

HALIFAX

Confidential

Public WiFi

Executive Overview

September 1, 2015

Purpose

- Origin
- External Stakeholders
- Actions to Date
- The Vision
- The Halifax Public Libraries
- Current Status
- Questions

Origin

- In February, 2014 Regional Council endorsed the Public Realm Improvement Project List and committed \$50M contingent on funding from other levels of government
 - Free public WiFi in the urban core was a candidate project identified
- The “Downtown...I’m In” engagement identified public WiFi as a key component of downtown vitality
- In the spring of 2014, staff was asked to begin investigating the viability of such a service in Halifax

External Stakeholders

- There is broad interest from government, academia and business communities in the implementation of public WiFi
- We have been working with these groups to understand their desired outcomes from the introduction of public WiFi and how that input can be incorporated into a service offering
- These groups include:
 - Waterfront Development Corp
 - Province of Nova Scotia
 - Nova Scotia Tourism Agency
 - Destination Halifax
 - Halifax Chamber of Commerce
 - Halifax Partnership
 - Various Business Commissions
 - Halifax Higher Education Partnership
 - King's Wharf

Actions to Date

Market Scan

- Gartner
- InfoTech
- Preliminary vendor discussions

Jurisdictional Scan

- Spoke with 5 municipalities
- The trend was **Differences** vs. Commonalities
- Different initiating group, objectives, business models, delivery models

Request for Information

- Gauge market interest and capabilities
- 11 responses
- Wide ranging responses from different types of companies (i.e. telecom, enterprise services)

Report to Council

- Rec. Report on Oct 21 2014
- Regional Council directed staff to RFP
- Councillors gravitated towards cost neutral model

Request for Proposals

- Concurrent negotiation RFP process used
- Issued Dec-14
- Closed Feb-15
- 4 responses
- 3 short listed
- Conducted Vendor sessions
- Final proposals submitted

The Vision



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The Vision – Public Access



- The internet has become a necessity in daily life
- Another step towards closing the digital divide
 - 99% of N.S. homes have access to broadband, 73% subscribe
 - Devices can now be purchased for < \$100
- For those already connected, pervasive WiFi has become an expected convenience service
- It benefits local business as studies have shown people will stay in areas with WiFi services longer
- Offering public WiFi is viewed as the “price of admission” for being viewed as a modern, progressive city
- Halifax Advantage: The city’s previous investment in its own fiber optic network will enable a robust service

The Vision – Enhanced Experiences



- Using captive portal technology, we will be able to surface information and create experiences that add value for a variety of groups including visitors, residents, students and business
- Partnering with Nova Scotia Tourism Agency and Destination Halifax on portal content for visitors
 - Premium offerings: Audio Walking Tour, Recommendations engine (Events, attractions, etc)
- Partnering with Business Commissions
 - Premium offerings: business directories, location-aware services, coupons/deals, the power of analytics
- Partnering with Education/Students
 - Premium offerings: EDUroam, discoverability of locally developed applications, Open Data

The Vision – A Platform for a Smarter City



- The beginnings of “City Network 2.0”
 - We have a network connectivity gap
 - Outward vs. inward facing
 - City fiber and WiFi should be viewed as core city infrastructure
 - Interconnecting with Wide Area Network, Cellular, LED Streetlight Mesh
- Brings cost avoidance associated with future Smart City Solutions / Internet of Things devices
 - Transitioning from mechanical to IP-based solutions (i.e. smart parking meters)
 - Direct connecting cost prohibitive
 - Cellular won’t scale cost effectively and limits certain use cases (i.e. cameras)
- The wave of Smart City solutions is coming...
 - Underway: LED Streetlights, Traffic Signal Management
 - Coming soon: Parking

The Libraries

- There is an opportunity to include the 14 branches of the Halifax Public Libraries in the scope of the Public WiFi service
- This would “broaden the reach” of this new city service and align with the Library’s mission – “Connecting people, enriching communities, inspiring discovery”
- This would solve a problem at the new Halifax Central Library as its WiFi services have been deemed unsatisfactory and require replacement
- This aligns with the Library’s direction around leveraging 3rd party service providers for the delivery of select IT services
- This offers increased revenue opportunities from advertising and premium service offerings

Current Status

- At the tail end of the confidential procurement process (utilizing the “concurrent negotiations” RFP format)
- Anticipating returning to Regional Council with an award report in October, 2015

Questions



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