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May 27, 2011

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## **MI-Connection transition to begin July 1 Changes to system operation will include adding 16 local jobs**

MOORESVILLE, N.C. – Starting July 1, Mooresville and Davidson’s state-of-the-art cable, Internet and telecommunications system will begin its transition to a locally-operated company.

At a meeting of the MI-Connection Board of Directors on Thursday, Transition Manager David Auger said that the system’s transition from management under Bristol Virginia Utilities (BVU) – the provider that has managed the system since its inception in December 2007 – to independent operator will begin on July 1, when a new contract Auger and other MI-Connection officials are negotiating with BVU will go into effect.

The contract will implement the December 2010 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MI-Connection officials and BVU representatives. The transition will bring local employees and most services in-house and will shift BVU from system operator to a service vendor providing customer service, billing and technical support.

Auger said Thursday it will likely take about 90 days to complete the phased-in transition to independent operation. This kind of approach, said Auger, is necessary given the complexity of the transition and the need to work through various software-related issues.

Auger, a veteran of the cable industry and the former Charlotte Division president for Time Warner Cable, said that a number of changes will begin on July 1, including a management fee that will gradually decrease from about \$1.4 million annually to \$300,000 annually between July and October as BVU's management responsibilities decrease.

What that means for employees, subscribers and citizens, said Auger, is that the system will add local employees to accomplish functions currently handled in Bristol, Virginia. In addition to making all current employees in the Mooresville office local employees instead of BVU employees, said Auger, the system also plans to add 16 local jobs.

"July 1 is an exciting day for MI-Connection and for the Mooresville and Davidson communities," said Auger. "Not only will we assume local management of the system which will give us greater control over how we allocate money, but we'll also create local jobs in a struggling economy. That's something to be proud of."

What won't change, said Auger, is MI-Connection's service. During the transition, subscribers can expect the same consistent, high-quality service that they have grown accustomed to from MI-Connection, he said.

For more information on MI-Connection, visit [www.mi-connection.com](http://www.mi-connection.com). To read through Auger's transition presentation, visit [www.ci.davidson.nc.us](http://www.ci.davidson.nc.us) and click on the "MI-Connection" link on the left side of the page.