

To: Gunnison City Council

From: Mike Lee – Systems Administrator

Date: November 13, 2015

Subject: Region 10 – Broadband request for DOLA matching funds grant for FY 2016 & 2017

As the project is discussed, researched and new ideas and options are vetted the costs and scope continues to evolve. The election Nov. 3rd to remove the SB-152 constraint on all the local governments has brought additional ideas and options for public/private partnership. One example is to IRU or lease the existing fiber installed by IConneX Instead of duplicating the fiber network.

As redundancy and dark fiber (probably) into the Valley are not going to be possible at this point of the project we are looking to create a vendor neutral network that will allow the bulk purchase of internet bandwidth which is cheaper and can be distributed to the anchor institutions and ISPs at both ends of the valley. A Carrier Neutral Location (CNL) in Gunnison and Crested Butte, connected by either leased dark fiber or lite fiber and allow the CNLs to share in the distribution of the bulk internet. System design should include built in access points for redundancy to take advantage of future opportunities.

With a number of details unsettled and the grant deadline approaching, I would ask the Council to commit to a not to exceed match (for 2016 and 2017 budget years) and approve the MOU with Region 10 to “BUY” into the project. As the grant approval process moves forward we will continue to refine the system design and project plan. Once we get grant approval; have a good feel for the system design and partners; the first expense would be final system engineering. The MOU allows the City to withdraw from the project, before the contracting of the engineering, and after receiving the engineering report and before construction contract, or with 60 days’ notice, or if it is not budgeted in 2017.

The final engineering will give us a better look at the costs and we can modify as needed to match the grant matches or/budget, or any new opportunities that arise during the process. This would be a point to come back to Council and all Gunnison Valley partners with the project plan and construction costs and to get approval to move forward or withdraw from the project.

Thanks for your consideration of this very important project for the economic health of the Gunnison Valley.

Mike Lee

Systems Administrator