

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Indian River County Board of County Commissioners

VIA: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

FROM: Dan Russell, Information Technology Director

SUBJECT: Indian River County Broadband Feasibility Study Report

DATE: May 3, 2022

Departmental

BACKGROUND:

On May 18th, 2021 the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners commissioned a Broadband study to be conducted by Magellan-Advisors, Inc. The purpose of the study was to detail the options for improving the broadband environment based on the available infrastructure assets, resources and public policy tools. The options recommended by the study should consider the following factors:

1. Alignment with Indian River County's vision and priorities
2. Benefits to each community
3. Total costs to the County and options for funding including Grants/Loans
4. Long-term financial sustainability
5. Operational requirements
6. Technological risk
7. Participation of service providers
8. Competitive risk
9. Control
10. Probability of overall success

ANALYSIS

Magellan-Advisors has published their report for the Indian River County Broadband Feasibility Study. That report is included as attachment (1) to this staff report. Their report includes a market analysis, community survey results, (3) recommendations for broadband expansion within the County, and projected costs associated with each of the recommendations.

FUNDING

Depending upon the option(s) selected funding may come from a variety of sources, which include a remaining ARP allocation of \$3.4M, broadband expansion grants, or capital improvement program funding.

RECOMMENDATION

Utilize existing ARP allocation and grant funding to complete options 1 & 2. Consider employing a combination of grants and capital improvement program funding to pursue option 3, contingent upon grant funding availability.

ATTACHMENTS

Indian River Broadband Feasibility Study Final Report.pdf

DISTRIBUTION

Kristin Daniels – Director Management and Budget

Phil Matson – Director, Community Development

Rich Szpyrka – Director, Public Works