



Opportunities

An opportunity for the 21st Century.

The Internet is changing our daily lives – from how we work to how we communicate, from how we deliver services to how business is done. Wireless can now make access affordable to all.

Wireless access is a transformative technology.

- *It can provide affordable access to high-speed telecommunications to small, midsize and economically disadvantaged businesses helping to grow their business.*
- *It can help eliminate the digital divide that continues to widen as technology costs increase.*
- *It can make teacher, student and parent communication a reality.*
- *It can make university campus access available to non-resident students.*

Great cities seize the opportunity to adopt new technologies.

- *To improve competitive and locational advantages.*
- *To empower residents, workers and employers.*
- *To maximize the human potential of its people.*
- *To enhance the future of their children.*

Free Internet access.

The opportunity exists to provide free wireless Internet access in major parks and public spaces for everyone living, working or visiting the city. Tiered service levels will be established to create a stable long-term financial basis for this new initiative.

Technology

The technology is here today.

Wi-Fi and wireless broadband technologies will be deployed based on a solution chosen during an RFP process.

It can be deployed quickly.

Wireless equipment can be mounted on streetlights and other structures to create a high performance, reliable and secure network.

Wireless equipment can be installed quickly and upgraded as new features become available.

It is affordable.

Compared to the infrastructure costs for other technologies, wireless can be deployed inexpensively, with initial estimates for the entire city of \$10 million.

Benefits

A competitive location.

Philadelphia must embrace wireless if it is to remain a competitive location for businesses and organizations and stay attractive to knowledge workers who are driving today's economy.

Enhancing the visitor experience.

Wireless is becoming the indispensable tool of the leisure or business visitor to book flights, reserve a rental car, check email, and find a restaurant.

Visitors today expect and are demanding 24/7 wireless access to be available everywhere.

Delivering public services.

Philadelphia and other cities are investing in technology to deliver services better and at lower costs. Mobile data terminals in police cars and hand held devices for service delivery workers in the field are becoming commonplace.

Wireless Philadelphia will enable the delivery of government services at reduced costs.

Investing in people.

This is a strategic investment in the people of Philadelphia.

- *It will begin to bridge the digital divide.*
- *It will extend educational opportunities and will enhance the educational environment for schools from elementary through university.*
- *It will make telemedicine a reality for all*

Funding and Governance

A public/private collaboration.

This collaboration must include not only those organizations that represent the users of this technology but also those that are already investing and providing wireless services today.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee completed its charter by delivering a Business Plan to the Mayor in December 2004.

Nonprofit Corporation

The Mayor incorporated Wireless Philadelphia as a nonprofit corporation on March 30, 2005.