

Name of Applicant: Bonner County

Application number: 4278
4279
4271
4276
4273
4282

Idaho Department of Commerce Broadband grant program

July 27, 2020

Bonner County

Thank you for the opportunity to reply to these challenges from other providers. I would encourage the county to affirm the applications meet the terms of the grant applications that have been already submitted by replying to the state with this response attached. The grant documents indicated that the Director of Commerce will make the final determination to accept or reject any challenges.

This is a single response to six (6) challenges by Kaniksu Networks and one (1) by Ziplly fiber to applications submitted by Bonner County.

Challenged grant application numbers are here:

County Priority	Project Name	App Number	Challenger
06 - Bonner	COLBURN	APP-004277	Ziplly
07 - Bonner	ELLISPORT BAY	APP-004278	Kaniksu
08 - Bonner	GLENGARY	APP-004279	Kaniksu
09 - Bonner	BOTTLE BAY	APP-004271	Kaniksu
11 - Bonner	CLARK FORK	APP-004276	Kaniksu
13 - Bonner	CABINET	APP-004273	Kaniksu
14 - Bonner	SPRING CREEK	APP-004282	Kaniksu

Challenges from Kaniksu Networks

Existing Service Issue

Kaniksu submitted similar challenges for six projects in Bonner County. All of these projects qualify using the State criteria of underserved based on the latest data available – the June 2019 FCC 477 reports. Kaniksu argues that they have recently initiated service, in some cases just last month but that data does not appear on FCC reports. The Kaniksu challenge describes new service but includes no data about customers served which would illustrate that more than 50% of the locations have 25x3 service available. Absent FCC form 477 filings and without any new data, it is hard to consider the Kaniksu challenge as credible.

Where Kaniksu lists other providers in its challenges, it shows no percentage of the addresses that those providers are able to serve. As a result, Kaniksu has made no rebuttal that the Department of Commerce can rely upon to confirm their argument that these areas are more than 50% covered by 25x3 service.

Community Facilities Issue

In challenge APP-004276 – Clark Fork, Kaniksu correctly explains the High School and the Fire Station are served by other suppliers. This is a household grant application and the reference to the school and fire station are not relevant.

Project Schedule and Project Budget Issue

Kaniksu points out the project schedule and budget are apparently incorrectly shown on the Commerce application site. Bonner County technical advisor Joe Kinner reports the correct data was filed and verified. This appears to be a data mix up problem and is easily addressed with supplementary corrections.

Challenge from Ziplly/Frontier

The company now known as Ziplly is a very new (June 2020) and rebranded company who now owns the assets of Frontier in Idaho purchased in the midst of Frontier’s ongoing bankruptcy proceedings. Frontier corporate has a long and sordid history of mistreatment of the citizens of Bonner County, and Idaho overall. Ziplly hasn’t owned the former Frontier assets long enough to have a track record of acting more honorably, though we certainly hope they will.

With that in mind, as recently as last month in a similar “challenge” proceeding, the FCC pointedly and clearly rejected similar tactics of Frontier/Ziplly. Frontier/Ziplly tried to challenge tens of thousands of census blocks around the country from being included in a publicly competitive auction scheduled for later this year. The FCC rejected Frontier/Ziplly’s challenges saying in part: “*there is a pervasive lack of credibility and accordingly deny Frontier’s challenge.*” *The case and results are below.*

From FCC Public Notice DA 20-665 Released: June 25, 2020:

Frontier Communications Corporation’s Form 477 and State Subsidy Challenges. First, we deny Frontier Communications Corporation’s (Frontier) Form 477 challenge. Frontier filed a Form 477 challenge for 16,987 blocks where it claims that it provides service of 25/3 Mbps or better broadband service.

“Given the numerous and significant concerns in the record regarding the validity of Frontier’s filing, including its own admission that it had misfiled its June 2019 data and then misfiled (again) the data for its challenge, and inconsistent explanations for its challenge, we conclude that taken together there is a pervasive lack of credibility and accordingly deny Frontier’s challenge regarding its deployment and decline to exclude those blocks from consideration for eligibility.”

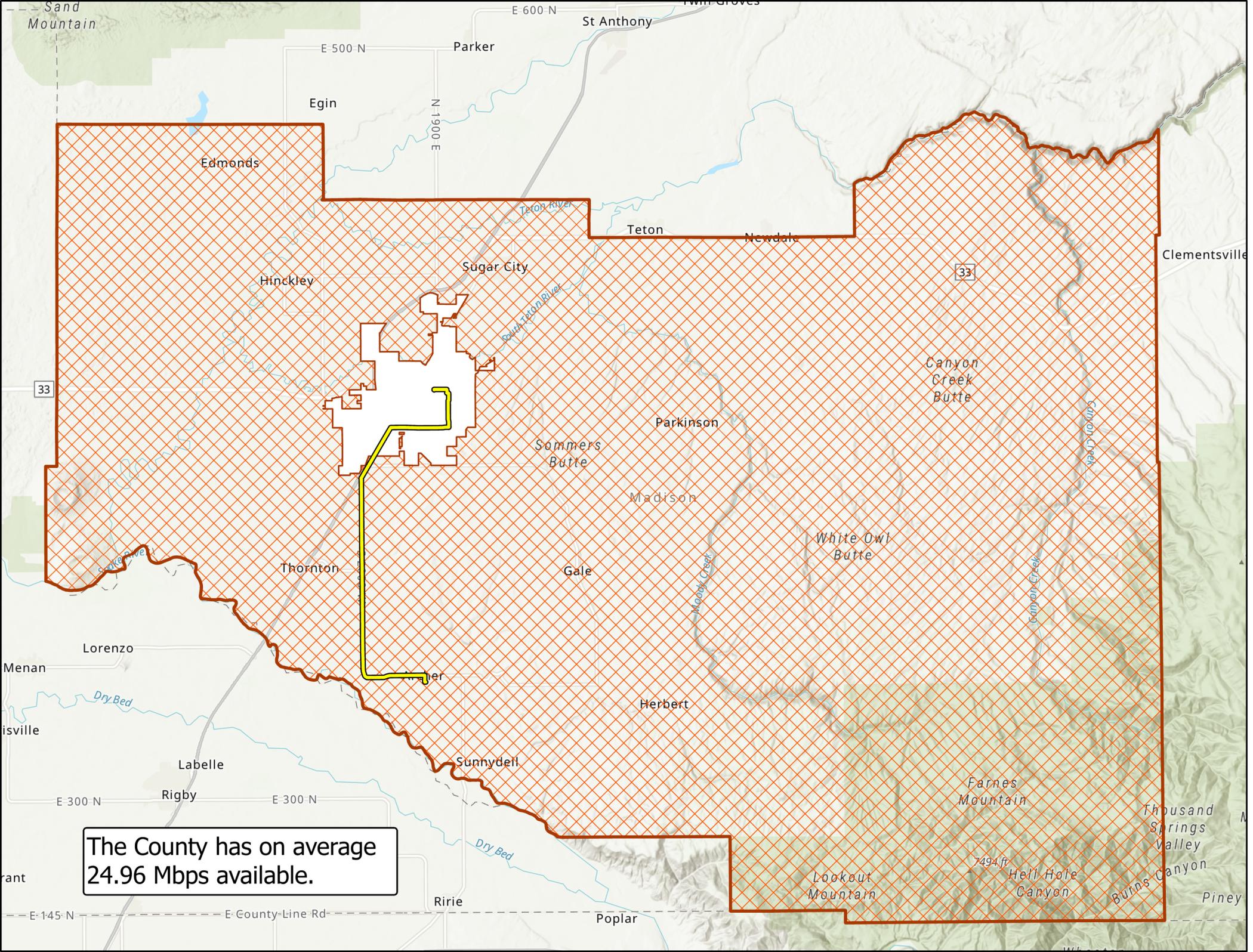
The county can provide one of three responses to the challenges:

- 1. Affirm the application meets the challenged criteria.**
 - The application was based on FCC 477 filings. Kaniksu does not dispute the data in the 477 filings but says they have subsequently initiated service in some of the challenged areas. Kaniksu does not provide any data about households served by their new service. We urge the Commission to affirm the applications as presented. The Department of Commerce will review the challenge and decide about its credibility.
- 2. The commission can modify the application.** There is no new substantive data to justify modifying the applications.
- 3. The commission can withdraw the grant request.** Withdrawal would mean some rural households would be denied broadband service for distance learning, work-from-home or telehealth for no provable reason.

We encourage the applicant, Bonner County, to choose option 1 and affirm the application meets the program criteria. The Director of Commerce for the State of Idaho will make that final determination based on the challenge and this response.

Name of Applicant: Madison

Application number: 4275



The County has on average
24.96 Mbps available.

