

ALA American Library Association

November 3, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication, WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As part of the above-referenced rulemaking, the American Library Association has provided the following data on recurring broadband costs for a range of rural, urban, and suburban libraries in the following states. All data and narrative notes were provided by state library officials except in the case of the Peninsula Library System (CA) which was provided by the System's Director of IT.

- Alabama
 - ALA provided examples from several Alabama libraries, including \$79.99/month for 12 Mbps/768 Kbps, \$119.95 for 6 Mbps at a rural library, \$112.71 for 22 Mbps, \$45/month for 14 Mbps, \$58.01/month for 50 Mbps at a rural library, \$55/month for 10 Mbps/820 Kbps, \$8,59.40/year for 10 Mbps Internet access plus \$110/month each for three DLS WAN circuits, \$8,527/year for 10 Mbps, \$55.95/month for 3 Mbps/512 Kbps, \$1,023/month for 50 Mbps at the main branch and \$611.75 or \$653.42/month for 10 Mbps at six branches.
- California
 - Peninsula Library System purchases 10 Gbps Internet access for \$4,220.96/month and pays \$27,993.65 for 1 Gbps circuits to each of its 35 branch sites.
- Delaware
 - The Delaware Library Consortium has a 3-year contract for broadband connectivity for all locations. Rates are \$1,440/month for 100 Mbps and \$2,240/month for 1 Gbps.
 - The Delaware Division of Libraries provides broadband connectivity support for all 35 public libraries in Delaware. Cost data is attached.
- Georgia
 - The Georgia Public Library Service recently sought new broadband service contracts for all 62 public library systems. Cost data is attached.
- Idaho

- ALA provided examples from several Idaho libraries, including \$1,320/month for 5 Mbps (fiber) at a rural library and \$700/month for 40 Mbps at an urban library. One library recently upgraded from a \$75/month 10 Mbps connection to a cable broadband connection of 60 Mbps for \$135 a month. Additionally, 12 libraries with the same provider report costs of \$20 per Mbps.
- Illinois
 - Examples provided: \$200/month for 10 Mbps (fiber); \$135/month for two T1 lines; \$200/month for 50 Mbps (cable); \$736/month for one T1 and 7 Mbps DSL.
- Indiana
 - Provided detailed connectivity and cost data for all public libraries (attached).
- Kentucky
 - Average per Mbps costs
 - Fiber (7 libraries): \$90.11/Mbps (all libraries); \$47.90/Mbps (urban); \$106.99 (rural)
 - Cable/DSL (50 libraries): \$331.88/Mbps (all); \$514.70/Mbps (urban); \$267.64/Mbps (rural).
 - T1 (1 library): \$4,480/Mbps
- Maine
 - The Maine School and Libraries Network (MSLN) purchases Internet connectivity for approximately 240 libraries and 690 schools at the state network level. Maine pays \$0.70/mB for a 4 Gbps service that is burstable to 10 Gbps and \$4.50/mB for a capped 6 Gbps service.
 - Maine provided bandwidth costs for all libraries (attached).
 - MSLN is connecting the Rockport Public Library to its nearest Point of Presence, 24 miles away in Belfast. The fiber lease is mileage based and costs \$384/month. Networkmaine lights all dark fiber at 1 Gbps. The project included a non-recurring cost of \$4,500 to connect to fiber at the library. That probably doesn't represent real costs but rather it is what it took to get the project off the ground. Prior to the project MSLN had been paying \$720/month for 20 Mbps at Rockport.
- Massachusetts
 - Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing (C/W MARS) Network (approx. 120 libraries): \$78/month for 5 Mbps, \$136/month for 10 Mbps, \$204/month for 20 Mbps, \$403/month for 50 Mbps.
 - Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing (CLAMS) Library Network (28 libraries): \$113/month for 20 Mbps.
 - Minuteman Libraries (35 libraries): \$115/month for 50/25 Mbps or \$135/month for 50/10 Mbps
 - Merrimack Valley Library Network (approx. 33 libraries): average of \$159.80/month for 16/3 Mbps Comcast business class.
 - North of Boston Library Exchange (21 libraries): \$115-135 for 50/10 Mbps

- Old Colony Library Network (approx. 35 libraries): \$94.85/month for 12/2 Mbps
- SAILS library network: \$89.95/month for 12/2 Mbps
- Approx. 22 unaffiliated libraries receive \$113/month in state funding for fiber connectivity through MassBroadband 123.
- Ohio
 - Ohio provided a chart summarizing contract prices (attached) and also provided the following response: “We buy circuits for the main libraries from statewide contracts posted at <http://das.ohio.gov/Divisions/InformationTechnology/TelecommunicationsServices.aspx#4089153-ethernet>. Libraries can buy circuits for their branches from the same contracts. These are dedicated (unshared) circuits with same speed up and down, in other words enterprise class, not residential class.

Most of the vendors are following AT&T's lead ("New Pricing Table – 03/13/2013") and dropping prices to grab the expected school business at 100 Mbps and 1 Gbps. I've attached a chart I made of AT&T's pricing. Note that 50 Mbps costs \$490 per month (60-month contract), while 100 Mbps costs \$500 per month. So we've been going through the E-rate process to renew a lot of our contracts at 100 Mbps. For smaller libraries, 10 Mbps is \$349 and 20 Mbps is \$375, so we're moving a lot of those libraries to 20 Mbps.

AT&T and Time Warner Business cover most of the library locations in the state, both rural and urban. Only about 7% of our circuit buys are from other vendors, many of whom have the same general pricing as those big guys. The notable exception is the wireless Ethernet service from Agile, which costs \$790 per month (60-month contract) for 10 Mbps and \$1,075 for 25 Mbps. Fortunately, we only need to resort to wireless Ethernet for six of our main libraries, fiber is available everywhere else. (We've actually got it pretty good here in Ohio.)”

- Ohio also provided a chart summarizing library contract prices (attached).
- Wisconsin
 - WiscNET provided annual internet access costs for 15 regional library systems (attached).

Respectfully submitted,



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