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INTERCONNECTION

1. Definitions

1.1 For purposes of this Attachment 4, "Interconnection" is the linking of the U S WEST and CO-PROVIDER networks for the mutual exchange of traffic. Interconnection does not include the transport and termination of traffic. Interconnection is provided by virtual or physical collocation, entrance facilities or meet point arrangements.

2. General Description

2.1 U S WEST will provide Interconnection at any technically feasible point, subject to negotiations between the Parties; such points may include, but not be limited to, a Meet Point, the line side distribution frame of the local switch, the trunk side distribution frame of the local switch, trunk interconnection points of the tandem switch, central office cross-connect points, and Signaling Transfer Points necessary to exchange traffic and access call related databases.

2.2 CO-PROVIDER shall designate at least one POI in the LATA in which CO-PROVIDER originates local traffic and interconnects with U S WEST.[1] CO-PROVIDER will be responsible for engineering and maintaining its network on its side of the POI. If and when the Parties choose to interconnect at a mid-span meet, CO-PROVIDER and U S WEST will jointly provision the fiber optic facilities that connect the two (2) networks and shall share the financial and other responsibilities for that facility.

2.3 Within ten (10) Business Days of CO-PROVIDER's request for any POI, U S WEST shall provide any information in its possession or available to it regarding the environmental conditions of the interconnection route or location including, but not limited to, the existence and condition of asbestos, lead paint, hazardous substance contamination, or radon. Information is considered "available" under this Agreement if it is in U S WEST's possession, or in the possession of a current or former agent, contractor, employee, lessor, or tenant of U S WEST's.

2.4 U S WEST shall allow CO-PROVIDER to perform any environmental site investigations, including, but not limited to, asbestos surveys, CO-PROVIDER deems to be necessary in support of its collocation needs. CO-PROVIDER shall advise U S WEST in writing of its intent to conduct any such investigations, and shall receive written approval from U S WEST to proceed with the investigation, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. CO-PROVIDER shall indemnify U S WEST in accordance with the provisions of Section 18 of Part A of this Agreement for any loss or claim for damage suffered by U S WEST as a result of CO-PROVIDER's actions during any site inspection.

3. Location of Interconnection

3.1 CO-PROVIDER will be responsible for implementing and maintaining its network on its side of the POI. U S WEST will be responsible for implementing and maintaining its network on its side of the POI. If and when the Parties choose to interconnect at a Meet Point, CO-PROVIDER and U S WEST will jointly provision the fiber optic facilities that connect the two networks and shall proportionately share the financial and other responsibilities for that facility based on the reasonably negotiated Meet Point percentage.

[1] Per AT&T Recommendations at page 27, Issue 115.

3.2 If Interconnection is complicated by the presence of environmental contamination or hazardous materials, and an alternative route is available, U S WEST shall make such alternative route available for CO-PROVIDER's consideration.

4. Collocation

4.1 Interconnection may be accomplished through either virtual or physical collocation. The terms and conditions under which collocation will be available are described in Part A of this Agreement.

5. Entrance Facility

5.1 Interconnection may be accomplished using an entrance facility without the need for collocation. An entrance facility extends from the Point of Interface to a point within a U S WEST central office.

6. Quality of Interconnection

6.1 U S WEST will not, for the purpose of Interconnection, provide to CO-PROVIDER less favorable terms and conditions than it provides itself or any other Person or in a manner less efficient than it would impose on itself or any other Person. The quality of Interconnection will be at least equal to that U S WEST provides to itself or any other Person. To the extent that CO-PROVIDER requests higher or lower quality Interconnection, CO-PROVIDER agrees to use the BFR process described in Part A of this Agreement.

7. Points of Interconnection

7.1 Upon a request for specific point to point routing, U S WEST will make available to CO-PROVIDER information indicating the location and technical characteristics of U S WEST's network facilities. The following alternatives are negotiable and include, but are not limited to: (a) a DS-1 or DS-3 entrance facility, where facilities are available (where facilities are not available and U S WEST is required to build special or additional facilities, special construction charges may apply); (b) virtual collocation; (c) physical collocation; and (d) negotiated Meet Point facilities. Each Party is responsible for providing its own facilities up to the Meet Point. The Parties will negotiate the facilities arrangement between their networks.

