



Southern Tier West

Regional Planning & Development Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Appalachian Regional Commission approves \$40,000 grant for Deployment of Wireless Technology in Cattaraugus County

Richard T. Zink, Executive Director of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board (Southern Tier West), has announced the approval of a \$40,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to help Southern Tier West to deploy wireless technology in Cattaraugus County.

“Southern Tier West is committed to providing universal high-speed Internet access to all citizens, businesses and visitors in the three-county region of Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties. This ARC award will allow us to continue our efforts which began several years ago. We also want to thank the Southern Tier West Development Foundation for providing \$40,000 towards this effort,” said Mr. Zink.

Southern Tier West and Southern Tier Wireless Inc., a fully operational wide-area wireless broadband provider located in Rushford (Allegany County), will bring broadband connectivity to portions of Cattaraugus County which do not have access to affordable broadband services. The impact of the deployment of this broadband solution is tremendous. In an area where a dial-up Internet connection is a major obstacle to downloading any significant data/information, business development as well as personal gain is virtually impossible. The proposed project will be most beneficial to municipalities, parents and students, job seekers, as well as businesses in the service area.

The project partnership has collaborated previously in the development and implementation of an Allegany County Wireless Project awarded funds from NYS Office of Technology. Wayne Hawley of Southern Tier Wireless said, “We appreciate the opportunity to

partner with Southern Tier West on the Cattaraugus County project. The proposed project will expand our network that we have built across Allegany County thanks in part to our partnership with the regional planning board.”

The Appalachian Regional Commission was established by the federal Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 to improve the economy and quality of life in the thirteen-state Appalachian Region. Governors of the Appalachian States and a Federal Co-Chair appointed by the President comprise the Commission. Governor David Paterson of New York State is a member of the Commission; the Secretary of State serves as his Alternate. The Department of State is the official agent of the State of New York responsible for cooperating with the Commission in administering the Appalachian Program. The Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board is designated by ARC as a Local Development District and serves as the local contact for the Appalachian Program.

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