

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Board of Commissioners

FROM: Bryan Gruesbeck, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Google Fiber City Checklist

DATE: March 9, 2015

Background: During the 2/2/15 Board Retreat, you discussed the need to improve broadband Internet access in Pittsboro. You also discussed the need to discuss the issue among other key stakeholders in Chatham County.

Attached please find the “Google Fiber City Checklist” that was released in February 2014 to communities that Google was currently working with as a part of their effort to build improved broadband infrastructure.

The Checklist describes itself as a “best practices” capable of assisting any town or provider that is considering a new network. For example, “Appendix 3A” notes that an “applicable area” should be at least “twenty-thousand (20,000) households” or “three-hundred (300) route miles of underground installation.” Scale and rooftops are a necessity for Google Fiber – and presumably other similar infrastructures. If we want better broadband, we will need to involve the broader community and private developers.

Action Requested: Receive the information and provide feedback.