

3/3/10

Oconee Broadband Technology
Opportunities Program (BTOP)
Grant Submission

By
Oconee BTOP Team

What & Why BTOP for Oconee

- May 2009 study of Pickens, Anderson, and Oconee (ACOG & iDesign Nine)
- Link all county, city, and school facilities together to give high-speed network between all (each will have their own network)
- Not to compete with ISP/Telco providers (i.e. AT&T). Focus is to provide connectivity in places where **NO** ROI for companies to install broadband
- Model Lumpkin county GA \$33M award
- Too many single points of failures in current ISP model – 1 dig all down

Benefit to Oconee

- Equal opportunities for broadband access for all Oconee citizens.
- 15% increase in home broadband connections (Pew Group)
- Create redundant loops to ensure city, county, and private access availability
- Link schools & libraries to allow larger transfers of data
- Ability to provide more public "hot-spots"
- Redundancy for public safety networks
- Uses renewable Green Resources (Glass fiber)
- Bring tech jobs for people who want to live in the land between the lakes
- Bring business to I-85 area of Oconee

Plan & Cost

- Application submitted by March 15th
- 20% + matching funds required; although funding is not require at project start. Must show ability to raise 20%
- Engage local business, local leadership, and telecom business to raise 20%+ match.
- Create sustainable financial model for core infrastructure ongoing support
- Tie into C-Light System and National Lambda Rail for High Speed Internet access
- Develop needs assessment model for Oconee County (i.e. cell phone & broadband coverage)

Staff Recommendation

1. Team to continue developing a plan for broadband usage in Oconee.
2. Permission to submit application for March 15, 2010. Per agreement among Team members (including outside Steering committee).
3. Any additions to Steering committee

Backup Slides

Oconee BTOP Team

Kim Wilbenks (Grant
Administrator)

Mike Powell (IT)

Kendra Brown (Finance &
Steering Member)

Jim Alexander (Econ
Development)

Richard Ellison (Last mile &
Steering Member)

Gary Smith (Fiber Engineer)

Thomas Alexander (Steering
Member)

TBD (Oconee Schools)

Mack Kelly (Engineering)