

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 27, 2006

City Contracts to Build Wi-Fi Mesh Network

Citizens, businesses, and the City will soon have a new high tech tool at their disposal in Burleson. The Burleson City Council has approved a contract with RedMoon Broadband and Chevron Energy Solutions for construction of a Wi-Fi Mesh Network in the city.

The new Wi-Fi Mesh network will support mobile applications for public safety, public works, community development, and other municipal service functions. This will allow city staff to access information such as public safety reports, construction plans, digital video, water & sewer maps, and inspection reports more quickly while in the field, enhancing the speed and quality of service to residents and businesses in Burleson. The network allows connections via consumer-grade wireless service, making accessibility to the network very broad, secure, and stable. This means the network will reach areas that would otherwise be inaccessible.

People who live and work in the Burleson community will see another benefit to construction of the Wi-Fi Mesh network as well. Public spaces within the coverage area will provide wireless internet access for laptops and other digital devices. Home users within the coverage area will also be able to access the network by subscribing to hourly, daily, or monthly services from RedMoon.

The availability of this kind of wireless internet access is expected to benefit local tourism as well, because a reliable network will be a great convenience to business travelers and other visitors to Burleson.

The contract provides for RedMoon Broadband to install, operate and maintain the network. The City will finance the majority of the costs to construct the network over a 7 year period with approximately 90% of these costs reimbursed by RedMoon.

Now that the contract has been approved by City Council, plans will begin for establishment of the network's initial ten (10) square mile boundary, determining exactly what portions of the city the network will cover.

Questions about the Wi-Fi Mesh network should be directed to Information Technology Director Mark Eder at 817-447-5400 ext 301.

Questions about this news release should be directed to the public information officer at 817-447-5400 ext 286.