

**Appendix C**

**Detailed Notes from the Vision Session**

*NOTES from*

**Telecommunications: Bringing the World to the New River Valley**

A Work-Session for Business and Community Leaders

**Wednesday, March 3, 2004**

New River Valley Competitiveness Center

**Welcome  
Yerrick**

**Chairman**

**Survey Review  
Martin**

**Lydeana**

- ⇒ 28.6% of connections are dial-up
- ⇒ Of 15 largest employers (employing 11,646 total), 6 were less than satisfied with speed of connection (these had best available); those reported true broadband type needs
- ⇒ Survey Results, Proposed NRV Community Network (from NRCC) and Projects List posted

**Virginia Tech's Telecommunications Model and Vision**

**Erv Blythe**

- ⇒ Virginia Tech is at cutting edge (i.e. National Lambda Rail and creating 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest super-computer for fraction of typical cost)
- ⇒ Why places grow? 3 T's: underlying technology infrastructure, critical mass of talent (and investment in people), and tolerance of diversity/willingness to change
- ⇒ By the end of year, private market will provide 10 to 40 gigabit (lightwave level) connection to VT

**Broadband and Pulaski County Schools**

**Jim Sandidge**

- ⇒ Pulaski County Schools currently enjoys special access via New River Community College and Adelpia; they connect 2,200 computers to the Internet with this connection
- ⇒ They need bigger, faster service and they need it everywhere
- ⇒ Fast download speed is not sufficient; synchronous connectivity is necessary

**Summary of Visioning Sessions**

- Three small groups brainstormed responses to the following questions:
  - 1) If this type of community network existed, how could you imagine using it?
  - 2) Why are these uses important to you and/or your community?

- The group came up with several similar themes around these questions:
  - 1) We need this technology to be competitive
  - 2) This technology brings possibilities
  - 3) We need to become more open to change and risk
  - 4) We want to embrace the globalization of communication and economy
  - 5) We can become more efficient – faster, better, more connected
  - 6) We want to improve and protect our quality of life
  - 7) We want this tool to tell our unique story
  - 8) We want to share information and market ourselves
  - 9) We want this tool for convenience and as a timesaver
  - 10) We want to control infrastructure development through this tool
  - 11) We want two-directional information exchange

### Detailed Notes from Visioning Sessions

#### Group 1

##### Imagined Uses

Library Resources-Archives

Wireless access to all CF Data

Central Data Warehouse

Realtime Data, Weather, News, E-Mail, ETC, Wireless

On-Demand Video

Virtual reality communications

Video

Economic Dev. Education via streaming video

Streaming Video Education for Donors and Grantees

Distance Education

The Un- Imaginable

Telemedicine

Reduce Transaction Time & Cost

Cultural Activities- Concerts, Plays, Etc.

Teleconference capability for non-profit boards

Live Broadcast Video

Telecommunications

Teleconference

Home Office

Virtual Meetings

Tel Med.

Gameing

Off-site Training Video

Special Interest Networking

Education

Shared Staffing

Wireless Instant Grant Making

Internet Banking

Services- Commercial, Non-Profit, Health, Government

## Security Video-Audio-Central

### Why Important?

Receive information on your terms  
Create an environment for innovation  
To be competitive  
To help us change the way we think (about development)  
Economic Development  
More Efficient; lower cost  
Employment  
Quality of Life  
Community Identity  
Information = Education  
Improves Efficiency In What We Do  
Helps People Work Together  
Public Health & Safety  
Be A Part of Information Economy  
It is New  
Multitask Save Time  
Modern Convenience  
World is Closer, Share Information  
Instant Access to Information for Decisions  
Personal Growth/Quality of Life  
Public Safety

### Themes from Group 1:

Question #1: Imagined uses of H.S. Comm Net

#### Teleconferencing

- Telemedicine
- Virtual Meetings
- Home Office

#### Availability of Information

- Library Resources
- Live/Pre-recorded Video
- Central Data Warehouse
- Cultural Activities- Distance Ed.

