

CITY OF PEABODY

24 LOWELL STREET
PEABODY, MA 01960



P. 978-538-5700
F. 978-538-5980

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR EDWARD A. BETTENCOURT, JR.

Mayor Bettencourt Touts High Speed Fiber Venture *City to Partner with Light Plant to Create Municipal Data Network*

Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr. announced today a working agreement to partner with the Peabody Municipal Light Plant (PMLP) to construct a high-speed fiber loop in the City of Peabody. The fiber loop will connect various PMLP installations scattered throughout the city and will feature an open system design to enable new high-speed data networks to connect all Peabody public schools, libraries, public safety and public works facilities, and other municipal users.

Mayor Bettencourt is also advocating for the PMLP planning team to design the fiber loop with extra capacity, so at a later phase of construction it could be used to deliver Gigabit speed Internet service to Peabody residents and businesses.

“High speed fiber networks are critical components of 21st century municipal infrastructure,” said Mayor Bettencourt. “Third party network providers like Comcast and Verizon have not stepped up to better serve our city users, so Peabody is taking an important first step to create our own high-speed fiber network.”

The City will cooperate with the Light Plant in any study where the PMLP evaluates options concerning Gigabit and higher speed Internet connectivity services they could provide to Peabody residents and businesses, as have several other municipal light departments in Massachusetts.

The proposed Fiber loop would enable the city to become entirely self-managed for its internal data networks and for Internet connectivity, at significantly higher speeds and reliability when compared to the limited choices now available from current providers. The Mayor also expects the service to present significant cost savings on connectivity to the PMLP and all city departments once operational. The Fiber loop would also give the city independence from third party Internet providers who might not agree to standards regarding Net neutrality or who offer Internet connectivity at arbitrarily reduced speeds or at artificially premium prices.

A working group comprised of City department representatives and PMLP staff will shortly convene to establish criteria for the Fiber loop design, and discuss details concerning construction, operation and maintenance of the loop.

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