



the capabilities of advanced networking and communications.” eCorridors has a national reputation as a reliable guide in the development, planning, and optimization of advanced telecommunications systems. We have worked with communities throughout Virginia to expand advanced network and communication infrastructure and services. Similarly, among private sector collaborators Virginia Tech is a respected player in rural and community networks. Because of our emphasis on public-private partnerships, entrepreneurs and small businesses, as well as national companies, approach us for information, insight, and advice before approaching rural communities to introduce new products. Some of the ongoing eCorridors outreach- efforts include:

- Legislative policies map
- Community broadband map and broadband speed test
- Consultation with planning commissions and municipal organizations on broadband and wireless networks
- Serving as a liaison for National Lambda Rail members participating in rural healthcare and communications initiatives

- Participation at all levels of government on network policy and legislation

### 2007 Policy Agenda

- telecommunications
- emergency communications
- disaster recovery
- identity theft and network security
- municipal networks

### Federal Policy Issues to be Monitored

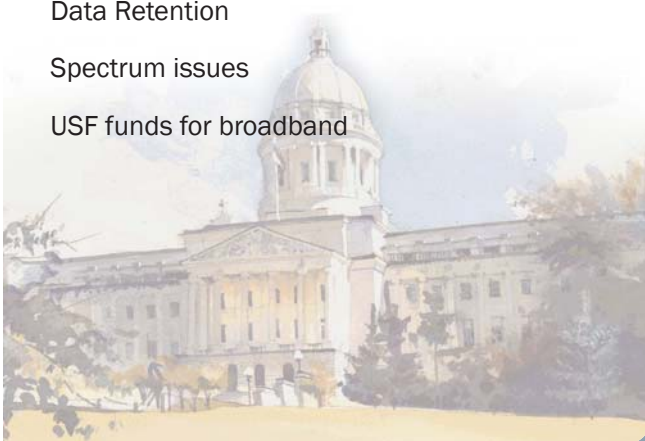
Net Neutrality

CALEA

Data Retention

Spectrum issues

USF funds for broadband



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## eCORRIDORS



### MISSION

To facilitate and promote the ability for every person, organization, and community in Virginia and beyond to have the capability, at a reasonable cost, to produce and access high volume information and services in the networked world.





## What is the eCorridors Program?

eCorridors is your window on the Information Technology initiatives that support Virginia Tech's trifold mission of learning, discovery, and outreach. Our activities involve telecommunications policy, communications infrastructure, research and other computing applications as well as community networks and economic development in a networked world. eCorridors is a primary means through which government, private sector industry and community stakeholders participate and collaborate with university researchers and IT professionals.

## Learning



Our learning initiatives focus particularly on the general public; state and national policymakers, and communities in rural regions.

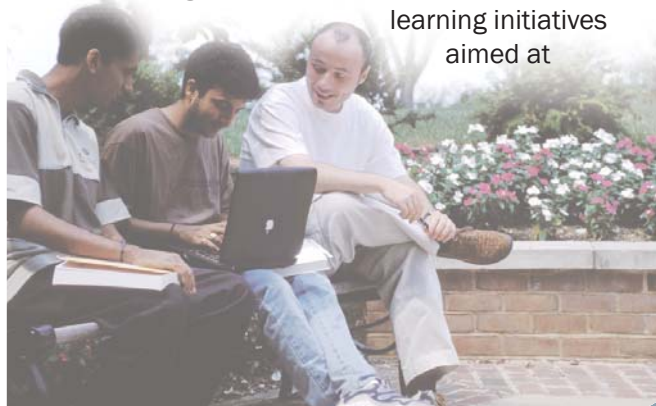
The eCorridors website [www.ecorridors.vt.edu](http://www.ecorridors.vt.edu) is available to the general public and is our primary education vehicle. The site links to other notable community networks throughout the U.S. and provides access to research papers, presentations; legislative and policy materials; news and other information related to

economic development through the use of advanced network infrastructure. The website also serves as a clearinghouse for emerging initiatives and focus areas and provides access to interactive tools like the Community Broadband Map and speed test.

Our team counsels policymakers about the impacts of rules and legislation on the availability and affordability of broadband network access; on technology and telecommunications policies that impact higher education; and on network security concerns and opportunities.

We are often contacted by localities seeking assistance in developing strategies for enhancing broadband network access for businesses and citizens, often as part of their economic development effort. Emergency services organizations also participate in

learning initiatives aimed at



identifying, testing, and proving technologies for emergency communications and disaster recovery.

## Discovery



Part of the Information Technology mission is to "participate in, support and enhance research." eCorridors is comprised of personnel whose competencies and

credentials result from their engagement in university research efforts. Staff understand the technical, social, and political implications of access to advanced technologies. Our depth of knowledge enables us to contribute at all levels to technology policy analysis and development in network infrastructure deployment, security, quality of service, ecommerce, and the rights of individuals and municipalities. Our research specialties include spatial analysis and public and private strategic alliances as well as the regulatory and policy issues associated with advanced network infrastructure, ecommerce, fiber and wireless technologies, and economic development best practices.

Research support activities in recent years include:

- Regional voice interoperability demonstration for emergency communications and disaster recovery
- The development and proof-of-concept for an enterprise GIS information system and associated database management
- The completion and publication in 2003 of a series of 11 studies on aspects associated with broadband infrastructure for economic development for the tobacco regions of Virginia (Strategic Technology Infrastructure for Regional Competitiveness in the Network Economy, see [www.ecorridors.vt.edu](http://www.ecorridors.vt.edu)).

## Engagement

Also in the Information Technology strategic plan is to "foster outreach, develop partnerships with communities and promote

