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March 11, 2009

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TWB-204

Re: Ex Parte Presentation CC Docket 02-6

Dear Ms. Dortch,

This is to confirm a meeting on February 20, 2009 at the FCC offices between myself, co-founder and principal of Digital Village Associates, a California consulting firm and Jennifer McKee of Acting Commission Chair Copps' office as a follow up meeting referenced in our December 18, 2008 filing (Docket 02-6), on the "Fiber to the Library" (FTTL) initiative to provide "next generation" broadband to the nation's 16,500 public libraries as a spearhead project for a new national broadband strategy.

We propose the FCC adopt the FTTL goal for two primary purposes. First is that by embracing FTTL, the FCC would create an invaluable policy development tool to inform national broadband planning as well as planning efforts at state and local levels. Second is that FTTL would serve more Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) priorities in less time at lower cost than any other broadband related action thus far proposed.

1) By embracing and quantifying an FTTL goal, questions of connection speed/performance standards and time frame for universally available "next generation" broadband will become better understood. FTTL project would create a manageably-scaled, national test bed to exercise a wide range of critical technological, jurisdictional and economic issues.

Further, as a national scale deployment and not an isolated test model, FTTL offers a measurable, equitable way to quickly extend and upgrade the physical network infrastructure. FTTL would also provide useable bandwidth, critical to next generation broadband applications and services, to a ubiquitous network of free and universally accessible facilities, public libraries.

2) Under the BTOP's section 6001(k)(2)(D), the FCC's broadband plan shall include "a plan for use of broadband infrastructure and services in advancing consumer welfare, civic participation, public safety and homeland security, community development, health care delivery, energy independence and efficiency, education, worker training, private sector investment, entrepreneurial activity, job creation and economic growth and other national purposes."

The following is an outline of ways FTTL is likely to support those priorities specified in the BTOP.

- Consumer welfare: by being able to experiment in public libraries, consumers will be able to make more informed purchase decisions related to broadband connectivity, related electronic equipment and online services.
- Civic participation: a national network of FTTL-enabled "town halls" can serve enhanced civic engagement around a wide array of policy questions from local to national to global.
- Public safety & homeland security: each library facility with hardened communications capability would serve as an essential service for disaster readiness and recovery.
- Community Development: the task of evaluating and selecting among various broadband technologies and service business models in the context of prioritizing other local policy priorities will provide a basis for a new locally-specific broadband infrastructure strategy for each community.
- Health care delivery: the capability for any citizen to engage with a remote health care provider via two-way, hi-definition video will enhance diagnostic services. Librarian-guided help in accessing to a wide range of health care information and resources.
- Energy independence and efficiency: beyond the usual tele-work rationale, these facilities themselves may offer a range of physical and digital demonstration resources for public education and in support of energy policy decision-making.
- Education: a facility to support distance learning by individuals from seniors to pre-schoolers to after schoolers to home schoolers in a digital age of life long learning. As a center for collaborative, informal and formal, face to face learning.
- Worker training: access to distance training resources, digital services and online job search.
- Private sector investment: Potentially leverageable new infrastructure node to reach new markets and/or stimulate existing ones.

-Entrepreneurial activity: source for high performance tech-enabled research resources for start-up ventures. Demo site for emerging tech products and services.

-Job creation and economic growth: expands demand for new support services by facility staff and outside providers. Creates a convenient hi-tech collaboration facility to help communities engage global markets.

There may be other public facilities or private institutions better suited to serve one or some of these BTOP policy priorities, but no other institution private or public, would be better able to serve all of them than our free and open, next generation broadband-enabled public libraries.

Best regards,

DM

Don Means
Principal

cc: Jennifer McKee
Christi Shewman