

## Springfield Media & Telecommunications Group, Inc.

*SMTG*

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March 22, 2010

Dear Google Team,

On behalf of Springfield Media and Telecommunications Group, Inc. (SMTG) I am writing to support the application of the City of Springfield for the Google Fiber for Communities Grant.

SMTG is a 501c3 corporation, created by the City of Springfield in 1998 to provide educational, cultural, economic development programs, and to improve delivery of municipal services for city residents. We provide funding for Springfield's community access TV station educational and cultural video projects, broadcast meetings of municipal and related activities. But most importantly for purposes of this Grant, we also own and manage a fiber infrastructure that could be a key component of the Google project.

Over the past two years, SMTG has deployed a fiber/wireless network providing broadband access for 12 key public buildings. The network's core is a 72-strand fiber bundle running in city owned conduit and on Verizon poles licensed to SMTG.

This network consists of 6 linear miles of fiber traversing the heart of the city's business district and two inner-city neighborhoods. In partnership with the city, our long-range plan is to expand this network to connect all city schools, libraries, community centers and public health facilities, as well as fire, police and emergency preparedness offices.

In addition, our network will service the Massachusetts State Data Center now under construction in Springfield, providing a physical link to every public office in the state.

If Springfield were selected for a grant, we would partner with Google and the City and provide:

---Access to our fiber optic network (current and planned), including fully licensed conduit and dark fiber (if needed), permitted locations/attachments on public and private structures.

--Our knowledge of city permitting processes, facilities, conduit locations, etc., and would assist Google in securing any local and state permits or licenses needed to expand our current network to accelerate construction.

--Access to our 220 ft. broadcast tower, centrally located in the City; access to our 900 MHz network, with 12 radios throughout the city. Both tower and network are hard wired to the fiber.

--Serving as a 'private sector' contact point for Google, providing contacts with our local business and community partners.

Springfield Massachusetts is located 93 miles from Boston MA, 98 miles from Albany NY. 23 miles from Hartford CT and 139 miles from New York. Because of this location, Springfield has served as a major transportation crossroads throughout the history of our nation. When General George Washington dragged cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston Harbor, (and which he used to drive the British from the city in a turning point of the Revolutionary War) he traveled through Springfield. Later, General Washington established the country's first military arsenal here; the Springfield Armory dispersed arms to our nation and abroad from the Revolution through the Vietnam War.

In the 21st century, a telecommunications crossroads on the "information highway" sits in a compound one hundred yards from the old Armory site, where fiber optic cables from all of the major telecom carriers intersect. The application now before you will tie into this crossroads, putting thousands of our citizens onto the "information highway," giving them access to the knowledge and innovation necessary to compete in the global marketplace.

Please contact me at 413-262-0999 or [smtginc@gmail.com](mailto:smtginc@gmail.com) if you have any questions or comments. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

John L Abbott,  
President