8. Trunking Requirements

8.1 U S WEST agrees to provide designed interconnection facilities that meet the same industry standards for technical criteria and service standards, such as the probability of blocking in peak hours and transmission standards.

8.2 [2] The Parties shall initially reciprocally terminate local exchange traffic and intraLATA/interLATA toll calls originating on each other's networks as follows:

8.2.1 There shall be no restrictions on traffic types carried. Until the access structure is revised, to accommodate non-segregated traffic, pursuant to rules promulgated by the FCC or the Commission, two-

[2] Per AT&T Order at page 5, Issue 4.

way trunk groups will be established wherever practical, based upon CO-PROVIDER's request. If Local Traffic and Toll Traffic are combined in one (1) trunk group, CO-PROVIDER shall provide a measure of the amount of local and toll traffic relevant for billing purposes to U S WEST. U S WEST may audit the traffic reported to it by CO-PROVIDER if it has reason to believe the reported measurement is not accurate. Such audit shall be conducted in accordance with the Audit Section of this Agreement. Exceptions to this provision will not be based on technical infeasibility, but will be based on billing, signaling, and network requirements. For example, exceptions include: (a) billing requirements - switched access vs. local traffic, (b) signaling requirements - MF vs. SS7, (c) network requirements - Directory Assistance traffic to TOPS tandems, and (d) one-way trunks for 911/E911. The following is the current list of traffic types that require separate trunk groups, unless otherwise specifically stated in this Agreement:

(a) IntraLATA toll and interLATA switched access trunks
(b) EAS/local trunks
(c) Directory Assistance trunks
(d) 911/E911 trunks
(e) Operator Services trunks
(f) Non-U S WEST toll (transit toll to other providers)
(g) Non-U S WEST local (transit local to other providers)
(h) Commercial Mobile Radio Service/Wireless traffic

8.3 Separate trunk groups will be established connecting CO-PROVIDER's switch or CO-PROVIDER's Operator Service center to U S WEST's Operator Service center for operator-assisted busy line interrupt/verify. For traffic from the U S WEST network to CO-PROVIDER for Operator Services, U S WEST will provide one (1) trunk group per LATA served by the local U S WEST switch.[3]

8.4 Trunk Servicing

8.4.1 Orders between the Parties to establish, add, change or disconnect trunks shall be processed by use of an Access Service Request ("ASR") or another industry standard for local service ordering.

8.4.2 As further described in this Agreement, both Parties will jointly manage the capacity of Local Interconnection trunk groups. U S WEST's trunk servicing group will send a Trunk Group Service Request ("TGSR"), or another industry standard eventually adopted to replace the TGSR, to CO-PROVIDER to trigger changes U S WEST desires to the Local Interconnection trunk groups based on U S WEST's capacity assessment. CO-PROVIDER will issue an ASR or other industry ordering standard to U S WEST:

[3] Per AT&T Order at page 5, Issue 4.

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(a) within ten (10) Business Days after receipt of the TGSR, upon review of and in response to U S WEST's TGSR, or

(b) at any time, as a result of CO-PROVIDER's own capacity management assessment, to begin the provisioning process. The interval used for the provisioning of Local Interconnection trunk groups shall be no longer than the standard interval for the provisioning of U S WEST's Switched Access service and shall be consistent with U S WEST's actual provisioning intervals for its own Switched Access customers.

8.4.3 U S WEST will attempt to meet CO-PROVIDER requested due date for the provision of Local Interconnection trunk groups. Where the installation of Local Interconnection trunk groups is required within a time that is shorter than the standard interval, the Parties will make all reasonable efforts and cooperate in good faith to ensure that the mutually agreed upon due date is met.

8.4.4 Orders that comprise a major project may be submitted at the same time, in which case their implementation shall be jointly planned and coordinated. Major projects are those that require the coordination and execution of multiple orders or related activities between and among U S WEST and CO-PROVIDER work groups, including, but not limited to, the initial establishment of Local Interconnection or Meet Point trunk groups and service in an area, NXX code moves, re-homes, facility grooming, or network rearrangements.

8.5 Trunking Requirements

8.5.1 Trunk group connections will be made at a DS-1 or multiple DS-1 level for exchange of EAS/local, intraLATA toll, wireless/Commercial Mobile Radio Service, and Switched Access Traffic. Ancillary Service trunk groups will be made below a DS-1 level, as agreed to by the Parties.

