



*Gray text indicates a blank answer.

Get involved: Local government

1. General information

Name of governing body: City of Worcester

Name of this response: Worcester, Massachusetts

List of communities included in your response: City of Worcester, Massachusetts

Contact person: Julie A. Jacobson, Assistant City Manager

Address: Executive Office of Economic, Neighborhood, and Workforce Development, 44 Front Street, Suite 520

State: Massachusetts

ZIP (5 Digit): 01608

Phone number: 508-799-1400 x249

Email: development@worcesterma.gov

Contact person has authority to provide these answers as the official position of the responding local government?

2. Background information about your community

Population (2008): 182,000

Populated area in square miles: 38

Please describe how the population is distributed: The most dense population amounts are found in the S/SE portion of the city as well as NW/W portion of the city.

Median household income (\$ per annum): \$45,000

Number of housing units: 73,700

Number of single family homes: 23,200

Number of multi-family homes: 50,200

Number of apartment complexes:

Average number of units per apartment complex:

Number of gated communities: 0

Average number of housing units per gated community: 0

Approximate percentage of households in entire community with access to broadband Internet service (%): 100

Approximate percentage of households in entire community that are currently subscribing to broadband Internet service (%):

Terrain:

Overall description of terrain: Worcester is located in Central Massachusetts and includes wooded and hilly upland. Worcester's mean elevation is 480 feet. The highest elevation in Worcester is approximately 1,000 feet. Worcester has a developed urban environment with 96% plains and rolling hills as terrain and 4% water.

Percentage of plains (%): 48

Percentage of rolling hills (%): 48

Percentage of mountains (%): 0

Percentage other terrain (%): 4

Climate:

Average annual highest temperature (°F): 56

Average annual temperature (°F): 48

Average annual lowest temperature (°F): 39

Average amount of snowfall per year (inches): 61

Average amount of rainfall per year (inches): 49

Average amount of hurricane or tornado activity in a year (days): 0

Local government:

Form of local government (city, town, county, etc.): City

Local government rule: Home Rule

Source of government decision making (city manager, city council, mayor, etc.): City Council - City Manager (Plan E under Massachusetts General Laws)

Utilities:

Please list largest utilities and the approximate percentage of the community covered by each provider:

	Provider name:	Coverage (%):
Electric:	National Grid	100
Gas:	NStar	40
Water:	City of Worc/DPW	99
Sewer:	City of Worc/DPW	95
Cable:	Charter	100
Phone:	Verizon	100

Local economy mix (if available):

Number of high tech jobs: 2000

Number of manufacturing jobs:

Number of education services jobs:

Number of other service sector jobs:

Colleges and universities (List names and average number of students enrolled at each, if available):

Assumption College: 2,150 (Undergraduate) 700 (Graduate)
Becker College: 1,739
Clark University: 2,200 (U) 900 (G)
College of the Holy Cross: 2,700
Mass. College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences: 612
Quinsigamond Community College: 13,000
UMass Medical School: 935
Worcester State College: 5,378
Worcester Polytechnic Institute: 3,016 (U) 1,141 (G)

Major hospitals/health care facilities (List names)

St. Vincent Hospital at Worcester Medical Center
UMass Memorial Medical Group - Hahnemann Campus, Memorial Campus, University Campus
Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital & Outpatient Center
AdCare Hospital of Worcester

Current providers of high speed Internet service (Company; DSL, Cable modem, wireless, fiber, etc.):

Charter Communications
Verizon
Lighttower Fiber LLC
Fiber Technologies Networks LLC
Sprint
One Communications
Level 3 Communications, Inc.

Other significant features of your community that could be relevant for this project:

The FY 2009 area family median income was \$79,700. The number of Worcester-based businesses is 4,000. The payroll of Worcester employers is \$2.35 billion. Downtown office space is 4.75 million square feet (90% occupancy rate). Number of hotel rooms is 1,000. There are over 30,000 college students in Worcester. Forbes.com rated Worcester among top three cities in New England for businesses and careers and the 9th most livable city in America. CNNMoney.com named Worcester among top 5 biotech hotspots in the nation. There are over 60 cultural organizations in Worcester.

3. Collaborating on a Google fiber trial

In this section, we ask you to share how your community would work with Google to enable us to proceed quickly and effectively.

Are you, the local government, willing to appoint an individual to serve as a single point of contact (1)? *

Yes

No

If so, please describe the responsibilities and authority that this individual will have: The single point of contact will coordinate the local government and community's interactions with Google, including obtaining information required by Google as quickly as possible and resolving any problems that may arise as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Describe any current or planned programs in your community to accelerate and expand adoption and use of broadband Internet access: With the current economic climate, the City has no public plans to accelerate and expand use of broadband internet access, nor is it aware of any private initiatives beyond the Google RFI.

