

Google Fiber For Communities  
Dakota Future Application

March 18, 2010

Bill Coleman  
Dakota Future

Dear Bill,

The Chamber is pleased to support both the county wide Dakota Future application of Dakota County cities for selection and the individual Eagan application for selection as a Google Fiber Community and the wider collaborative. Whether Google wishes to conduct its tests in one community (Eagan), or a host of communities in Dakota County, we believe this partnership would be successful because of the established relationships that already exist on the ground.

The Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce has been working on broadband issues since late 2004 and we have lead efforts in Minnesota to convince providers and policymakers outside of Eagan of the need for next generation broadband and what that would do to add and retain jobs.

Now comes the game-changing interest of Google to establish gigabit-speed fiber to every premise—speeds our two entities been advocating for years. We've known for some time, for instance, that some of the most innovative ideas have come from emerging home-based businesses.

If Google does its due diligence, they will know that unlike the locations who suddenly got excited about broadband, Eagan and Dakota Future have been forerunners in striving for world class broadband improvements for years. We have conducted a videoconference with a best practice leader in the Netherlands; convened local broadband summits; thoughtfully brought together city officials with business and technology leaders from companies large and small to determine needs.

What we've lacked until now is a strategic partner and a pathway to achieve ultra high speed broadband so America can compete with the likes of Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Australia, Sweden, France and more, who've set aggressive national broadband goals. It takes a strategy and a catalyst, and the Chamber would welcome the opportunity to work with Google and Eagan/Dakota County to achieve dynamic, transformative change.

Sincerely,



Ruthe Batulis  
President  
Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce



Scott O. Swenson  
Board Chair  
Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce