

Florida LambdaRail Internet Services

Alachua County was invited to join the Florida LambdaRail (FLR) network in late 2014. FLR is an independent statewide fiber optical network owned and operated on behalf of partner institutions (State Universities and a few jurisdictions). Because Alachua County ITS provides Internet services to all BOCC departments including Emergency Management and Constitutional offices, which also includes Law Enforcement, ITS uses two Internet service providers for redundant internet access. The primary benefit that Alachua County would realize from FLR is accessibility to a State wide internet network that would provide the County a reliable secondary internet connection during emergencies. However, the County would need to expand its existing fiber optic network in order to connect to the FLR service.

The local connection to FLR is located at the University of Florida and there is a large connection cost to expand the County's fiber link to the UF campus in order for the County to access FLR. County ITS has approached our two local internet carriers to see if we can garner competitive rates from them that will allow us to stay with the current vendors and forego the installation costs to connect to FLR at this time. This approach has been successful, and the County is currently engaged in negotiating new internet agreements with the local service providers that will result in significant annual savings within the County's internet budget. The County plans to hold off on joining FLR at this time but will keep the channel of communication open with FLR representatives for future consideration.