



**L. Brooks Patterson, County Executive  
Oakland County Michigan**

**What is Wireless Oakland**

Wireless Oakland is an initiative launched by County Executive L. Brooks Patterson that consists of three goals. The first goal is to blanket the County's 910 square miles with wireless internet service. The second goal will directly address the County's "digital-divide" and provide low-cost or no-cost PC's and technology training to underserved population groups. Finally, the third goal will develop a Telecommunication and Technology Planning Toolkit that will support continued high-tech investments in local government and promote the integration of those investments with local community character and quality of life.

**Benefits of Wireless Oakland**

The benefits of this initiative are nearly endless. Wireless Oakland will prepare the residents of the County for the jobs of tomorrow. As businesses go high-tech and more high-tech firms locate and relocate their businesses within the County, the residents of the County must be prepared to fill the jobs those businesses have to offer. Additional benefits of the initiative will include:

- Enhancement of the residential character within local communities
- Reduced cost and improved reliability for a growing mobile workforce
- Elevation of the technical knowledge of the County's current and future workforces
- Support the continued development of Oakland County's eGovernment services

**Boundaries of the Wireless Oakland Initiative**

Through its private sector partners(s), this initiative intends to provide "open-air" and "in-building" wireless internet service that complements broadband services currently provided throughout the County. Detailed requirements have not been developed to guide the build-out because the network will be installed, owned, and operated by the County's private partner, Michtel Communications. Instead, a series of high-level, fundamental service boundaries have been identified. These boundaries will ensure the wireless internet service provider (WISP) solutions are consistent with the objectives set forth by the Wireless Oakland initiative. These service boundaries served as primary evaluation criteria during the competitive selection of private partner(s). In summary, the wireless internet service boundaries are:

- A portion of the wireless internet bandwidth will be free to all residents, businesses and visitors of Oakland County
- Public tax dollars and/or grant monies WILL NOT be used to subsidize the provision of wireless internet service
- WISP(s) will be permitted to sell, and profit from, additional services above and beyond those free services. Public entities WILL NOT be allowed to financially benefit from the "for-fee" services
- The wireless internet service will be provided in rural and urban areas of the county so county-wide coverage can be ensured
- The wireless internet service will support "consumer-based" technologies
- Access to the wireless internet service will be provided through a standard captive portal and a single log-in database that provides a uniform user experience throughout the county

### Wireless Oakland Initiative Calendar of Events

February 2005	County Executive L. Brooks Patterson announces Wireless Oakland.
March 2005	Wireless Oakland Project Team holds a Public and Private Sector Summit to gather feedback on the initiative. Over 300 individuals from the private sector and more than 100 individuals from the public sector attend the two events.
April 29, 2005	Wireless Oakland Project Team releases its Request for Qualifications (RFQ). The RFQ is downloaded more than 500 times in the first week.
May 1, 2005	Over 30 local governments in Oakland County submit requests to be Wireless Oakland pilot communities.
September 2005	Wireless Oakland Demonstration Project conducted by MichTel Communications, LLC. Held at Arts, Beats and Eats Festival over Labor Day Weekend. Festival area blanketed with free wireless service (512K). Internet Café with ten wireless laptops staffed by County and MichTel staff. Over 2000 Café attendees and over 100 individuals use service outside of Café during the festival.
October 2005	MichTel Communications is selected as Wireless Oakland Private Sector partner. They are a local firm with experience in providing point-to-point wireless and local phone service.
October 2005	The cities of Troy, Birmingham, Pontiac, Royal Oak, Madison Heights, Oak Park, and Wixom are chosen as the Wireless Oakland Pilot Communities. The seven pilot project areas will encompass 18.5 square miles, 78,172 people, 35,277 households, 16,573 children, 43 educational facilities, and 29 government facilities.
January 2006	Standard Wireless Oakland Interlocal Government Agreement and Public Asset License Agreement completed and approved by seven pilot communities and Road Commission for Oakland County. The Agreement provides framework for the County to act as an agent on behalf of the communities and use public assets for provision of wireless service.
February 2006	MichTel Communications adds Cisco Systems, RF Connect, Johnson & Anderson, and Dykema to the Project Team.
May 2006	Joint Use Agreement with DTE signed by MichTel Communications.
December 2006	MichTel Communications completes engineering for seven pilot communities.
January 2007	MichTel Communications adds Johnson Controls, LeCom, Huntington Bank, and Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton, P.C. as partners. Pilot installation begins.
February 2007	MichTel Communications adds Microsoft as a partner.
May 2007	The standard Wireless Oakland Interlocal Government Agreement and Public Asset License Agreement approved by all local units of government in Oakland County.
April 2007 – June 2008	Pilot projects complete and operational. Throughout pilot phase 28,000 users consume over 41 million minutes of free wireless internet.
Winter 2009	<p>Due to one of the most difficult economic times Michigan and the Nation has ever seen, MichTel Communications was unable to secure funding to continue wireless internet service to the Phase One Communities and to deploy wireless internet service to the remaining portions of the County. As a result of the lacking of funding, the contract between the County and MichTel Communications expired.</p> <p>The County's commitment to providing free wireless internet service to every business, resident and visitor remains intact. The County will continue to actively seek partnerships to bring this goal to fruition.</p>

### Wireless Oakland Project Team

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