

## **PamunkeyNet**

### Enhanced Capacity Building Proposal Synopsis – GO Virginia Region 6

**IDEA and GOAL:** With the support of GO Virginia, this project will leverage the unique asset of the federally-designated Pamunkey Indian tribe and capitalize recently-completed technical study of last-mile broadband deployment options in Virginia's Middle Peninsula. The Project will create a robust and affordable broadband infrastructure across Virginia's Middle Peninsula and the George Washington Regional Commission territory, and ultimately will link with a proposed municipally-owned fiber ring in adjacent Hampton Roads.

**OUTCOMES:** The Project will result in the creation of a new business enterprise (PamunkeyNet) that will be a privately-owned wireless and fiber broadband company, immediately creating new jobs in the operational company itself. Over time, as PamunkeyNet deploys broadband solutions across the Middle Peninsula and George Washington Regional Commission footprint, new job creation will occur through advanced manufacturing business locations, small business expansion, distributed home-based employment from technology companies outside the region, and telemedicine and educational services to the home. In addition, the technology platform will provide connect major assets such as VIMS (southern tip) and the Naval Support Facility in Dahlgren (northern tip). Ultimately, by connecting PamunkeyNet with the municipally-owned fiber ring in Hampton Roads, the entire eastern region of Virginia becomes a cost-efficient, redundantly-secure footprint for business and job growth in the scientific, professional and technical services and in information technology and manufacturing.

**REGION 6 PRIORITY CLUSTERS:** Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Information Technology; Manufacturing

**APPROACH:** Over a proposed 3-year period (with GO Virginia support for 2 years), the approach to the Project includes:

- Create a new business enterprise owned by the Pamunkey tribe
- Create a network of existing and new wireless towers throughout the Middle Peninsula and George Washington region that will have a high performance backbone between towers and local access radios on each tower to provide affordable business, residential, and institutional broadband Internet service and will provide Gigabit fiber services on the Pamunkey reservation
- Create a fiber-based Technology Corridor on Route 33 between Rappahannock Community College, the planned Telework Center, and the Middle Peninsula Regional Airport
- Design for linkage with Hampton Roads, specifically for VIMS and Rappahannock Community College, and anticipate the benefits of linkages to the south with transoceanic destinations from the MAREA landing point, as well as to the north at Ashburn.

#### **PARTNERS:**

- The Project's Lead partner is the *Pamunkey Indian Tribe*, the sole federally-designated tribe in Virginia and a conduit to currently untapped federal resources.
- The Project's Lead partner for new business financial support will be the *Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission* which manages a small business revolving loan fund
- The Project's lead partners for job training for technical skills will be *Rappahannock Community College and Germanna Community College*.
- The Project's supporting partners include the individual localities of: Essex County, Gloucester County, King & Queen County, King William County, Mathews County, Middlesex County, Caroline County, King George County, Spotsylvania County, Richmond County and Lancaster County; and Rappahannock Electric Cooperative and Northern Neck Electric Coop, each of which serves significant portions of the Region. Each of these partners has potential interest in providing financial support and/or physical infrastructure support.
- The Project's Supporting partners will be the *Middle Peninsula Alliance* and the *Fredericksburg Regional Alliance*, the regional economic development organizations.