

City of Grand Rapids
Official Google Fiber RFI Response as submitted
Abbreviated to meet the Google web form character limits

1. General information

2. Background information about your community

Name of governing body:

*Grand Rapids, Michigan

You can create a name for each response.

Name of this response: Google Fiber for Grand Rapids, Michigan

List communities included in your response:

City of Grand Rapids, Michigan

Contact person:

Name: Sally J. Wesorick

Title: Community Innovation Project Manager

Address: 300 Monroe Ave. Grand Rapids

State: Michigan

ZIP (5 Digit): 49503

Phone number: 616-456-3094

Email: swesorick@grcity.us

Contact person has authority to provide these answers as the official position of the responding local government?

If not, please provide contact information for the local government official who does have such authority:

Same as above.

Population (2008): *

If the response is for part of a city, please enter the corresponding population.

187695

Populated area in square miles: *

If the response is for part of a city, please enter the corresponding populated area.

45

Please describe how the population is distributed:

Generally the population is most dense within two miles of the city center. Density decreases with distance from city center, with pockets of high density near colleges and the expanding condo and refurbished mixed-use real estate areas.

Median household income (\$ per annum): *

Number of housing units: *

Number of single family homes:

Number of multi-family homes:

Number of apartment complexes:

Average number of units per apartment complex:

Number of gated communities:

Average number of housing units per gated community:

Approximate percentage of households in entire community with access to broadband Internet service (%):

Approximate percentage of households in entire community that are currently subscribing to broadband Internet service (%):

Terrain:

Overall description of terrain:

Percentage of plains (%):

Percentage of rolling hills (%):

Percentage of mountains (%):

Percentage other terrain (%):

Climate:

Average annual highest temperature (°F):

Average annual temperature (°F):

Average annual lowest temperature (°F):

Average amount of snowfall per year (inches):

Average amount of rainfall per year (inches):

Average amount of hurricane or tornado activity in a year (days):

Local government:

Form of local government (city, town, county, etc.): *

Local government rule: Home Rule.

Source of government decision making (city manager, city council, mayor, etc.):

Utilities:

Please list largest utilities and the approximate percentage of the community covered by each provider:

	Provider name:	Coverage (%):
Electric:	<input type="text" value="Consumer's Energy"/>	<input type="text" value="90"/>
Gas:	<input type="text" value="DTE"/>	<input type="text" value="95"/>

Water:	City of Grand Rapids	100
Sewer:	City of Grand Rapids	100
Cable:	Comcast	100
Phone:	AT&T	75

Local economy mix (if available):

Number of high tech jobs:	4930
Number of manufacturing jobs:	15575
Number of education services jobs:	9042
Number of other service sector jobs:	3545

Colleges and universities (List names and average number of students enrolled at each, if available):

1. Grand Valley State University – 25,000 students
2. Van Andel Institute Graduate School – 150 students
3. Western Michigan University - 1,500
4. Kendall College of Art and Design – 1,352 students
5. Michigan State University School of Medicine - 1356. Aquinas College - 2,300 students
7. Grand Rapids Community College –20,000 students
8. Calvin College – 4,092 students
9. Davenport University - 7,000 students
10. Ferris State University
11. Calvin Theological Seminary–300 students
12. Western Michigan University Graduate Center–300 students
13. Cooley Law School- 630 students (in GR)
14. University of Detroit Mercy (at GRCC)

Major hospitals/health care facilities (List names)

1. Spectrum Health -Butterworth
2. Spectrum Health – Blodgett
3. Spectrum Health Occupational Health
4. Spectrum Health Continuing Care
5. Spectrum Health Surgical Center
6. Helen DeVos Children's Hospital
7. Fred & Lena Meijer Heart Center
8. Saint Mary's Health Care
9. Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital
10. Concentra
11. Advantage Health Physicians
12. Lemmen-Holton Cancer Pavilion
13. Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services
14. Lake Drive Surgery Center
15. Veteran Administration Grand Rapids Clinic
16. MMPC
17. Cherry Street Health Services
18. Women's Health Services

Current providers of high speed Internet service (Company; DSL, Cable modem, wireless, fiber, etc.):

- AT&T
- ACD.NET
- Comcast
- ISERV
- Verizon
- TDS
- Trivalent Group

Other significant features of your community that could be relevant for this project:

Other significant features of your community that could be relevant for this project: (2,500 character limit)

Grand Rapids (GR) is an outstanding city with a skilled workforce, strong neighborhoods, scenic beauty, and a vibrant economy; built on advanced manufacturing, and burgeoning medical, research, and life sciences industries. Located between Detroit and Chicago, we are just 30 miles east of Lake Michigan. GR is the 2nd largest city in Michigan, encompassing 45 square miles. Our population is just under 200,000 and the metropolitan area exceeds 1 million. If Google is looking for a mid-size city with a tradition of public-private partnerships, innovation, community involvement, creative philanthropy, vibrant cultural institutions, and a strong work ethic, Google will find it in GR.

