


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	Frank Johnson, CIO	CITY of BALTIMORE M E M O	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Baltimore City Office of Information and Technology (BCIT) 401 E Fayette Street, 3 rd floor		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution 18-0075R		

TO The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
c/o Natawna Austin
Room 400 City Hall

April 30, 2018

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 18-0075R Informational Hearing – Municipal Broadband Feasibility Study for the purpose of requesting that the Department of Finance, the Department of Transportation, and the Mayor’s Office of Information Technology appear before the City Council to discuss how they can collaborate to produce a formal feasibility study on developing a municipal owned broadband network in Baltimore capable of ensuring that all Baltimore families have adequate internet access options.

The Baltimore City Office of Information and Technology (BCIT) has recently released the City’s first ever Inclusive Digital Transformation Strategic Plan, which includes a section specific to fiber communications.

Baltimore must invest in next-generation network infrastructure to connect the City with high-volume, high-velocity data communications that support these demands. Current network infrastructure in the City is insufficient. To enable new and innovative capabilities, an improved a fiber backbone and advanced wireless connectivity are needed. This will not only support Baltimore City government operations, but also improve infrastructure and provide opportunities for the people and businesses of the city.

The Inclusive Digital Transformation Strategic Plan touches on the issue of improved broadband at a high level. In support of this plan, BCIT in collaboration with the Department of Transportation is currently engaged in the development of a detailed fiber communications strategy that will examine the potential for municipal broadband. The fiber strategic plan that will examine and make specific recommendations in several key areas:

- Connectivity needs among business sectors, residents, anchor institutions, and internal City agencies.
- City policies impacting broadband deployment, from zoning requirements for wireless antennas to conduit access and rights-of-way permitting.
- Parameters for effective partnerships with commercial service providers and investors.
- Functional governance structures for managing physical assets and setting policies related to broadband.

The plan will also provide guidance on the City’s small cells program including the following areas:

- City Policies, Specifications, and Standards
- Zoning and Public Safety Requirements for Pole Mounting
- Aesthetics Needs
- Site Acquisition, Survey, and Design
- RF Design
- Inspections

The development of this plan will take approximately six months to complete. We will provide an update on its development during the scheduled hearing for City Council Resolution 17-0075R.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank A. Johnson', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Frank A. Johnson
Chief Information Officer

FJ/lw

Cc: Kyron Banks, Mayor's Office