

**Request For Proposals
Wythe County Broadband Deployment Study**

Wythe County seeks proposals from qualified engineering firms, telecommunications providers and/or broadband consultants to complete a broadband deployment study. This study will determine current and future wired and wireless broadband availability needs and available service speeds throughout the County to ensure our citizens' future economic competitiveness, educational and healthcare access, and commercial enterprise viability.

The selected vendor will complete a wired network speed and access analysis and fixed wireless and LTE network analysis to determine customer needs and help guide future deployment both of fiber backbone and last mile access.

Report documents shall include:

- analysis of current broadband accessibility status throughout Wythe County, including locations and facilities of current providers;
- survey underserved & unserved customers to determine needed capacity;
- mapping and detailed analysis of available current network speeds and delivery methods (fiber, DSL/copper, wireless, LTE);
- available optical fiber backbone locations;
- potential additional service routes;
- projected costs associated with extension of current wired routes, including new or upgraded facilities, engineering, rights of way and pole access, and construction into areas of lower population density that served by current telecom providers;
- projected costs associated with creating/extending wireless service points;
- likely telecommunications partners available to extend service;
- informed opinion on the effect of disruptive technologies (ie, SpaceX's StarLink satellite broadband service, Appalachian Power broadband deployment) on future development costs and plans.

Wythe County will use this report as a funding guide for future projects and grant applications, working with telecommunications providers to seek funds underwriting access installation costs for lower customer-density service areas.

Responses must include: letter of interest; qualifications of the firm, its principals and its survey staff, demonstrating a capability to complete the work and deliver a final work product in the time available; means and methods to be used in the production of the work product; pricing; five references from local governments or telecommunications partners for whom you have completed similar work; commitment to complete all work and submit final work product on or before December 23, 2020; draft proposed contract between the proposer and the County of Wythe.

Direct questions about this request for proposals to mchankins@wytheco.org.

Important Dates & Deadlines:

Responses Due: Thursday, November 5, 2020, by 2 p.m. Staff review to commence immediately.

Board of Supervisors review & contract consideration: November 12, 2020.

Notice to proceed and contract, if authorized by the Board: November 13, 2020.

Required report delivery date: On or before December 23, 2020.

Submit responses to:

**Wythe County Broadband Deployment Study
Wythe County Administration
ATTN: Martha Collins
340 South Sixth Street
Wytheville, VA 24382**

Wythe County is an equal opportunity offeror and employer. Disadvantaged business enterprises encouraged to submit proposals.