

Louisa County Broadband Authority

Status Report

Time Period – June 11, 2014 thru January 31, 2015

Progress Report Summary

The mission of the Louisa County Broadband Authority (“Authority”) is to ensure that affordable, high-speed broadband internet service is made available to citizens and businesses throughout Louisa County. The Authority will accomplish this mission by working with willing partners – public and private – to develop, establish, promote, encourage and monitor the growth of a broadband solution that is available to all county residents at reasonable rates. The Authority will remain technology and vendor-agnostic during the development of a county-wide broadband solution, and will remain dedicated to the ideal that affordable broadband service be available to all county residents without regard to geography or demographics.

Activities Successfully Completed This Reporting Period

Key accomplishments for this reporting period:

- Held inaugural meeting on June 11, 2014 and elected a chair and vice-chair for the Authority.
- The Authority approved the PPEA Guidelines for the BBA. This was a prerequisite step to the Authority’s official request for the submission of PPEA proposals for Broadband deployment in Louisa County.. Note: The Public-Private Education and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (PPEA) was designed to bring private sector expertise to bear on public projects.
- Awarded a contract to Design Nine, Inc. for a technical consultant that will assist the Authority in the planning for a County-wide Broadband deployment. This contractual assistance will be in the form of: 1) Researching available technologies; 2) Evaluating potential technologies from an operational impact (including propagation studies, infrastructure locations, “backhaul” requirements, and others); 3) Creating a ranked set of recommendations, including costs, options, benefits, and disadvantages associated with each; 4) Writing and presenting a report of findings as necessary to the Authority and public; and 5) Overseeing the implementation of the recommendations as deemed necessary by the Authority.
- A comprehensive review of the Louisa County’s Telecomm Ordinance and Master Plan has been conducted - with the goals of 1) making them current and relevant from a technological standpoint; and 2) as unrestrictive as possible to promote private sector broadband development while protecting the needs of neighboring citizens. The Amended Telecomm Ordinance is currently being reviewed by the Louisa County Community Development Department.
- County Attorney Mike Lockaby and IT Director Bob Hardy met with State Corporation Commission representatives in Richmond on 9-30-14 to discuss the FCC experimental

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grant funding. Outcome: Suggested the Authority talk directly to the FCC.

- County Attorney Mike Lockaby and IT Director Bob Hardy met with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on Oct 10th, 2014 to discuss the possibility of Louisa County participating in their experimental grant opportunity. Considering the Authority's nascency, they recommended that the Authority prepare for next year's grant cycle. The FCC also suggested that the Authority team up with local utility cooperatives - thereby increasing our relative ranking during the FCC grant selection process.

Activities Planned for Completion During the Next Reporting Period

The activities planned for completion during the next reporting period include:

- After a final legal review of the proposed changes to the Louisa County's Telecomm Ordinance and Master Plan, the amended ordinance will be referred to the Louisa County Board of Supervisors for consideration during their February 17th meeting. The next step in the review process is the Louisa County Planning Commission - who can advertise for a public hearing as early as Thursday, March 12th. With the approval from the Planning Commission, the amended ordinance can be advertised for the second public hearing as early as April 6, 2015. The proposed changes will subsequently be approval by the Board of Supervisors.
- Develop a list of risks and appropriate mitigation strategies for achieving the Authority's mission. These will be documented in the next section of this report.
- Meet with the Governor's Secretary of Technology the second week of March, 2015 to discuss potential public-private partnerships, private initiatives, federal grants, and the level of support possible from the Commonwealth.

Issues/Risks Adversely Affecting Schedules, Costs or Mission Objectives

Will provide a bullet point summary of each significant risk/issue that may jeopardize the accomplishment of the LCBBA's mission (schedule, fiscal, and function). Each of the risks/issues will be described as to the possible impact on the mission as a whole, particularly the impact on completing on-time, on-budget, and the delivery of expected results.