

SUBJECT: Update on the Advanced Communication Infrastructure Assessment

Meeting	Meeting Date	Agenda Category	Agenda Item #
Management Committee	Sept. 11, 2019	Discussion Information	4

REQUESTED ACTION/SUGGESTED MOTION

This is an information item.

ASSOCIATED OWP WORK ELEMENT/GOAL

Work Element 44, Regional Economic Vitality.

SUMMARY

In 2018, the Smart Communities ad hoc task force of the PAG Economic Vitality Advisory Committee developed a draft summary document of priority areas, goals and strategies. As foundational to many smart community/region efforts, including preparing for new transportation technologies, the recommended next step was to identify needs and opportunities for advanced communications infrastructure regionally. Moreover, this is consistent with the Smart Region initiative’s goal to “provide ubiquitous, ultra-high speed, optimized connectivity to improve advanced regional communication services and lay the foundation for other smart region strategies.”

Hired earlier this year, a consulting firm specializing in broadband planning will assist PAG with this effort. Outcomes of the consultant’s final report will include: (1) an explanation of how the region may benefit from communications infrastructure improvements, (2) an assessment of the region’s current state and (3) recommendations for regional actions to improve communications infrastructure.

PAG is deploying a brief survey with a response deadline of Sept. 27 to organizations throughout the region. Responses will help inform current and future communications infrastructure needs. Additionally, a project kickoff is planned for the morning of Oct. 10 and additional small group stakeholder meetings are being scheduled for Oct. 10 and 11.

A member of the PAG staff will provide a brief overview of this effort. PAG member agency involvement and input will be critical to the success of this project.

PRIOR BOARD AND/OR COMMITTEE ACTION

At the Jan. 31, 2019, meeting, the Regional Council authorized the PAG Executive Director, in coordination with the Regional Partnering Center, to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Magellan Advisors to prepare a Regional Assessment of Advanced Communication Infrastructure Needs and Opportunities.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funding for the requested consulting services is allocated within PAG's FY 2020 budget, as reflected through the adopted FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 Overall Work Program. Any proposed future phases will likely involve seeking significant involvement, as well as financial support, from the private sector through the Regional Partnering Center.

TECHNICAL, POLICY, LEGAL OR OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

None.

ATTACHED ADDITIONAL BACKUP INFORMATION

Advanced Communications Fact Sheet.

Staff Contact/Phone	Farhad Moghimi, 792-1093, ext. 4420 David Atler, 792-1093, ext. 4443 Jamison Brown, 792-1093, ext. 4473 Carolyn Laurie, 792-1093, ext. 4461
--------------------------------	--