8.5.2 Where Common Channel Signaling ("CCS") is not available, in-band multi-frequency ("MF") wink start signaling will be provided. This MF arrangement will require a separate local trunk circuit between CO-PROVIDER's switch and U S WEST's tandems. Reference Technical Pub. TR314 and TR394.

9. Service Interruptions

9.1 Standards and procedures for notification of trunk disconnects will be jointly developed by the Parties within ninety (90) days of the Effective Date of this Agreement. Neither Party shall be expected to maintain active status for a trunk disconnected by the other Party for an extended or indefinite period of time.

9.2 The characteristics and methods of operation of any circuits, facilities or equipment of either Party connected with the services, facilities or equipment of the other Party pursuant to this Agreement shall not: (a) interfere with or impair service over any facilities of the other Party; its Affiliates, or its connecting and concurring carriers involved in its services; (b) cause damage to their plant; (c) violate any applicable law or regulation regarding the invasion of privacy of any communications carried over the Party's facilities; or (d) create hazards to the employees of either Party or to the public.

9.3 Each Party shall be solely responsible, and bear the expense, for the overall design of its services. Each Party shall also be responsible for any redesign or rearrangement of its services that may be required because of changes in facilities, operations or procedures, minimum network protection criteria, and operating or maintenance characteristics of the

facilities. If one Party creates a circumstance causing additional costs to the other Party, the other Party may collect construction charges from the first Party.

9.4 To facilitate trouble reporting and to coordinate the repair of the service provided by each Party to the other under this Agreement, each Party shall designate and define a Trouble Reporting Control Office ("TRCO") for such service. Each Party shall furnish a trouble reporting telephone number for the designated TRCO. This number shall have access to the location where facility records are normally located and where current status reports on any trouble reports are readily available. Current and historical trouble reports will be made available, if necessary. Alternative out-of-hours procedures shall be established to ensure access to a location that is staffed and has the authority to initiate corrective action.

9.5 Where new facilities, services and arrangements are installed to rectify the service interruption, the TRCO shall ensure that continuity exists and take appropriate transmission measurements before advising the other Party that the new circuit is ready for service.

9.6 The Parties shall cooperate in isolating trouble conditions. Before either Party reports a trouble condition, it shall use reasonable efforts to isolate the trouble.

9.7 In cases where a trouble condition affects a significant portion of the other Party's service, the Parties shall assign the same priority provided to other interconnecting carriers.

10. Forecasting

10.1 The Parties agree that during the first year of Interconnection, joint forecasting and planning meetings will take place no less frequently than once per quarter.

10.2 The Parties shall establish joint forecasting responsibilities for traffic utilization over trunk groups. Intercompany forecast information must be provided by the Parties to each other four (4) times a year. The quarterly forecasts shall include forecasted requirements for each trunk group identified in Paragraph 8.2.1 of this Attachment. In addition, for tandem-switched traffic, the forecast shall include the quantity of tandem-switched traffic forecasted for each subtending end office. The Parties recognize that, to the extent historical traffic data can be shared between the Parties, the accuracy of the forecasts will improve. Forecasts shall be for a minimum of three (3) (current and plus-1 and plus-2) years and shall include:

10.2.1 the use of Common Language Location Identifier (CLLI-MSG), which is described in Bellcore documents BR 795-100-100 and BR 795-400-100; and

10.2.2 a description of major network projects anticipated for the following six (6) months that could affect the other Party. Major network projects include trunking or network rearrangements, shifts in anticipated traffic patterns, or other activities that are reflected by a significant increase or decrease in trunking demand for the following forecasting period. This planning will include the issues of network capacity, forecasting and compensation calculation, where appropriate.

10.2.3 If forecasts vary significantly, the Parties shall meet to review and reconcile such forecasts.

10.2.3.1 If the Parties are unable to reach such a reconciliation, the Local Interconnection trunk groups shall be provisioned to the higher

forecast. At the end of three (3) months, the utilization of the Local Interconnection trunk groups will be reviewed and if the average CCS utilization for the third month is under seventy five percent (75%) of capacity, either Party may issue an order to resize the trunk group, which shall be left with not less than twenty five percent (25%) excess capacity.

