

Wireless Broadband Infrastructure

February 15, 2005

Blacksburg Town Council Work Session

Presented by Steve Jones



Wireless Broadband Infrastructure



Initially presented on June 15, 2004

Goals:

- Broadband for Industrial Park (and other underserved areas)
- Mobile (in-vehicle) communication solution for Public Services
- Competition for DSL and Cable Modem:
 - Provide another choice
- Attract private Wireless Internet Service Provider (WISP)

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Goals: (cont.)

- Wireless network that covers 75% (or more) of town
- Cable modem equivalent in speed (1.5 Mbps) – fast!
- Public / Private Partnership
- Can be replicated through out NRV
- Make Blacksburg the most “wireless” town
 - BEV2 or
 - BEV NG (NG: Next Generation)

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Process:

- Worked extensively with VT CNS and VTTI
- Issued RFP in July of 2004
- Received 7 responses
- Evaluated responses and negotiating with the preferred vendor
- Expect a contract for Council review in March 2005

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How this is different?

- Much more than a Hot Spot
 - Town wide, possibly NRV wide
 - Possible licensed spectrum technology (not Wi-Fi)
 - Mobile (up to 120 MPH)
 - Town is not providing this – Private sector is!
 - Provides Broadband option to underserved areas – can reach where hard infrastructure can not
 - Not Free – no free lunch!

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Glossary

- **Broadband:** high speed data communications capable of voice, data, video transmission
- **NRV:** New River Valley
- **Wi-Fi:** Short for wireless fidelity -- used generically when referring of any type of 802.11 network, including 802.11b, 802.11a, 802.11g in the unlicensed band

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Questions?

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