



# Memo

City Manager's Office

19

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Steven L. Schainker, City Manager

**DATE:** February 19, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Google Fiber Optic Project

I am sure many of you have heard about an exciting project that is being pursued by Google to install ultra high-speed fiber optic internet service in selected communities. I would imagine the competition will be quite stiff, but I think it would be worth our time to pursue this unique opportunity.

It appears that responses from cities are due on March 26, 2010, I believe it would be appropriate for the Council to take formal action to 1) support the submission of a statement of interest, along with the requested information, and support the staff in its proactive efforts to encourage our citizens to show community support for this initiative (which is part of the response).

Since this endeavor involves the promotion of a specific for-profit company, I believe this type of direction from Council is needed. Because of our actions, you might receive complaints from other companies currently doing business in Ames that provide internet service questioning why we are favoring one company over another.

We are suggesting using Facebook, Twitter, press releases, the City website, Channel 12, emails as well as working with ISU, Ames and Gilbert School Districts, the Chamber of Commerce, and other partnerships to encourage community support. We need to know if you support this type of public awareness effort.