

1. The potential impact of net neutrality repeal on MTE's technology plans such as the implementation and management of voice over internet protocol (VoIP) and the City's costs are as follows:
 - a. Net neutrality repeal may allow our internet service providers (ISPs), and telecommunication providers (carriers), to favor or block particular products and websites.
 - b. Session initiation protocol (SIP) prices will rise, e.g., tariffs, fees, and surcharges.
 - c. Cost of wireless services such as data plans for mobile phones, telemetry equipment for monitoring City water plants, and smart water meters may increase.
 - i. It is **impossible to manage budgets** for things like telecommunication data plans, and internet access when the implementation of the revocation is being challenged on so many sides, and with so many variables still in play.
 - ii. Certainly smaller competitive local exchange carriers (CLEC) are at a MARKED DISADVANTAGE over the biggest players because without enforcement provisions, the Verizon's/AT&Ts/Comcast's have no obligation or incentive to welcome their more nimble but smaller counterparts to the table.
 - d. Creating "fast lanes" for a fee will restrict diversity and content via the Internet. Performance might degrade, and VoIP services in the City could become unstable. The greatest impact may be on toll calls that traverse the internet.
 - e. **There is no timeline in place for the current 2015 Net Neutrality rules** (https://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db0312/FCC-15-24A1.pdf) **and 2016 court decision,** ([https://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/3F95E49183E6F8AF85257FD200505A3A/\\$file/15-1063-1619173.pdf](https://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/3F95E49183E6F8AF85257FD200505A3A/$file/15-1063-1619173.pdf)) **rules to be relaxed.**
 - i. Cautious optimism that the proposed Net Neutrality revocation will not occur in the short term.
 - ii. When it does, it will likely be much less harsh than it is in its current form, primarily because the consumer outcry (see mitigation steps below) has been so consistent and loud.
2. Here are some of the steps we recommend to be taken to mitigate risks posed by net neutrality repeal.
 - a. The City of Baltimore should be **actively pressuring all of its representatives in the House and Senate to forestall any implementation of the Restore Internet Freedom Act of 2017.**
 - i. Pressure should be brought to bear on all elected and appointed officials who take advantage of the services offered by the City including,

potentially, federal government staffers who may live in Baltimore and its environs.

- ii. This pressure should be consistent (polite, perhaps, but consistent).
- b. The City may need to **review all telecommunications contracts, including free Wi-Fi agreements, with the entities that provide potentially affected services.**
 - i. In the near term, if service starts to degrade, or bills jump dramatically, the City must be familiar with its contractual obligations, either to hold its providers feet to the fire, or be able to terminate existing agreements for non-performance.
 - ii. Issue a City “truth in broadband” request for information (RFI) to gather information to monitor carriers and ISPs’ performance, quality, and pricing.
 - iii. Work with Bureau of Purchases and the Law department to review and amend all telecommunications and internet-related master service agreements (MSAs) to incorporate open internet policies.