

Vision Team Ideas Template

1. Who are the members of this Vision Team?

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2. What was the focus of your Vision Team at the beginning of the process?

High-speed internet and rural broadband for Fayetteville and LC

3. Describe the project/key ideas in detail. If there are several being suggested, please describe each separately below.

Increasing access to high speed gigabit internet in the city and rural broadband in the county

4. What are cities/examples, if any, that you are drawing ideas/inspiration from for this project?

Chattanooga TN: <https://www.tennessean.com/story/money/2016/06/14/chattanooga-mayor-gigabit-speed-internet-helped-revive-city/85843196/>

SEAD Broadband Campaign in East TN: <https://cednet.wordpress.com/task-forces/sead/rural-broadband-campaign/>

Two rural, Appalachian Kentucky with 100% fiber penetration:
<http://www.wymt.com/content/news/Two-Eastern-Kentucky-counties-ahead-of-broadband-speeds-in-America-368070431.html>

DIY County Broadband: https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/vv5vaa/this-kentucky-county-is-starting-its-own-broadband-network

5. Are any of these cities/examples nearby that could be visited in a day trip? If so, which ones?

Yes Chattanooga & east KY counties with full broadband participation

6. What community needs are being addressed through this project?

The need for access to fiber-based internet for homes and businesses in Fayetteville-LC area

7. What is the expected cost to implement the project? Please include a *rough* estimate of core costs.

The cost is likely to be a million dollars or more to provide access to every house in the county, but Governor Haslam has announced \$46 million in grants for rural broadband to counties across the state. The USDA's Rural Utility Service also provided grants for this kind of project.

8. What activities, if any, are already underway in the community that can be built upon to support this project?

FPU provide has internet infrastructure in place throughout city. However because the city population is small, Fayetteville prices are higher than competitors. With a larger audience/market economics of scale would bring prices down, especially if grants could be used to expand and upgrade networks.

Further we could leverage our unique proximity to Huntsville to argue for grants. We could be a tech suburb of Huntsville. The government's grants could result in a huge multiplier effects, attracting tech firms, etc

9. Who are the target groups that would participate in and/or benefit from this project/activity?

School kids, home schoolers, online/continuing education students, home based businesses, consulting, large business needing more speed/capacity, disabled individuals, IDB to attract firms, medical community (telemedicine), retirees—connecting with families/children elsewhere/have high expectations of quality services

10. What support and resources (if any) are needed from the city?

An MOU between the city and county to work jointly (appealing to the state grant providers), building on FPU's expertise and capacity to build and maintain fiber networks

11. Given that city resources are limited, what resources that are not related to city/county funding can be gathered to implement the project? These could include volunteer labor, public-private partnerships, unused facilities in the community, etc.

MOUs are free and there is the potential for public-private partnerships.

12. Please provide an estimated timeline for how long it would take to implement the project.

Given limited state grant money, the city and county need to move quickly on a MOU and pushing the conversation with the state. Implementation could take 2-3 years

By moving quickly on this project, we could potentially complete this project in line with the new Toyota-Mazda plant in Alabama. Therefore, making Lincoln County more of a “Sweet Spot”, as stated in the Elk Valley Times. The expected completion date for the plant is the year, 2021.

<http://www.elkvalleytimes.com/flc-in-sweet-spot-for-toyota-mazda-plant/>