

**AGENDA ITEM 32****Discuss and consider appropriate action to improve County's network and email system.**

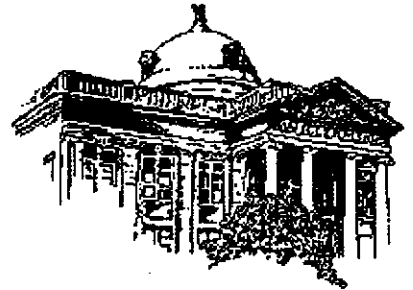
Information Technology Services Director Jay Schade discussed problems with the County's network and email system. He outlined ways in which his department is trying to improve the system.

No action was taken on this agenda item.

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## Information Technology Services




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### Information Technology Update February 26, 2002

Major Projects now in progress include the following:

- **New Internet Service Provider (ISP)**  
Switched to Gateway Internet in early February (increased speed by five times – from 300 Kb speed to 1.5 Mb speed). Growing pains include the time it takes for all DNS servers throughout the WWW to replicate and update our new address. Ninety Percent were updated within 48 hours of the switch-over, however there were a few that updated their tables just last week.
- **Virtual Private Network (VPN)**  
A VPN allows us to connect to the County network via the internet. This is a higher-speed alternative to dialing in to the system through a modem. It also allows users to connect to the County network while on business or living outside the local-dialing area and saves the county long distance expenses. Anticipated completion date is 4/15/02.
- **County Network**  
We are continuously looking at options to improve the County network. Options currently under review include partnering with other entities in the county (cities, school districts, etc.) to share fiber or wireless technology, installing our own fiber or wireless infrastructure, or continuing to lease lines from the phone companies. We have also recently replaced hubs with switches in a few critical areas on the network to eliminate bottle-necking. In addition, we installed a hardware firewall to further secure our network from outside intruders. We are also investigating the feasibility of moving toward Voice-Over-IP (VOIP) technology which would allow telephone service to run over the same network as data. This technology allows your telephone to be wherever you have an internet connection. It also allows us to expand our telephone system to any area in which we have a network connection. The plan is to begin using this on a limited basis in the new Juvenile Center and, as the technology proves itself, expand from there.
- **Oracle 11i upgrade**  
Currently the County is using Oracle Financials, version 10.7. Oracle has announced that they will no longer support that version after 6/30/02. Also, with the changes needed for GASB 34, we are doing a cost-benefit analysis as well as studying the business case for going to the new version (11i).
- **County System (TSG/Ableterm)**  
It is common knowledge that the County System is built on technology that is well on its way to obsolescence. In looking at software that is utilizing current technology (browser-based, relational database, GUI interface) we have found some applications that seem to be very good. The problem, however, is that there appears to be no fully integrated solutions that give us the level of integration that our current system offers. The Software Group (TSG) is currently developing their next-generation product which will be up-to-date with the available technology and will offer the same level of integration with improved flexibility. It is anticipated that this system will be available in two years. At that time we will want to look at that product as well as other options for our county system. As evidenced by the disk-crash that occurred last week and had the county system down for two days, the hardware on that system is aging as well. Because we will want to look at better options in two years, I am trying to hold off upgrading that equipment. I do not want to spend \$100,000+ upgrading equipment now that will not be used in two years.

