SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Today, Mayor Jim Griffith announced that Sunnyvale is on a short list of cities working with Google to explore the possibility of bringing the ultra-high speed Google Fiber broadband network to the city.

“As the heart of Silicon Valley, Sunnyvale has a culture of innovation and a community of early adopters that makes us a perfect fit for this initiative,” stated Mayor Griffith. “Our residents need a cutting-edge technology infrastructure and we welcome the opportunities that gigabit broadband could bring to Sunnyvale.”

Today’s average American broadband speed is 9.8 Megabits per second. In contrast, Google Fiber could bring Sunnyvale residents access to “Gigabit” Internet connections up to 1,000 Megabits per second – or up to 100 times faster than basic broadband.

“Communities with abundant high-speed Internet grow stronger because there’s greater potential to create jobs, drive economic growth, and help students and families get access to essential resources” said Kevin Lo, General Manager for Google Fiber. “City leaders like Mayor Griffith are stepping up to see what they can do to make their cities ready for the fiber-optic networks that are the future. We look forward to working with Sunnyvale in the coming months to see if we can build the next chapter of the Internet together, on gigabit speeds.”
There is huge consumer demand for faster Internet speeds because no one likes to wait on the web. Unfortunately, many of the things people love to do online (like gaming, watching movies, video chatting) require a lot of bandwidth, which means that, using today’s connections, consumers often get stuck waiting for pages to load or for videos to buffer. Statistics show that people walk away from slow-loading sites. And gig networks aren’t just about meeting today’s speed needs. The next 100x leap in broadband speeds to gigabit Internet will lead to innovation that’s unimaginable today, just as the shift from dial-up to broadband did.

Starting this week, Google will work closely with Sunnyvale’s City staff on a joint planning process to explore what it would take to build a brand new fiber-optic network capable of delivering these gigabit speeds throughout Sunnyvale. Google will begin compiling a detailed study of local factors that might affect construction plans. Simultaneously, City staff will begin meetings with Google to discuss what it would take to plan and prepare the city for a fiber project of this scale.

Google will provide an update on which cities will get Google Fiber by the end of this year. Google Fiber is an Internet and TV service that provides Internet connectivity that is up to 100x faster than the basic broadband, along with hundreds of HD TV channels. Google Fiber is currently available in Kansas City, Kansas, Kansas City, Missouri and Provo Utah, and will be available in Austin, Texas later this year. For more information about this announcement, visit the Google Fiber blog http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2014/02/exploring-new-cities-for-google-fiber.html.

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