Spring Newsletter 2020

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

As our nation, state, and local communities work through the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, work on the South Bay Fiber Network moved forward. Seen as an "essential" utility, American Dark Fiber and its sub-contractors, HP Communications and Race Communications, continue their work, to complete the South Bay Cities Council of Governments' work orders for the construction of the "core ring" and connection of the first of group of charter cities and agency members to the network.

WELCOME TO THE NETWORK!

On April 2nd, the City of El Segundo became the very first of the 15 South Bay cities to connect to the SBFN! Taking advantage of the great pricing for IT service, the City signed on for 10 GB rather than just 1 GB. City staff stated that "It was too good a deal not to sign-up for the extra bandwidth."

Interestingly, not a shovel of dirt was lifted to make this happen. Rather, it was as simple "cross-connect" at Equinix (one of the two South Bay Fiber Network's Point of Presence "POP"). Said, Mark Hines, the ADF engineer who helped plug in El Segundo, "it was as simple as pulling fiber from one box to another."

CONSTRUCTION STATUS

Shovels are in the ground and the permitting and construction of the network is well underway. HP Communications reports that 100% of permits for Phase 1 of the project have been secured and approximately 50% of permits for the second phase are in-hand.

HP Teams are working safely and fast to complete all the right of way builds followed by lateral connections to the SBFN sites. The "core ring" that is the backbone of the network will be operational in May and the first group of city and agency laterals will all be operational by early July.

CONNECTION STATUS

To date, 15 cities and 6 additional public entities have committed to becoming the first SBFN members. Anticipation, to join El Segundo, as a member of the new network, continues as each city and agency works through their budget and approval process to complete their respective service level agreements with Race Communications—the SBFN's Internet Service Provider. The initial milestone for a sustainable network depends on participation of all network members signing up for internet service. Presently, nine contracts have been signed for a total of $13,500 towards the network's monthly revenue goals — well on the way towards the total SBCCOG goal of $35,000 per month service contracts.

As Race continues its outreach efforts and support of each agency's service contract process it also continues its work to schedule and deploy the IT equipment at each site location. This new hardware will "light" the circuits that will connect SBFN members to the network. With equipment deployed and signed service contracts in-hand, we can expect a rolling wave of lateral connections— beginning in May through early July—connecting members to the SBFN across the South Bay.

For more information on the South Bay Fiber Network please contact: Aaron Baum, SBFN Program Manager aaron@southbaycities.org or 310 371-7222

COVID-19 UPDATE

While our South Bay communities "shelter safely" at home, work on the SBFN continues. Telecommunications projects, like this one, are considered as an "essential" service which makes sense given the extraordinary IT capacity needed for city workers and local residents to efficiently work from home. Working under these emergency conditions requires, as Nick Goldman, President of HP Communications says, "a safety first mentality." You can be sure that our SBFN work crews are doing their best to keep safe by wearing masks and working at safe distances from one another.

APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENTS

Connection to the SBFN offers a new digital era for cities and public agencies. Opportunities for "Digital Innovation" are in development and the SBCCOG is leading the way. Come this summer, SBFN members can look forward to "IT Lunch & Learn" forums as well as the roll-out of first network applications: Metro's Regional Integration of Intelligent Transportation system (RIITS) and Los Angeles County's Information Exchange Network for Traffic Control (IEN) program.