Additional reasons why you believe that Google should select your community for this project: The entire city will benefit tremendously from Google's broadband network. Municipal government, schools, colleges, institutions, industry, businesses, and residents will be able to implement services and programs that are currently hindered by limited bandwidth. There are many specific examples of how users would benefit. Using the Worcester Public Library (WPL) as just one example of many, broadband access is enormously important to the WPL system. The WPL has 3 branches in Worcester and serves as a reference center for over 60 town libraries in Central Massachusetts. At the WPL, the internet is used for reference support, job hunting, ESL classes, homework, and researching online electronic resources. The WPL uses broadband to conduct its basic operations, including circulation, cataloging, and interlibrary loan. Google broadband would allow the WPL to lift the prohibition on allowing users to download library electronic resources from library computers, encourage the use of social networking services for podcasts/blogs of book reviews, and offer streaming video of community events. Librarians would be able to conduct workshops and programs through online webinars and provide real-time videoconferencing for distance education courses and the internet capabilities at the WPL could play essential roles in disaster response and the provision of emergency services.

Please provide a web link to any additional information you wish us to consider. Submissions using Google Maps or YouTube are encouraged: <http://worcesterwoogle.blogspot.com>

4. Your community's support

Have you performed any outreach, study, or analysis regarding support in your community for this type of trial?

- Yes
- No

Describe how you ascertained or plan to ascertain the level of community support for this project (e.g., surveys, public hearings, meetings with community groups, etc.):

Worcester solicited community support by:

- 1) Websites: www.worcesterma.gov, www.worcpubliclib.org, www.worcestermass.org, www.worcesterchamber.org
- 2) Facebook Group (Woo-gle for Google! Let's bring Google Fiber to Worcester!)
- 3) E-mail Lists: institutions, businesses, Worcester Public Schools, City of Worcester, colleges, citizen groups
- 4) Newspaper Articles: Telegram & Gazette, Worcester Magazine, Boston Globe
- 5) Appearances: local community access channel, news station, radio
- 6) Bloggers (www.brendanmelican.com, nicolecommawoo.wordpress.com, worcesterwoogle.blogspot.com, www.worcesteria.wordpress.com)
- 7) City Council Meetings: public hearings
- 8) Worcester-Google Map (worcesterwoogle.blogspot.com/p/woogle-map.html)
- 9) YouTube (WorcesterWoogle Channel)

Please describe your community's level of support for this project: The community has shown it supports this project. Comments posted on online articles are positive. Grassroots efforts have garnered attention and complemented the city's outreach efforts. A Google Map of Worcester was created on which people could tag their location and list why they want Google Fiber to come to Worcester. To date, there have been 20,000 views of this page. Additionally, the Facebook Group, "Woo-gle for Google! Let's bring Google Fiber to Worcester" has garnered over 2,200 supporters in just over two weeks alone. Interested parties have made videos, which are posted on the WorcesterWoogle YouTube channel. The community involvement in all these media prove there is great support for this initiative in Worcester.

Please briefly summarize any additional comments or suggestions you would like to make to Google on behalf of your community: In February 1955, The National Geographic Magazine highlighted Worcester in the

article "Cities Like Worcester Make America." With headings including "Persistence, Resistance, and Success" and "Yankee Ingenuity Finds a Way," Worcester was touted as a "city of industry made so by the character of its citizens." Today, that persistent character has sparked a new wave of ingenuity attracting such industries as insurance, banking, high technology, and biotechnology, while retaining some of the very same industries highlighted in the 1955 article, including abrasives and metal forging. Worcester's place among America's industrial history looms large, but its future offers even more promise. The assets that attracted the industry of the 1800s and 1900s not only remain but continue to expand to lure the industries of the 2000s. Worcester's colleges, universities, and hospitals are among its largest employers and attract both talented students and employees from around the globe.

5. Facilities and resources

Deployment of a community-wide FTTH network will require Google to work closely with local government entities and other organizations. Google seeks to identify resources owned by the community that may assist in the rapid, smooth deployment of a residential fiber optic network. In this section, we ask you to share information about particular facilities and assets within the community that may be used or affected as part of such a facilities deployment, particularly those owned by the local government. Please respond as completely and accurately as possible.

Pole attachments - Please identify the entities, including units of the local government, that own or control utility poles in your community:

Entity name: National Grid

Number of poles owned or controlled: 22,500

Annual rate per pole for pole attachment:

by telecommunications carriers (\$): 16

by cable system operators (\$): 12

by Internet access providers (\$): 16

Entity name: Verizon

Number of poles owned or controlled: 23,967

Annual rate per pole for pole attachment:

by telecommunications carriers (\$): 5

by cable system operators (\$): 3

by Internet access providers (\$): 5

Entity name: Charter

Number of poles owned or controlled: 20

Annual rate per pole for pole attachment:

by telecommunications carriers (\$):

by cable system operators (\$):

by Internet access providers (\$):

If the local government will make its own poles available for attachments by Google, please estimate the number of days to complete the following steps, assuming full cooperation from Google:

Negotiation of a master pole attachment agreement:

Issuance of permits for individual attachments:

Developing specifications for make-ready work:

Completing make ready work:

If a unit of your local government has access to poles owned or controlled by third parties that it could make available to Google, please provide the following information: The City of Worcester does not currently have an agreement providing access to poles owned by third parties.

