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## CITY OF CHAMPAIGN

# BIG Broadband

Posted @ 3/21/2011 5:00 AM By Eric Bussell

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I've been reading up on Big Broadband lately and thought I'd share some helpful links...

**Big Broadband consultants suggests closed meetings:** <http://www.news-gazette.com/news/politics-and-government/2011-03-19/big-broadband-consultant-floats-idea-closed-meetings.html>

Deb Feinen says "no way".

**City Council gets update on Big Broadband :** <http://www.news-gazette.com/news/politics-and-government/2011-03-09/champaign-council-gets-update-big-broadband.html>

The service can be city-owned and operated or leased to a separate entity for management.

What is UC2B?

From (<http://uc2b.net>):

*UC2B is an intergovernmental consortium of the University of Illinois and the cities of Urbana and Champaign dedicated to building and operating an open-access fiber-optic broadband network throughout the Champaign-Urbana area. The project is made possible by a \$22.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The State of Illinois provided a \$3.5 million grant and local matching funds added an additional \$3.4 million to fund the project.*

*The foundation of the UC2B network will be the fiber-optic "backbone" infrastructure that will be constructed with the grant money. The grant also will provide "fiber-to-the-premises" (FTTP) connectivity directly to well over 150 Community Anchor Institutions throughout Champaign, Urbana, and Savoy and to households in several underserved neighborhoods in Champaign and Urbana.*

*This direct connectivity will enable improved access/support to health care, educational and recreational institutions, public safety and government agencies, and social service and religious organizations, as well as increased access to public computing centers. and a sustainable adoption and educational outreach program for vulnerable populations. Training, entertainment, and social networking opportunities will also be enhanced.*

**Champaign City Council Study Session Update** (<http://archive.ci.champaign.il.us/archive/dsweb/Get/Document-9259/SS%202011-016.pdf>)

Prior Council Action:

*June 2009. In Study Session, Council discussed the "Big Broadband" economic stimulus grants project proposed for Champaign-Urbana.*

*August 2009. Council approved a resolution in support of a grant application for federal funds for a "Big Broadband" Project and the City's share of the 20% local match required by the grants.*

*August 2009. Council approved an Intergovernmental Agreement to form UC2B consortium.*

*April 2010. A Special Study Session was held to discuss the project with a hired independent consultant and a regular Council meeting approved the acceptance of the federal and state funding, funding contract, and the City's share of the local match.*

*July 2010. Information Only Memo provided Council a general update on the project.*

*August 2010. Study Session provided an update on UC2B activities.*

Summary.

*Engineering firm was selected and initial network designs are being reviewed.*

*Subcommittees have been formed to speed information development and issue resolution processes.*

*Formal selection of a vendor for Fiber to the Premises (FTTP) electronics will be finalized and made public soon.*

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Community Input.

Since Council's last discussion of this project, there has been an increase in activity with the public. UC2B Technical and Policy Committee members participated in two eBlack Champaign-Urbana Community Symposiums with a third event scheduled for March 19. (eBlackCU is a collaborative portal on African American experiences in Champaign-Urbana that is funded by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and administered by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, UIUC. More information is available at <http://www.eblackcu.net/portal/about>.) The first symposium was two days; November 5th and 6th. The intention of the symposiums was to inform the community about UC2B and how technology might impact the community. The 2nd Symposium was held on January 8, 2011 and dealt more with how the fiber network and other technologies might be used to foster economic development and create jobs.

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