



Vision

Wireless high speed internet access for Washtenaw County equally available in urban, suburban and rural settings in 2007.

Goal

- Blanket the County's 720 square miles with wireless internet service and provide free internet access to every resident, school, community organization, business, and visitor in Washtenaw County. A wireless infrastructure throughout Washtenaw County will provide seamless access to web pages, email, and other internet services anywhere in the County.
- Provide "free" and "for fee" internet access to every resident, business, and visitor in the County.
- Address the digital divide in Washtenaw County.
- Enhance the Washtenaw County community by creating public-private partnerships and a new spirit of collaboration to improve the quality of life.

Partners

Wireless Washtenaw is an initiative launched by Washtenaw County, State of Michigan, The University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Ann Arbor IT Zone, City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Development Council, Washtenaw County Road Commission, Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Internet 2, Merit, Michigan Townships Association and the Washtenaw County Local Units of Government.

Benefits of Wireless Washtenaw include:

- Improving the County's ability to attract and retain businesses.
- Enhancing the residential character of the local communities.
- Allowing for a rapid expansion of the community's growing mobile workforce.
- Reducing the costs, and improving the reliability of mobile computing.
- Supporting further economic development within the County.
- Enabling enhanced educational opportunities to students.

Timelines

- Executive Stakeholders Meeting – March 28, 2005
- Vendor Technology Forum – June 7th, 2005
- Request for Proposal – July 2005
- Selection of Partners – September 2005
- 3 geographically dispersed Proof of Concept – November 2005
- County-wide deployment in 2006 and 2007