

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 25, 2020

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Update of Request for Developer Interest (RDI) and Digital Divide Streetlight Pilot Projects**

Background

As briefed to the City Council on August 5, 2020 and the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Recovery and Assistance on October 15, 2020, working with several City departments including the City Attorney's Office, Transportation, Information and Technology Services, the offices of Resilience and Integrated Public Safety Solutions, and the Department of Public Works has been leading an effort to solicit requests for developer interest (RDI) to design and construct a citywide telecommunications fiber or wireless broadband network that would support City information technology needs as well as bridging the digital divide.

After receiving ten (10) RDI proposals by the deadline of September 3, 2020, it became apparent that there were opportunities to utilize CARES Act funding, which needs to be expended before December 30, 2020, and City staff decided to take a phased approach to the RDI proposals. Phase I of the RDI proposals is focused on ten (10) projects in areas with low access to the internet and that need to be in place within the end of calendar year 2020 while Phase II of the RDI proposals will implement longer-termed projects, with an emphasis on citywide deployment, beginning in calendar year 2021.

In parallel with the projects associated with Phase I of the RDI, the multi-departmental team has also identified ten (10) streetlighting pilot projects that will provide Wi-Fi to the homes on the selected residential blocks. While the focus of the ten (10) streetlight and Wi-Fi projects remained on areas with limited access to the internet, staff strategically selected projects that also fell either within priority zones of the Mayor's Safety Task Force or in strategic lighting zones which take into account factors such as the Market Value Analysis or areas of racial and ethnically concentrated poverty.

Given the brief background, this memo will expand upon the following efforts:

Program	Number of Projects	Program Description
Phase I of RDI	10	Utilizing CARES Act funding by December 30, 2020, staff is working with the selected vendor to install telecommunications equipment to provide Wi-Fi to residents on the selected blocks in areas with low internet access.

DATE November 25, 2020

SUBJECT **Update of Request for Developer Interest (RDI) and Digital Divide Streetlight Pilot Projects**

Program	Number of Projects	Program Description
Phase II of RDI	TBD	Staff is evaluating RDI proposals to determine the best value to the City for citywide deployment of a fiber or wireless broadband network. Recommended agreements, with little to no cost to the City, will be brought forward for City Council consideration in early 2021.
Streetlight/Wi-Fi Pilot Projects	10	Utilizing CARES Act funding by December 30, 2020, staff is working to install streetlights and telecommunications fiber and equipment to provide Wi-Fi to residents on the selected blocks in areas with low internet access and areas identified by the Mayor's Safety Task Force or Strategic Lighting Zones.

Phased Approach of RDI Proposals

Phase I of RDI Proposals

After evaluating the RDI proposals, it was decided to move forward with two phases of entering into agreements with the selected proposers. As part of Phase I of the RDI, on October 13, 2020, City Council authorized the City Manager or his designee to expend up to \$2M in CARES Act funding and to enter into agreements with selected proposer(s) to deploy Wi-Fi services to the ten (10) identified residential blocks. Upon evaluation of the Phase I RDI proposals, staff has selected Neo Network Development Inc., to install telecommunications equipment on selected City facilities and the selected streets to broadcast the City's Wi-Fi signal to the residents on the selected blocks.

Focusing on residents with the highest levels of limited access to the internet and given the scope of Phase I of the RDI proposals, with the need for the Wi-Fi to be operational by December 30, 2020, Neo Network Development Inc. is scheduled to begin equipment installation the week of November 30th at the following City facilities and residential blocks:

1. Martin Weiss Recreation Center: Thibet St. from Martindale to Westmoreland (CD 1),
2. Fire Station #52: Bridlewood from Cockrell Hill to Western Park (CD 3),
3. Beckley Saner Recreation Center: Seevers from Hobson to Elmore (CD 4),
4. Fire Station #23: Iowa from Corinth to Bruck (CD 4),
5. Pleasant Oaks Recreation Center: Greenmound from McCutcheon to McKim (CD 5),
6. Fire Station #32: Toland from Jim Miller to Elva (CD 5),

DATE November 25, 2020
SUBJECT **Update of Request for Developer Interest (RDI) and Digital Divide Streetlight Pilot Projects**

7. Arcadia Branch Library: N. Justin Ave. from Library to Goodman (CD 6),
8. Fire Station #50: Bluegrass from Keeneland to Furlong (CD 6),
9. Singing Hills Recreation Center: Gillarel Springs from Old Ox to Cul-de-Sac (CD 8),
10. Polk Wisdom Library: Deerwood from Library to S. Polk (CD 8).

Phase II of RDI Proposals

As Phase I of the RDI proposals is focused on short-term, localized projects due to the use of CARES Act funding, Phase II of the RDI proposals will evaluate longer-term options that will have a citywide impact. Staff is currently evaluating proposals and over the next several months, will begin negotiating agreements that will bring fiber optic or wireless broadband networks to the City at little to no cost. The negotiated agreements will be brought to the appropriate City Council committees in early 2021 before being brought before the City Council for consideration.