10.2.3.2 If the Parties agree on the original forecast and then it is determined that a trunk group is under seventy five percent (75%) of CCS capacity on a monthly-average basis for each month of any three-month period, either Party may issue an order to resize the trunk group, which shall be left with not less than twenty five percent (25%) excess capacity. In all cases, grade of service objectives identified in this Agreement shall be maintained.

10.3 Each Party shall provide a specified point of contact for planning, forecasting and trunk serving purposes.

10.4 Trunking can be established to tandems or end offices or a combination of both via either one-way or two-way trunks. Trunking will be at the DS-0 level, DS-1 level, DS-3 level, or any other technically feasible level, subject to network disclosure requirements of the FCC. Initial trunking will be established between CO-PROVIDER's switching centers and U S WEST's access tandem(s). The Parties will utilize direct end office trunking under the following conditions:

10.4.1 Tandem exhaust - If a tandem through which the Parties are interconnected is unable to, or is forecasted to be unable to, support additional traffic loads for any period of time, the Parties will mutually agree on an end office trunking plan that will alleviate the tandem capacity shortage and ensure completion of traffic between CO-PROVIDER and U S WEST subscribers.

10.4.2 Traffic volume - The Parties shall install and retain direct end office trunking sufficient to handle actual or reasonably forecasted traffic volumes, whichever is greater, between an CO-PROVIDER switching center and a U S WEST end office where the local traffic exceeds or is forecasted to exceed 512 CCS at the busy hour.

10.4.3 Mutual agreement - The Parties may install direct end office trunking upon mutual agreement in the absence of conditions (1) or (2) above, which agreement shall not unreasonably be withheld.

10.5 Grade of Service:

A blocking standard of one percent (1%) during the average busy day-busy hour, as defined by each Party's standards, for final trunk groups between an CO-PROVIDER end office and a U S WEST access tandem carrying Meet Point traffic shall be maintained. All other final trunk groups are to be engineered with a blocking standard of one percent (1%). Direct end office trunk groups are to be engineered with a blocking standard of one percent (1%).

11. Signaling

11.1 Signaling protocol. The Parties will interconnect their networks using SS7 signaling as defined in GR-317 and GR-394, including ISDN User Part ("ISUP") for trunk signaling and Transaction Capabilities Application Part ("TCAP") for CCS-based features in the

interconnection of their networks. All appropriate industry standards for signaling interoperability will be followed.

11.2 The Parties will provide CCS to each other in conjunction with all trunk groups supporting Local, Transit, and Toll Traffic. The Parties will cooperate on the exchange of TCAP messages to facilitate full interoperability of CCS-based features between their respective networks, including all CLASS features and functions. All CCS signaling parameters will be provided, including automatic number identification (ANI), originating line information (OLI), calling party category, charge number, etc. For terminating Feature Group D, the Parties will pass CPN if it receives CPN from Feature Group D carriers. All privacy indicators will be honored. Where available, network signaling information such as Transit Network Selection ("TNS") parameter (CCS platform) and CIC/OZZ information (non-CCS environment) will be provided by the Parties wherever such information is needed for call routing or billing. The Parties will follow all appropriate industry standards pertaining to TNS and CIC/OZZ codes.

11.3 Standard Interconnection facilities shall be Extended Superframe (ESF) with B8ZS line code. Where ESF/B8ZS is not available, CO-PROVIDER will agree to using other Interconnection protocols on an interim basis until the standard ESF/B8ZS is available. U S WEST will provide anticipated dates of availability for those areas not currently ESF/B8ZS compatible.

11.4 Where CO-PROVIDER is unwilling to utilize an alternate Interconnection protocol, CO-PROVIDER will provide U S WEST an initial forecast of 64 Kbps clear channel capability ("64K CCC") trunk quantities within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date of this Agreement consistent with the forecasting agreements between the Parties. Upon receipt of this forecast, the Parties will begin joint planning for the engineering, procurement, and installation of the designated 64K CCC Local Interconnection trunk groups and the associated B8ZS Extended Super Frame facilities, for the purpose of transmitting 64K CCC data calls between CO-PROVIDER and U S WEST. Where additional equipment is required, such equipment will be obtained, engineered, and installed on the same basis and with the same intervals as any similar growth job for an IXC, CO-PROVIDER or U S WEST internal customer demand for 64K CCC trunks. Where technically feasible, these trunks will be established as two-way.

