

GREAT GAINS FOR WIRELESS WASHTENAW IN LOCAL PARTICIPATION

The Wireless Washtenaw project continues to gain momentum as more and more local units of government sign the Master Participation Agreement (MPA). The MPA allows communities to commit to providing assets that will facilitate the build-out of the County-wide wireless network.

Over the last month, the agreement has been approved by the Cities of Ann Arbor, Saline and Ypsilanti, as well as the Townships of Ann Arbor, Bridgewater, Dexter, Freedom, Lyndon, Manchester, Scio, Superior and York. In return for providing these assets, citizens of these communities will receive a free level of service which is currently being negotiated by leaders of the Wireless Washtenaw Steering Committee and County officials.

“A wireless network puts our community in a position not only to compete in the global market, but it will also offer new and exciting services to our residents that previously had been unobtainable and/or unaffordable”, said William McFarlane, Superior Township supervisor. “Our community will gladly assist in this innovative effort which will reduce the costs and improve the reliability of mobile computing, while supporting further economic development within the area. The component of free service for our residents is another reason to support this initiative.”

The agreement was first introduced in July of 2005 during a series of meetings with township and city officials. Since then, the Wireless Washtenaw Project Teams have continually sought feedback from supervisors, city-managers, and other public officials to produce a favorable agreement for all stakeholders involved. The Master Participation Agreement reflects ten months of feedback from the local units of government.

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:** <http://wireless.ewashtenaw.org>, or contact [Uma Harithsa](#) at (734) 222-3578

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