

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A MASTER NETWORK DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH AT&T

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Next Generation Network (NCNGN) represents a regional effort by six municipalities (Cities and Towns of Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Cary, Durham, Raleigh and Winston-Salem) and four major universities (UNC Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, Duke University, and Wake Forest University/Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center) to work with current and potential network service providers to enhance economic development and address the digital divide by accelerating the deployment of ultra-high-speed broadband network and internet access; and,

WHEREAS, in January 2013, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen authorized Town staff to participate in an NCNGN issued Request for Proposal (RFP) inviting vendors to submit proposals to develop a next-generation ultra-high-speed broadband network; and,

WHEREAS, eight responses to the RFP were received and evaluated by NCNGN subcommittees to understand the technical, financial, and service potential of each proposal; and,

WHEREAS, AT&T was one of the companies that responded to the RFP and has worked closely with NCNGN members to develop an agreement for serving all six municipalities with upgraded and extended fiber optic networks capable of delivering next generation technologies including internet at gigabit speeds, advanced television, and voice services; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro is being asked by AT&T to make construction speedy and predictable by designating Town staff to facilitate coordination, streamline permitting and inspection processes and applications, provide best efforts to allow AT&T access to Town rights-of-way and utility easements upon request, develop and implement community education programs regarding the benefits of a high-speed network and services and continue existing non-discriminatory policies to treat all broadband internet service providers in a competitively neutral manner; and,

WHEREAS, AT&T has proposed initiatives to promote economic development and help the digitally disadvantaged including free 1 gigabit per second service to up to 100 community sites subject to the network being upgraded around those sites which will be selected based on a list of sites provided by NCNGN on behalf of its members with the cities paying standard installation charges, free 3Mbps internet access for up to 10 eligible low income multi-dwelling unit apartment buildings with 45 – 300 living units, pre-wiring up to 100 commercial buildings that serve small and medium-sized businesses so that businesses in those buildings do not face prohibitive installation costs and optionally have the Town share installation costs with AT&T for free wireless internet for the public; and,

WHEREAS, for each proposed initiative, NCNGN members have agreed to distribute those sites roughly proportionally based on municipal population and that final designations within the Town of Carrboro will be made by the Board of Aldermen; and,

WHEREAS, AT&T has offered to work with member Universities and other community stakeholders to explore creative applications of a gigabit network in a wide range of areas that could include health and medicine, education, shared digital divide programs, regional government, and local focus areas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Carrboro Board of Aldermen that the Board approve the AT&T Master Network Development Agreement and authorizes the Town Manager to execute and enter into the agreement with AT&T on behalf of the Town.