BROADBAND PARTNERSHIPS: A CONVERSATION ABOUT ACCESS

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TOTAL PROJECT COST $7,339,860
TIGER FUNDS $6,839,860
STATE FUNDS $ 466,000
LOCAL FUNDS $ 34,000

PID# 10339

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

ODOT was awarded $6.839 million in federal dollars to improve the communications, scheduling and dispatching of more than 30 rural transit operators located in Ohio and to expand broadband into areas of Ohio with insufficient broadband access. These funds were awarded by U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx through the 2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) VII competitive grant program.
Challenges Faced
ODOT

Rural transit authorities unable to dispatch trips to drivers in real-time creating trip refusals, denials and turn downs.

Software not capable of efficient routing of vehicles.

Opportunities Pursued

Improved broadband coverage to provide more connectivity in areas with limited or no broadband service.

Schedulers will be able to dispatch trips to drivers in real-time giving customer’s better access to transportation thereby reducing trip refusals, denials and turn downs.

Software will be able to route vehicles more efficiently, altering driver’s routes if trips are added increasing number of passengers per hour.
Challenges Faced
Ohio Residents

Broadband gaps in Carroll, Guernsey, Harrison, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Perry, Pike, Scioto and Washington counties leave consumers without access to critical infrastructure.

Opportunities Pursued

Money used to increase broadband coverage for ODOT includes not only rural transit roadways but also unserved households within the 10 county Transit Tech Ohio (T2O) region covered under the TIGER VII grant.

Money awarded through competitive bidding process.

Improved broadband infrastructure in areas currently lacking access to high speed connectivity.
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DON’T FIGHT THE FACTS
ALLOW THE DATA TO INFORM…

- Others may share the same problem
  - Law enforcement
    - Inability to access NCIC database
EDUCATE…

- Public schools
  - Idle hours spent on a bus unable to use Chromebook or other 1:1 device
...AND TRANSFORM

- Public safety
  - Can’t make a 911 call
Collaboration Is Key

- Don’t operate in a silo
  - You may not be the only one with the problem. Identify alliances.

- If it worked once, try it again
  - Harrison County Commissioners and Puskarich Public Library
  - Agile Networks
  - Rural Transit Authorities
The Collaborative Broadband Expansion Grant that was received a few months ago now has subscribers actively using the service and is affecting the lives of Harrison County residents.

Claire Murral who previously used hotspots that she checkout from the library for internet access started using the service October 29th shared:

“As a mom who teaches her young children from home, the internet access we now have has given us the ability to use a variety of educational resources. From videos to books to downloadable materials, we can now take full advantage of all the internet has to offer and learn together using multiple formats. It’s been a game changer when teaching from home.”
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Sarah and Graden Mural using ebooks to explore early literacy skills.