

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Wireless Cities ... Communities of Interests Conference

Presentation Title
City of St. Paul
Broadband Advisory Committee
(BAC)

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Date

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Origins of St. Paul BAC

- 2006 (BITS) study
- Small phone survey of public
- Major findings suggest that enhanced broadband will bring about opportunities to:
 - Improve affordability of “basic broadband”
 - Make mobile broadband available throughout the city
 - Improve fiber infrastructure to deliver high speed capacity
 - Improve city service delivery with enhanced broadband capability.

Role of the BAC



- BAC was given a charter by the St. Paul City Council to:
 1. Create criteria on which to judge the RFI submittals;
 2. Evaluate the RFI submittals on behalf of the City of St. Paul to make recommendations for the City to consider; and,
 3. Examine, in conjunction with the RFI process, broadband ownership options including municipal ownership and a private/public partnership and to recommend to the City which option to select.

Process of the BAC



- BAC was convened July 2006.
- Total of 20 members from various sectors in St. Paul, including representatives from:
 - Public schools
 - Private colleges
 - Social service non profit agencies
 - Business owners
- Members of the committee have had a variety of experience with broadband issues.

BAC Visioning



- Residential and Business Subcommittees created; started visioning process.
- For residential subcommittee vision was that the City of St. Paul would be the most connected city in the US.
- Used a problem statement that there are clear benefits to those that have broadband access and understand its use.

BAC Residential Subcommittee



- Solicited input from a focus group of social service providers in mid-October since they are a subgroup of stakeholders.
- Focus group spoke about the need for affordable broadband and awareness of the importance of broadband.
- Also spoke about broadband challenges as non-profits.

Current BAC Progress



- Both committees reconvened and presented vision to Mayor Coleman and a few City Council members on January 9, 2007.
- BAC decided to move forward with plan and split into two new subcommittees
 - Long Term Broadband
 - Wireless Pilots
 - Invest St. Paul
 - RNC Convention

Community Input



- Individual residential input has been limited thus far; role of BAC to address part of this issue.
- Moving forward, especially with wireless pilots there will be a need to bring community members in on the progress.
- There are ongoing efforts in communities already, need to tap into them and bring them in as partners on the process.

Learnings from BAC to Date



- Initial purpose of the committee changed
- Time
- Personal benefits

Questions?



- Thank you!