



CITY OF DELAWARE



Google, Inc.
1600 Amphitheater Parkway
Mountain View, CA 94043

RE: This, is Delaware, Ohio
Joint Response to Google Fiber for Communities RFI

Dear Google Selection Committee,

A Community with a History. Delaware is a 200+ year old community with all of the urban complexity, opportunity, and challenges that come with over two centuries of existence. Located within the Columbus metro area, it is neither a first ring suburb nor even a prototypical suburban community. Rather, Delaware is a separate and distinct locale enjoying proximity to the Columbus core, but not requiring it for growth and development.

A Great Place to Live, Work, and Play. This community has been among the fastest growing in the nation for the last 15 years, and we continue to have a stable economic environment. Forbes Magazine recently named it the #2 County in the United States to "get ahead." In 2005, Delaware County was the 5th fastest growing County in the United States. The County enjoys the lowest unemployment in the state and the highest per capita income. During the "Great Recession," Delaware County was the only county in Ohio to actually report economic growth. Delaware County was recently named the healthiest place to live in the State of Ohio, where it topped all 88 Ohio counties in both health outcomes and health factors, the key summary measures in the report. Delaware County residents have the longest average lives in Ohio, one of two measures of health outcomes analyzed in the report. Delaware County also topped Ohio in social and economic factors, which include education, employment, income, family and social support, and community safety. Delaware County ranked second best in Ohio in healthy behaviors, fourth in clinical care, fifth in morbidity (a measurement of relative sickness and quality of life), and 26th in physical environment factors affecting health.

Collaboration at Every Level. But there is even more to this community, which is comprised of 19 townships, 4 cities, 6 villages, and the County government. This is a place where people come to raise their children, where it is still possible to have a local business, and to succeed. It is a place where people, governments, and organizations can work together to achieve community goals. A quick read through the letters in support of this initiative shows how these organizations work together on a regular basis.

Economic Development. One of the most recent examples of top-level collaboration in the Delaware Area is the formation of the Delaware Area Super Highway, LLC (DASH). This is a single member LLC, formed as a part of the Community Improvement Corporation in an effort to build a carrier-neutral high speed fiber optic network within Delaware City and County. The County, City, Consolidated Electric Cooperative, and Grady Memorial Hospital are the founding organizations. The County Port Authority has recently approved investment in DASH to solidify a fiber optic master plan for the countywide use of fiber optics. Each of these organizations serve the area, and each has an interest in providing better services to its constituents, while at the same time, using existing assets to build growth in the area. Several fiber optic deployments within the community have already occurred, and the standard cables deployed are 144 strand cables. This organization is active in most fiber activities in the area, and has as a main purpose, the facilitation of connectivity within the area. DASH will not be an ISP on the network, it is a facilitator in the growth of fiber optic use.

Fiber Development. There are two major fiber optic initiatives working right now in Delaware. The first is an American Reinvestment and Recovery Act grant which was awarded to Consolidated Electric Cooperative to build a carrier-neutral 166 mile ring of 144 strand fiber (classified as middle mile) which will run from the City of Delaware, east and north into several adjacent counties. The U.S. government is granting 1 million dollars to Consolidated, lending another 1.4 million dollars to them, and Consolidated will invest an additional 1.3 million dollars in the infrastructure. There is no doubt that this project will dovetail in multiple respects with any fiber to the home project which takes place in this area. This grant was awarded based upon the fact that Consolidated intended to build fiber optics to an unserved and/or underserved area of these counties, but also to use the infrastructure to implement a SmartGrid infrastructure throughout portions of their service area. A copy of the grant application, as well as Consolidated's letter of support is in this package. There are also mutually beneficial reasons to work with Consolidated, as it is offering a pre-build discounted rate on the dark fiber.

The second major project underway is to build fiber from the City of Delaware, to the City of Columbus, where we will connect to a data center, or carrier hotel. The goals for this project are to bring choice and capacity to Delaware. Right now, the City of Delaware has a very limited number of ISPs, and almost no choice when it comes to voice carriers. This build will extend the fiber in the City of Delaware to the outside world.

Educational Collaboration. Other collaborations are in progress in Delaware. For example, the City of Delaware, Delaware City Schools, and Ohio Wesleyan University are lending their support for an ARRA grant project to The Ohio State University, the City of Columbus, Columbus City Schools, and TechColumbus to fund a new community service approach to technology learning. This grant application is also attached to this package.

