

High Speed Internet Committee (HSIC)

Structure: The HSIC was formed in January 12, 2011 and is comprised of fourteen citizens (2 appointments from each magisterial district), two board members (John Gordon and Bucky Stanley) and County staff representative (Joe Casey). The HSIC has a sunset date of December 31, 2011. The committee's chair and vice-chair will be the two Board members. If subcommittees are deemed necessary, then a citizen will chair each such subcommittee. The subcommittee chairs, Board representatives and County staff representative will serve as executive committee of the committee and may need additional meetings and discussions in best preparing for and reporting from committee activities. The committee shall determine meeting cycle to best meet scope and Board update and reporting requirements, but it is anticipated that monthly meetings may be needed prior to first Board update, then bi-monthly thereafter. Subcommittees can determine their own meeting cycle in addition to regular committee meeting cycle.

Scope: There are many facets in which the scope can be defined and some flexibility has been given to the committee to best determine the path for the greatest productivity and results; therefore the scope can be amended as agreed-upon by executive committee. The following are the initial primary areas of focus:

- Review and assessment of 2010 citizens ad-hoc committee report to determine which recommendations can be resolved through additional research or further committee efforts in defining implementation strategies
- Defining what speeds are a necessity for the foreseeable future in enabling citizens to achieve a high speed environment and whether those minimum speeds need to apply to 100% of the County and if not, what are more achievable coverage goals

- Determining the best manner to gauge the population of providers, their current and planned coverage areas, their speed, and assessing what voids or gaps in coverage exist; including constraints, if any, of satellite providers in meeting needs
- Determine how best capacities can be leveraged on County-owned infrastructure for free or reduced rental revenues; including the use of a contracted firm to market capacities and if County paid incentives are needed, then what is the estimate of such incentive
- Determine the awareness that exists to citizens of the various providers and the process that citizens can best assess potential of providers in meeting service desire; and if the awareness factor is low what marketing process can best inform citizens of various options and process to undertake in determining best provider for their need
- Determine the need for a paid technical resource in better defining coverage areas, alternatives and other considerations that go beyond the scope and ability of this committee

Board Update and Reports:

- By June: Update and scope of committee with action plan steps in preparing for final report with any input and further direction provided by the Board incorporated into strategies
- By December 31: Final report to Board that will address scope and provide recommendations for Board consideration as part of closure in the scope of this committee's responsibilities