

8 Recommendations

Based on Civitium's findings during this planning process, we recommend the City take the following course of action to achieve its stated objectives.

- Support and pursue the overall objectives and community motivations as stated in Section 2.3, Stakeholder Interview Analysis Summary. Also, support the policy goals as stated in Section 2.4, Broadband Policy.
- Consistent with Colorado Senate Bill 152⁶, enacted in 2005, adopt the public-private partnership business model whereby the City acts as facilitator to attract a private-sector company, or group of companies to fund, design, deploy, own and operate a community-wide wireless broadband network, using City assets, such as street lights, towers and municipal buildings.
- Develop and issue a Request for Proposal to solicit expressions of interest and proposals from private sector companies. Based on Civitium's experience working with other communities, we believe an RFP issued by the City that has fully addressed all recommendations in this section would result in multiple competitive and diverse proposals.
- Develop a communications strategy in parallel with the RFP. It is not uncommon for municipal broadband initiatives to draw strong opposition from certain stakeholder groups, such as competitive service providers. Therefore, a communications strategy that gets out in front of anticipated opposition will be critical in order to properly educate and inform the public, the City Council and other stakeholders.
- Determine jurisdiction over the individual assets identified on the Assets Map and facilitate agreements to use such assets, and identify power supplier where such assets are powered.
- Continue targeted stakeholder involvement throughout the process including representatives from public safety, public transportation, chamber of commerce, legal, procurement, press office, school board/district, social services, community not-for-profit agencies, economic/community development, tourism/visitor bureau and utility/energy providers.
- Establish a forum for community input, which may be accomplished through public meetings/hearings or other available mechanisms. Providing a forum for general public input can result in valuable data being collected and can be critical to position this as a community-centric initiative instead of a City-centric project.
- Continue discussions with CWC cities to identify the appropriate collaborative role for the City of Lakewood relative to the CWC initiative briefly described in Section 1.

⁶http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics2005a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/FA216226F45192FE87256F41007B483C?open&file=152_01.pdf

9 Conclusion

Consistent with its stated intent, the City has diligently studied the feasibility of deploying a community wireless broadband network to meet the following validated key objectives: 1) Economic Development; 2) Efficient Government; and 3) Social Inclusion.

Civitium assisted the City in this process by conducting a comprehensive planning process that has identified the information necessary to successfully manage a municipal wireless broadband initiative, including overall requirements, methodologies and timelines. Civitium applauds the City of Lakewood for its vision and finds it well poised to pursue its objectives through a competitive procurement process aimed at securing private partner(s) to build, own and operate a City-wide wireless broadband network.

Based on the findings of this report, Civitium recommends that the City take all steps identified in Section 6 above, including “Develop and issue a Request for Proposals to solicit expressions of interest and proposals from private sector companies.”

Now, imagine a community where anyone can be connected, anywhere, anytime and on any standard device, sharing information and content freely, securely and accurately. A community where businesses can reach their customers more efficiently, broadband is more affordable, tourists can quickly and easily integrate into the community and city agencies can efficiently serve their constituents.

Now, imagine this connected community is the City of Lakewood and the greater CWC region.