



CITY OF FULLERTON  
TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 8, 2009  
9:00 A.M.

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Burtner called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present

Roger Burtner, Chair  
Mike Carter  
Larry Iboshi

Harry Lamberth  
Sujay Shah  
Ed Smith

Members Madusha Palliyage and Helen Hall arrived after roll call.

Members Absent

Fred Canfield  
Sam Ricchio  
Carl Samantello

Thad Sandford  
Paul Stover, Vice Chair

Staff

Rob Ferrier, Assistant to the City Manager

Chair Burtner introduced newly appointed member Sujay Shah, and asked that he provide the group with a brief description of his background, and asked each member present to introduce themselves and provide a recap of their backgrounds.

Chair Burtner and other TWG members provided a summary to Mr. Shah of the TWG's history, purpose, and projects. Chair Burtner indicated he would provide Mr. Shah with copies of relevant documents, and referred Mr. Shah to the TWG webpage on the City of Fullerton website for additional information.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No minutes were available for approval.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 1. Creation of an educational/municipal (institutional) fiber/wireless network, FullertonNet – RFP for I-Net

Chair Burtner asked Mr. Ferrier to provide a status report on responses to the RFP. Mr. Ferrier reported that the RFP had been posted to the City's website, and an interest letter had been sent to 30 consulting firms, but not one proposal had been received. Mr. Ferrier indicated he was not sure why there was no response, but speculated that it might have to do with the fact there was no money available to pay a consultant for the product that was being solicited, i.e., the City was essentially asking the consultant to work for free.

For the benefit of the new member, Mr. Ferrier explained the purpose of the RFP was to have a consultant review the plan for the City's proposed I-Net and come up with a dollar amount to actually build it. That dollar amount would be used as part of an application for stimulus funding, specifically through the BTOP (Broadband Technology Opportunities Program) through the NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration), which has been charged with distribution of stimulus funds to agencies and companies that are involved in expanding broadband opportunities throughout the country. The funds will be provided in three rounds. The first round of applications for funding were due in August.

Mr. Ferrier reported that he had discovered that you can actually track the applicants on the NTIA's website, where he found 61 pages of applicants listed just for the State of California. He indicated that he found one applicant (City of Glendale) whose project sounded very similar to that of Fullerton's. IT Manager Helen Hall suggested that she would contact Glendale's IT Manager to request a copy of Glendale's application.

Mr. Iboshi noted that for the City to submit an application for stimulus funding, they needed a "shovel-ready" project, a firm contract with a contractor, and proposed cost figures. Mr. Iboshi indicated that the winner of the proposal will be announced.

Mr. Ferrier asked the TWG to consider two points:

1) The City of Fullerton is experiencing financial problems as a result of: the State budget crisis resulting in the State taking significant amounts of funds from local agencies through Prop. 1A property tax shifts; a depressed economy resulting in significantly lower sales tax revenue and hotel tax revenue; and the potential taking of Redevelopment and Gas Tax funds by the State. These financial problems are expected to continue for at least four to five years.

2) Even if the City were to get stimulus funding, it would require matching funds. For example, if the stimulus funding provided 80% funding, and required 20% matching funds, for a \$2.5 million project, the City would be looking at needing to come up with possibly a half million dollars. With the current financial problems facing the City, coming up with matching funds could be a problem.

With those two points in mind, Mr. Ferrier suggested that instead of issuing another RFP and trying to find a consultant who could put together a cost proposal that could be used in an application for stimulus funding, the TWG might want to consider meeting with the City's current provider (AT&T), present the telecommunications needs of the City, and ask what AT&T might be able to provide to meet those needs.

Ms. Hall indicated that she had recently met with AT&T and provided their representatives with the information regarding the City's telecommunications needs, and she is waiting for a response.

Chair Burtner pointed out that if AT&T built a system, they would control it and would control the services that are provided over the system. The TWG's objective for the City of Fullerton I-Net was that it would initially be funded by E-Rate and other funds, with the schools as anchor tenants, with the potential to add the medical centers and other organizations in the city. The system would be open access so that anyone could buy services over it from anyone in the world.

Mike Carter reminded the group that the major thrust of what the TWG had been working toward for the I-Net was to have an open, independent, privately owned network; and for the committee to consider using AT&T as the vendor would be to ignore the TWG's initial goals and vision for the I-Net. Mr. Carter suggested that if money is tight right now for the City, perhaps they need to wait awhile to implement it.

Mr. Smith asked if it would be appropriate to go back to the vendors who received the RFP interest letter and find out why they did not respond.

Mr. Lamberth moved that Mr. Ferrier and City staff be requested to make contact with the firms that received the RFP to ascertain why they did not respond. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carter, and unanimously approved.

Ms. Hall suggested that some of the stimulus funding is being funneled through companies such as AT&T and Verizon, and suggested that they could be approached and encouraged to program a portion of those funds for projects in Fullerton.

## **2. Telecommunications Master Plan**

Mr. Lamberth pointed out that the TWG was responsible for creation of a telecommunications master plan, and the I-Net will be an underlying backbone or segment of Fullerton's eventual telecommunications system.

Mr. Lamberth indicated that, of the presentations regarding other cities' plans, he was most impressed with the City of Ontario's.

Mr. Lamberth noted that the City of Fullerton lacks any City building codes or specifications regarding installation of telecommunications equipment, and suggested that Ontario's codes and specifications were so complete and comprehensive that the City of Fullerton should consider adopting same.

Mr. Lamberth made the motion that the City of Fullerton's Engineering Department review the Ontario plan and adopt those parts of it as are rational to guide future construction.

Mr. Smith seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

Mr. Lamberth suggested the path of the I-Net needs to be refined, in order to include the path requirement in any future RFP, with the simple statement that it is the "recommended path based on current engineering knowledge." He requested that the City Manager reallocate Engineering staff to assign one man-week of hours to review and finalize a refined I-Net path.

Mr. Ferrier noted that the map that was included in the original RFP had been reviewed by Engineering staff, and they expressed no concerns about the route. Mr. Ferrier also indicated that due to current City staff obligations and tight budgets, there was no staff available to accommodate Mr. Lamberth's request, nor would the City Manager reallocate Engineering resources.

Ms. Palliyage suggested that perhaps Mr. Lamberth could review Engineering documents to retrieve the information needed to refine the I-Net path. Mr. Ferrier indicated there should not be a problem providing that access. Chair Burtner suggested that Mr. Lamberth draft a written request regarding accessing the pertinent records, which Chair Burtner would review and forward to Mr. Ferrier.

### **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

To be determined.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Ferrier announced the City Council's hosting of the annual committee and commission dinner/workshop to be held November 5, indicating that the TWG members should have already received their invitations. Mr. Ferrier strongly encouraged the TWG members to attend because the evening's presentation would include a report on the state of the economy and its impact on the City budget, and the resulting impact on the activities of the City's committees and commissions. In addition, there will be a presentation of the Brown Act by the City's legal counsel.

Chair Burtner indicated that he had recently visited with former TWG Member Rob Port at his home in Maryland. Mr. Port asked him to say hello to the TWG. Chair Burtner noted that Mr. Port was one of the original members of the TWG, along with Vice Chair Paul Stover and Chair Burtner.

Chair Burtner distributed copies of two newspaper articles: one regarding the City of Anaheim soliciting technology innovations from the public; the other regarding new cameras being installed in the existing downtown surveillance system.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Burtner asked for a motion to adjourn. Larry Iboshi so moved. Ed Smith seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:26.

Next meeting scheduled for October 29, 2009.