

Municipal Networks Deliver Local Benefits



Given the importance of Internet access to modern businesses and quality of life, some local governments have invested in networks that have revitalized local economies and saved taxpayers dollars. Many of these networks allow local Internet Service Providers to use the infrastructure, creating competition.

Manufacturing Jobs

Danville (Population: 43,000)

Thanks to the city's fiber network, Danville has attracted several large businesses to the area. Revenues from subscribers fund the network, and it is completely self-sufficient.

- **Zeyuan Flooring International**, Chinese wood floor manufacturer, invested **\$15 million** in a 40,000 sq. ft. manufacturing plant, bringing **100 jobs to the city**.
- **GOK International**, Chinese furniture assembler, invested **\$12.5 million** to establish its U.S. headquarters and Showroom in Danville, **creating 300 jobs**.
- **Noblis Center for Applied High Performance Computing** maintains its Cray XMT2 supercomputer in a former tobacco processing plant. It crunches data for computational biology, DNA sequencing, air traffic management, fraud detection, and counterterrorism.

Taxpayer Dollars Saved

Virginia Beach (Population: 438,000)

Public schools, government buildings, police stations, fire stations, libraries, and recreation centers rely on the network. The city **saves \$500,000 each year** on connection fees through its municipal network.

Award-Winning Network

Cities of Roanoke & Salem; Counties of Roanoke & Botetourt (Population: 250,000)

The Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority built network to improve government efficiency and provide businesses with high-speed connectivity.

The network won a **Governor's Technology Award** at the Innovative Technology Symposium. It is essential for key institutions, including:

- **Virginia Western Community College**
- **Blue Ridge PBS**
- **Western Virginia Water Authority**
- **Advanced Logic Industries**

Arlington Fiber

Arlington County (Population: 225,000)

The network initially connected county facilities and public schools. Now, the network supports economic development and public safety.

- **Internet service providers** and **businesses can lease capacity** to provide services.
- **Public safety officials** have a secure, high-speed connection point **at every traffic signal**.
- The **Virginia Tech Research Center** uses the network to connect with research institutions throughout the state.

Virginia's Municipal Networks

Arlington County
Bristol Virginia Utilities Authority
City of Danville
City of Martinsville
City of Staunton
City of Virginia Beach
LENOWISCO Planning District Commission
City of Norton
Lee County
Scott County
Wise County
Nelson County
Page County
Rockbridge County
Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority
City of Roanoke
City of Salem
Roanoke County
Botetourt County
Wired Road
City of Galax
Carroll County
Grayson County

Regional Connectivity

Some municipal networks do not offer services to residents, but provide connectivity to key institutions and industries. For example:

- **Page County (Population: 23,000)**
The network connects the Page Memorial Hospital, the Valley Health Stanley Clinic, and the Northwestern Community Services Board in Luray.
- **The Counties of Lee, Scott, Wise & the City of Norton (Population: 94,000)**
The LENOWISCO Planning District Commission built the network to encourage economic development, attracting advanced manufacturing to southwest Virginia.
- **Rockbridge County (Population: 22,000)**
This regional network boasts a secure data center and supports two Internet service providers that connect businesses.

“At the end of the day, our purpose, our primary purpose, is economic development”
— Frank Smith, Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority

More Jobs

Martinsville (Population: 14,000)

Martinsville Information Network connects with the Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation. This provides several industrial parks with reliable, high-speed connectivity. **More than 30** organizations and businesses subscribe to services. The city also **saves between \$130,000 and \$150,000 each year** on connection fees.

- **Faneuil** expanded a call center in Martinsville, investing \$1 million and creating **an additional 100 jobs**.
- Access to the municipal network also helped attract Mehler Technologies and **American Distribution and Warehousing**.
- **Sparta Inc.**, a defense contractor, established their research center in Martinsville. The company specifically credited the reliable, high-speed municipal network.
- **ICF International**, based out of Fairfax, built a new \$15 million operations center in Martinsville-Henry County and needed access to high-speed connectivity, bringing **more than 500 jobs** to Henry County.

More Resources

Learn more at MuniNetworks.org. Explore the community networks map. Find more fact sheets. Read in-depth reports, and catch up with short articles.