

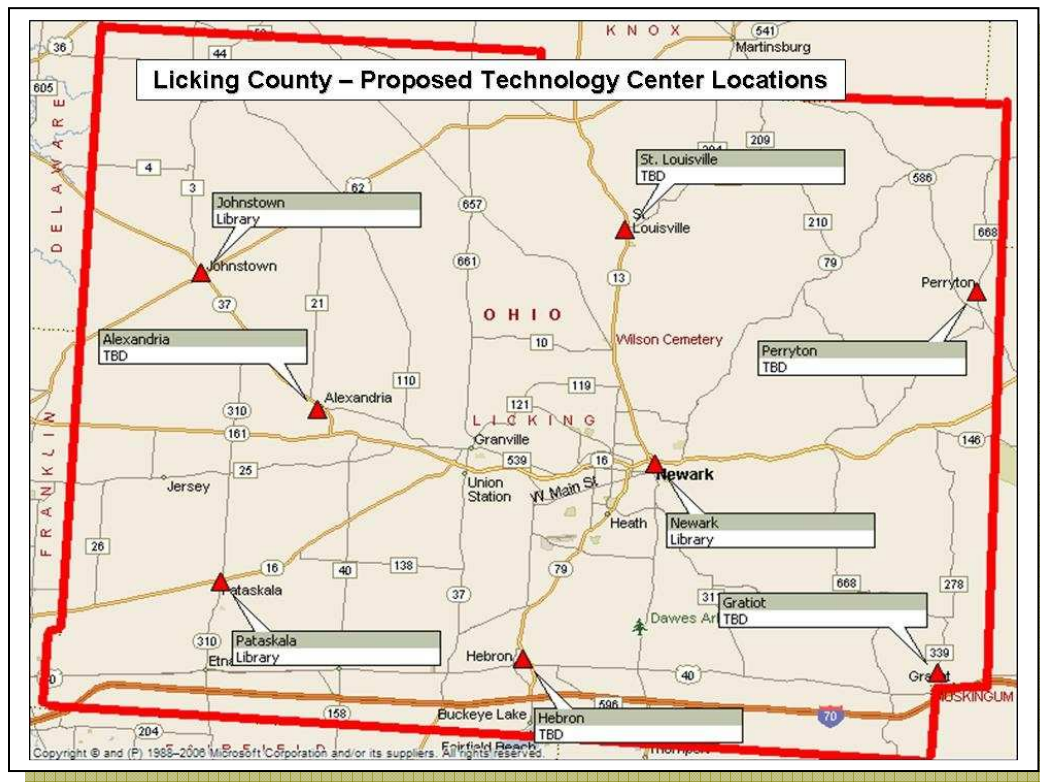
## Priority Project 2 – Adoption through Community Technology Centers

### Vision

The eCommunity Leadership team recognized the need for an environment that offers access to technology for all residents in Licking County. The need is long term; however, the current economic conditions have accelerated the demand. Current facilities, such as the library, are reporting that due to budget constraints residents are cancelling their home Internet service and have begun using community facilities. Today, someone searching for employment must often use the Internet to fill out an employment application. Further, people seeking unemployment benefits are instructed to access the appropriate forms online. Over the past few months there have been dramatic increases in both activities. The library is now the go-to facility for the above users and this represents a significant challenge. The library simply is not equipped to handle the onslaught of traffic; this challenges many aspects of the facility, including human resource and bandwidth. To that end, the leadership team has decided to create a technology center that addresses the above issues. The plan is to use existing facilities located throughout the county as the foundation for each center. The sites listed below have been identified as potential locations:

1. Licking County Library
  - a. Branches
    - i. Buckeye Lake
    - ii. Emerson Miller (Newark)
    - iii. Hebron
    - iv. Mary E. Babcock (Johnstown)
    - v. Utica
2. Pataskala Public Library
3. Homer Public Library
4. Granville Public Library
5. Alexandria Public Library

The targeted locations are plotted on the map below using red triangles. Convenience and travel time were key considerations during the selection process; the longest distance between sites is roughly 8 miles, or 10-15 minutes of travel time.



Each technology center will be served by bandwidth of at least 5.0 mbps and they will be equipped with a minimum of ten desktop and/or Laptop PC's/MAC's. These computers would be used for public access as well as education and training. The education curriculum would include:

1. Adult education
2. GED preparation
3. Transition to employment
4. Basic PC skills
5. Enhanced application training (ex. CAD, Website development)

All centers will install a wireless and wired local area network. Videoconference facilities will be installed and available for community use and for remote education. Voice over IP (VOIP) will be used to facilitate voice communications and 4 digit dialing between all facilities.

In addition, the team discussed the possibility of creating a high-speed network that will inter-connect all Public Computer Centers. It is envisioned that this same network will connect county and local government facilities in each area. The project team will investigate the feasibility of this vision and if validated they will establish a separate project to manage the implementation.

#### Goals

1. Public Computer Centers that provide;
  - a. community access to Broadband enabled computers, videoconference capability, various applications, and education.
  - b. equipment to meet the needs of the constituents.
  - c. accessibility geographically within the county.

#### Actions

1. Identify the team leader(s)
2. Establish a project implementation team
3. Create a Scope-of-Work that details:
  - a. Goals
  - b. Solutions
  - c. Measureable definition of success
  - d. Project plans with budgets and timelines for completion.
4. Prepare forms and applications to secure funding
5. Implementation
6. Launch **Awareness** effort



### Measurement

Increase number of publicly available computers to equal 1 per 80 Broadband non-adopters. At the current adoption rate of 54%, this equates to 27,030 non-adopting households, equaling a need for 338 publicly available computers supported and maintained by public computer centers dispersed within the county geographically.

Increase Broadband Adoption from 54% to 81% within 18 months. Increase equates to 15,895 additional households adopting service, from 31,730, for a total of 47,626 by June 2011.

### Timeline

To be determined during Scope-of-Work development - estimated completion 12/31/09.

### Implementation Team

Project Co-Leaders: To be determined

Project Team: To be determined

In selecting the Priority Projects, above, Connect Ohio convened a core leadership team, comprised of local leaders from nine specific sectors. These sectors include Agriculture, Business and Industry, Community Organizations, Government, HealthCare, Higher Education, K-12, Libraries, and Recreation & Tourism. Each sector team examined the status and opportunities within their own realm of the community and determined a vision for the Broadband-enabled future. Each sector then worked to produce a list of meaningful projects which would benefit them.

The sector projects were then rolled up to help in prioritizing larger community-wide projects and scored to determine their value to the community as a whole. The end result is a slate of three different types of projects:

- Community-wide Priority Projects – These are listed above, and are deemed to be the most meaningful projects, with the largest impact on Licking County as a whole,
- Sector Priority Projects – Listed below and identified as the most impactful projects that can be undertaken within their specific sector of the community, and

- Sector Project Ideas – upgrades and ideas that can be put into play to help the specific sector of the community enhance its offerings.

On the following pages, you will find an analysis and vision for each sector of the community, complete with its self-assessment and the priority projects identified for its own advancement. Sector-level projects have been incorporated into the Community-wide projects above, which deal with the larger issues of Broadband availability, adoption, affordability, awareness, and the applications that drive its use.