
Regional Broadband Planning Project – Fact Sheet

Why Broadband?

Broadband has far-reaching application for improving the quality of life for Floridians. Broadband is vital for economic growth, both by fostering new industries and expanding opportunities for existing businesses. Broadband infrastructure is necessary to provide businesses with access to the digital economy. Broadband also reaches many facets of everyday life by improving the delivery of healthcare services, enriching the educational experiences of children and adults, helping with the management and conservation of energy resources, assisting public safety personnel in the performance of their duties, and facilitating citizen interaction with government agencies.

What is Broadband?

Broadband is not a system or a technology, but rather refers to speed and capacity (bandwidth) of a network connection. Broadband in this context refers to high-speed Internet connections that are always connected (no dial-up) to very high-speed networks, enabling super-fast downloads and uploads. Broadband networks have the potential to dramatically change, enhance, and transform the types of applications and services that are available to a wide array of users. A robust broadband infrastructure provides customers with a choice of service providers and services.

Purpose of the Project

The project will create a standardized, comprehensive process for developing a regional broadband plan. Through the development of a broadband planning toolkit, training materials, and standard methodology, the process that is developed can be leveraged by any region or local community. The planning toolkit and training materials will be tested by developing regional broadband plans for pilot areas in Florida.

Pilot Planning Regions

Project activities include the development of comprehensive regional broadband plans for two pilot study areas in Florida. The planning process and tools developed through this project will also be evaluated in a test area where broadband implementation is already ongoing without a comprehensive planning process.

Pilot Areas

- Pilot Area 1 - Polk County
- Pilot Area 2 – Southwest Florida: This region is comprised of Charlotte, Collier and Lee Counties.

Test Area

- The South Central Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC)

Project Timeframe

The Regional Broadband Planning Project is ongoing through June 2013.

For More Information

[Broadband Florida Initiative](http://www.dms.myflorida.com/suncom/broadband_florida_initiative)

http://www.dms.myflorida.com/suncom/broadband_florida_initiative



DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT
SERVICES