West Michigan is transforming itself; fast becoming a center for manufacturing excellence, medical discovery, and technological innovation. Greater GR's per capita expenditures in education and R&D are among the highest in the world and we are a noted test bed for new product development and commercialization. We have the 9th largest medical biopharmaceuticals cluster in the US, with 850 clinical trials, and \$100 million in public dollars applied to research projects. Still the home of successful furniture giants, the region now boasts one of the largest private investments in medical, research, and life sciences in the country (over \$1 billion). www.rightplace.org.

Understanding the value of ubiquitous broadband, GR initiated the first ever partnership with Clearwire and a city for a mobile WiMAX network. Open-access wireless broadband will extend the Google fiber network beyond its boundaries; expanding connectivity to vehicles and people on the move, providing a unique, experiment-rich environment, and opening the door to exponentially more applications and innovation. www.wirelessgr.com

GR continues to thrive, thanks to creative local philanthropy and significant private-public investment including over \$1 billion in medical life science and \$500 million in new attractions, meeting facilities and recreational venues. ArtPrize, a radically open art competition with works by artists from all over the world, is a recent example. Google will appreciate the social media, democratic, and technological aspects of the event that engaged conversation between artists and the public and awarded prizes based on public votes cast via text messages, the Web, and mobile devices. www.artprize.org/home.

More here: www.grcity.us/googrfi

3. Collaborating on a Google fiber trial

In this section, we ask you to share how your community would work with Google to enable us to proceed quickly and effectively.

Are you, the local government, willing to appoint an individual to serve as a single point of contact (1)? *

Yes

No

If so, please describe the responsibilities and authority that this individual will have: (1,000 character limit)

As Project Manager (PM), I will serve as a single point of contact. I have been empowered by the City Manager to resolve **ALL** issues. By City Commission Resolution, Grand Rapids (GR) **guarantees** our support in removing obstacles to facilitate a successful fiber optic installation. As PM, I am responsible to facilitate timely deployment including leasing matters; tower, pole, fiber, and conduit access; zoning approvals; engineering, permitting and inspections. Additionally, a Development Team is available to assure efficient deployment. My PM experience includes GR's Wireless Broadband project, a public-private network deployment with a Google partner, Clearwire. References from Clearwire and subcontractors are available upon request.

City staff and the community are committed and eager to work with Google to support the quick and effective deployment of fiber to the premise. Together we will demonstrate to the country how well this can be done and can share lessons learned with others.

Describe any current or planned programs in your community to accelerate and expand adoption and use of broadband Internet access: **(1,000 character limit)**

GR is committed to leveraging technology to become more responsive to our citizens. By Commission resolution, we recognized the value of open broadband as essential and a unique opportunity brought forth by Google. GR is committed to continued development of broadband capabilities. When a city street is built, it is our practice to place twice the conduit needed, with stub outs to buildings and vacant lots. GR is prepared to leverage our poles, dark fiber, conduit, and backhaul service. We know that Giga-speed networking is the future for continued growth, community collaboration, and global competitiveness.

Again recognizing the value of broadband, GR entered into a public-private partnership with Clearwire to provide open wireless broadband throughout the City. Clearwire's mobile WiMAX will be available in 2010, enriching the Google fiber experiment by taking the fiber capacity mobile for use by public safety, municipal field workers, citizens and businesses. www.wirelessgr.com

Additional reasons why you believe that Google should select your community for this project: **(1,000 character limit)**

Grand Rapids (GR) residents and the surrounding community are committed to building a thriving city. We have a demonstrated history of working cooperatively to achieve winning projects and success. GR has an extraordinary level of civic engagement, creativity, and community collaboration. Also important, the City has a culture of innovation and exploration.

Built on public-private partnerships, GR has the political and community support, technical expertise, available assets, and desire to work with Google on this revolutionary experiment. Google Fiber would provide a platform that will allow the City's medical facilities, education institutions, businesses, governments, and citizens to make tremendous use of technologies that allow people to interact efficiently and flexibly.

Grand Rapids is a collaborative community that will experiment, innovate, and push the limits of your technology as a civic and community resource. GR will be a very exciting and worthy partner!

