

Lake Oswego to Work with Google Fiber to Explore Bringing City Residents Ultra-High Speed Internet Access

Mayor Kent Studebaker is pleased to announce that Lake Oswego 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. At up to 1,000 Megabits per second, Google Fiber is 100 times faster than today's basic broadband – which averages 9.8 Megabits per second - allowing Lake Oswego residents access to “Gigabit” Internet connections almost instantaneously.

"The City of Lake Oswego is eager to work with Google in bringing fiber-based broadband service to our residents," stated Mayor Kent Studebaker. "Our city is ideally suited for this. Many of our residents are executives, professionals, and knowledge workers, and having this business-class Internet service available in every home will be a tremendous economic development tool. We're attracting more young families, and many of them are cutting the cable and depend on the Internet for their communications and entertainment. And I know our outstanding school system will jump on the bandwidth and use it in ways we can't even imagine today."

"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 Studebaker 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 Lake Oswego 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 Mayor Studebaker and city leaders 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 the city. Google will begin compiling a detailed study of local factors that might affect construction plans. Simultaneously, city leaders will begin meetings with Google to discuss what it would take to plan and prepare the city for a fiber project of this scale.

If all goes as planned, construction in Lake Oswego would begin in late 2014 or early 2015. Google hopes to "start connecting homes" by summer 2015. Lake Oswego residents would be offered similar service packages to those available in Kansas City: including gigabit Internet, Google Fiber TV, and option of "standard" Internet speeds (similar to cable modems) for only the cost of installation.

In addition to Lake Oswego, Google will be working with Portland, Beaverton, Hillsboro, Gresham, and Tigard.

Google will provide an update on which cities will get Google Fiber by the end of this year. 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 at <http://googlefiberblog.blogspot.com/2014/02/exploring-new-cities-for-google-fiber.html>

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