

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Information & Technology Services

Minutes Bloomington Digital Underground Advisory Committee

Bloomington City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
McCloskey Conference Room and on Zoom
Thursday, December 5th, 2024

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER [4:07 pm]

Facilitated by Rick Dietz

ROLL CALL:

Board Members present: Andy Koop

Board Members present via Zoom: Mike Allen, Chris Robb, Marianne Chitwood, and Mike Trotzke

Board absent: Michelle Cole and Mike Sullivan

City staff, officials, and guests: Rick Dietz, Victoria Jones, and Dave Brodin, CEO of Hoosier Fiber Networks

Dietz welcomes everyone to the last BDUAC of 2024.

Information & Technology Services (ITS) Department Updates

- Reminder of tomorrow's Board and Commission event at the Waldren Art Center at 5:30 pm.
- Rick was interviewed by WGCL Radio for the Glass in the Afternoon show on December 3rd. Topics included the City fiber project, digital equity, website/ADA requirements, and placing IT infrastructure in the IU data center. The interview went well.
- Some of the BDUAC positions are up for renewal at the end of the year. Both Mike Trotzke and Chris Robb have been preapproved for renewal if they choose, and Rick invited them to continue with the board. Mike Allen's position is an appointment, and Rick supports his reappointment if he wants to continue on the board. Rick noted the importance of renewing these positions for the continuity of the fiber project through 2025.
- In the November meeting, Rick reviewed the Digital Equity grant applicant funding recommendations from the Digital Equity Grant Advisory Committee. He thanked the members for their feedback. Victoria updated the members on the current status of the agreements. They are awaiting the final corporation counsel's signature, and funds will be distributed at the end of the month. Rick noted several delays in processing the grant applications due to the Digital Equity Specialist position vacancy beginning six months

ago. The position will be posted in the next few weeks, with the salary change and grade changes starting in 2025.

- NTIA Federal competitive Digital Equity Grant update: The city's funding request is around \$12 million, with \$1 billion available and seven hundred applications with \$6 billion in total requests. Rick will meet with the funding committee tomorrow to answer questions. This is seen as a positive next step in the process. The grant, if approved, will fund the project for five years, with the first four years for implementation and the last year for assessment and reporting. We anticipate an early decision, possibly before the end of the year.
- The City has entered into an agreement with Columbia Telecommunications Corporation (CTC) to revise the Digital Equity Strategic Plan and an accompanying survey in the coming year.
- The new consulting arrangement with the City will assist with meeting digital accessibility requirements with the latest interpretation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- The ITS department staff will be preparing for a large computer capital replacement to work in the new year.

City-wide Fiber Broadband Initiative

- Dave Brodin with Hoosier Fiber reported on recent Bloomington fiber work, with four slides detailing their progress. The slides are attached.
- Slide 1 was titled "*BDU Advisory Committee December 5, 2024.*"
- Slide 2 was an untitled Monroe County county map indicating the fiber network's completion in the north and eastside areas. The two yellow zones went live in November. The green zones show we are active in about half of the homes, with more builds ongoing in the gray zones.
- Slide 3, titled *Construction Progress*, displayed two timeline graphs with the continued upward trends of construction progress, one with cumulative conduit feet and the other with units passed from January 2023 through November 2024.
- Slide 4, titled *Right of Way Activity*, is a timeline indicating a slight increase in preventable utility strikes per mile since February 2023. Dave noted that the three contractor-fault sewer incidents were from unmarked lines. Additionally, one of the sewer incidents thought to be from the contract work several months ago was later found to be from a tree root. Most of the increase was due to restorations like settling groundwork and reseeding grass, sidewalks, and driveways. One right-of-way incident was a misunderstanding of where the homeowner's property lines are versus the public right-of-way.
- Rick followed up with Dave to share his thoughts on where the fiber project is currently and scheduled for 2025. Dave noted the most significant change was the plan to work predominantly underground. The utility rejected the aerial option to use polls since those are overloaded. This new underground plan will extend the project to around November 2025, still before the end of the year per the agreement.
- Mike Trotzke asked Dave about the scheduled shift. Dave said the delay was caused by redesigning from aerial to underground. Now, everything is being designed from the beginning with underground plans. It takes about a third to fifty percent longer to go underground. Additionally, some areas take longer than others, like the downtown area, which has concrete to cut through first and contractors' limitations for closing down roads.
- Rick reiterated the significance of surpassing over one million conduit feet and said that the number of households passed is at the halfway point. Dave confirmed that they have passed over 20 thousand units.
- Dave mentioned that since the Bloomington Housing Authority launch event in October,

they have seen a good increase in orders from that area. The low-income intake rate has started to rise. Now that GigabitNow has built its brand recognition in the Bloomington community, it can focus on sales, including many business orders.

