



# News Release

## WIRELESS WASHTENAW PUBLIC FORUM AT MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: [James McFarlane](#) – (734) 222-6587

**Ann Arbor, Michigan - March 2, 2007** **Wireless Washtenaw**, nearing the end of its critical pilot phase and within a few months of initial deployment, is hitting the road for a number of public forums across Washtenaw County. The first of these information forums takes place at the **Manchester High School auditorium on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.**

The **Wireless Washtenaw** project team - which includes the partnering Internet service provider **20/20 Communications** – is excited about the opportunity to meet and discuss the particulars of providing affordable high-speed Internet access throughout Washtenaw County. Of special interest to municipal leaders in the Southwest Washtenaw Council of Governments is the project's aim to meet demand within underserved rural communities.

The project is entering a pre-deployment phase that includes the actual architectural design of the network that will eventually cover Washtenaw County's entire 720 square miles. An important radio frequency survey to help create the most efficient and effective design of that network is now under way.

The Manchester forum, and others planned throughout the County in coming months, offer participants the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the project's vision and scope, as well as the technology, service and costs. The Village of Manchester, along with the City of Ann Arbor and City of Saline, were original pilot locations for Wireless Washtenaw.

"This is our opportunity to present the project's progress to the community," said David Behen, Deputy County Administrator. "Our project team has completed an incredible amount of work over the past twenty months, from the release of a Request for Information through the pilot evaluation process. The resulting partnership with our local provider, 20/20 Communications and global caliber backing from Siemens, puts us squarely on target to make this critical service available to our community."

"The lessons learned from the pilot program have been instrumental in planning for county-wide deployment of the network," said Bob Wolff, President of 20/20 Communications. "We are eager to share the results of the pilots with the community and discuss the service that residents can expect to receive as we expand the network."

The Manchester Washtenaw Wireless Forum takes place:

**Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM**  
**Manchester High School Auditorium**  
**20500 Dutch Drive**  
**Manchester, Michigan**

- More -

For more information, and for mapping to this Wireless Washtenaw Public Forum, please go to [wireless.ewashtenaw.org](http://wireless.ewashtenaw.org), or contact James McFarlane ([mcfarlanej@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:mcfarlanej@ewashtenaw.org)) at (734) 222-6587.

### **About Wireless Washtenaw**

The goal for Wireless Washtenaw, an exciting new initiative for the entire Washtenaw Community, is to provide a wireless network for the urban, suburban and rural settings in 2007. Objectives include providing citizens and visitors a pleasant, seamless wireless Internet experience; supporting economic development and improving the quality of life in Washtenaw County; serving as a model for other communities to observe, learn from and use the knowledge gained to promote similar services in their own communities; and providing a model of cooperation and collaboration between government, business and education. For more information on Wireless Washtenaw, please see the Wireless Washtenaw web site at [wireless.ewashtenaw.org](http://wireless.ewashtenaw.org), or contact [Uma Harithsa](#) at (734) 222-3578, or [James McFarlane](#) at (734) 222- 6587.

### **About 20/20 Communications**

20/20 Communications was created from a merger between Ann Arbor Wireless and local Internet service provider IC.Net. Ann Arbor Wireless was best known over the last 20 years for its five retail stores which sell business and residential Internet service, mobile phones and calling plans. IC.Net had provided Internet services, such as high-speed T1 lines, to area businesses for the past 11 years. In February 2006, 20/20 also acquired Jackson-based PCS Broadband's wireless assets and began offering and providing high-speed wireless access to its customers. For more information on 20/20 Communications, please see the website at [www.2020comm.com](http://www.2020comm.com), or contact [Dan Skratek](#) at (734) 973-2020, Ext. 813

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