



March 19, 2010

## FCC RELEASES NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN

On March 16, the FCC released its National Broadband Plan as directed by Congress through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Below please find a brief summary.

### ***Coordinating Entity to Support, Serve, and Facilitate Service to Anchors***

FCC's recommendations call for the development of a coordinating entity to organize, negotiate for, and serve community anchor institutions throughout the country at the local, regional and national levels. The FCC recognized the importance of high bandwidth service to all anchor institutions, including schools, libraries, public health, public safety, and government facilities and the FCC has also recognized that local government participation in the development, management, and operation of the coordinating entity is essential.

### ***Municipal Broadband Networks***

The FCC's plan calls for the removal of state barriers to deployment of municipal broadband networks. Florida is one of 18 states that regulates or restricts municipal provision of broadband services. The FCC's approach fosters competition in broadband networks regardless of who is deploying them.

### ***Rights-of-Way***

The FCC also recommends new rules regarding public rights-of-way. The FCC has ordered the development of an intergovernmental task force of federal, state, local, and tribal officials to examine current rights-of-way practices and develop a best practices guide.

### ***Public Safety***

FCC's recommendations also call for a national interoperable public safety broadband network.

Congress will be taking up the FCC's plan. For more information, please contact:

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