neighborhood sites in each area)
 - **Neighborhood** view (generic template for neighborhoods that choose to build a sub-site)
 - What is a “**Walled garden,**” and a description of sites recommended during previous community engagement efforts that have occurred over the past two years.
 - The plan for **community outreach/engagement** to build regional/area portal pages, and begin discussions for neighborhood pages and training in year 2 (following network launch)
 - How will **community content standards** be defined? An overview of Digital Inclusion Fund Community Advisors, and the role of the newly formed Portal Policy Committee.