



March 7, 2007

City of Milwaukee
Common Council – Steering and Rules Committee

RE: Status of Milwaukee Wireless Project

With respect for your upcoming session on March 8th to review the status of the Milwaukee Wireless Project, we felt it important to contribute feedback on the progress. As you are aware, Midwest Fiber Networks signed a Facilities Use and License Agreement on June 30, 2006. At that time, the City Comptroller investigated private activity rules and the final Agreement was executed in September 2006.

The mutual objectives of this endeavor continue to be:

- Full City Coverage of viable broadband, wireless Internet Access
- Cost effective broadband Internet Access
- Increased technological access for business and tourism uses
- Expedited deployment to put Milwaukee in a position to be a major market with this new technology

After having spent the last six months working through the logistics of the Demonstration Area, as required by the original Agreement, all parties have found this project to be far more complex than anticipated.

There are a few issues that continue to be on the forefront of needing resolution, which include, but are not limited to:

- Private Use Agreements
- Power use on the poles
- The Permit process

MWFN remains committed to the Milwaukee Wireless project; however, it will take commitment by all involved parties to bring it to fruition. Evidence of our commitment was the introduction of our anchor tenant to the Mayor and his staff

and the subsequent commitment of the tenant in making Milwaukee the model for others to follow. Further, MWFN and Cisco met with Jeff Mantes and his managers last Tuesday (3/6) to overview how the network will help them improve or enhance current City process and procedures and offer new ideas and applications. The meeting was very positive, informative and well received. In addition, we continue to meet with all the various City agencies in streamlining the processes.

We Energies continues to show their commitment as well. They have gone above and beyond expectations to complete the initial phase of the project by making available the necessary resources, tracking mechanisms and by following project specific, pre-established procedures.

What MWFN is asking for is assistance from the Aldermen to assist in streamlining the processes and procedures as we continue implementation of the Demonstration Area. The Wireless project is something entirely new and therefore doesn't fit into the standards established by the City years ago.

To reiterate, MWFN and its partners remain fully committed to this project and its success.

Attachment for reference:

Map of the Demonstration Area.

