

BROADBAND

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Southwest Florida
Regional Planning Council

NON- COMPETITION STATEMENT



THE FLORIDA BROADBAND PLANNING PROJECT

The partners take a team approach to ensuring how our region grows in the way of Broadband development.

It is our intent to use this plan to facilitate the achievement of a more prosperous regional economy.



MISSION

In alignment with our mission “to work together across neighboring communities to consistently protect and improve the unique and relatively unspoiled character of the physical, economic and social worlds we share for the benefit of our future generations,” the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) is embarking on an exciting new venture to strategically plan our broadband future and drive a new, more prosperous regional economy.

BACKGROUND

In collaboration with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) and the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC), SWFRPC will develop a “structured, comprehensive process for a regional broadband plan”. The regional planning councils have applied for and been awarded grant funding from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Grant funding will be used to help cover the costs associated with developing a comprehensive regional broadband plan, including creating a regional broadband asset inventory, assessing the region’s current and future broadband needs, engaging the region’s business and community leaders and private citizens in the planning process, and developing tools and training materials for subsequent broadband planning efforts. This project is administered by the State of Florida as part of the Broadband Florida Initiative.

Economic Opportunity

Education

Health Care

Energy & Environment

Government Performance

Civic Engagement

Public Safety

Project Implementation:

In implementing this important project, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council does not intend to build network infrastructure or provide broadband services. Instead, we look to establish the parameters of how the region’s broadband infrastructure should grow and be leveraged to meet long-term needs. We intend to identify broadband and technology resources along with related services that our region’s local communities require.

Project Details:

The SWFRPC intends to utilize our extensive planning resources to develop a long-range plan to describe, document and accommodate those needs. To that end, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council presents no competition to communications service providers and encourages providers to utilize the information contained within our comprehensive plan to further their service delivery and development in our region. We welcome interested communications service providers, network operators, mobile providers and other industry firms to join us in our planning process and help collaboratively develop strategies that will enhance broadband in Southwest Florida.

Project Outcomes:

Through our broadband education and training programs, our communities will better understand the need for and use of advanced broadband. As a result, we believe that these programs will stimulate demand throughout Southwest Florida. The link between the technology, innovation and overall economic prosperity is undeniable. Our core focus on economic development will enable recruitment of new business and industry in our region, generating additional demand for commercial broadband services. To meet the demand, our region will require the

types of broadband services that private communications service providers deliver. We invite these service providers and other private-sector industry firms to work with us to empower our communities with leading edge technology and communications services to serve the long-term needs of Southwest Florida.