Connectivity

Connectivity Issue
Connectivity: Extending high-speed internet access to the entire region increases telecommuting opportunities, provides greater access to customers and markets for businesses, and allows all residents access to civic resources and commerce.

Connectivity Issue Goal
Connectivity: The number of households in the region served by high-speed internet services rises from the current level of 40% to 95% served. The (region/rural areas) community is willing to invest to increase coverage. This will include both public and private investment in service.

Recommendation 1
Access across the region: Ensure all households in the region have high-speed internet access which meets common state standards.
Action Step 1A
Access: Promote, support and develop high-speed internet access throughout region for telecommuting, educational benefits, and supporting business activity.

Recommendation 2
Efficiency: Local units of governments will work across political boundaries to share equipment costs/facilities for more efficient delivery of high-speed internet.
Action Step 2A
Efficiency in installation: Lay conduit for fiber optics when upgrading sewer and water or digging trench.

Recommendation 3
Access for entrepreneurs: Provide access to technology needs and support to retain businesses and encourage potential entrepreneurs
Action Step 3A
Economic development: Determine the compatibility and interface between communications, smart grid technologies, and internet systems. Develop a recruiting initiative encouraging technology-oriented companies to explore opportunities offered in non-urban spaces.
Action Step 3B
Telecommuting: Create a business plan that facilitates legitimate telecommuting jobs and promotes high-speed internet connection in the region. Upgrade and expand high-speed internet infrastructure in housing so residents may work from home.
Action Step 3C
Map of access sites: Develop map or list of accessible sites within region to conduct web-type meetings, free Wi-Fi etc.

Recommendation 4
Access for children: All school aged children will have access to a computer with high-speed internet capabilities.
Action Step 4A
Support sites: Make available sites providing educational, internet, support, financial resources, etc.
Recommendation 5

Funding: Identify and pursue state, federal, and philanthropic grants to fund connectivity recommendations.