Please provide a web link to any additional information you wish us to consider. Submissions using Google Maps or YouTube are encouraged:

www.grcity.us/googrfi

4. Your community's support

Have you performed any outreach, study, or analysis regarding support in your community for this type of trial? *

Yes

No

Describe how you ascertained or plan to ascertain the level of community support for this project (e.g., surveys, public hearings, meetings with community groups, etc.): **(1,000 character limit)**

The Grand Rapids (GR) community shares Google's passion for the potential of open high-speed broadband in our city, state and nation. Community support for this effort is remarkable. Governor Granholm, GR Mayor Heartwell, the City Commission, the City Manager, and the region are enthusiastic and pledge their support. Again, the City Commission

passed a resolution supporting Google Fiber and committing the City to continue to pursue a high-speed fiber-optic network.

City staff and the Google Fiber for GR Steering Committee hosted meetings throughout the city over several weeks. We have gathered dozens of videos and Letters of Support from significant organizations and individuals in the city. The GR for Google Fiber Facebook Fan page has over 33,000 fans. Media coverage has also been noteworthy and supportive. Learn more about community support efforts here: www.grcity.us/googrifi

Please describe your community's level of support for this project: (1,000 character limit)

Google will not find a more engaged, dedicated, and collaborative community anywhere. Grand Rapidians have a pride and loyalty that grows out of coffee shops, through neighborhood associations and on Twitter, thriving on our vision to make GR the best possible place to live. GR business, education, research, medical, and neighborhood organizations have eagerly shown their support for a Google Fiber project. Notably, just hours after Google announced its experiment; proactive citizens organically began creative efforts to attract Google to GR. These efforts spurred over a dozen grass roots initiatives to support the Google Fiber in GR efforts including: web sites, meetings to educate and engage our citizens, a billboard, and even a flash mob. GR Google Fiber enthusiasts have become a team and they are doing whatever they can to win this competition. Their efforts are not likely to end with the March 26 deadline! Learn more about local community support here: www.goog616.com

Please briefly summarize any additional comments or suggestions you would like to make to Google on behalf of your community: (1,000 character limit)

People here know that a Google partnership will enhance public safety by dramatically increasing the information available to medical, EMS, police, and firefighters. It will provide an economic development tool to attract and retain business. The people of Grand Rapids (GR) invite Google to visit our big, small town. We invite you to stay in our world class J.W. Marriott; to meet our team and experience all that GR has to offer. A visit to GR will provide Google the opportunity to see and feel the exceptional qualities that are GR, confirming GR as one of the communities where Google's revolutionary initiative not only can, but WILL be successful. A Google fiber optic infrastructure will fuel innovation and transform and elevate our exceptional community; further connecting our citizens, empowering our businesses and improving education and health care. If selected, Google's confidence in our city will be more than repaid with a successful project. Learn more: www.grcity.us/googrifi

5. Facilities and resources

Deployment of a community-wide FTTH network will require Google to work closely with local government entities and other organizations. Google seeks to identify resources owned by the community that may assist in the rapid, smooth deployment of a residential fiber optic network. In this section, we ask you to share information about particular facilities and assets within the community that may be used or affected as part of such a facilities deployment, particularly those owned by the local government.

Please respond as completely and accurately as possible

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Please respond as completely and accurately as possible.

Pole attachments:

Please identify the entities, including units of the local government that own or control utility poles in your community:

Annual rate per pole for pole attachment:

Entity name: City of Grand Rapids

Number of poles owned or controlled: 16000

By telecommunications carriers \$0.

By cable system operators (\$)0

By Internet access providers (\$)0

Entity name: Consumers Energy

Number of poles owned or controlled: 14000

Pole attachment annual fee: 4

Entity name: AT&T

Rates:

If the local government will make its own poles available for attachments by Google, please estimate the number of days to complete the following steps, assuming full cooperation from Google:

Negotiation of a master pole attachment agreement: 14 days

Issuance of permits for individual attachments: 14 days

Developing specifications for make-ready work: 30 days

Completing make ready work: 14 days

Please identify any state or local laws, ordinances, rules, or other legal measures that govern access and rates for attachment:

Michigan pole attachment rates are governed by the Michigan Metro Act. On March 14, 2002 three bills were signed into law to stimulate the availability of affordable high-speed Internet connections. Act 48 of the Public Acts of 2002 creates a body called the Metropolitan Extension Telecommunication Rights-of-Way Oversight (METRO) Authority, whose purpose is to assist telecommunication providers cut through red tape and obtain permits without having to pay excessive fees or endure unnecessary delays. Link to [Metro Act information](#).

