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News Release

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVES 20/20 COMMUNICATIONS FOR WIRELESS WASHTENAW PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER

The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners today approved the Wireless Washtenaw Advisory Board's recommendation of [20/20 Communications](#) as the preferred partner for the project. The [Board's Resolution](#) makes way for finalizing the contract with 20/20 Communications to deploy a wireless high-speed Internet network throughout Washtenaw County.

The Board reviewed the agreement which outlines the deployment of three pilots for the Wireless project - one in the City of Ann Arbor, and one in the City of Saline. The third pilot will be deployed through a consortium of local units through Southwestern Washtenaw Council of Governments that includes the Village of Manchester, Bridgewater Township, Freedom Township, Manchester Township and Sharon Township.

"With 20-20, a local company that really knows this area, in partnership with Siemens, CenturyTel and BelAir, I think we're in an excellent position," said Wes Prater, Chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. "We hope to have the contract signed shortly so we can move forward on delivering these beneficial services to our community."

Residents and those visiting Washtenaw County can look forward to an unrestricted free level of service that delivers unlimited connectivity to the Internet at 84 kbps, or better than twice the speed of an average dial-up connection. Premium services will start at \$35/month at 500 kbps. Additional upgrades and services will be available for businesses and other high-demand users.

"This is one of the largest and most ambitious WiFi installations in the country if not North America!" said Bob Wolff, President of 20/20 Communications. "We estimate it will take over 6,000 radios placed on many community assets." Community assets include water towers, buildings, light poles and other structures owned by project stakeholders, including government and educational agencies.

Washtenaw County has taken the lead in creating a strong public-private partnership for this initiative. The implementation and maintenance of Wireless Washtenaw will not be funded through public tax money.

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, or contact [Uma Harithsa](#) at (734) 222-3578.

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, or contact Robert Wolff at (734) 973-2020.