
From: Ed Fielding <efieldin@martin.fl.us>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 4:47 PM
To: BOCrfc2015
Cc: Domenica Labbate
Subject: Expanding broadband deployment

Honorable Members of the Broadband Opportunity Council:

Perhaps the most effective way for the federal government to collaborate with local (County/City) government is for Federal Highway Administration to direct the State DOTs to share the Federal Highway Administration funded fiber optic networks with the local governments. Also it would be very useful for County governments to be allowed to access federal and State rights of way to lay fiber or attach cable.

Martin County which already has a 153 mile buried cable system, could establish a sustainable fiber backbone with Federal Highway Administration grant funds building out networks connecting the County and municipal governments with anchors: hospitals; schools, colleges and universities, and medical research organizations. Such a network would provide hardened emergency management communications and sufficient capacity to address the high volume needs of medical and business applications.

The next step would be to allow various retail providers to ride the network and directly connect with businesses and individuals. The County would receive a portion of the monthly bill. In addition to participating in the monthly retail bill; the County would be charging the anchor tenants for service. Fiber would become another utility that could be supplied by the local government.

If Counties were allowed to implement broadband as if it were infrastructure and develop accordingly, then American broadband would soon become competitive with the world. The public/private partnerships would allow fiber to be laid as needed rather than only when it met return on investment criteria.

Thank you,

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