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MEMORANDUM

Date: April 27, 2016

To: Mayor and City Councilmembers

From: SeonAh Kendall, Economic Health Manager *SK*

Through: Darin Atteberry, City Manager *DA*
Mike Beckstead, Chief Financial Officer *JAB on behalf of MB*

Re: April 26, 2016 Work Session Summary – Broadband Market Demand Study Overview

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Wade Troxell, Mayor Pro Tem Gerry Horak, Gino Campana, Ross Cunniff, Kristen Stephens and Ray Martinez

STAFF PRESENT:

Mike Beckstead, SeonAh Kendall, Clint Reetz, David Young, David Turner, Tim McCollough and Ginny Sawyer

Staff provided the following review:

- Overview of the Broadband Market Demand Study Findings.
- Timeline for deliverables in 2016, including work session topics.
- Overview of the Citizen Ad-Hoc Committee and Expert Review Panel.
- Summary of emerging technologies and the potential impact to the Broadband Strategic Plan.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

- Reviewed overall work to date and provided details on existing and emerging technologies including discussion on symmetrical (same upload, download speeds) systems on a fiber system.
- Reiterated overall goal of the City's broadband plan is to improve high-speed, reliable Internet access for the community at an affordable price.
- Discussion around being cautious in the exploration of the project to mitigate risks. Examples of safeguards included sensitivity analysis in the financial modeling, the broadband expert review panel, conservative assumptions and Uptown Services.

- Questions related to DOCSIS 3.1 and emerging technologies impact to the City project were discussed. Staff will continue to study and monitor as the national rollout occurs and provide Council with an update.
- Council suggested that staff and Uptown Services benchmark against other University Cities.
- Overall agreement that project is on track.

FOLLOW UP:

- Questions arose to whether or not the City should be adding conduit during Utilities current infrastructure improvements. Utility staff will provide a separate memorandum after investigating possible cost, legal constraints and timing.
- Council requested confirmation and background for the Market Study finding stating that 99% of Fort Collins residents have Internet access (with a 95% confidence and 4.9% sample error). Uptown Services and City staff reviewed the market data and 3 respondents out of 400 in the residential survey stated that they did not have Internet access in their household. The three respondents self-identified between the age of 45 – 54 years of age and with an annual income below \$50,000. City staff will also follow up with the Expert Review Panel to discuss how other communities are verifying Internet access in their communities.

NEXT STEPS FOR STAFF:

- Continue public involvement through multiple channels of communication including the Citizen Ad-Hoc Committee.
- Engage with consultant on Feasibility Analysis, SWOT Analysis and the Broadband Plan Recommendation.
- Update City Council on August 23, 2016.