MOREnet
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MOREnet Update

Appropriations Update

The Appropriations Conference Committee approved a 1% increase for the MOREnet FY07 HB3 Appropriation. The House approved a flat appropriation and the Senate approved a 2% increase. This action split the difference.

By the Numbers:

FY06 Appropriation	$10,153,081
1% increase approved by the Conference Committee:	$ 101,531
FY07 Recommendation:	$10,254,612

There was strong support for an increase on the committee and several House members that were not on the Conference Committee testified in favor of an increase. While we had hoped that the 2% would be approved, any increase speaks highly to the efforts of the MOREnet membership in communicating the value of MOREnet to their senators and representatives and creates a solid foundation of support for the future.

Next Generation Network (NGN) Update

The NGN project has involved exploration by MOREnet staff in several alternatives to address pressing capacity needs and contractual deadlines for backbone circuits, which currently expire in February 2007. As discussed at the last MOREnet Council meeting, progress on NGN has been slowed due to several factors including uncertainty surrounding:

- Proposed legislation
- Possible access to MODoT fiber and the state converged network RFP.
- Ability to raise sufficient funds for an initial investment in a long-term dark fiber solution
- MOREnet's E-rate application status

After careful consideration of these issues, including discussion and advice from the president of the University of Missouri and the chair of the MOREnet Council, a decision was made to discontinue pursuing a full dark fiber backbone solution at this time.

MOREnet staff will continue to pursue the "traditional managed transport" option in the original NGN plan and a hybrid dark-fiber/traditional managed transport option that has recently emerged. More detailed descriptions of these options as currently conceived include:

1) Upgrading the entire backbone from its current 622mb circuits to Gigabit (1,000mb) circuits, a 40% increase in capacity, to replace the expiring circuits by February, 2007.
2) Continuing to pursue a dark fiber solution along the I-70 corridor while maintaining Gigabit circuits for the rest of the backbone. The I-70 corridor carries the majority of the Internet traffic as well as the University inter-campus traffic and will require additional increased capacity in 2008.

You can contact Bill Mitchell at bill@more.net with any questions.