## IT Projects (continued)

- **Juvenile Center**  
With the Juvenile Center coming on-board we are researching and comparing our options for connecting them to our network. Verizon has assured us that we will have traditional (T1) service to the center, but we are also looking at the option of either using wireless technology or fiber. These options can offer us significantly increased bandwidth at, possibly, significantly less cost. In addition, the wireless option, as well as the fiber option if we lay our own, will eliminate the ongoing monthly cost of the T1s. The question is whether or not the upfront cost will pay for itself quickly enough to justify that option.
- **HR/Payroll system**  
Because of ongoing concerns with the Highline P2K product, we are also considering other options for our HR/Payroll solution. The primary issues involve the limited integration between Oracle Financials and HR/Payroll.
- **Jail & Justice Center Expansions**  
We are involved in reviewing the plans and making sure we have sufficient network and telecomm connectivity throughout the new expansions as well as in the remodeled portion of the existing buildings.
- **Technical Training Classes**  
After the first three months of having a technical trainer on staff, we have offered 20 classes on Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and Word, as well as one formal and some informal classes tailored to individual departments. At least 14 more classes will be offered over the next two months, including two classes on Microsoft Access. These classes range from beginning to intermediate classes. Future classes will include a basic computing class, Microsoft Project, FrontPage and others as interest dictates.
- **County Intranet & Internet Sites**  
We are currently designing and developing an internal, employee intranet site which will promote and enhance communication between departments and employees throughout the county. Currently in development are the Human Resources site as well as the ITS site. These will offer various employee self-service features including retrieving and submitting HR, Payroll and Benefits forms and on-line submission of IT problems. By using the same templates, other departments throughout the county will be offered the opportunity to either develop their own site or work with IT in developing a site for them. The Internet Site is also being maintained and is under review.
- **Ongoing projects and support**  
Policies and Procedures, Disaster Recovery, Call Accounting, Internet Monitoring software as well as looking at the considerations and repercussions of internet monitoring, in addition to the daily tasks of supporting the county users, installing software, repairing and upgrading computers and printers, troubleshooting problems, installing computer and communications and de-installing the same equipment for each election and early-voting season, just to name a few.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Schade, Director  
Information Technology Services

**AGENDA ITEM 33**

Consider authorizing Judge to sign an interlocal agreement request with Leander ISD regarding funding of \$500,000 for construction of a portion of "Arterial B."

Tom Nielson, attorney for Leander ISD, discussed the request for funds. Commissioner Boatright stated that funding for the project would come from road bond money. Mike Weaver stated that money could be transferred from another project and reimbursed from the next bond issue.

Moved: **Commissioner Boatright**

Seconded: **Judge Doerfler**

Motion: To authorize the County Judge to sign an interlocal agreement with Leander ISD regarding funding in the amount of \$500,000.00 for construction of a portion of "Arterial B," with the understanding that the project will be maintained by the City of Cedar Park.

Vote: **4 – 0. Commissioner Hays was absent from the dais.**

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### INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

THIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT is made and entered into effective this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2002, by and between WILLIAMSON COUNTY (the "County") and the LEANDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ("LISD"), political subdivisions of the State of Texas.

#### WITNESSETH:

**WHEREAS**, V.T.C.A., Government Code, Chapter 791, the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act, provides that any one or more public agencies may contract with each other for the performance of governmental functions or services for the promotion and protection of the health and welfare of the inhabitants of this State and the mutual benefit of the parties; and

**WHEREAS**, the County and LISD, recognize the need to extend two lanes of future Arterial B from Brushy Creek Road north through property currently owned by the LISD to the Carolville Ltd. southern property line. (the "Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, the County and LISD desire to cooperate, along with the City of Cedar Park, to construct two lanes of Arterial B, one-half of the ultimate roadway (28 feet of pavement) and provide curbs, gutters, storm sewers, and appropriate sidewalks;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, the undersigned parties agree as follows:

#### I.

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The LISD hereby agrees to perform all necessary and appropriate engineering, signalization, design and construction of the Project .
2. As consideration for the construction of the Project, the County agrees to remit to the LISD the sum of \$500,000, within 30 days after Notice to Proceed is issued for the Project. Said sum is to be utilized solely to construct the Project. Prior to release of money, the County must review and approve construction plans to assure that the design of the Project consistent with the Williamson County Multi-Corridor Transportation Plan. Additionally, prior to release of funds, the City of Cedar Park must have entered into an Interlocal Agreement with LISD agreeing to pay the LISD \$563,000 as its share for the construction costs for the Project and agreeing to annex said road after construction.