

Franklin County, VA entered into a public-private partnership with a wireless Internet service provider in 2005 that has resulted in a fully redundant wireless mesh network serving all county facilities, including 16 fire/rescue stations, hundreds of local businesses and thousands of citizens. It is not complete but it continues to grow and has proven its sustainability. I have traveled around the state presenting our project for many localities that are just desperate for some guidance. A clearinghouse to provide folks with options and templates to get them started would be extremely helpful. I believe Virginia's Broadband Toolkit developed by the Governor's Broadband Roundtable group in 2008 is a very good example of how to provide online guidance. This "toolkit" includes not only a library of documents from successful deployment projects but also a logic model to walk localities through a Q/A to assist in determining which technology or approach would best suit them. Please take time to review the online toolkit and document library (http://www.otpba.vi.virginia.gov/roundtable_toolkit.shtml)