



**Vermont Telecommunications Authority**

March 18, 2010

City of Burlington  
Church St.  
Burlington, VT

RE: *Google's "Fiber for Communities" Pilot Project*

Dear Burlington,

The Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA) would like to extend our strong support for your application to Google to be part Google's "Fiber For Communities" Pilot Project. This project would be a significant component of the state's efforts to create an "e-state" in Vermont.

We are painfully aware that many Vermonters still access the Internet on dial-up, satellite or with very slow speed services. Absent some assistance from additional resources, reasonably priced ultra high-speed Internet access is highly unlikely in the near future, if ever. Broadband access is an essential service in today's society, for job creation, educational enhancement and community involvement. Robust telecommunications infrastructure increases our capacity for cultural participation beyond the usual limits of our physical location.

While we understand that the ultra high-speed network that Google plans to construct will be built at their expense we also understand that support for this project is critical for it to succeed. Therefore, we request that Google award funding to the Burlington due to the merits of your application and the overwhelming need in your area.

Sincerely,

*Thomas Murray*

Thomas Murray  
Executive Director