

TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. (“Triumph Gulf Coast”) has created a pre-application process to provide initial consideration of potential ideas for projects or programs that may seek an award of funding. Applicants are required to participate in the pre-application process. Notwithstanding the response from Triumph Gulf Coast on the pre-application form, an Applicant may still elect to submit an Application.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: Walton County Board of County Commissioners

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: County Government

Contact Information:

Primary Contact Information: Rick Wilson

Title: Projects and Program Manager

Mailing Address: 76 North 6th Street, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433

Telephone Number: (850) 892-8155

Email Address: wilrick@co.walton.fl.us

Website: www.co.walton.fl.us

Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: Walton County Board of County Commissioners,

Walton United Broadband Initiative

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In a maximum of three (3) pages, please describe the proposed project or program, including (i) the amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast; (ii) the amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program; (iii) the location of the project or program; (iv) summary description of the proposed program, including how the program will be transformational and promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties, and (v) a summary timeline for the proposed project or program.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This pre-application process will **not** result in an award of funding by Triumph Gulf Coast. Rather, this process is designed to facilitate submission of ideas for potential projects or programs before the Applicant expends time and/or resources to complete a full Application. All Applicants for funding are required to complete an Application, which will be scored, and then considered for award in the discretion of Triumph Gulf Coast Board.

Walton County Broadband Initiative Pilot Project

Executive Summary

1. **Amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.** The Walton County Board of County Commissioners is requesting **\$900,000** from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. The total cost of the project is approximately \$1.4 million.
2. **Amount and Identity of Other Sources of Funds for the Proposed Project.** Pending Matching funds for the Project include:
 - a. \$500,000 Walton County General Revenue.
 - b. Note: Subject to final BOCC appropriation.
3. **Location of the Project or Program.** The project location is entirely within Walton County. The Pilot Project will service an area of six (6) mile wi-fi radius of the Walton County Coastal Branch Library.
4. **Summary Description of the Proposed Program.**

Walton County is building a broadband infrastructure that stretches to every rural area of the County. This request will work off of the existing fiber infrastructure currently installed by Walton County. Walton County would like to build a 6-mile WI-FI radius around our Coastal Branch Library. This first phase of WI-FI will provide citizens and tourists with the opportunity to connect to the Internet for educational, health, public safety, tourists, and social needs. Users would expect high-speed rates over 30mbps, exceeding the FCC definition of broadband as 25mbps.

This first phase of this project will benefit several different types of users. Students of local schools and colleges can connect to complete home work while in transit, online courses, or research their upcoming projects. Residents can utilize mobile connectivity for tele-medicine and tele-health initiatives. By working with law enforcement, first responders can communicate more efficiently and effectively where currently there is no cellular or Internet connections available. Public Works will be able to remotely control digital traffic control signs and traffic signals can be modified wirelessly, reducing the risks posed to employees on the working next to busy roadways.

Walton County realizes the importance of broadband to economic development, such as 39.7% of all new jobs from 2013-2015 are a direct result of high speed Internet being made available in areas where previously it was not. This project will directly impact all of our residents in the project area. In future Phases the project will be expended to all County libraries.

Advanced Metrics

The biggest benefit for Walton County is the data that is garnered by the users on the network. Similar to Google and Amazon, Walton County would be able to utilize GPS to identify trends in travel, traffic analytics, beach access visited, and impacts on our Hospitality services.

Economic Development

It has been proven that high speed Internet is a driver of economic development. We feel that this will greatly enhance our economic development in Walton County. Our main fiber project, which has just been completed, provided fiber to our industrial parks, and rural county areas.

This proposed project will expand on this goal. Walton County is currently exploring autonomous vehicles to assist in lessening the traffic burden and efficiently moving tourist to their desired locations. This project will provide a mechanism to control these vehicles while in the network coverage area. From the guest user splash page, the Tourist Development Council can push notifications related to beach conditions or emergencies. Tourists will have a direct link to find all of the eco-tourist locations in the County, where currently we struggle to let the visitors know of the many hidden gems this County have to offer

Public Safety

With our existing fiber project, our goal was to provide the ability to control traffic signals, and traffic cameras remotely, to assist in the event of an evacuation. Our Sheriff's department can monitor traffic cameras to ensure the proper allocation of resources to the correct location. We provided fiber connections to all law enforcement and fire rescue facilities in accordance with FirstNet. Additionally, we have been able to establish 6 mile Wi-Fi radius around designated locations in the event of a natural disaster.

The proposed wireless project will expand this public safety benefit in numerous ways. The sheriff's department currently struggles while trying to provide their deputies in rural areas with accurate information due to a lack of internet or cellular signals. This system would provide a steady internet signal to our first responders regardless of the rural nature of their call, ensuring real time, accurate information. Body worn cameras can download while in transit to ensure that they do not run out of storage space.

This plan will allow our school buses to send real time camera footage to dispatch or other desired locations. Currently, school buses have to store footage on board with a DVR, which usually run out of recording space. GPS tracking of buses will assist in designing the best routes, and provide a level of safety for the School system.

Our ambulance and fire rescue vehicles, using GPS, can be routed accordingly based on who is closest to the emergency. Billing and run reports can be sent immediately following a call.

There are many other ways our first responders could utilize this network to become more efficient and provide a better service to the residents of Walton County.

Educational Benefits

Our goal with our Fiber Project was to provide high speed Internet to every school so that they can move to completely digital environments related to testing and textbooks. Federal Education standards require that a certain percentage of all testing and reading materials be provided in digital format. We also have reached most, and plan on reaching all community centers in the County so that citizens who don't have the ability to drive almost 2 hours to a college campus, and have no internet access in their area, can take on line course in their community.

The wireless project we are proposing would expand on the idea of providing the best learning experience for our citizens. With Wi-Fi covering a 6 mile radius, students can utilize the network to research ideas, and complete school assignments while they are riding the bus home, or if their home is in the covered

area, they could perform these tasks from home using their library login credentials. We could essentially provide an environment where students can actively research issues that are passionate to them, and expand on those ideas while in transit

Health Benefits

With our original fiber project, we provided high speed Internet to our rural health centers allowing them the ability to videoconference with the best doctors in the world at the push of a button.

The next step in the process begins with wireless technology. This benefit aligns with public safety by allowing our ambulances to send real time data to a destination medical facility before the patient arrives. When the patient arrives, all monitor and medical data are already on site and being reviewed. Additionally, any users would be able to utilize the Internet to quickly find their nearest health center, pharmacy or fire rescue location. Physical health will be affected as we can provide our tourist and residents with real time mapping to the closest park, beach access, or multi-use path.

Traffic Conditions

This project will be instrumental in providing Walton County with specific information on users traveling trends. We will be able to utilize the garnered information to assess how visitor and residents utilize our most heavily traveled roadways.

Triumph Eligible Activities and Priorities:

We believe this project directly impacts the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. **Eligible Activity** of:

-Public infrastructure projects for construction, expansion, or maintenance which are shown to enhance economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affect counties.

We believe this project directly impacts the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. **Priorities** as follows:

-Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.

-Leverage of further enhance key regional assets, including educational institutions, research facilities, and military bases.

-Are recommended by the BOCC of Walton County, in which the project will be located.

The Board of County Commissioners at their November 7, 2017 meeting approved this Project and directed Staff and Consultants to prepare and submit this Pre-Application prior to the November 15th First Cut Off date.

5. Summary Timeline for the Proposed Project or Program

Upon funding the Pilot Program could be installed and operational within nine (9) months.