12. Ordering

12.1 CO-PROVIDER may order Interconnection points using the ASR process or other industry standard for local service ordering.

12.2 U S WEST must provide installation to CO-PROVIDER in the shorter of the time it provides installation to itself or any other Person.

12.3 If CO-PROVIDER requests a shorter installation time than required by the provisions of this Attachment, U S WEST may charge CO-PROVIDER for any increased expense incurred for such installation.

12.4 CO-PROVIDER shall, on each order for Local Interconnection trunks, specify the CO-PROVIDER NXXs that are assigned to the trunks.

13. Network Management

13.1 Protective Protocols

Either Party may use protective network traffic management controls such as 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps on traffic toward each other's network when required to protect the public switched network from congestion due to facility failures, switch congestion or failure or focused overload.

13.2 Rerouting Protocols

Where the capability exists, originating or terminating traffic reroutes may be implemented by either Party to temporarily relieve network congestion due to facility failures or abnormal calling patterns. Reroutes will not be used to circumvent normal trunk servicing. Rerouting controls will only be used when mutually agreed to by the Parties.

13.3 Mass Calling

CO-PROVIDER and U S WEST shall cooperate and share pre-planning information, where available and in compliance with federal and state regulations, regarding cross-network call-ins expected to generate large or focused temporary increases in call volumes, to prevent or mitigate the impact of these events on the public switched network. Furthermore, INP numbers may only be used consistent with network efficiency and integrity, i.e., inhibitions on mass calling events.

14. Usage Measurement

14.1 When applicable, each Party shall provide to the other:

14.1.1 Bellcore AMA formatted records to generate bills to the other Party;

14.1.2 measurement of minutes of use over Local Interconnection trunk groups in actual conversation seconds. The total conversation seconds over each individual Local Interconnection trunk group will be totaled for the entire monthly bill-round and then rounded to the next whole minute; and

14.1.3 within twenty (20) calendar days after the end of each quarter (commencing with the first full quarter after the Effective Date of this Agreement), a usage report with the total traffic volume described in terms of minutes and messages and by call type (i.e., local, toll, and other) terminated to each other over SS7 local interconnection trunk groups.

15. Audiotext and Mass Announcement Services

The Parties agree that access to the audiotext, mass announcement and information services of one Party may be made available to the other Party upon execution of a separate agreement or an amendment to this Agreement.

16. Interconnection to Network Elements

16.1 Technical Requirements

16.1.1 When requested by CO-PROVIDER, U S WEST shall provide Interconnection between U S WEST Network Elements provided to CO-PROVIDER and CO-PROVIDER's network at transmission rates designated by CO-PROVIDER. If additional equipment beyond that which U S WEST currently has in place, is planning to put in place or is otherwise required to have in place is required to meet such transmission rates, the installation and/or acquisition of such

equipment shall be accomplished pursuant to the ordering process set forth in this Agreement.

16.1.2 Traffic shall be combined and routed as follows:

16.1.2.1 At CO-PROVIDER's request, U S WEST shall receive CO-PROVIDER traffic destined to the U S WEST Operator Systems Network Element, on trunks from an CO-PROVIDER end-office or an CO-PROVIDER tandem.

16.1.2.2 At CO-PROVIDER's request, U S WEST shall receive CO-PROVIDER CAMA-ANI (Centralized Automatic Message Accounting - Automatic Number Identification) traffic destined to the U S WEST 911 PSAPs, or E911 tandems, on trunks from an CO-PROVIDER end-office.

16.1.2.3 At CO-PROVIDER's request, U S WEST shall receive CO-PROVIDER SS7 traffic destined to any U S WEST E911 tandem on trunks from an CO-PROVIDER end-office, when SS7 E911 signaling is available in U S WEST's network.

16.1.3 When requested by CO-PROVIDER and a third party carrier, U S WEST shall provide interconnections between CO-PROVIDER's network, and the other carrier's network through the U S WEST network at transmission rates designated by CO-PROVIDER, including, but not limited to, DS-1, DS-3, and STS-1, where available. U S WEST shall combine and route traffic to and from other local carriers and interLATA carriers through the U S WEST network, and, at CO-PROVIDER's request, U S WEST shall record and keep records of such traffic for CO-PROVIDER billing purposes to the extent possible.

