

WEEKLY FLASH

Telecom Heavyweights Float Changes at AT&T Meeting

Tired of dropped cell phone calls? Wish you could get faster broadband at your office or home for a lower cost? Yesterday, AT&T hosted a [Bay Area Council workshop](#) of technical experts from the region’s major telecommunications providers on implementing more advanced telecom infrastructure in the Bay Area. One participant pointed out that we need to think about electronic “goods” movement like we think about physical goods – but beyond truck, ships and containers. The participants discussed the region’s current telecom environment: the access network; the devices; and, the backbone network. They said the region has constraints placed on it by the electric utilities, public utility commissions, Caltrans, and other government agencies, all with their own agendas. Since cities control right of ways and permits, and there are 101 cities in our region, changing infrastructure is an incredibly expensive and daunting task. Among a host of ideas the group agreed to explore would be the creation of a Bay Area Joint Powers Authority for telecommunications, based on a San Mateo County model called SAMCAT, where the cities aggregated decision making to one county-wide body.



Lost “Battle” For CA Educ. Data System Sets Up “War” in ‘08

After a decade, California finally seemed ready to develop a serious computerized student-tracking system to accurately compile dropout rates, transfer student records and do basic research about what works and what doesn't work, but at the last minute state budget writers cut out the \$65 million project. California’s data systems are currently ranked a woeful 48th in the country. The Bay Area Council is now gearing up to lead an education data reform effort in 2008, which the Governor has deemed “the Year of Education Reform.” NASA Ames has graciously lent the Bay Area Council a senior advisor, named Patty Jones, who is studying bringing [Florida’s best-in-class system](#) to California. Florida’s system actually tracks students beyond K-12 and instead uses “K-20” to see how students perform in the workforce, or end up in the prison system or on social services, such as welfare. With arguably similar demographic circumstances, California’s education system is ranked 47th in the country, but Florida’s is 29th.

Article of the Week

Partnering again this week, the Bay Area Council and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group published [this op ed](#) in the *San Jose Mercury News* today regarding a cap-and-trade system.

Quote of the Week

“This has not been an easy process.... Mayor Dellums [was] a very important part in getting this settled.” – Chuck Mack of the Teamsters, who along with Waste Management, [praised Mayor Dellums](#) for ending the East Bay garbage lockout, in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

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