- Rick asked Dave to speak on Multi Dwelling Units (MDU). Dave said GigabitNow has rights secured to about 20 percent of the MDU in the community.
- Rick added that the November 2025 target is what they would call substantial completion, and that is compiling with the City and Meridiam's agreement. Dave continued that Hooser Fiber may develop further and extend the contract to provide service to other areas.

MEMBER REPORTS (Items not on the agenda)

- Marianne mentioned that Dave Jent will retire as Indiana University Associate Vice President, Networks, beginning with leave in January 2025. The Deputy CIO, Office of the Vice President for Information Technology, and CIO of Indiana University, Aaron Neal, will succeed Dave.
- Mike Trotzke mentioned the launch party for Paragraph on November 18th was very successful. He is looking forward to moving into the new location as soon as the fiber is installed, and they are close to launching Bereave. The Mill board passed the grant resolution draft for the lot purchase.
- Chris Robb announced there's drywall activity in the new Traids garage building. Also, he is looking at a late January move-in date, which aligns with the February fiber work.
- Andy Koop is working on several equipment refreshes like middle school iPads, Macs for the teachers, and upgrading PA systems. In July, they will be rolling out a newer version of Skyward, the district's information system.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS (Items not on the agenda)

- None

ADJOURNMENT [4:56 pm]

Contact: Rick Dietz / 812-349-3485 / dietzr@bloomington.in.gov

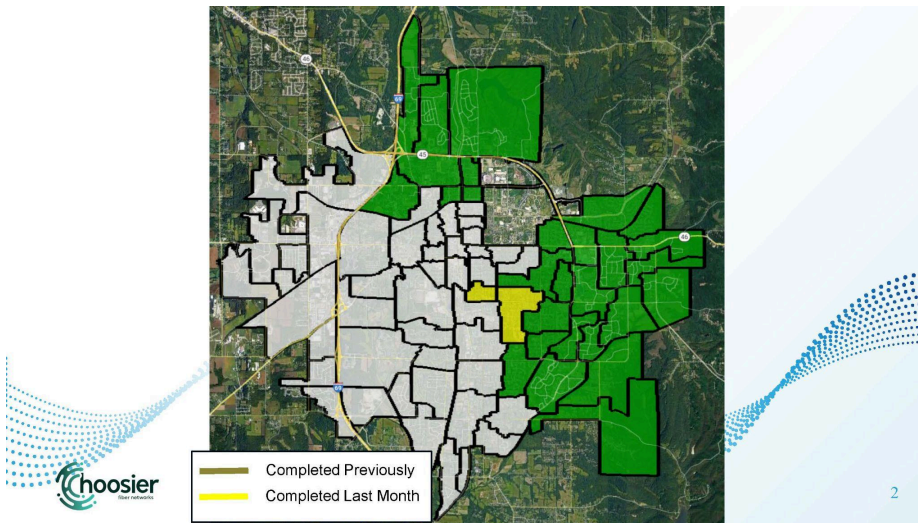
Memorandum prepared by:
Victoria Jones

Hoosier Fiber Side Presentation

Hoosier Fiber Slide 1

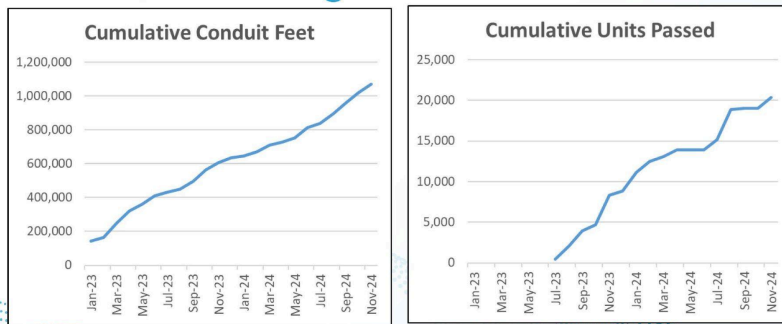


Hoosier Fiber Slide 2



Hoosier Fiber Slide 3

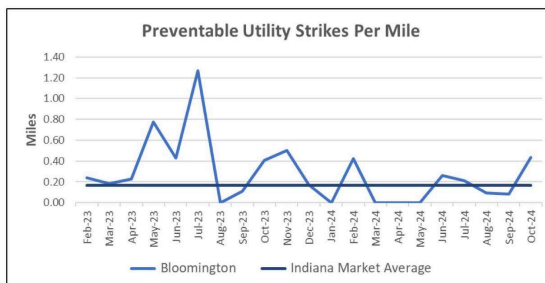
Construction Progress



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Hoosier Fiber Slide 4

Right of Way Activity



November Incidents

Utility – 8

- Gas – 1
- Water – 1
- Sewer – 6 (3 contractor fault)

Restoration – 13

ROW – 2

Other – 1



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