

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The Google network will benefit Seattle residents and business in many ways. First, competition and choice will lead to lower prices, new innovative service offerings and better customer service. But the unprecedented speeds of the Google Gigabit Fiber network, that will be about 100 times faster than Seattle customers currently have, will transform the way we live, work and play.

Consumers: Residents will be able to download a DVD movie in less than 1 minute. With today's networks it takes about an hour or more. An HDTV 1080p (Blue Ray) movie could be downloaded in less than 5 minutes while it would take 5-8 hours using existing broadband networks in Seattle. 3D video could be delivered in real time.

Health: Doctors can consult with other experts quickly by sending or receiving large x-rays or other data rich diagnostic files in a few seconds. Seniors, the homebound or others in need would be able to consult over video links with their doctors and other medical professions and use home health monitoring equipment ("Telemedicine").

Improving Education: Students could take classes from home through fully interactive high definition video connections. Subject matter experts can provide video tutoring services to students at their home or school.

Access to Government Services: A sign language expert could create a business acting as a video intermediary between a hearing-impaired resident and a City government official.

Jobs and Business: A business could back up the contents of a 32 gigabyte hard drive in about 6 minutes. With today's networks it would take days. A gigabit network will fuel innovation bring new jobs here. Mobility impaired residents will have exciting new opportunities to work from home. Researchers and business want to locate where they have access to fiber, technological talent and a high quality of life.

Public engagement and community meetings: People could connect via real-time video conferencing in multiple locations (from home, schools or community centers) for town hall meetings.

Culture & the Arts: This provides an opportunity to deliver performances and collaborate on cultural events and creation from multiple locations.

Other Opportunities: We would all be able to buy less expensive computers because applications, storage and processing power will be accessible in real time over the web.

Save driving & help the environment: Real high speed Internet makes it easier to telecommute, deliver something across town or across the world, or hold meetings with others online...and reduce congestion and pollution.

No one can predict all of the new applications that will be developed over Google network. That is what makes it so exciting. Bandwidth is the raw material of the information age and the tech savvy residents and businesses of Seattle will experiment with that bandwidth to create new service and applications that will improve our quality of life.

Take action: Residents in other cities are aggressively campaigning for the Google support to build in their communities. Go to www.seattle.gov/broadband to find out more,

and link to the Google nomination page and our Facebook page (sign up to be a fan). Contact Tony.perez@seattle.gov or call 206-386-0070 for additional information.