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# ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## RFP - DF - 02 - 18 - 21 CITYWIDE BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

*On February 3, 2021 the City of Victoria hosted an optional pre-proposal conference with more than 70 participants. During the conference, only one question was received. However, after that time, several other questions were submitted by email. The text below contains a listing of those questions and relevant answers.*

*Please submit any additional questions or feedback to [dferrrell@victoriatx.gov](mailto:dferrrell@victoriatx.gov).*



### DEADLINE EXTENSION

*In the interest of allowing respondents to make any adjustments necessary based on these questions or information gained during the pre-proposal, we have elected to extend the submission deadline to **Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 1:00 PM**.*

1. Do you have any specific locations that could be identified for addressing purposes?

*Our goal is citywide coverage but may not necessarily be interested in citywide free WiFi. The areas we would be most interested in publicly available WiFi would be in City parks and in Downtown Victoria. As it relates to infrastructure, the locations of water towers and other relevant points of interest to a respondent are available on the City's GIS map.*

2. The RFP mentions FirstNet and 5G, is the City open to additional technologies like CBRS and other SmartCity initiatives.

*Yes. The City encourages the use of SmartCity initiatives. We currently utilize connected traffic cameras and automated water meter reading systems in our inventory of connected devices. Further, one of the primary drivers of this program is the connectivity needed by our schools. Utilizing CBRS or other technology to make an open-access network available for the schools, hospitals or other essential services would be encouraged.*

3. The RFP and the Pre-Proposal Conference include references to a broader regional solution in addition to the City-specific solution. How will the Broadband

Commission weight the merits of a City solution versus a regional solution especially if there is a difference in end user experience and technology employed.

*The City will make select a development partner that will primarily meet the needs existing within the political boundaries of the City because we have no authority to make commitments for outside entities. However, this project is undertaken in the spirit of regional collaboration. Ultimately the review of proposals and recommendation for a partnership will be made by the Victoria Broadband Commission, which includes representatives from throughout the region.*

*The City Council will make the final selection with the best interest of the City of Victoria in mind, but the recommendation of the Victoria Broadband Commission will be a large factor in that decision.*

4. What is the timeline for either accepting a respondent or rejecting all in relation to the February 18<sup>th</sup> submission date? Is it 120 calendar days or roughly June 18<sup>th</sup>? What timeline to you have for actual implementation of the actual solution?

*This answer is dependent on many variables. Our intention is to move quickly and aggressively both with the selection of a development partner and with the implementation of an improvement. As noted above, to accommodate the inclusion of this information in responses, we have extended the deadline to March 4, 2021. We would still anticipate all interviews and recommendations to be concluded shortly thereafter. Following discussions with the recommended development partner, Staff anticipates making a recommendation for award to the City Council less than 120 days after the submission deadline.*

*The timeline for implementation of the proposed solution will be heavily dependent on the proposed solution. We would anticipate the execution of a partnership agreement and the issuance of a notice to proceed to occur in tandem.*

5. On your slide titled Why Should We Partner with You, is the City/Region suggesting improvement for ROW and permitting as a process or are you saying one provider will be treated under more favorable terms than all other providers?

*The statement on the Why Should We Partner With You slide is*

*“Through a partnership with the City of Victoria, we can assist with use of ROW, any necessary permitting, and other areas that may otherwise cost you time and/or money. We will also serve to facilitate relationships in the City and the region.”*

*This statement is intended to imply that the details normally negotiated through franchise (permitting, easement, City land and/or asset use, and rights-of-way) agreements will be incorporated into the partnership agreement that results from this process. While the Public Utilities Commission does have regulatory authority over cable franchises in Texas,*

they have insisted that control over the public right-of-way remains with the local authorities. This is likely to result in savings in both time and expense for the development partner.

6. On the attachments to the RFP is an Agreement. Do you expect each submitter to execute the contract prior to the selection process? This is more for reference, correct?

The General Terms and Conditions attached to the RFP are intended for reference and may be subject to negotiations with the selected development partner, where allowed by law.

7. Is there an estimated cost for the Citywide Broadband Improvement Program?

There is not currently an estimated cost for the Citywide Broadband Improvement Program. There are many potential solutions to our problems of access and availability and many strategies for arriving at each of them. We have asked respondents to provide their best solution to the problems we face, which is essentially like handing a blank canvas to a potential development partner. As such, we anticipate a wide variety of costs associated with each proposal as well as a litany of funding mechanisms with each option.

