

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

## TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Attendees: Michael Keegan (Chair, Hermosa Beach), Susan Dever (Lomita), Carl Jacobson (El Segundo), Michael Earl (Hermosa Beach), Norman Thorn (El Segundo), Maggie Healy (Redondo Beach), Francisco Contreras (Lomita), Jenny Gough & Ernest Gallo (Torrance), Teresa Takaoka (Rancho Palos Verdes), Peter Wilt & Dave Guttmann (L.A. County Sanitation Districts), Jacki Bacharach & Wally Siembab (SBCCOG)  
Guests: Gerry Winter, Ellen Blunt, Eugene Eng & Francisco Uribe (Verizon), Burt Walker, Steve Blasingame & Kevin Conklin (Decisions Studies Group), Brenda Trainor (FrontierTrail, Inc.)

- I. **Receive and file the report of posting by City Clerk of Agenda – *NO QUORUM – 3 electeds***
- II. **Public Comment - *NONE***
- III. **Minutes from February 8, 2005 meeting (*attached*) – *No comments, no quorum***
- IV. **Verizon Update on Fiber Upgrade in the South Bay – *Francisco Uribe made the presentation. In the future, cable franchise would be required for video services when they are ready to provide such service. New communities are getting fiber, not copper. This is an overlay project – over the existing copper conduit. They are installing to the curb/property line and when the service is ordered, they make the connection. 5 days from service order to getting the service. Only requires them to get permits once. Cable companies providing voice and internet – this makes them all competitive. Verizon is only company of its type that have made this commitment. Attractive economic development opportunity for community. Added franchise fees for cities. More competition. They would include the local government channel. Want to work collaboratively with cities. Now there is a distinction between franchises to provide the services, not for construction. Issue of Title II or Title VI. This is a franchise to provide services. Working currently to bring this service to entire city of Hermosa, and ca. 99% Redondo, Manhattan Beaches and Palos Verdes Peninsula. Rest of South Bay is SBC. Hope to do all of California by 2008 of Verizon's service area. Not allowed to pull out the fiber per the PUC and federal mandate. They are mandated to maintain a copper network and be available for lease. Fiber enhances, doesn't replace. Would continue to provide both services.***

*Response to Siembab questions: 1) Verizon is developing a map for South Bay and DSL penetration to get to us. 2) Also, what would the penetration, services and rates for franchise fees be? He doesn't know if the last is available – would be in franchise negotiation – also in the early stages of their planning. 3) What is the connection to economic development? Any studies available? Response – keeps companies from moving.*

*Don't service Lomita, Torrance or Lawndale. They will pursue fertile areas first – marketing decisions. Look to increase competition in a community. This project targets the home. Don't intend to go into SBC territory. Want quick successes first.*

- V. FTTH Feasibility - Another Perspective:** *Decision Systems Group - Burt Walker & Steve Blasingame made the presentation. 3 components to be provided today – voice, data, video. Phone companies provide voice and data. Cable companies provide video and data. Each trying to provide the third. Whoever owns the fiber doesn't have to come under federal guidelines to share the fiber. Therefore, must be cautious before permits granted. Need to establish policies and understand issues before proceeding. Bandwidth, services & access are the 3 critical components. Goals should be: universal service availability (for public safety, health care, education opportunities); open to qualified service providers, high bandwidth, open, non-proprietary architecture, carrier class. Fiber costs less to maintain.*

*3 economic models for municipalities to consider: wholesale only (sells bits) – probably predictable but lower revenues; retail only (control end customer) – more risk and expensive to implement and operational complexity; blended model (provides appropriate content, i.e. medical and wholesales capacity). They do feasibility studies re: this. (Cost would be between \$50,000 to \$100,000 for the South Bay) Goal – work with service providers to get the broadest benefits to the community. They are advocates for the community. Keegan will get the presentation for distribution.*

*Dynamic City is wholesale model approach. Decisions Studies Group provides economic analysis before an approach is selected.*

*Maggie Healy – concern is competition. Constituents want that. Verizon says they are actually bringing competition with the cable companies.*

## **VI. Brief Updates**

■ *Commercial Real Estate Web Site – GIS Working Group is working on data needs. Will check with the South Bay Economic Development Partnership.*

**B. SBCCOG Web Site – hits report - tabled**

■ *Traffic Alert Web Site – Utility enhancement going to test phase probably next week.*

■ **ADD GIS WORKING GROUP UPDATE TO AGENDA**

## **VII. Other Business**

■ *March 11 PUC meeting – Wally to monitor by phone*

■ *Articles distributed discussed – one said that the cities and the carriers should be building the networks together so that the content isn't owned by the carrier and the network is open. Need legislation for this.*

## **VIII. Summary of Today's Discussion**

### **A. Determine next steps**

#### **B. Letter to the League of Cities – Keegan drafting it. Issue of open networks.**

- *Develop RFP for feasibility study for a city with SBCCOG subsidizing the cost. First go to Steering Committee – April. Then, presentation on April Board meeting and vote. Clear statement of what benefits for our cities. Workshop before the Board meeting – April.*
- *Look at other initiatives that the bandwidth can provide: Distance education, e-government, medical facilities – Wally will present @ next Technology Committee meeting*
- *Promote attendance to these meetings*

## **IX. Adjourn to Tuesday, April 12, 2005**