16.1.4 U S WEST shall provide two-way trunk groups for Interconnections. At CO-PROVIDER's request, and consistent with an efficient network architecture, U S WEST shall provide unidirectional traffic on such trunks, in either direction, effectively operating them as if they were one-way trunk groups.

16.1.5 All trunking provided by U S WEST shall adhere to the applicable performance requirements set forth in the "General Performance Requirements" section of this Agreement, pursuant to Sections 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 of Part A of this Agreement.

16.1.6 At CO-PROVIDER's request, U S WEST shall work cooperatively with CO-PROVIDER to provide for overflow routing from a given trunk group or groups onto another trunk group or groups as CO-PROVIDER designates.

16.1.7 U S WEST and CO-PROVIDER shall agree on the establishment of two-way trunk groups for the exchange of traffic for other IXCs. These trunk groups can be provided in a meet point arrangement.

16.1.8 Interconnection shall be made available upon CO-PROVIDER's request at any technically feasible Point of Interface. All trunk interconnections shall be provided, including, SS7, MF, DTMF, DialPulse, PRI-ISDN (where available), DID (Direct Inward Dialing), CAMA-ANI, and trunking necessary so that INP can be provided.

16.2 Trunk Interface Requirements

16.2.1 E911 Trunks

16.2.1.1 U S WEST shall allow CO-PROVIDER to provide direct trunking to each U S WEST E911 end office or tandem, as is appropriate for the applicable serving area. These trunks are to be provided as one-way trunks from a given CO-PROVIDER end office to the U S WEST E911 end office or tandem.

16.2.1.2 U S WEST shall provide for overflow E911 traffic in the same manner that U S WEST provides E911 overflow for itself.

16.2.2 S911 Trunks

If and when S911 tandems become available in the U S WEST network, U S WEST shall allow CO-PROVIDER to provide direct trunking to each U S WEST S911 tandem. Such SS7 trunks are to be provided as one-way trunks from a given CO-PROVIDER end-office to the U S WEST S911 tandem.

16.2.3 Local Switch and Access Tandem Trunks

16.2.3.1 U S WEST shall provide trunks groups provisioned exclusively to carry intraLATA Toll Traffic, as designated by CO-PROVIDER.

16.2.3.2 U S WEST shall provide trunk groups provisioned exclusively to carry interLATA traffic, as designated by CO-PROVIDER.

16.2.3.3 U S WEST shall provide SS7 trunks which provide SS7 Interconnection. At CO-PROVIDER's request, MF trunks may be substituted for SS7 trunks where applicable.

16.2.3.4 U S WEST shall simultaneously route calls based on dialed digits (in accordance with the standard GR-317-CORE), and Carrier Identification Code (in accordance with the standard GR-394-CORE) over a single SS7 trunk group.

16.2.4 U S WEST Operator Services Trunk

U S WEST shall provide Operator Services trunks as one-way trunks from the U S WEST network to the CO-PROVIDER network.

16.3 Network Interconnection between U S WEST and CO-PROVIDER shall meet or exceed all of the requirements for network Interconnection set forth in the following technical references:

16.3.1 GR-317-CORE, Switching System Generic Requirements for Call Control Using the Integrated Services Digital Network User Part (ISDNUP), Bellcore, February 1994;

16.3.2 GR-394-CORE, Switching System Generic Requirements for Interexchange Carrier Interconnection Using the Integrated Services Digital Network User Part (ISDNUP), Bellcore, February 1994;

16.3.3 FR-NWT-000271, OSSGR Operator Services Systems Generic Requirements, Bellcore, 1994 Edition; and

16.3.4 FR-NWT-000064, LATA Switching Systems Generic Requirements (LSSGR), Bellcore, 1994 Edition.

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17. Reciprocal Traffic Exchange

17.1 Scope

Reciprocal traffic exchange addresses the exchange of traffic between CO-PROVIDER end users and U S WEST end users. If such traffic is local, the provisions of this Agreement shall apply. Where either Party acts as an intraLATA toll provider or interLATA IXC or where either Party interconnects and delivers traffic to the other from third parties, each Party shall bill such third parties the appropriate charges pursuant to its respective tariffs or contractual offerings for such third party terminations. Absent a separately negotiated agreement to the contrary, compensation for reciprocal traffic exchange applies solely to traffic exchanged directly between the Parties without the use of third party transit providers.

