

# **POLICY FOR RECOMMENDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BI-DIRECTIONAL AMPLIFIERS IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION**

Policy #3, adopted on January 13, 2014

In recognition of the need for requiring the use of bi-directional amplifiers (BDAs) in certain structures to provide proper emergency radio communications in buildings that by their nature would otherwise impede emergency radio traffic within those buildings, the following policy is adopted by the Washtenaw County 800 MHz Radio Consortium Board (Consortium), and the Washtenaw County 800 MHz Radio System Project Oversight Committee (POC).

1. It is recognized that the County cannot unilaterally impose a county-wide requirement on its governmental units to adopt a requirement in their building codes to implement a policy of requiring that developers include in their building plans a BDA to enhance emergency radio communications in a building whose structure and materials would otherwise block or impede those radio communications. It is therefore the policy of the Consortium and the POC that they recommend to each of the governmental units in the county that exercise their own building codes and authority that they require as part of those codes a requirement for the installation of a BDA in a structure that would otherwise block or impede emergency radio communications in those structures.
2. Such a BDA should be considered like any other modern convenience required in a structure for it to be favorably considered for approval, like sewer, water, light, electricity, telephone or heating and air conditioning.
3. BDAs can be employed not only to enhance radio communication in the 700 and 800 MHz frequency ranges, but for other use as well like providing for the adequate reception of cellular telephone service within a structure.
4. It is the experience of the Consortium and the POC that structures having below grade structures, or built with an extensive metal superstructure or metal exteriors would be more likely to need the inclusion of a BDA for successful RF communication from within those structures.
5. The Consortium and the POC and its managers would be happy to provide any additional information that might be needed for those attempting to implement this recommendation.