

# The Daily Sentinel

POMEROY, OH

[home](#) [news](#) [sports](#) [obits](#) [opinion](#) [calendar](#) [entertainment](#) [online features](#) [classifieds](#)

[About us](#) [Contact Us](#) [Subscribe](#) [Archives](#)

[Gallipolis Daily Tribune](#) [Point Pleasant Register](#)

[Games](#) [Gas Prices](#) [Horoscope](#) [Mortgage](#) [MPG](#) [Lottery](#) [Schools](#) [Sports](#) [Recipes](#) [Weather](#) [Stocks](#)

## Extended broadband access coming to SE Ohio

by Times-Sentinel Staff

4 days ago | 1140 views | 0  | 4  |  | 

CHILLICOTHE — Federal funding for a new fiber optic broadband network connecting Ohio's Appalachian counties has been awarded to Chillicothe-based Horizon Telcom.

This \$66.4 million Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program (BTOP) stimulus grant, awarded by the National Telecommunications Infrastructure Administration (NTIA), will fund 70 percent of the \$94.9 million project, with Horizon providing the remaining 30 percent.

The project, designated the Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC), will provide high-capacity broadband services with speeds of up to 10 gigabits per second over a 1,960-mile network to approximately 600 regional community anchor institutions, including 212 healthcare facilities, 25 community colleges, 15 universities, 231 K-12 schools, 34 county public safety answering points, 32 MARCS towers and 34 industrial parks. Currently, more than 80 percent of those facilities lack fiber-based broadband access and/or the necessary minimum speeds to match their Internet needs.

The CAOMMC project is scheduled to begin construction in early 2011, enhancing the existing fiber-fed Southern Ohio Healthcare Network (SOHCN), currently being constructed by Horizon in 13 of the 34 counties.

"I believe that improving access to high-speed Internet for Ohio's Appalachian counties will better link our residents and businesses to the global economy and, by doing so, promote economic growth right here at home," said Gov. Ted Strickland. "This award moves Ohio another important step toward realizing our goal of ensuring every region of the state has Internet connectivity."

The counties benefiting from the CAOMMC include: Gallia, Meigs, Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Fairfield, Fayette, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Lawrence, Licking, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Tuscarawas, Vinton and Washington.

"Horizon is both grateful and excited that the NTIA recognized the importance of deploying an advanced broadband backbone in Appalachian Ohio and chose to help fund this valuable project," said Bill McKell, Horizon CEO. "Horizon looks forward to using this network to meet the broadband needs of the regional community anchor institutions and businesses serving the communities in these counties."

The CAOMMC is part of a comprehensive statewide public-private partnership called the "Ohio Middle Mile Consortium" (OMMC). The OMMC is facilitated by the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet), the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio. The OMMC was created to integrate three regional BTOP projects submitted by Horizon, Com Net and OneCommunity. The three projects total nearly \$208 million with \$141 million provided with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Once complete, the three projects will add nearly 3,660 miles of new fiber optic cable in virtually all of Ohio's 88 counties.