

# **Broadband Committee**

## **CTTAB 2011 Committee Description**

**Committee/Project Name: Broadband**

**Chair: Ted Schmitt**

**Other Members: Will Pugh, Brian Hsi**

### **Committee Description:**

- The Broadband committee addresses issues related to the pursuit of municipal broadband by the City of Seattle. A great deal of work has been done over several years by DoIT staff and by CTTAB on the issue of broadband. To help guide and further these efforts the committee has identified a number of specific objectives it plans to complete over the next year and beyond.

### **Project Objective(s) (If different):**

- Advocate, solicit, and facilitate citizen participation and grass roots efforts to promote broadband for Seattle with CTTAB's position as a starting point, incorporating feedback from citizens to refine that position and build community consensus to further the political process necessary to realize the vision.
- As part of the facilitation process, conduct at least one workshop to address questions and gather community feedback.
- Create an FAQ that identifies and answers citizen questions regarding broadband. Find creative ways to use the FAQ and other materials to inform citizens and help dispel confusion about issues surrounding broadband.

### **Current situation and needs assessment:**

CTTAB has now taken a formal position on the need for an FTTP network with capacity of at least 100 Mb bi-directional throughput. Our position calls for a city-run network viewing this as the only way to achieve the twin goals of access that is fast, fair and everywhere, and supports Seattle's ability to compete and lead in the 21st Century global economy. However, CTTAB recognizes the challenges faced by the City in the current economic environment. While we stand by our position, we seek to work with Council and the Mayor to find creative solutions to achieve those two goals.

The Great Student Initiative introduced by Council Member Harrell is an example of creative approaches to achieving greater access. CTTAB plans to support and promote this initiative in the coming year and take an active role in its success.

In addition, per our stated objectives, CTTAB will create an FAQ that identifies and answers citizen questions regarding broadband. We find through informal surveys that there continues to be significant misunderstandings about the City's role in broadband access and availability. Furthermore, the citizenry appears to be less informed on the long-term importance of high-speed broadband to future economic development than on many other important issues. CTTAB will use the FAQ as a starting point to facilitate citizen participation and grass roots efforts to

promote broadband for Seattle. Our goal is to help build community consensus to further the political process necessary to realize the vision of high-speed broadband.

**Financial/Resource Assessment:**

**Projected one time 2010 cost:**

- Should CTTAB conduct a workshop, there may be costs associated with facilitating such a workshop. What those costs may be will be dependent on a number of as yet to be determined factors.

**Annual ongoing costs**

- None projected

**Funding Source(s):**

- None

**Timeline:**

- Vote on CTTAB position paper for municipal broadband – Occurred 10/2010
- Creation of FAQ - ?
- Municipal broadband workshop - ?

**Project management responsibility and needs:**

**From CTTAB**

- Depends on scheduling a workshop

**From staff**

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**Performance Measures:**

- Adoption of position by CTTAB regarding broadband (completed)
- Successful creation of FAQ
- Success of workshop based on attendance and quality of feedback received
- Tangible indications of a building grassroots effort for promotion of municipal broadband