Fiber Collaboration with Other Communities. Another collaboration is with several other cities in the area with fiber optic infrastructures. The Cities of Dublin, Westerville, Delaware, and Gahanna, as well as Delaware County, and the Village of New Albany have formed an informal group named the Central Ohio Broad Band Coalition (COBB). This group serves as more of a regional planning forum for our cities to look ahead at how we develop fiber, and what we can do with it once our cities are all connected together. The topics include enterprise licensing, group acquisition of dial tone access, failover application hosting, complementary disaster recovery and business continuity, facilitating Regional Health Information Organizations, sharing GIS data, and more. Many of these topics are highly likely to occur since, for example, most of our organizations are making use of VMWare to host server environments and applications. We have already been able to facilitate having three of the organizations serve as failover units to each other for 911 communications using fiber optic pathways.

Technology in Our Justice Systems. Delaware Courts have consistently led in the use of technology to serve the needs of the justice system. The Delaware Municipal Court was early to have its own website, with the ability to search public records, pay traffic tickets online, and to even watch live-streamed proceedings on a daily basis. Because Delaware County was an early adopter of the use of fiber optics in the 90's, both the City's Municipal Court, and the Courts of Common Pleas make nearly daily use of video arraignment proceedings, where the defendants do not have to be transported to the courts in order to be arraigned. This use of technology has saved the local governments time and money, as well as requiring fewer vehicles to be on the road. In addition to record management systems, each court also uses technology to record proceedings technologically using audio and video methods to create records of the proceedings. These innovative methods of recording the proceedings give the full experience to viewers at a later time, something that a purely written record cannot do.

Sustainability Due to the Economics of the County. Delaware County really has three economic tiers within the community. In the southern part of the county lies the City of Powell. The City of Powell has the highest median income rate in the state of Ohio at \$115,000. Contrast this with the City of Delaware's median income of \$47,713, and the rural farming community median income in the northern part of the county at \$71,444. Now, if we compare the broadband adoption within the county, we have very high adoption in both the southern part of the county (75%), and in the city (75%), but in the northern part of the county, there are almost no alternatives, and thus very low adoption. The great thing to notice about all of these numbers is

that from a sustainability point of view, nearly all residents in the county have the economic ability to pay for this level of broadband if it were available to them.

Data Center Location. Recently, Citicorp located its primary DR site to Delaware, Ohio. There were many reasons for locating this tornado-proof facility in the area—the weather, elevation, stability of the land area, and the availability of communications. Other data centers are locating in the area as well. Delaware has some very unique properties. For example, in the City of Delaware, there are franchise agreements with 2 primary power providers, and as many as 7 electric utility providers have resources in this county, with access to multiple power grids. These utilities approach business customers in different ways with respect to building their infrastructure to provide power. These elements, choice, multiple grids, differing pricing structures, in addition to the possibility of “net metering” and participation in Smart Grid initiatives, all give operational choices when it comes to power usage within this community.

Going Green. Green initiatives are also important to this community. For example, PPG just invested millions of dollars to renovate its existing solvent-based plant to be one of only two water-based automotive paint manufacturing facilities in the world. Consolidated Electric Cooperative, an electric utility here, works with customers who have on site generation capability, and who want to reduce peak loads or retail excess power to the transmission grid. Either avenue adds to the company’s bottom line as well as reducing the need for power generation and transmission facilities. Part of the vision of some of the supporters of this response is the potential to serve more students from their homes. This is regardless of whether the student is a secondary student, or college student. The impacts are tremendous—with fewer students on the road each day, energy costs are driven down, while consumption and educational attainment rise, and the playing field levels between the various geographically diverse parts of the community. There have also been discussions about how some of the organizations, such as healthcare and education could collaborate to create more unique and effective teaching tools.

Public Safety. Our law enforcement organizations view technology as a force multiplier. By utilizing video surveillance technologies, for example, these organizations can watch more places with fewer personnel, and with less impact to the environment due to the reduction of automobile use. This and other technological “force multipliers” have had a big impact to the budgets of these organizations.

Delaware, Ohio, a Microcosm of Middle America. Within a single county, Google can find a microcosm of middle America. We really have three different tiers within the county. In the southernmost areas of the county, we have the highest per capita educated populous, with the highest per capita income, and the highest per capita adoption of broadband of anywhere in the State of Ohio. In the City of Delaware, we have more of a mix of post high school education, with a more moderate income, and very good broadband adoption. To the north, there is a more marked difference with lower post high school education, more moderate incomes, but significantly lower broadband adoption. If Google is seeking a test tube environment within which it can truly measure the impact of an ultra high broadband network, Delaware County is a great place to start, and measure the results. The entire community from citizens, to governments, non-profit organizations, businesses, education, and healthcare are supportive of this project.

Google has set forth three primary objectives in its RFI: the development and use of next-generation apps, testing new ways to build fiber optic networks, and to create an open access network. We believe that a fourth very important goal is expressly stated in the RFI as well—that of collaboration. We are confident all of these objectives will be met with successful outcomes here in our community.

Welcome!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Citizens of Delaware County,

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