

WIRELESS WASHTENAW RECEIVES FOUR BIDS AT PUBLIC OPENING

The **Wireless Washtenaw** initiative took another major step forward Tuesday, March 7th with the public opening of four bids on RFP # 6244. The four bids to become the project's private sector partner responsible for implementing a wireless high-speed internet network throughout Washtenaw County came from MichTel Communications, LLC; Everyware, Inc.; a combined proposal from IBM and AT&T, Inc (formerly SBC Communications); and from 20/20 Communications of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

“Obviously this was a very exciting day, and a very important day in the life of the Wireless Washtenaw initiative. We’ve been very pleased with this process and I know that our Wireless partners are looking forward to reviewing these proposals,” said David Behen, director of Washtenaw County’s Support Services Infrastructure & Planning.

The proposals will be reviewed by Wireless Washtenaw sub-committees and Steering Committee which will go through a final review and make recommendations to the Wireless Washtenaw Advisory Board. A final decision on the Wireless Washtenaw private sector partner will be made in April, with the decision going to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners for approval.

“I’m anxious to see what these companies have come back with. To me, I see this as an opportunity for some company – maybe it’s a small player, maybe it’s an international player – who’s coming from outside the box; who’s willing to go beyond what the usual carriers are providing. Again, this is a huge opportunity and I’m very hopeful,” said Andy Palms, IT Director for the University of Michigan, and member of the Wireless Washtenaw Steering Committee.

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.