

Memorandum

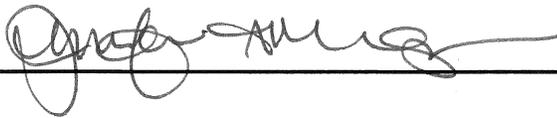
TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Dolan Beckel

SUBJECT: ACCESS EAST SIDE STATUS
UPDATE AND PATH FORWARD

DATE: February 28, 2019

Approved



Date

3/1/19

INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

Access East Side, referred to in City Council memos as the East Side Union High School District (District) Community Wi-Fi, was deployed to student households in the James Lick Wi-Fi coverage area in October 2017. This project fully funded by the District provides approximately 1700 James Lick students free internet access at home to further their educational and quality of life outcomes. Access East Side also provides the opportunity to open free Wi-Fi access to approximately 6,000 non-student (public) households in the James Lick coverage area.

As a major step towards digital equity, District students in the coverage area can access the internet and District applications through a secured Wi-Fi channel at home for free. An overview of the project may be viewed by using the attached District approved video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7x9loo1nD3g>.

Consistent with a request from the Smart City and Service Improvements Committee (Committee), the Office of Civic Innovation provided an update on Access East Side to the Committee in September 2018. During this update the District indicated their satisfaction with the technical and educational performance of the first deployment. The Committee requested a quantitative technical and education performance assessments before engaging in discussions about the deployment to the Overfelt and Yerba Buena high school attendance areas.

The Committee also recommended delaying Wi-Fi network access to the non-student households (the public) in the James Lick coverage area until additional time had elapsed for use of the District secured Wi-Fi channel from home. There was a lengthy discussion on the quality of the performance assessment if students were able to use both the public Wi-Fi and the District secured Wi-Fi channel. The City Manager's Office agreed to not open the Wi-Fi to the non-student households until a technical and education performance assessment project had been funded and mobilized.

In February 2019, the Office of Civic Innovation engaged the Silicon Valley Talent Partnership (SVTP), the Library Department, the District, and private sector partners to perform the technical

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and educational performance assessment. This engagement is being done under the overall leadership of the Library Department's Education and Digital Literacy Strategy.

Civic Innovation leveraged an already funded 2018/2019 engagement with SVTP to engage free services from the privacy sector to solve educational and other civic challenges. PayPay is providing free services for approximately 10-12 weeks to perform the technical and educational assessment.

PATH FORWARD

Completion of the technical evaluation of the Access East Side network is expected by March 1, 2019. Assuming a positive outcome, the City will promptly allow access to the Wi-Fi network to the public households in the James Lick coverage area under the SSID of "Free Public Access East Side." Any marketing and communications will be coordinated **after** the launch, in order to not further delay the households in the coverage area from benefiting from the digital inclusion opportunities of free internet access at home.

Completion of the educational performance evaluation of the Access East Side network is expected by the end of May 2019. Assuming a positive outcome, the City and the District will engage in discussions on the funding, project and maintenance costs, technology, and scope of digital inclusion Wi-Fi projects in the Overfelt and Yerba Buena attendance areas.

Consistent with the Committee recommendation, the Office of Civic Innovation will provide an update on Access East Side to the Smart City and Service Improvement Committee on the path forward for Overfelt and Yerba Buena upon agreement with the District. Council approval will also be required for related contract amendments.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the District, the City Library Department, the City Information Technology Department, and the City Attorney's Office.

/s/

DOLAN BECKEL

Director, Office of Civic Innovation

For questions, please contact Dolan Beckel, Director of the Office Civic Innovation, at (408) 535-8260.