



**Wireless Oakland Program**  
<http://www.wirelessoakland.org>

**Contact:** Phil Bertolini, Deputy County Executive/CIO  
248-858-0815  
[bertolinip@oakgov.com](mailto:bertolinip@oakgov.com)

## **Overview**

### **What is Wireless Oakland?**

Wireless Oakland is an initiative launched by County Executive L. Brooks Patterson that consists of three goals:

- Blanket the County's 910 square miles with wireless internet service and provide free high speed internet access to every resident, business, and visitor in the County. A wireless internet blanket throughout Oakland County will provide seamless access to the internet, email, and other internet services anywhere in the County.
- Address the "digital-divide" that exists within Oakland County and provide low-cost or no-cost PC's and technology training to vulnerable population groups.
- Develop a Telecommunication and Technology Planning Toolkit for Local Governments that supports continued high-tech investments in local government and promotes the integration of those investments with local community character and quality of life.

### **Benefits of Wireless Oakland 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 County's growing mobile workforce
- Reducing the costs, and improving the reliability of mobile computing
- Elevating the technical knowledge of the County's current and future workforces
- Supporting the continued development of Oakland County's eGovernment services well into the future

### **Where We Were**

- In early 2005, the County completed a national review of similar initiatives, and developed a unique approach which is founded heavily on successful public/private partnerships, a mix of "free" and "for fee" services, and technology investments already funded by the residents of Oakland County.
- The county released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in April 2005, and after an extensive review process, and a successfully demonstration project the private sector partner, MichTel Communications, LLC was selected in October 2005.
- Portions of seven local communities were targeted for a high speed wireless internet service pilot project. The pilot areas are portions of the following communities: Birmingham, Madison Heights, Oak Park, Pontiac, Royal Oak, Troy, and Wixom.

The pilot areas total over 18 square miles, and will service approximately 35,000 households and 80,000 people.

- Oakland County worked with attorneys from the seven pilot communities to develop standard interlocal and license agreements, which outline the terms and conditions of use of local assets for the project, including the waving of all fees. All local units of government have signed the standard interlocal agreement. Additionally, a key contract has been executed between MichTel and DTE for utility pole collocations.
- MichTel added several partners to round out their team including Cisco, Microsoft, Johnson Controls, Inc., XTnrgy, Dykema, LeCom, RF Connect, Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton, P.C., Huntington Bank, SMZ Advertising, and UHY Advisors.

## **Where We Are**

- The initial Phase 1 installation is complete in each of the seven Phase 1 areas. Service is available and being taken advantage of in each of these areas.
- To date, more than 7,000 users have signed up for the free service, and nearly 100 users have upgraded and are now using the for-fee services. Over 3 million minutes of free internet have been consumed which demonstrates how important access to the internet truly is.
- The network is currently being evaluated to assess the level of coverage and quality of service so gaps in the service area may be addressed by adding or adjusting the wireless access points that populate the Phase 1 communities.
- Concurrently, the project team is working with Oakland County Planning & Economic Development to complete the third goal of the Wireless Oakland initiative. This will be a resource for local government agencies within Oakland County looking to prepare their communities for future technology investments.

## **Where We Are Going**

- The pilot evaluation is providing valuable engineering information that is being incorporated into the full county deployment schedule. MichTel Communications has been exercising what they have learned from the Phase 1 build-out to ensure that the most accurate schedule possible is released by September 2007.
- As implementation of the Wireless Oakland network continues, implementation of Wireless Oakland's remaining goal will begin. Foundations, grants, public sector partnerships, private sector partnerships, and the educational community in Oakland County will be brought together to bridge the "digital divide."

For more information about Wireless Oakland please refer to the Web site [www.wirelessoakland.org](http://www.wirelessoakland.org) or contact [wirelessoakland@oakgov.com](mailto:wirelessoakland@oakgov.com).