

## **DRAFT Consolidated Answer List September 8, 2006**

### Upper Dublin Community Broadband Questions and Answers

1. What is Upper Dublin Community Broadband (UDCBB)?  
Upper Dublin Community Broadband is a proposed High Speed Wireless Internet service that provides reliable Internet access for both fixed location and mobile users.
2. What exactly does “Broadband” mean anyway?  
From the Barrons Dictionary of Computer and Internet terms “Broadband” is defined as a wide range of frequencies; permitting fast data transfer. DSL lines, cable modems, WI-FI, and other types of Internet connections that are appreciably faster than a dial up modem connection are often referred to as Broadband.
3. Who provides the UDCBB Service?  
The service is provided by Upper Dublin Township.
4. Where in the Township is UDCBB currently available?  
A small proof of concept network is running on Loch Alsh Ave. from the Township Building east to Ft. Washington Ave. Then south to Highland Ave. providing high speed wireless Internet access for about 100 yards on either side of the street.
5. Where will UDCBB ultimately be available?  
The service is planned to reach every home and business in Upper Dublin Township.
6. When is UDCBB expected to be available?  
Pending approval by the Upper Dublin Commissioners it’s expected that the service will be rolled out by neighborhood with the first service available within 6 months of approval and final operation within 18 months.
7. Why is the township involved in this? Can’t I just continue to use Comcast, Verizon, or AOL?  
You will certainly be able to continue to use Comcast, Verizon, AOL, or whoever your high speed Internet Service Provider is today. Upper Dublin Community Broadband is an extension to a network the township had to build anyway.

Upper Dublin Township currently uses a mix of dial up, cable modem, ISDN, and DSL lines to support its business and public safety operations. While that network served the township well in the past we are now involved in a much more “online” environment. Thus a study was

undertaken to determine the total telecommunications needs of the Township both now and into the foreseeable future.

One of the future public safety needs identified is online data communication to police cruisers, fire, and EMS vehicles. Other than expensive cellular cards, no good method exists to serve all of these needs long term. It is possible that a township wide wireless network would fill this need. And an added and important township wide wireless network could be established.

8. How fast will the service be?  
The network will use the 802.11 b/g wireless standard. This technology has a maximum speed of 54 Megabits per second both upload and download. Since 802.11 b/g is a shared access technology actual throughput speeds will be less. The design goal is for a minimum of 3 Megabits upload AND download speed per user.
9. That's not as fast as Comcast or Verizon Fios is it?  
Not as fast as Verizon FIOS or Comcast cable modems on the download speed. Faster than Comcast on the Upload speed. However the actual user experience speed will be very similar to both offerings.
10. Are there any RF/EMI concerns with 802.11 b/g?  
No, RF/EMI emissions are similar in power and frequency to other consumer grade devices like the Motorola talk about walkie-talkie.
11. What happened to the WIMAX (802.16) system purchased last year?  
The system is still in place and undergoing further study. Widespread availability of WIMAX consumer devices is still about a year away. However when they do appear, UDCBB will be ready.
12. If I sign up for UDCBB is there a long term commitment required?  
No, it's planned to be a monthly service commitment.
13. Other than the UDCBB Service, is there anything else I'll have to buy?  
Yes, you'll need a wireless access point or router to receive the UDCBB High Speed Internet signal. Sample models include the Linksys WAP54G and the D Link WBR-1310. These devices are available at electronics retailers like Circuit City and Best Buy among others. Prices range from \$50 to \$150 depending on features.

If you are parked in your car picking up a child at practice or at a school event you can use a wireless enabled Laptop computer or PDA to access the network as well. And we're also looking at support for the new WI FI portable telephones.

14. How much is this going to cost per month?  
The pricing has not been set but it is expected to be less than other high speed internet options.
15. Will my taxes go up and by how much?  
Your taxes will not go up as a result of UDCBB.
16. Will Upper Dublin have to hire additional employees to run the UDCBB service?  
No. Day to day operations of the UDCBB network will be outsourced to a company that specializes in running these types of networks. This operation will be funded by the recurring user fees.
17. Will Upper Dublin be able to track my Internet usage?  
No.
18. Will Upper Dublin be able to read my email?  
No.
19. Has Upper Dublin Community Broadband already been approved and funded?  
No, not at all. Many details still have to be resolved before a recommendation can be made to the Board of Commissioners for a vote. Part of the steering committee due diligence is the Town Hall meeting.
20. Are there any other similar sized towns doing community broadband?  
Most are larger than Upper Dublin Cities like Chaska, MN., Tampa, FL., Mountain View, CA., Ocean City, MD., Spokane, WA. And many more.
21. I'm running Vonage Internet phone service on my current Comcast high speed Internet connection. Will I be able to run Vonage on Upper Dublin community broadband?  
Yes. UDCBB will be a Net Neutral provider.
22. I use a free Internet phone service called Skype ( a division of eBay) [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com) Will I be able to use Skype on Upper Dublin Community broadband?  
Yes.
23. Skype Internet phone service has a portable wireless phone that looks and works like a cell phone. Will that phone work on UDCBB?  
Yes, but the phone will have to be registered with UDCBB to use the network.
24. Will I be charged per minute charges using this phone in Upper Dublin?  
No.

25. Will Upper Dublin Businesses be able to use Upper Dublin Community Broadband?

Yes, provided of course they pay the monthly service fee. We see this as a major advantage to locating your business in Upper Dublin Township.

26. Will Upper Dublin Visitors, like hotel guests, etc. be able to use Upper Dublin Community Broadband?

Yes, provided they pay the Upper Dublin access fee.

27. Who makes the Wireless Mesh equipment that you are trialing?

Sensoria Networks. [www.sensoria.com](http://www.sensoria.com)

28. Who are they? Why not pick a more recognized company?

Sensoria is a privately held technology company that has been in business for over 10 years. Their primary business has been in building robust wireless networks for the US Government customers. Sensoria agreed to deploy a demonstration wireless network for Upper Dublin at no cost to the township.

We talked to the major “household name” players in the wireless space and found that they had feature deficient products that commanded a 5X to 10X price premium over the Sensoria technology.