8. Will the presentation shown during the pre-proposal conference be provided?

Yes. The presentation shown during the pre-proposal conference is available online at [www.victoriatx.gov/broadband](http://www.victoriatx.gov/broadband).

9. How many residences, commercial and public entities in Victoria, TX exist representing the total number of potential targets to be served with enhanced broadband?

From the Certified Tax Roll (July 2020) provided by the Victoria County Appraisal District

State Code	Description	Count
a	Single Family Residence	19,587
b	Multifamily Residence	593
c1	Vacant Lot	1,614
d1	Qualified Open-space Land (agricultural or timber)	250
d2	Farm and Ranch Improvements on Qualified Open-space Land	27
E	Rural Land, not Qualified for Open-space Appraisal, and Resd. Improv.	171
f1	Commercial Real Property	2,043
f2	Industrial and Manufacturing Real Property	46
g1	Oil and Gas	9
j2	Gas Distribution System	2

j3	Electric Company	36
j4	Telephone Company	14
j5	Railroad	32
j6	Pipelnd Company	20
j7	Cable Television Company	6
j8	Other Type of Utilities	4
l1	Commercial Personal Property	3,701
l2	Industrial Personal Propety	360
m1	Mobile Homes and other Tangible Personal Property	666
o	Residential real property held as Inventory - Developers	179
s	Special Inventory - i.e. vehicles, Heavy equipment, boats/motors, housing inventory	79
x	Total Exempt Property - i.e. VISD, COV, VC,	1,105
<b>Total</b>		<b>30,544</b>

10. Of this total list how many are completely unserved, if any?

*The City has not conducted any research to determine, or estimate, the number of households unserved by the Internet or those unserved by broadband ("broadband" defined by the FCC as 25 Mbps download by 3 Mbps upload).*

11. How many entities are unserved (100/10)?

*The City has not conducted any research to determine, or estimate, the number of households unserved at 100 Mbps x 10 Mbps.*

12. What is the number of commercial entities without broadband (100/10)?

*The City has not conducted any research to determine, or estimate, the number of commercial entities without broadband at 100 Mbps x 10 Mbps.*

13. What is the number of healthcare institution needing broadband (100/10)?

*The City has not conducted any research to determine, or estimate, the number of healthcare institutions needing broadband at 100 Mbps x 10 Mbps.*

14. In looking at the ConnectedNation interactive map, there is no definition of the "unserved areas" for 100/10, is this something that can be added to the interactive map? Or is this information available in some format?

*The areas illustrated as unserved, with speeds of 100 Mbps x 10 Mbps, represent geographic locations where the broadband providers did not indicate service at speeds of 100 Mbps x 10 Mbps and, if such data was not provided to Connected Nation, the*

areas depicted were void of such service as reported to the Federal Communications Commission (under FCC Form 477).

15. In looking at the City of Victoria GIS Map it is difficult to determine how many entities have Optical Fiber to the home, can you supply this information?

*We do not currently have information about who supplies Fiber to the home. In the instances where this is provided, it is done so by private companies who have no obligation to share this information with the City.*

16. Can you supply a list of all current internet providers in the City of Victoria?

*Based on the combination of data supplied to Connected Nation and information gleaned from FCC Form 477, the list includes:*

- Comcast Cable Communications, LLC
- Dell Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- EnTouch Systems, Inc.
- GHz Communications, Inc.
- Gtek Computers & Wireless, LLC
- Rise Broadband
- Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, LP (AT&T)
- Sparklight
- Suddenlink Communications
- TISD, Inc.
- Victoria Electric.

17. What is your view of how the City of Victoria would like the Implementation Strategy Phase of the RFP response to take into account the Evaluation and Feasibility phases of the project? Information from Phase 1 and Phase 2 will shape and likely modify the scope and approach of implementation.

*We fully anticipate that implementation may change based upon information gathered during Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the process. Our expectation is that respondents provide some discussion of strategies for implementing their recommended solutions including funding models, business continuity planning, intended roles and responsibilities, and construction methods or needs. Many of the fundamental elements of implementation may be similar to strategies employed elsewhere, and we fully expect this portion of the proposal to be adaptable to the unique needs of our community and/or region.*