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Mayors' committee announces launch of [GoogleConnectsKC.com](http://www.GoogleConnectsKC.com)

Website will keep community informed and seek input as Google high-speed fiber project moves forward

What will Google's ultra-high-speed, fiber-to-the-home network do for Kansas City? That's the question people are asking in Kansas City, Kan., and Kansas City, Mo., the two cities selected by Google for the fiber-optics communication network that will bring Internet connection speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second — up to 100 times than most Americans have today — to Kansas City neighborhoods beginning in 2012.

Possibilities for how the Google fiber network will benefit the region seem endless. Faster video downloads in your home? Certainly. Video conferencing with your doctor, telecommuting to work, or new opportunities to grow your business? Possibly. But how can Google fiber lead new innovations that impact Kansas City's economy?

Mayor Sly James and Mayor Joe Reardon recently appointed members to the Mayors' Bistate Innovations Team to answer some of these questions by developing a playbook that identifies creative ways to use the Google Fiber infrastructure to inspire innovation, encourage entrepreneurship and recruit new businesses, industries and institutions to the region.

"Google Fiber gives Kansas City an edge that no one else has," said Mike Burke, co-chair of the Mayors' Bistate Innovations Team. "A lot of people and organizations are working on different fronts to wrap our minds around what we can do with this opportunity."

Last week, the team launched www.GoogleConnectsKC.com, a website that will keep the community informed as the project progresses and provide opportunities for people to share their ideas for making the most of high-speed fiber. Visitors to the website can use online forms to ask questions, propose ideas and track Google-related events. The site also features links for users to interact with the team through Facebook and Twitter.

"We need to hear from residents, students, teachers, business owners, entrepreneurs — really all walks of life," said Ray Daniels, also a team co-chair. "We're starting our discussions by focusing on health care, education, neighborhoods, arts and culture and entrepreneurship. But we're open to everyone's ideas."

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