17.2 Responsibilities of the Parties

17.2.1 U S WEST and CO-PROVIDER agree to treat each other fairly, nondiscriminatorily, and equally for all items included in this Agreement, or related to the support of items included in this Agreement.

17.2.2 CO-PROVIDER and U S WEST agree to exchange such reports and/or data as provided in this Agreement to facilitate the proper billing of traffic.

17.2.3 (Intentionally left blank for numbering consistency)

17.2.4 CO-PROVIDER and U S WEST shall share responsibility for all Control Office functions for Local Interconnection trunks and trunk groups, and both Parties shall share the overall coordination, installation, and maintenance responsibilities for these trunks and trunk groups.

17.2.5 The Party that performs the End Office function is responsible for all Control Office functions for the meet point trunking arrangement trunks and trunk groups, and shall be responsible for the overall coordination, installation, and maintenance responsibilities for these trunks and trunk groups.

17.2.6 CO-PROVIDER and U S WEST shall:

17.2.6.1 Provide trained personnel with adequate and compatible test equipment to work with each other's technicians.

17.2.6.2 Notify each other when there is any change affecting the service requested, including the due date.

17.2.6.3 Coordinate and schedule testing activities of their own personnel, and others as applicable, to ensure its Interconnection trunks/trunk groups are installed per the Interconnection order, meet agreed-upon acceptance test requirements, and are placed in service by the due date.

17.2.6.4 Perform sectionalization to determine if a trouble is located in its facility or its portion of the Interconnection trunks prior to referring the trouble to each other.

17.2.6.5 Advise each other's Control Office if there is an equipment failure which may affect the Interconnection trunks.

17.2.6.6 Provide each other with a trouble reporting/repair contact number that is readily accessible and available twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week. Any changes to this contact arrangement must be immediately provided to the other Party.

17.2.6.7 Provide to each other test-line numbers and access to test lines.

17.2.6.8 Cooperatively plan and implement coordinated repair procedures for the meet point and Local Interconnection trunks and facilities to ensure trouble reports are resolved in a timely and appropriate manner.

17.3 Types of Traffic

17.3.1 The types of traffic to be exchanged or provided under this Agreement include, but are not limited to, the following:

17.3.1.1 EAS/Local Traffic,

17.3.1.2 Transit Traffic,

17.3.1.3 Switched Access Traffic,

17.3.1.4 Ancillary traffic includes all traffic destined for Ancillary Services, or that may have special billing requirements, including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) Directory Assistance
(b) 911/E911
(c) Operator call termination (busy line interrupt and verify)
(d) 800/888 database dip
(e) LIDB
(f) Information services requiring special billing.

17.3.1.5 Unless otherwise stated in this Agreement, ancillary traffic will be exchanged in accordance with whether the traffic is Local/EAS, intraLATA toll, or Switched Access.

17.4 Transport and Termination of Exchange Traffic

17.4.1 Termination of Local Traffic

Local Traffic will be terminated pursuant to the Reciprocal Compensation described in Attachment 1.

17.4.2 EAS/Local Traffic

As negotiated between the Parties, the exchange of local traffic between the Parties may occur in several ways.

17.4.2.1 While the Parties anticipate the use of two way trunks for the delivery of Local Traffic, either Party may elect to provision its own

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one-way trunks for delivery of Local Traffic to be terminated on the other Party's network at the "initial" point of Interconnection;

17.4.2.2 The Parties may elect to purchase transport services from each other or from a third party. Such transport delivers the originating Party's Local Traffic to the terminating Party's end office or tandem for call termination. Transport may be purchased as either tandem switched transport (which is included in the tandem call termination rate) or direct trunk transport;

17.4.2.3 To the extent that CO-PROVIDER has established a collocation arrangement at a U S WEST end office location, and has available capacity, the Parties agree that CO-PROVIDER shall provide two-way direct trunk facilities, when required, from that end office to the CO-PROVIDER switch. In all other cases, the direct facility may be provisioned by U S WEST or CO-PROVIDER or a third party. If both CO-PROVIDER and U S WEST desire to provision the facility and cannot otherwise agree, the Parties may agree to resolve the dispute through the submission of competitive bids.

