



City Council

Digital Equity Meeting ~Final~

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Councilor Jose Delgado (Chair)

October 6, 2025

5:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Call To Order

5:00 PM Meeting called to order on October 6, 2025, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Roll Call

In Person:

GoNetSpeed Reps
Cathy Buono
Steve Lonergan
Ken Shea
Charles Knight
Andy Doty
Chris Cignoli
Tracye Whitfield
Jose Delgado
Timothy Allen

Virtual:

Robertas Kilkenny
Stephen Howard
Ashley Gustafson
Benjamin T. Madden
Eric Weiss
Joe T
Lindsay Hackett
Lucy Custer
Matt Krueger
Michael Fenton
Nathan Trask

Public Portion

1. GONETSPEED - Duffy Lane
2. GONETSPEED - 117 Rosemary Drive
3. GONETSPEED - 174 Rosemary Drive
4. GONETSPEED - Sunbrier Road
5. GONETSPEED - Senator Street
6. GONETSPEED - North Brook Road
7. GONETSPEED - Marchioness Road
8. GONETSPEED - 172 Mallowhill Road
9. GONETSPEED - 93 Mallowhill Road
10. GONETSPEED - Woodrow Street
11. GONETSPEED - Arnold Avenue
12. GONETSPEED - Almira Road
13. GONETSPEED - 472 Boston Road
14. GONETSPEED - 461 Boston Road
15. GONETSPEED - 56 Fargo Street
16. GONETSPEED - 34 Fargo Street
17. GONETSPEED - Rosewell Street
18. GONETSPEED - Breckwood Boulevard
19. GONETSPEED - 11 Gresham Street
20. GONETSPEED - 206 Durant Street
21. GONETSPEED - 341 Parkerview Street
22. GONETSPEED - 341 Patricia Circle
23. GONETSPEED - 568 Parker Street
24. GONETSPEED - 700 Parker Street

25. GONETSPEED - 658 Parker Street
26. GONETSPEED - 700 Parker Street
27. GONETSPEED - N Branch Parkway

Minutes

Overview

The City Council Executive meeting focused on the launch of the Digital Equity Working Group and a review of GoNetSpeed's proposed expansion of fiber internet service in Springfield. Discussion centered on addressing digital equity gaps, evaluating construction and regulatory considerations, and aligning private infrastructure investment with citywide access goals.

Key Discussion Points

- The Digital Equity Working Group was formally introduced and outlined its focus on affordability, access, and digital literacy across underserved areas.
- GoNetSpeed presented its service model, customer commitments, and phased fiber build-out plan extending through 2030.
- City departments reviewed proposed fiber optic installation methods, including aerial versus underground construction, permitting requirements, and coordination with DPW.
- Councilors raised concerns about equity impacts, timelines, cost estimates, and service expansion into underserved neighborhoods.
- Infrastructure challenges were discussed, including pole access, historic district considerations, and the need for proper registration and documentation through DigSafe.
- Community benefits were emphasized, including potential hotspots at senior centers, device access at community events, and digital literacy initiatives.
- The city reported receipt of an additional \$80,000 grant to support digital equity and internet implementation efforts aligned with fiber installation.

Decisions and Agreements

- GoNetSpeed agreed to oversize underground conduits to approximately 3 inches to support future providers and municipal use.
- DPW confirmed oversight of construction standards and road restoration.
- GoNetSpeed is committed to coordination with the Historic Commission in historic districts and to increasing community engagement.

Next Steps

- GoNetSpeed to submit permit applications for conduit installation and ensure DigSafe registration.
- GoNetSpeed to provide a public fact sheet for resident inquiries.
- Continued phased build-out per the presented timeline through 2030.
- Coordination between GoNetSpeed and the city on community hotspots, events, and digital literacy efforts.
- City to allocate the additional \$80,000 grant toward digital equity initiatives concurrent with fiber deployment.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]