



**SUBJECT:** Consideration of the recommendation from the Municipal Broadband Committee to put out a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for technical consulting services to study and analyze the broadband infrastructure and connectivity landscape within the City of Novi.

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** City Managers

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** City Council approved a resolution establishing a Municipal Broadband Committee at the March 22, 2021 City Council meeting. Per the resolution, the purposes of the Municipal Broadband Committee are studying and reporting to City Council the available broadband options, exploring the possibility of public-private partnerships and interlocal partnerships for the provision of broadband services, and investigating projected costs of a broadband system and services to City sources of funding or financing. The Committee shall have the ability and is encouraged to seek information and input from all possible sources, including members of the public (both residents and businesses within the City of Novi), members of the telecommunications industry, and other technical/subject matter experts.

The Municipal Broadband Committee has welcomed several experts to provide insight on the different aspects of the broadband issue both at a macro level and with respect to the City of Novi. These expert perspectives discussed a range of telecommunications, legal, financial and governance considerations with regard to broadband access and infrastructure.

One significant takeaway thus far is that there is still much to learn – both about broadband internet connectivity broadly and with respect to current access within the boundaries of the City of Novi. An in-house capability to learn, observe, and report back detailed information about the broadband landscape within Novi's city boundaries in a credible and informative manner is currently unavailable.

Given the above expert perspectives and review of information, the **Municipal Broadband Committee advises hiring a consultant with technical expertise in the broadband internet space** and the capability to assess the current internet connectivity landscape in Novi.

The purpose, outcome, and expectation of hiring a consultant would be:

1. Obtain and inventory current internet infrastructure
  - a. Evaluate current broadband infrastructure
  - b. Gather community input

- c. Assess current upload/download speeds
  - d. Investigate mobile/cellular access
  - e. Provide an expert perspective on technology solutions, telecom networks, and funding models.
2. Framework on how to plan for the future
- a. Community Assessment and/or Feasibility Study
  - b. Broadband Master Plan? Network Implementation? Review and revise current ordinances? Technology and Connectivity Plan?
  - c. Map out existing infrastructure, provide options for future roadmap

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approval of the recommendation from the Municipal Broadband Committee to put out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for technical consulting services to study and analyze the broadband infrastructure and connectivity landscape within the City of Novi.