

Goochland County Broadband Objectives and Principles

The Goochland County Board of Supervisors adopted the following Broadband Objectives and Principles on April 4, 2017.

Objectives for supporting Broadband in Goochland County

Goochland County would like to have broadband services available to all of its residents. Expansion of Broadband services for Goochland County residents has been a focus for the Board of Supervisors. Broadband service is not only important to county residents, but also for local businesses and for children's education. It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors that broadband service would be delivered by a third party private provider.

The Board's efforts to research and encourage the delivery of broadband services in Goochland have resulted in the creation of the Goochland High Speed Internet Committee and the County engaging the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) to assist in soliciting interest from broadband providers to expand or enter the Goochland County market. CIT staff reviewed existing reports and available resources regarding the opportunities for potential broadband service providers. One of the recommendations from CIT is that the Board of Supervisors adopt guidelines and policies in order to facilitate broadband services being provided throughout Goochland County, including the expansion of services to unserved or underserved areas.

Guiding Principles

1. Expand Broadband Access & Capacity

Goochland County seeks to expand broadband access, capacity and options within the entire County. While the County seeks service for the entire county, providers are encouraged to prioritize efforts to focus on unserved areas before underserved areas.

Speed

The County is interested in providers that will preferably supply, at a minimum, 10Mbps / 1Mbps speeds for broadband service. This is the minimum broadband speed recognized by most federal and state broadband funding opportunities. It is less than the industry standards for broadband speed which are acknowledged as the latest definition published by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Through the 2016 Broadband Progress Report, the FCC has retained the speed benchmark of 25Mbps / 3Mbps for broadband service.

Cost

The most attractive proposals for broadband service will be ones that provide services at market rate or other reasonable price points that will take into account the underserved and lower income needs of some Goochland citizens. Consideration will also be given for customer choice and options for various service levels.

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Schedule

A specified deliverable time frame and mutually agreeable performance measures are important considerations for proposals.

2. County's Supportive Actions

- a. County is willing to consider access/lease space of County assets (towers, facilities, property and existing infrastructure), and to work with providers in a manner that is encouraging and flexible.
- b. County has a staff liaison for all necessary permits and approvals for broadband infrastructure.
- c. County values public education and service availability and sees the value of using its media outlets for these purposes.
- d. County understands that more than one third-party provider may be interested and involved in the provision and expansion of broadband services, but is mindful to avoid a detrimental effect on the service through frequency conflicts.
- e. To the extent feasible, the County is open to assisting broadband providers with pursuing federal or state broadband funding opportunities to help offset the capital costs of broadband access and capacity.
- f. County, where appropriate, would provide anchor tenants to any private partner(s)' broadband networks to provide recurring revenue source, so long as the service provided to the County is equal to or better than the current pricing and quality of service currently being provided.

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