

December 31, 2003

Mr. Michael Beasley, Executive Director, Department of Local Affairs
Ms. Barbara Kirkmeyer, Director Division of Local Governments
1313 Sherman, Room 521
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mike and Barbara:

Enclosed please find the Phase I report on deliverables from the San Luis Valley's demonstration project for the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) entitled "Next Mile – Tech Ready" communities. This project will create a Valley-wide "real-time" data sharing system.

We began this project simply with these questions –What if all the planners in the State had access to all the public data in the State? What if all the public data in each of the 64 county courthouses, that make-up the State of Colorado, could be shared instantaneously in all of the county courthouses for the best possible outcomes, and for the positive future of both the San Luis Valley and the State of Colorado?

We know that the data sets will need to "talk" to one another efficiently so their software will be have to be compatible. We know that the elected officials will have to agree on systems, software and protocols or agree to comply with a State or National or International standard. We know that all courthouses will have to have their data digitized and brought "up to a standard". We know that it may require a team of technical experts and data entry technicians to aide many counties' still relying on both electronic and paper records. We know that there must be leadership that recognizes this potential.

What will happen when we all have seamless access to information?

We believe that when all public knowledge is shared that a new knowledge will be discovered and applied. There is as much to gain as to give to one another. We know that anyone will be able to recognize brilliant actions and the benefits gained when the project is complete. We also know that few can see the advanced thought and significant investments by DOLA and the State for this vision to benefit all of Colorado. We thank you for this opportunity to be part of something this significant. The future years will see the value in your actions.

"We are investing in ourselves"

Sincerely,

Michael D. Wisdom
Co-Director "Next Mile" Project

Kristin E. Johnston
Co-Director "Next Mile" Project

cc: Colorado Rural Development Council: J. Kiely, C. Becker