

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATESBORO AWARDED WIRELESS COMMUNITIES GEORGIA GRANT

STATESBORO, GA: On Wednesday, January 23rd, 2008, Governor Sonny Perdue announced that the City of Statesboro has been selected to receive the full amount of requested funding, \$323,298.00, for a city wide WiMAX wireless network, through the Wireless Communities Georgia (WCG) grant program. The WCG program provides funding to local governments to build wireless networks in their communities.

"This is a tremendous 'shot in the arm' for Statesboro! With the completion of this project, we'll be able to address the wireless needs of so many of us including our citizens, business owners, students and law enforcement. This grant helps us in making our city even more attractive for all, including new businesses and industries" said Mayor Bill Hatcher.

With the help of consultant Karl Edwards of Excelsio Communications, the city prepared the WCG grant application by requesting \$323,298 for a proposed WiMAX project cost of \$487,200. With the success of receiving the requested funds, the state requires a local match of 50 percent, \$163,902, from the City of Statesboro.

According to City Manager George Wood, "implementing the WiMAX wireless internet network is a two phase project. The first phase was applying for the grant and receiving the funding. That phase is now complete. The second phase is working with Karl Edwards to build a business model of who will actually own and operate the system."

Once the business model is complete, the project will be sent out to bid. Once a bid winner is determined, the Mayor and City Council will vote to approve or deny the bid. Once a bid winner is approved, the project will start and an estimated completion date will be announced to the public.

For information regarding the WCG or wireless internet in the City of Statesboro, please contact Public Information Officer Maggie Fitzgerald at (912) 764-0649.

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