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**NATOA Awards WirelessMinneapolis  
2008 Community Broadband Wireless Project of the Year**

**Atlanta, GA – September 18, 2008** – The NATOA Board of Directors is proud to announce that it awarded the Community Broadband Wireless Project of the Year award to the City of Minneapolis for its innovative wireless initiative, WirelessMinneapolis. The City received this prestigious award for persevering in development of a wireless infrastructure for public and government use, and for showing the capability of local communities to encourage and facilitate wireless communications projects.

In cooperation with a local private sector partner, the City of Minneapolis has worked to use emerging technologies to offer wireless Internet services to the public and high quality public safety communications to first responders. The resulting network played a vital role in emergency communications during the 2007 Minneapolis bridge collapse, demonstrating the success of municipal wireless efforts.

“NATOA applauds the City of Minneapolis for its innovation and determination to realize its wireless networking vision,” said NATOA’s President, Doris J. Boris. “Minneapolis is leading the way for other cities to develop equally innovative uses of broadband technology and demonstrates the importance of local prerogatives to build broadband networks.”

The 2008 NATOA Community Broadband Awards were awarded to six exceptional leaders and organizations in government, business, and the community who champion community interests in broadband deployment and work to ensure that more Americans can experience the benefits of this important technology.

For more information on the award recipients, the NATOA Community Broadband Awards, and NATOA’s efforts to bring about a national broadband strategy that recognizes the vital and integral role of local governments, visit [www.natoa.org](http://www.natoa.org) or contact NATOA’s Executive Director, Libby Beaty, at the number above.

NATOA promotes community interests in communications. A national trade association based in Alexandria, VA, NATOA represents local government jurisdictions and consortiums, including elected and appointed officials and staff, who oversee communications and cable television franchising.