

From:

To:

Re: APPOINTMENT TO BROADBAND STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM FOR *Community*

I am happy to announce that *the Community* is initiating its first Broadband Strategic Planning effort, in conjunction with a statewide effort funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Eight communities, including ours will participate in this planning effort to identify actions and goals that will ensure broadband adoption and further our community's competitiveness. I am writing to invite you to serve on the team that will help create *the Community's* Broadband Strategic Plan.

A long term strategic plan for accomplishing the City's Broadband objectives can guide efforts and investments made throughout the City, both on behalf of City bureaus and with our Local, State, Federal and private sector partners. There are critical strategic fiscal, policy, and planning benefits to the City which will arise through coordinating and leveraging on-going and planned efforts related to improving broadband access for citizens and businesses throughout the City.

High-speed, accessible and affordable broadband is essential infrastructure for job creation, education, health care, the enhancement of safe and connected communities, civic engagement, government transparency and responsiveness, reduced carbon emissions, and emergency preparedness. A strategic approach to Broadband will complement the City's Economic Development Strategy. Establishing the City's broadband objectives and initiatives will inform the Portland Plan and create tools to achieve the City's goals for prosperity, health, and equity.

Portland Should not Lag Behind the National Broadband Plan Goals

- We **can** engage in a strategic planning process to define and accomplish job growth, energy conservation, sustainable telecommuting, social networking and improved education through broadband strategies that are harmonized with the other growth and livability plans of the City.
- We **cannot** continue to be a world-class city without an informed and visionary approach to broadband development in Portland.

The Broadband Planning effort will be informed by five subject area workgroups, including Economic Development, Planning/Transportation/Sustainability, Public Safety and Preparedness, Civic Engagement, and Health and Education. You are invited to serve as an appointee to the \_\_\_\_\_work group.

Your acceptance of this appointment will mean that you can commit to participate in three half-day workshops and a kick-off meeting. You do not have to write a report, or do research. We ask only that you participate in the facilitated planning sessions outlined for your workgroup (and the kick off meeting and all-group session) outlined in the attached Workgroup Charter, and review the briefing book we will

provide to you (providing background on broadband innovation and its impacts). Your expertise is well known, and we hope that you can make the time during late January through March to participate in this important and innovative planning effort. We will be most honored to have your input on this important effort.

Please let me know of your acceptance of this appointment by January 7, 2010. Thank you. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

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