

July 24, 2009

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Presentation
GN Docket No. 09-51

Dear Ms. Dortch,

This is to confirm a meeting on July 23, 2009 at the FCC offices between myself, co-founder and principal of Digital Village Associates, a California consulting firm, and Blair Levin of the Commission. Richard Whitt, managing policy counsel for Google Inc., also participated in the meeting. The discussion focused on the "Fiber to the Library" (FttL) initiative to provide 100+mbs broadband to the nation's 16,500 public libraries by 2012, as a spearhead project for a new national broadband strategy.

During the meeting I explained that, at an average of \$20-\$30,000 per facility (as estimated by the Fiber to the Home Council and the American Library Association), "FttL" represents the quickest, least expensive, most equitable way to ensure delivery of accessible next generation broadband to every community in the nation. As a bold yet achievable goal in the near term, "FttL" will provide an open, near ubiquitous resource that supports the greatest number of economic recovery objectives while accelerating deployment and new investment of next generation broadband infrastructure.

I also stated that grant and loan opportunities under the broadband portion of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act specifically for Public Computing Centers have begun to spur the formation of broad new library centric collaborations seeking funds for broadband expansion. These and related targeted funds for sustainability and infrastructure under the act are potentially adequate to accomplish the goal.

However, to ensure completion of "FttL" within 3 years to maximize social and economic benefits, I expressed that the Federal Universal Service Fund must be substantially overhauled. Outdated definitions and daunting filing requirements have caused massive underutilization of the fund especially by libraries. Yet, the need for reform should not delay this spearhead project.

We also discussed other aspects of the project consistent with previous public filings in this proceeding related to the dependency of success for any national strategy on the existence and execution of state and especially local community broadband infrastructure strategies and formal plans for buildout.

Best Regards,

/s/

Don Means
Principal

CC: Blair Levin
Rick Whitt

POBox 2350 Sausalito CA 94966 415 350 3316
www.DigitalVillage.com