Rate that you would charge Google (\$) per pole per year:

Describe any restrictions on your right to make such poles available to Google:

Please identify any state or local laws, ordinances, rules, or other legal measures that govern access and rates for attachment:

Please provide contact information for any entities named above:

Conduits - Please identify the entities, including units of local government, that own or control utility conduits in your community:

Entity name: City of Worcester DPW

Linear feet of conduit owned or controlled: 10,775

Annual rate per foot for conduit use:

by telecommunications carriers (\$): 0

by cable system operators (\$): 0

by Internet access providers (\$): 0

Entity name: National Grid

Linear feet of conduit owned or controlled: 1,000,000

Annual rate per foot for conduit use:

by telecommunications carriers (\$): 2

by cable system operators (\$): 2

by Internet access providers (\$): 2

Entity name: Verizon

Linear feet of conduit owned or controlled: 77,718

Annual rate per foot for conduit use:

by telecommunications carriers (\$): 1

by cable system operators (\$): 1

by Internet access providers (\$): 1

If the local government will make its own conduits available for use by Google, please estimate the number of days to complete the following steps, assuming full cooperation from Google:

Negotiation of a master conduit agreement: 30

Issuance of permits: 30

If a unit of your local government has access to conduit owned or controlled by third parties that it could make available to Google, please provide the following information:

Linear feet:

Entity or entities that own or control the conduit:

Rate that you would charge Google (\$) per linear foot per year:

Describe any restrictions on your right to make such conduit available to Google:

Please identify local laws, ordinances, rules, or other legal measures that govern access rights and rates for conduit use:

Please provide contact information for any entity named above:

Public rights of way:

Does your local government directly control and administer the use of all public rights of way within its jurisdiction?

Describe any other entities that control and administer the use of the public rights of way in your community: Local roads are under direct control of the Commissioner of Public Works. U.S. Route 20 and portions of State Route 122/122A are under direct control of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

With respect to your processes for managing access to public rights-of-way, please estimate the number of days to complete the following steps, assuming full cooperation from Google:

Negotiation, approval, and issuance of a master right-of-way agreement: 30

Issuance of construction permits: 5

Post-construction inspections and approvals: 5

Please indicate the amount or method of calculating all fees and charges for use of the public rights-of-way, including the following (if applicable):

Application fees: Plan review \$100/street

Linear foot (or other) usage fees: Street Opening Permit \$150 or \$300/street

Inspection fees:

Other fees or charges: Petition City Council for Grant Location \$50/street

Community sensitivities and policies.

Please describe any historical districts or other culturally or environmentally sensitive areas:

Montvale Local Historic District

Massachusetts Avenue Local Historic District

<http://www.worcesterma.gov/uploads/90/ce/90ce5c4dd0c9ad279a5e91fda31d7fde/zoning-map.pdf>

Worcester Conservation Commission - Wetlands Ordinance

<http://www.worcesterma.gov/uploads/e5/a1/e5a12c1ddeac037639409f5872ee5823/wetland-ordinance.pdf>

Please describe your undergrounding plans and policies, if any:

See DPW Permit Manual

<http://www.ci.worcester.ma.us/uploads/3c/1e/3c1ee9f49cb056decbb60917dca70798/permit-manual.pdf>

Chapter 372 of the Acts of 1902 (MA) underground wiring within a 2 mile circumference of City Hall

Worcester Subdivision Regulations (underground wiring)

<http://www.worcesterma.gov/uploads/56/f1/56f1c06f4826c90efc046f9e2281c411/subdivision-regulations.pdf>

Please identify unique ordinances, rules, policy statements, and other legal measures specific to your community that Google would have to comply in developing a fiber project:

6. Construction methods

Has your community worked with, studied, or evaluated the following types of construction methods for fiber to the home networks:

- Aerial
- Trenching
- Boring
- Micro-trenching
- Plow
- Rock saw
- Other
- None

Check approved methods of construction for your community:

- Aerial
- Trenching
- Boring
- Micro-trenching
- Plow
- Rock saw
- Other
- None

Are there other construction methods that are approved for use in construction of fiber to the home or other telecommunications networks in your community? If so, please list them below:

7. Regulatory issues

Please describe the local regulatory obligations that would apply to Google if this project went forward in your community:

Grant of Location (by City Council) M.G.L. c. 166, sect. 22, 25

Worcester Revised Ordinances, c.12, sect. 14, 16, 17

<http://www.ci.worcester.ma.us/uploads/31/19/3119232ccb23ac0e98127cebc213a36a/revised-ordinances-2008-1.pdf>

Please describe local business obligations and taxes/fees, if any, that would apply to Google if this project went forward in your community:

APPLICATION CONFIRMATION:

development@worcesterma.gov | [Sign out](#)

Google

Request for information - Review response

Local government

We've received your response, select any of the sections below to review:

1. [General](#) ✓
2. [Background](#) ✓
3. [Collaborating](#) ✓
4. [Community](#) ✓
5. [Facilities](#) ✓
6. [Construction](#) ✓
7. [Regulatory](#) ✓

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