



TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Milton Dohoney Jr., City Administrator

CC: John Fournier, Deputy City Administrator
Tom Shewchuk, ITSD Director

SUBJECT: November 21, 2022 Council Agenda Responses

DATE: November 17, 2022

DS-1 – Resolution to Authorize Access by Commercial Users to the City of Ann Arbor’s Fiber Optic Network

Question: The fiber network will be maintained through a combination of IT staff and contractors. Is there any estimate yet regarding the balance between these? (Councilmember Disch)

Response: Contractors will provide 100% of on-demand maintenance and repair of the fiber network, design/planning of new fiber network segments, and the construction of new segments. These professional services are required as the City does not possess the resources needed.

Question: I'm interested in a rough estimate (if known) regarding what proportion of the work will need to be contracted out and what proportion can be covered by existing on-payroll expertise? (Councilmember Disch)

Response: City IT staff will monitor the fiber network, respond to connection issues, administer RFP's for design/planning and construction, provide project management for design/planning and construction, contract administration, and provide marketing/outreach/promotional activities related to the fiber network.

Question: The City decided to adopt a pricing model that does not charge commercial users an upfront fee: does this pricing model carry potential benefits for Ann Arbor

residents? Might it reduce internet access costs for Ann Arbor residents who may soon have additional options for ISPs? (Councilmember Disch)

Response: There are potential benefits for our residents if ISP's choose to utilize the fiber. It will promote competition and in theory affect affordability. The fiber will have other benefits for residents such as Public Wi-Fi and the use of sensor technology to replace aging infrastructure and obtain data related to the environment, pedestrian traffic, pavement conditions, traffic control, mobility, etc. This data will be used to make informed business decisions and provide better services to the community.