



# FACT SHEET

# BROADBAND Florida

## PILOT AREAS

PILOT AREA 1: Polk County

PILOT AREA 2: Southwest Florida: This region is comprised of Charlotte, Collier and Lee Counties.

TEST AREA: The South Central Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC) is a six-county region

## COMMITTEES

LOCAL BROADBAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Represents the community organization aspect necessary for successful plan development.

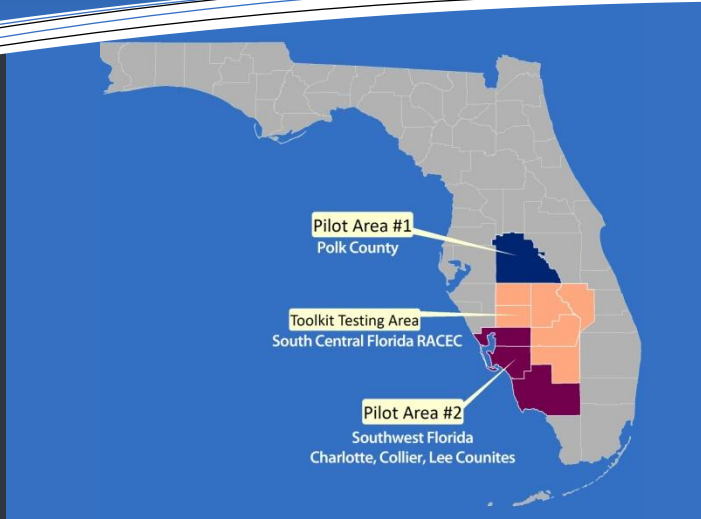
BROADBAND TECHNICAL TASK FORCE: Facilitates communication between and within each of the project participant groups and produces the products necessary to develop the broadband planning framework.

## PROJECT PORTAL

<http://www.swflregionalvision.com/bb.html>

National Broadband Plan  
<http://www.broadband.gov>

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## SOUTHWEST MEETING SCHEDULE

All Local Advisory Committee meetings are scheduled from 9:00am – 12:00pm at Florida Gulf Coast University.

- December 19<sup>th</sup>
- March 9<sup>th</sup>
- June 18<sup>th</sup>
- October 12<sup>th</sup>



## Regional Broadband Planning Project 2011-2013

### Why Broadband

Broadband has far-reaching application for improving the quality of life for Floridians. Broadband is vital for economic growth, both by fostering new industries and expanding opportunities for existing businesses. Broadband also reaches many facets of everyday life by improving the delivery of healthcare services, enriching the educational experiences of children and adults, helping with the management and conservation of energy resources, assisting public safety personnel in the performance of their duties, and facilitating citizen interaction with government agencies.

### What is Broadband

Broadband is not a system or a technology, but rather refers to speed and capacity (bandwidth) of a network connection. Broadband in this context refers to high-speed Internet connections that are always connected (no dial-up) to very high-speed networks, enabling super-fast downloads and uploads. Broadband networks have the potential to dramatically change, enhance, and transform the types of applications and services currently available through today's narrowband Internet. A broadband network can provide customers with a choice of service providers and services.

### Background

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) has entered into a collaborative effort with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC), the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) and the Florida Department of Management Services (DMS) on behalf of this Broadband project.

### Purpose of the Project

The project will create a standardized, comprehensive process for developing a regional broadband plan. This proposal is to address those elements through the development of a broadband planning toolkit, methodology, and process that can be leveraged by any region or local community. The planning toolkit and training materials will be tested by developing a regional broadband plan for a pilot area in Florida.

### Region

The Broadband Planning Project will enable the region to build upon planning efforts that have been undertaken independently to establish an innovative new approach to envisioning Southwest Florida's future through a Broadband Plan.

