



CITY OF NOVI  
Public Utilities & Technology Committee Meeting  
**November 19, 2024, 5:30 p.m.**  
Novi Depot Conf. Room | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road  
(248) 347-0445

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	5:30 PM
<b>ROLL CALL</b>	Council Members Heintz, Smith, and Thomas
<b>PRESENT</b>	Council Members Heintz, Smith, and Thomas
<b>STAFF LIAISON</b>	Rob Petty, Chief Information Officer

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motioned by: Member Heintz; Seconded by Smith

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

N/A

### **REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson Thomas welcomed the team from 123Net and reviewed where the team has previously left their discussions.

### **MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

#### 1. Discussion with 123Net

The meeting discussed potential expansion opportunities for 123Net in Novi, focusing on three investment scenarios: 30% coverage (1.2 million), 90% coverage (7.6 million), and 100% coverage (12 million). The 30% plan targets 6,000 new homes, while the 90% and 100% plans aim to cover areas without fiber. Permitting costs and potential city support, such as waiving fees, were highlighted as key factors. The discussion also touched on the impact on local businesses and the importance of community surveys to gauge internet satisfaction and identify funding sources. The next steps include gathering current state data and exploring partnerships with other service providers.

### **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

#### 1. FlashVote Survey Usage

The committee discussed conducting a flash vote survey to gather community feedback on internet options and power reliability, noting that

previous surveys were outdated and lacked comprehensive data. They considered reaching out to Cheryl for guidance on structuring the survey. The committee also explored the idea of incentivizing companies to invest in neighborhoods with high take rates and reviewing current fiber coverage for expansion opportunities. Additionally, they acknowledged the impact of fiber internet on PEG funding and discussed working with the Sustainability Committee on solar energy and backup power solutions. The meeting concluded with plans to prepare questions for the flash vote and consider a joint meeting with other committees.

## 2. Power Outages and Alternatives

The committee discussed ongoing power outages in the community, particularly the frequency and duration of these disruptions, which have been affecting residents and businesses. They expressed concern about the aging infrastructure and the impact of these outages on local quality of life and economic stability. Members emphasized the need for more reliable data on outages, including System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) and System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI) metrics, to better understand the extent of the problem. They also highlighted the importance of working with the electric company to address these concerns, improve the response to outages, and consider future upgrades to the power grid. The committee acknowledged that a more resilient infrastructure could help mitigate future disruptions and contribute to the overall sustainability of the community. Plans were made to request regular outage data from the utility provider to support informed decision-making moving forward.

## REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

- The committee discussed the need for current state data on fiber connectivity within Novi to assist in driving actions.
- The committee suggested a joint meeting with the sustainability committee to discuss to obtain information on utilizing Flash Vote.
- The committee discussed reaching out to county commissioners to determine how to obtain the broadband data the county collected.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

None

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Member Smith; Seconded by Member Heintz  
Approved 3:0