
From: Rosemarie Zummo <rzummo@martin.fl.us>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2015 2:37 PM
To: BOCrfc2015
Subject: Broadband Deployment Comments - Broadband Opportunity Council
Attachments: NTIA - Broadband Opportunity Council.pdf

In an effort to avoid any confusion, we wanted to clarify that Martin County submitted official comments on behalf of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners to the Broadband Opportunity Council on May 21, 2015 and I have attached another copy for your reference.

In addition, Commissioner Ed Fielding also submitted his own comments as an individual commissioner; not on behalf of the Board. Please do not hesitate to contact Kate Parmelee, Martin County's Intergovernmental Coordinator, should you have any questions. Thank you.

Rosemarie Zummo
Executive Aide
Martin County Board of County Commissioners
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National Telecommunications & Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4626
Washington, DC 20230

Attn: Broadband Opportunity Council

Dear Honorable Members of the Broadband Opportunity Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on how federal agencies can promote broadband deployment, adoption and competition. We greatly appreciate the President's recognition of the importance of broadband deployment.

Martin County, Florida is proud to have some of the highest per capita fiber optic mileage in the state of Florida. Martin County's fiber network is among the few (if not the only) in the state to serve all local government agencies including law enforcement, emergency services, libraries, schools, several nonprofit organizations and the campuses of Martin Memorial Health Systems. Martin County is a member of the South Florida Shared Fiber Initiative, a five county collaborative effort formed to educate the Florida Legislature, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Congressional delegation. The other counties are Indian River, St. Lucie, Palm Beach and Broward.

On behalf of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners, I offer the following comments.

The Martin County Board of County Commissioners strongly encourages every possible opportunity to expand broadband deployment by removing federal, state or other legislative barriers that prevent local governments from their pursuit to serve their communities.

Federal agencies should assist local government efforts to create regional high capacity fiber optic networks connecting emergency management communications, education facilities, hospitals and biomedical institutions thus providing an increase in citizen services.

Our federal government can help by implementing and enforcing policies and procedures for the shared use of conduit and other broadband technologies (i.e. wireless, etc.) for broadband facilities in conjunction with state and federal highway construction projects. The shared use of underground fiber conduit along highway and roadway rights of way can improve traffic flow and safety through

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implementation of intelligent transportation systems and reduce the cost of future broadband deployment.

The Martin County Board of County Commissioners encourages new and continued federal funding opportunities in the form of grants to develop innovative ideas for the deployment and adoption of broadband infrastructure. Grant funds are needed to construct, acquire and lease facilities to deploy additional broadband capabilities and services.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Should you require further information, or if I can be of continued assistance on this issue so critical to our county and nation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ed Fielding, Chair
Martin County Board of County Commissioners

EF/kp

C: Honorable Members of the Martin County Federal Delegation
Senator Bill Nelson
Senator Marco Rubio
Representative Patrick Murphy
Honorable Members of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Taryn Kryzda, County Administrator
South Florida Shared Fiber Initiative