Please provide contact information for any entities named above:

City of Grand Rapids

Sally Wesorick

616-456-3094

swesorick@grcity.us

Consumers Energy

Karen McCarthy

Area Manager

616-530-4333

kamccarthy@cmsenergy.com

AT&T

Marie Workman

616-246-7627

mw9163@att.com

Conduits:

Please identify the entities, including units of local government that own or control utility conduits in your community:

Entity name: City of GR

Linear feet of conduit owned or controlled: 21760

Annual rate per foot for conduit use:

By telecommunications carriers (\$):0.33. Governed by the [Michigan Metro Act](#)

By cable system operators (\$):0.33. Governed by the [Michigan Metro Act](#)

By Internet access providers (\$):0.33. Governed by the [Michigan Metro Act](#)

Entity name: Consumers Energy

Linear feet of conduit owned or controlled: 25,600

Application Fee \$625

Inspection based on actual.

Entity name: AT&T

Linear feet of conduit owned or controlled: unknown

Annual rate per foot for conduit use: unknown

If the local government will make its own conduits available for use by Google, please estimate the number of days to complete the following steps, assuming full cooperation from Google:

Negotiation of a master conduit agreement: 14 days

Issuance of permits: 14 days

If a unit of your local government has access to conduit owned or controlled by third parties that it could make available to Google, please provide the following information:

Linear feet: No third part access.

Rate that you would charge Google (\$) per linear foot per year: \$0.33 per foot per year.

Entity or entities that own or control the conduit:

There is significant open conduit and dark fiber throughout the City, owned by the City, and also additional facilities owned by third parties.

Rate that you would charge Google (\$) per linear foot per year: \$0.33 per foot per year.

Describe any restrictions on your right to make such conduit available to Google:

There are no restrictions.

Please identify local laws, ordinances, rules, or other legal measures that govern access rights and rates for conduit use:

Must register with the State of Michigan as a telecom provider.

Please provide contact information for any entity named above:

City of Grand Rapids
Sally Wesorick
616-456-3094
swesorick@grcity.us

Consumers Energy
Karen McCarthy
Area Manager
ph: 616-530-4333
kamccarthy@cmsenergy.com

AT&T
Marie Workman
mw9163@att.com
616-246-7627

Public rights of way:

Yes

Does your local government directly control and administer the use of all public rights of way within its jurisdiction?
Grand Rapids is the single permitting agency for all rights-of-way within the City limits.

Describe any other entities that control and administer the use of the public rights of way in your community:

Grand Rapids is the single permitting agency for all rights-of-way within the city limits. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) controls some state rights-of way but the city issues permits.

With respect to your processes for managing access to public rights-of-way, please estimate the number of days to complete the following steps, assuming full cooperation from Google:

Negotiation, approval, and issuance of a master right-of-way agreement: 14 days

Issuance of construction permits: 14 days

Post-construction inspections and approvals: 14 days

Please indicate the amount or method of calculating all fees and charges for use of the public rights-of-way, including the following (if applicable):

Application fees: 0

Linear foot (or other) usage fees: 0

Inspection fees: 20

Other fees or charges: 0

Community sensitivities and policies:

Please describe any historical districts or other culturally or environmentally sensitive areas: * Please describe your undergrounding plans and policies, if any: *

Grand Rapids has five historic districts. A map is available at www.grcity.us/planning.

Please identify unique ordinances, rules, policy statements, and other legal measures specific to your community that Google would have to comply in developing a fiber project:

The city has no unique ordinances.

6. Construction methods

Has your community worked with, studied, or evaluated the following types of construction methods for fiber to the home networks:

- Aerial
- Trenching
- Boring
- Micro-trenching
- Plow
- Rock saw
- Other
- None

Check approved methods of construction for your community: *

- Aerial
- Trenching
- Boring
- Micro-trenching
- Plow
- Rock saw
- Other
- None

Are there other construction methods that are approved for use in construction of fiber to the home or other telecommunications networks in your community? If so, please list them below:

Wireless including microwave backhaul.

7. Regulatory issues

Please describe the local regulatory obligations that would apply to Google if this project went forward in your community:

A single point of contact will expedite all permits: Right-of-way requires a utility permit: www.grcity.us/3841 Above-ground structures requires Zoning permit: www.grcity.us/109; Structural work requires building permit: www.grcity.us/devcenter; Electrical requires permit www.grcity.us/devcenter Right-of-way easement is required and for crossing private property an easement is required.

Please describe local business obligations and taxes/fees, if any that would apply to Google if this project went forward in your community:

Income and/or property tax may apply. There are no other local obligations.