17.4.3 Transit Traffic

17.4.3.1 U S WEST will accept traffic originated by CO-PROVIDER and will terminate it at a point of interconnection with another CLEC, Exchange Carrier, IXC or Wireless Carrier. U S WEST will provide this transit service through Tandem Office Switches. CO-PROVIDER may also provide U S WEST with Transit Service.

17.4.3.2 The Parties expect that all networks involved in transporting Transit Traffic will deliver calls to each involved network with CCS/SS7 protocol and the appropriate ISUP/TCAP message to facilitate full interoperability and billing functions. In all cases, the originating company is responsible to follow the EMR standard and to exchange records with both the transiting company and the terminating company, to facilitate the billing process to the originating network.

17.4.3.3 The Parties will use industry standards developed to handle the provision and billing of Switched Access by multiple providers (MECAB, MECOD and the Parties' FCC tariffs).

17.4.4 Toll Traffic

Toll Traffic routed to an access tandem, or directly routed to an end office, will be terminated as Switched Access Service.

17.5 Interface Code Availability And Optional Features

17.5.1 Interface Code Availability

Supervisory Signaling specifications, and the applicable network channel interface codes for Local Interconnection trunks, are the same as those used for Feature Group D Switched Access Service, as described in the Parties' applicable Switched Access tariffs.

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17.5.2 Optional Features

17.5.2.1 Inband MF or SS7 Out of Band Signaling

Inband MF signaling and SS7 out of band signaling are available for local trunks. MF signaling or SS7 out-of-band signaling must be requested on the order for the new local trunks. Provisioning of the local trunks equipped with MF signaling or SS7 out of band signaling is the same as that used for Feature Group D Switched Access. Common Channel Signaling Service, as described in this Agreement, must be ordered by CO-PROVIDER when SS7 out-of-band signaling is requested on local trunks.

17.5.2.2 Clear Channel Capability

Clear channel capability permits 24 DS-0-64 kbit/s services or 1.536 Mbit/s of information on the 1.544 Mbit/s line rate. Clear channel capability is available for local trunks equipped with SS7 out-of-band signaling. Clear channel capability is only available on trunks to U S WEST's access tandem switch or U S WEST's end office switches (where available). Clear channel capability must be requested on the order for the new local trunks. The provisioning of the local trunks equipped with clear channel capability is the same as that used for Feature Group D Switched Access Service. U S WEST will provide CO-PROVIDER with a listing of U S WEST end offices, local tandems and access tandems equipped with clear channel capability. (Clear channel capability is not available on trunks to U S WEST's local tandem switches or end offices where it is currently not deployed. CO-PROVIDER agrees to use the BFR process to request clear channel capability for such additional switches. Prices for such additional clear channel capability, if any, will be established through the BFR process).

17.6 Measuring Local Interconnection Minutes

17.6.1 Measurement of terminating Local Interconnection minutes, as calculated per Attachment 5, begins when the terminating local entry switch receives answer supervision from the called end user's end office indicating the called end user has answered. The measurement of terminating call usage over local trunks ends when the terminating local entry switch receives disconnect supervision from either the called end user's end office, indicating the called end user has disconnected, or CO-PROVIDER's Point of Interconnection, whichever is recognized first by the entry switch.

17.6.2 U S WEST and CO-PROVIDER are required to provide each other the proper call information (e.g., originated call party number and destination call party number, etc.) to enable each Party to issue bills in a complete and timely fashion.

17.7 Testing

17.7.1 Acceptance Testing

At the time of installation of a local trunk group, and at no additional charge, the Parties will cooperatively test the same parameters tested for terminating Feature Group D Switched Access Service.

17.7.2 Testing Capabilities

17.7.2.1 Terminating Local Interconnection trunk testing is provided where equipment is available, with the following test lines: seven-digit access to balance (100 type), milliwatt (102 type), nonsynchronous or synchronous, automatic transmission measuring (105 type), data transmission (107 type), loop-around, short circuit, open circuit, and non-inverting digital loopback (108 type).

17.7.2.2 In addition to Local Interconnection trunk acceptance testing, other tests are available (e.g., additional cooperative acceptance testing, automatic scheduled testing, cooperative scheduled testing, manual scheduled testing, and non-scheduled testing) at the applicable tariff rates.

17.8 Mileage Measurement

Where required, the mileage measurement for Local Interconnection facilities and trunks is determined in the same manner as the mileage measurement for Feature Group D Switched Access Service.

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