#### Business Services

- Internet Banking
- Govt'al/commercial services
- Marketing – do we want this? Risks?

#### Convenience

- Shared staffing
- Security
- Receive info on your terms
- Special Interest Networking

The Unimaginable

-Unintended consequences

Question #2: Why Important

Being Competitive

- Change the way we think
- Economic Development
- More efficient
- Create environment for innovation

Openness to Change

- Quality of Life
  - Community Identity
  - Personal Growth
  - Public Safety

Globalization

## **Group 2**

### Imagined Uses

Schools video to desktop "real-time" textbooks

Holography

Distance Facility Control/Monitoring

Video Stream Family Visits

Remote Access to Another PC for Assistance (Tech Help)

Consolidation of Home Functions (appliance, security, TV/voice)

Telecommuting attract creative people to live here and work anywhere

Telehealth, Telemedicine access to global specialists

Ultra Super Computer (link super computers)

Two Way Video (education, business, family commute, caring for elderly)

Send Meetings, Lectures, Talks like Email

Video Conference Between Companies & Groups

Attract Business that needs it to this area

Off-site facility security

Remote operation of power facilities across long distance; monitor switch in storms, etc.

Home access to work LAN system

Employee Training (Conf. Ed.)

Data Transfer of Large Files

Attend this Meeting

Everything I do now only faster!

### Why important?

Higher Standard of living

Quality of Life we want the area to prosper

Improve Quality of Life (Accessibility)

Increase efficiency of schools, government and business

Education we want our children to have the best and not be left behind

Contribute to growth of community

Retain Business (competitive for new business)

More opportunities for better health management  
Increase security of facilities  
More efficient at work  
Opportunities for school systems  
Increase participation in local government (e-government)  
Community Involvement  
Cost savings  
Increase reliability for utilities  
Improve educational opportunities  
Can help with promoting the region  
Reduce "other" expenses (travel, wardrobe, etc.)  
Efficiencies in Business (remote access)  
Opens cultures in all areas

#### Themes from Group 2:

##### Telepresence

- Video (2 Directional)
- Entertainment will be driver
- Educational Opportunities
- Communication modes (merging – integrated)
- Increase efficiencies in schools, gov't and businesses (cost control)
- Improve quality of life
  - >Maintain assets (natural)
  - >Opens Cultures~diversity
- Off site/remote controls
- Health – telemedicine

#### **Group 3**

##### Imagined Uses

Interactive GIS Map Access

Home Security

High Speed Access to Gov. Documents

E-Gov, change process not tech

Support New Business Startups, home based or elsewhere (broad band required)

Distance Learning (at home sick, etc.)

Off site data backup

Transaction processing taking back our support from overseas (billing; on shore, in sourcing)

Reading digital med. Imaging

High quality entertainment (HDTV, 3d)

In-home transporter room

Teleconferencing; video

Home Care Monitoring

Transfer Records Medical

Distance Specialist Consults (share expertise, visualize listen, diagnostic)

Expand CRC Model Regionally

Public Safety Intercommunication; radio-link hospitals and ambulance  
Regional Advantage Multiplier-Jobs!

Why Important?

Meet basic needs: jobs, income, training, and education

High Quality of Life

Lifestyle quality

Build community

Financial survival

Market Community

Time Savings

Convenience and Access

Improving Efficiency of Public Service delivery

Retain character of region

Value Added Info

Quality of Life

Provide jobs to retain good rates

Basic need: health care

Themes from Group 3:

Question #1: If this type of high-speed community network existed, how can you imagine using it?

- Every home needs broadband
- Human factor-education, expectation, tolerance, motivation
- Data/Information Sharing

Question #2: Why are these uses important to you and this community?

- Quality of Life
- Focus on People (qualitative vs. quantitative)
- Survival-Crucial-Necessary
- Telling/Selling our story