

## **Notes on Working Group Presentations -**

### **Session 1 - Wireless State of the Cities**

Dan Westacott -

Implementing wireless in a metro area. City's roles. What are pieces that matter? Is this a way to lower cost? Reach redline districts? Balance of family, economics, reduce costs. Why different from stock utilities? Why different from franchise? Mesh tech just a few years old. As a utility it's difficult because utilities have huge area to cover. WiFi isn't like cable or telephone. It's like its own animal. Closer to commodity. People looking for access or mobility? Choose when you do implementations. Problems of small space. Justifying case to vendor. % of penetration: 40% buy-in rate is just crazy high sales rate. Legal barriers, lots of competing interests. Not so much the technology but what you're going to do with it. State is chaos. Being divided by the vendors. McDonald's WiFi in parking lot, windshield warriors. Kids hanging out in parking lot. Japan at 150 Mbps DSL. Calling China from the parking lot.

### **Session 2 - Legal and Legislative**

Dan Donnelly -Needs to be major revision of Telecom Act of 1996. Echoing Adrian's call for fairness, equity in infrastructure and revenue streams. Tension between public interest and private goods. Balance is called for. Look at it as a utility? Requires new legislation. WiFi is information service, unregulated. Unlicensed spectrum. May be doubtful using WiFi for mission critical services. Do cities want to be set up for these problems due to lack of signal or unprotected data? Wide range of lawsuits possible. Is broadband a right? Universal service? Is WiFi a basic service or additional service (like cell phones). Shortens loop for capturing and uploading files. Should signals be blocked at concerts? What consumer rights will have to be built in?

### **Session 3 - Bridging the Digital Divide**

Kim Broady, Greg Cohen - Is broadband access a right? Increases the divide? How would affect someone if lower income and dial-up available? Probably little impact if you have no computer. Middle class with access, can take more advantage of WiFi. Implementation of cloud is an opportunity to participate in a conversation. Everyone will talk about this. So we can fight for a seat at the table. Bidders have to pay attention to closing the divide. Making technology apparent on the street, seeing people one the street using it in simple transactions raised the profile of that technology. Visibility goes up and impacts motivation. If trying to close the digital divide, how? Mobile lab? Local resource in neighborhood? More visible opportunities as we go forward. Other opportunity: lack of funds to by your own is an issue, but even having labs and CTCs won't make them use the access. Beneficial to know what your child is doing in school? This may be a leverage - checking on homework, teachers' reports, going online for info on school meetings. Identify specific internet skills they need. Specific needs. Moving forward - benchmarking and best practices. Get sense of what an excellent city looks like. What are their marks of

excellence. How do they close the gap? What interventions most effective moving from one side of the divide to another? Community benefits agreement. Get commitment at the table, calling out visible benefits into the structure of the wireless plan. Finally NGO necessary. Issues are so complex, immigrant population, elder population, government, industry. Needs outside group to navigate that. Crimes end up happening where neighbors don't know each other. Connect neighbors to each other. Sense of community would benefit. Power of a teenage becoming a tremendously valuable technology resource in the neighborhood.

### **Sessions 4&5 - Wireless Arts and Culture / Social Networks - combined**

If going to do this, rather than doing more of what we now do, find ways that are completely different, adding to lives of citizens. Big value is connecting people. Having artists connect with each other. Extends creative reach. Artwork that already exists, extending it. Because you're connecting people that has impact on civic nature of the conversations. Making sure that that happens. More democratic. How to move it forward. Expanded use of the Internet. Create infrastructure for tools that support people. New social norms need to be negotiated. Dealing with laptop users in meeting that are multitasking. It's about change. that addresses social, cultural issues. RFPs that go out - asking to address digital divide issues, what support will be there in the community? Leader of neighborhood association, block party leader, etc. Engaging them as change agents. Who will bring the laptop to the block party? Helping communities understand each other. Wayne's talk was about performance tools, creative uses of technology. Understanding the values people have about technology. Some believe technology controls us. But we don't have to act certain ways. New rules, new public discussions about art. Renegotiating social norms.