



July 8, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TWB-204
Re: Notice of Ex Parte Presentation
CC Docket 09-51
CC Docket 10-66

Dear Ms. Dortch,

This is to confirm a meeting on July 2, 2010 at the FCC offices between myself, co-founder and principal of Digital Village Associates, a California consulting firm, FCC Commissioner Copps and Jennifer Schneider, Legal Advisor, Office of Commissioner Copps on the key role of libraries and other community anchor institutions in the implementation of the goals of the National Broadband Plan.

We reaffirmed our assertion that the “Fiber to the Library” (FTTL) goal of delivering next generation broadband to all 16,500 public libraries would achieve NBP Goal #4 more quickly, economically and equitably than any other proposed project. FTTL would best serve to both rapidly extend the nation’s physical network infrastructure, particularly into unserved rural communities, while also stimulating demand for next generation broadband in every community and neighborhood market.

Uniquely, public libraries provide free and open environments for hands-on experience of the widest array of high-speed internet based applications and information. We pointed to a recent University of Washington study reporting that in 2009, seventy-seven million people accessed the internet at libraries for employment, health and education. (see <http://ischool.uw.edu/events/headlines.aspx?id=1853>)

Most of the rationales for seeking to leverage next generation broadband deployment at libraries also apply to other priority community anchor institutions such as schools, health facilities, community colleges, etc. by extending middle mile infrastructure deeper into more neighborhoods and closer to more homes and offices. The recent FCC ruling to allow e-rate supported school broadband to be available for community use after-hours is an important step toward enhancing community connectivity and increasing local BB market adoption.

These educational, institutional and market development priorities were the basis for the establishment of and our involvement in the Schools, Hospitals and Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition, established in June of 2009. The SHLB Coalition has since become the nation's leading advocate for anchor institution-centric BB deployment strategies. (see http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/june2009/broadband_wo.cfm)

We further advised Commissioner Copps about the ongoing progress of and SHLB's role in the establishment a national "Unified Community Anchor Network" (UCAN) and the recently announced award of a BTOP grant for "US-UCAN" to build and acquire long haul internet backbone resources to support delivery of faster, more reliable and value-added broadband services to community anchor institutions.

A new UCAN organization will be able offer many benefits to anchor institutions who need more than simple connectivity at lower costs. Our view is that the best example of value added network services is in support of learning and research, from institutional to personal. From the K-20 initiative which seeks to integrate wider research and educational resources across formal institutional structures to the needs of self directed individuals pursuing information and learning opportunities at libraries and community colleges. Libraries serve the informational and educational needs of life long learners from pre-schoolers to seniors as well as those of students after school hours or in home school programs. In word, anyone.

The FTTL concept and the broader SHLB Coalition advocacy for connecting all community anchors is an optimal approach in helping local communities better understand their responsibility to pursue formal telecom infrastructure deployment strategies through whatever combination of technologies and business models and in the service of whatever local policy priorities each community deems appropriate. This local planning responsibility is championed in the Community TeleStructure Initiative. (see <http://telestructure.com>)

We also reiterated our support for the view that infrastructure development generally should remain at the heart of economic recovery / reinvestment and that the telecom infrastructure specifically will naturally emerge as the "nervous system" or "intelligence platform" for all infrastructure elements: power, water, transportation, etc. So-called "smart" infrastructures rely on embedded information systems requiring telecom services, thus creating a kind of de facto "meta infrastructure" that will be increasingly woven through all infrastructure components to maximize efficiency and productivity in the nation's ongoing annual expenditure of approx. 2.5% GDP (per CBO estimates) for infrastructure development and lifetime support.

Best regards,

/s/

Don Means
Principal

cc: Jennifer Schneider