Digital Divide Streetlight Pilot Projects

Concurrent with the development of the RDI proposals, the departments of Transportation, Information and Technology Services, and Public Works has been working on ten (10) additional digital divide pilot projects that utilize the installation of streetlights and wireless network equipment to broadcast Wi-Fi to the residents on the selected blocks. For these streetlight/Wi-Fi projects, through the use of \$2.8M of CARES Act funding, the City will run conduit and fiber from a closely- adjacent City facility to the selected blocks and connect that fiber to Wi-Fi equipment on the installed streetlights. Additionally, Oncor Electric has agreed to participate in this pilot project through the allowance of the City team to utilize many Oncor Electric's utility poles to connect Wi-Fi equipment in support of these pilot projects.

With continued focus on implementing these projects in neighborhoods with the highest needs of internet access and as the installation of streetlights is included in the scope of these projects, seven (7) of the projects are in areas identified in the Mayor's Safety Task Force and within one of sixteen (16) strategic lighting zones that takes into consideration the Market Value Analysis (MVA), areas of racial and ethnically concentrated poverty, opportunity zones, neighborhood reinvestment zones, and the Dallas Police Department's target area action grid. Understanding that the CARES Act funding must be expended by December 30, 2020, staff has ordered the necessary equipment and issued the necessary work orders to start installation at the following City facilities and residential blocks:

1. Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center: Ariel from Mark Trail to Dove Creek (CD 3),
2. Fire Station #38: Cicero from Wilhurt to Ann Arbor (CD4),
3. Eloise Lundy Recreation Center: Denley from Hutchins to Reverend CBT Smith (CD 4),
4. Fire Station #5: Corvette from Bruton to Limestone (CD 5),
5. Janie C. Turner Recreation Center: Ezekial from Elam to Hoode (CD 5),
6. Mattie Nash Myrtle Davis Recreation Center: Bayside from Hampton to Puget (CD 6),

DATE November 25, 2020
SUBJECT **Update of Request for Developer Interest (RDI) and Digital Divide Streetlight Pilot Projects**

7. Juanita J. Craft Senior Center: Frazier from Spring to Marshall (CD 7),
8. Skyline Library: Symphony from Everglade to Snowbird (CD 7),
9. Fire Station #40: Kirnwood from Cul-de-Sac to Cul-de-Sac (CD 8),
10. Fire Station #54: Pinebrook from Bonnie View to Strawberry Trail (CD 8).

As this memorandum has provided an update on the ten (10) streetlight and Wi-Fi projects and ten (10) RDI proposal projects (please see attached Table 1 of projects), through the end of December 2020, staff will be working quickly to expend the CARES Act funding associated with the identified projects. Staff will provide another update by memorandum in December 2020. Should you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Robert M. Perez, Director of Public Works.



Majed A. Al-Ghafry, P.E.
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors

DATE November 25, 2020

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Table 1: List of Pilot Projects by Program and Council District

Program	Council District	Project	Limits
RDI Proposal	1	Martin Weiss Recreation Center	Thibet St. from Martindale to Westmoreland
RDI Proposal	3	Fire Station #52	Bridlewood from Cockrell Hill to Western Park
RDI Proposal	4	Beckley Saner Recreation Center	Seevers from Hobson to Elmore
RDI Proposal	4	Fire Station #23	Iowa from Corinth to Bruck
RDI Proposal	5	Pleasant Oaks Recreation Center	Greenmound from McCutcheon to McKim
RDI Proposal	5	Fire Station #32	Toland from Jim Miller to Elva
RDI Proposal	6	Arcadia Branch Library	N. Justin Ave. from Library to Goodman
RDI Proposal	6	Fire Station #50	Bluegrass from Keeneland to Furlong
RDI Proposal	8	Singing Hills Recreation Center	Gillarel Springs from Old Ox to Cul-de-Sac
RDI Proposal	8	Polk Wisdom Library	Deerwood from Library to S. Polk
Streetlight/ Wi-Fi	3	Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center	Ariel from Mark Trail to Dove Creek
Streetlight/ Wi-Fi	4	Fire Station #38	Cicero from Wilhurt to Ann Arbor
Streetlight/ Wi-Fi	4	Eloise Lundy Recreation Center	Denley from Hutchins to Reverend CBT Smith
Streetlight/ Wi-Fi	5	Fire Station #5	Corvette from Bruton to Limestone
Streetlight/ Wi-Fi	5	Janie C. Turner Recreation Center	Ezekial from Elam to Hoode
Streetlight/ Wi-Fi	6	Mattle Nash Myrtle Davis Recreation Center	Bayside from Hampton to Puget
Streetlight/ Wi-Fi	7	Juanita J. Craft Senior Center	Frazier from Spring to Marshall
Streetlight/ Wi-Fi	7	Skyline Library	Symphony from Everglade to Snowbird
Streetlight/ Wi-Fi	8	Fire Station #40	Kirnwood from Cul-de-Sac to Cul-de-Sac
Streetlight/ Wi-Fi	8	Fire Station #54	Pinebrook from Bonnie View to Strawberry Trail