



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Brown, Carlson, Mital, Simpson and Helgeson,
FROM: Rod Price, Chief Electric Engineering & Operations Officer; Nick Nevins, Engineering Technician
DATE: May 15, 2018
SUBJECT: Downtown Fiber Network Status Update
OBJECTIVE: Information Only

Background:

In February 2017 Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) and the City of Eugene (COE) entered into an agreement for the construction of a high speed fiber optic network in the downtown core of Eugene. In May, 2017 the Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded the multi-agency project team a grant that would reimburse up to 50% of construction costs. As soon as the grant was awarded the entire project team began working through the EDA requirements in order to begin construction on the remainder of the fiber network.

Discussion:

After almost a year of attempting to meet the EDA's award conditions it became clear there was little hope that would be possible. As a result, in March of 2018, the project team notified the EDA that we would not be using grant funds for the fiber network. City of Eugene gave EWEB a notice to proceed (NTP) with construction and a remaining scope/schedule has been created.

To date the COE has given a total of four different NTPs to EWEB (three preliminary and one final) along with a separate material purchase authorization. With those NTPs, EWEB's fiber network is currently serving 29 buildings downtown. To date, the project has been proceeding on planned schedules and meeting planned budgets.

The multi-agency project team has intentionally spent almost no time marketing this network until that final schedule is in place. Even without that marketing effort there are currently an additional 27 buildings that have signed up and waiting for connection.

The current plan is to complete the subscribed network by the end of 2018. That will be depending on the number of buildings that sign up for the network. The project team estimates that at least another 20 buildings could sign up and still meet our end of year goal. Connections requested in 2019 and later will be provided on an individual project basis, likely at higher costs.

If you have any questions please contact Nick Nevins at nicholas.nevins@eweb.org or 541-685-7751.

Recommendation and Requested Board Action

This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is requested.