



CITY OF SOUTH BEND
STEPHEN J. LUECKE, MAYOR
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

March 25, 2010

To the Google RFI Team:

What keywords describe the ideal community in your search for partners for the Google Fiber to the Home project? Effective public-private partnerships? Existing right-of-access agreements? Established carrier-neutral backbone of fiber?

Any partnership is founded upon a common vision and committed partners willing to invest the necessary resources to make a vision a reality. For that reason, I am pleased to submit, on behalf of the cities of South Bend, Mishawaka and all of St Joseph County, Indiana, this joint response to your RFI for the Google Fiber to the Home project. Our submission demonstrates that our community already is acting in the spirit of the Google initiative. That means your dollars will go further here than in nearly any other community you may have under consideration.

We long have shared your frustration with the lack of connectivity that has strangled the development of our citizens and institutions. We've done something about it, too. Several years ago, we deployed a springboard for enhanced connectivity. Today, we have a more than 50-mile carrier-neutral backbone of fiber. Our investment exceeding \$7 million will allow Google's resources to reach more homes here than other communities. Our initial actions can serve to significantly underwrite the expansion of a fiber-to-the-home initiative. And we make it easy.

Our not-for-profit, privately funded initiative has overcome a communications industry bent on shutting down or severely restricting metropolitan networks across the country. We work tirelessly to form effective partnerships to advance this cause. We are ready to join with you in a partnership that offers existing right-of-access agreements with municipalities.

We anxiously await an opportunity to meet with your team in person. Our team will impress you with our knowledge of the issues. Google's new fiber network already is taking shape here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen J. Luecke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Stephen J. Luecke, Mayor
City of South Bend, Indiana

cc: Jeffrey L. Rea, Mayor, City of Mishawaka, Indiana
Robert Kovach, President, Board of Commissioners, St. Joseph County, Indiana
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