



CITY OF MCALLEN

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

To: Development Corporation Board
From: Belinda Mercado, IT Director
Date: April 17, 2009
Subject: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
Grant Application

GOAL:

To develop a broadband network that includes fiber and Wi-Fi technology for public safety communication services (video surveillance) and the community.

BACKGROUND:

The City of McAllen's Strategic Business Plan has a goal identified to "Promote McAllen as a Safe City". In support of this goal, the Information Technology department is working closely with the McAllen Police Department to build a city broadband network to support the installation of video monitoring throughout key areas of the city.

Phase 1 of the project is funded at \$500,000 and consists of the following components:

- Installation of a Wi-Fi network downtown for support of wireless cameras
- Installation of Video Surveillance system that includes wireless video cameras and software to view recorded video

RFP responses have been received for Phase 1 and are currently under evaluation. The team plans to make a recommendation on the vendor selection in May of 2009.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY:

Through the Economic Stimulus program, a grant is available through the Department of Commerce – National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The NTIA grant has been allocated \$4.7 billion and requires an 80/20 match. Funding will be awarded quickly and the first submission is due in June 2009. The city plans to submit our broadband plan in support of the public safety video surveillance project in June 2009.

PROJECT FUNDING:

It is estimated that this project will cost \$6 million. Funding is needed for the 20% match which is currently estimated at \$1.2 million.