County Admin Building

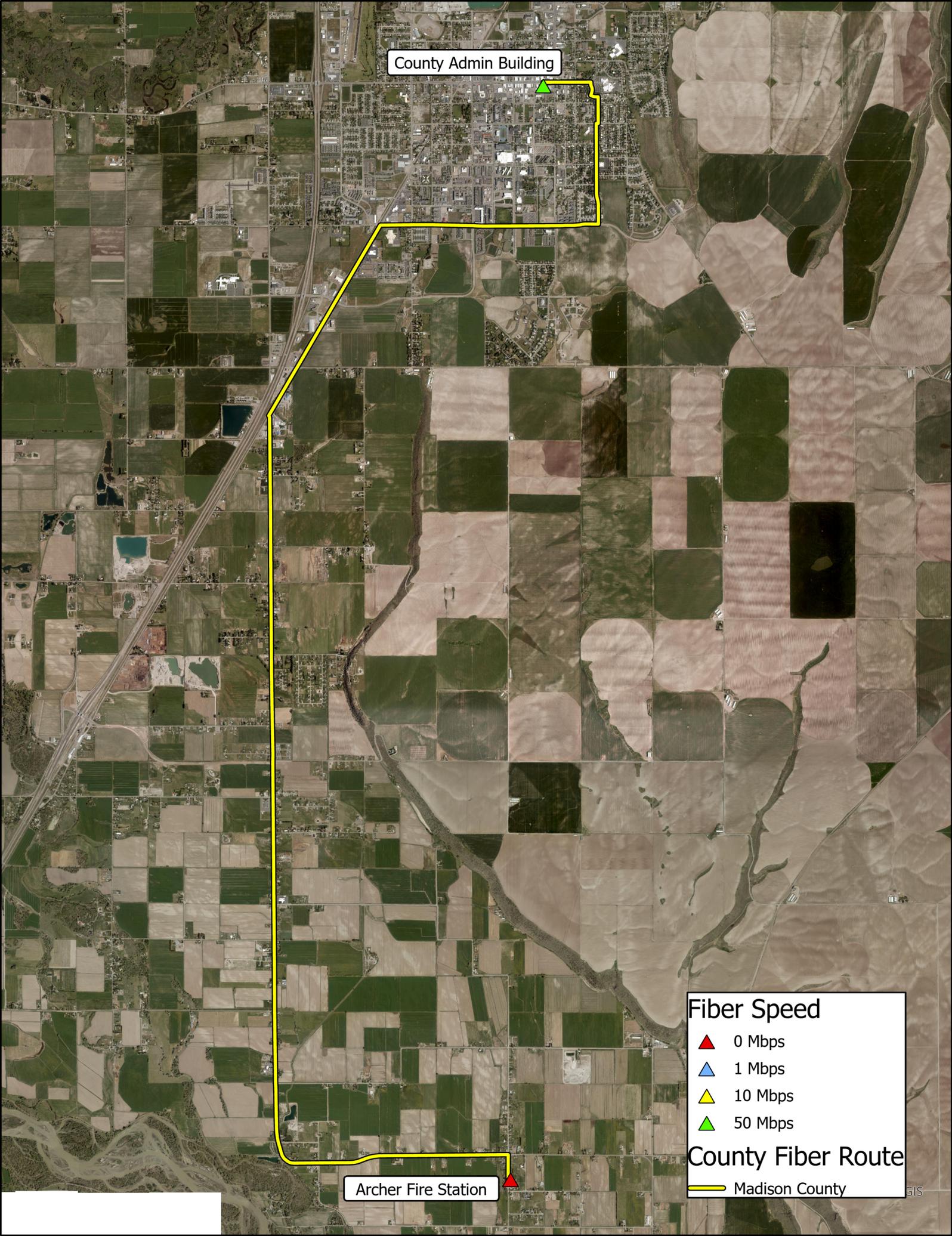
Fiber Speed

- ▲ 0 Mbps
- ▲ 1 Mbps
- ▲ 10 Mbps
- ▲ 50 Mbps

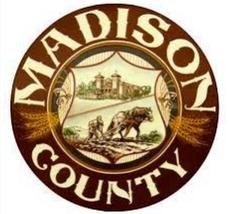
County Fiber Route

— Madison County

Archer Fire Station



MADISON COUNTY
134 E Main, Rexburg ID 83440
Phone (208)359-6259
Fax (208) 356-6308



Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Idaho Department of Commerce
700 W. State Street
Boise, Idaho 83440

Subject: Optix Media Broadband Challenge to Madison County's State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application Public Safety/Local Government - APP-004275

Dear Mr. Forsch, Broadband Development Manager:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Optix Media's challenge to Madison County's grant application for the "Idaho Public Broadband Grant – Public Safety and Local Government." Optix Media claims Madison County's grant is ineligible because, the application does not meet the stated criteria:

"Be a project that does not overbuild existing broadband infrastructure at the required speeds."

Madison County is grateful for and recognizes that Optix Media and other broadband service providers in the County do indeed provide services for most of the City of Rexburg and even some of the more populated areas within the unincorporated regions in the County. It is the underserved unincorporated areas that is the focus of Madison County's grant application.

The majority of the proposed route by Madison County is one that currently has no fiber-optic broadband infrastructure, including any associated equipment, or any accessories as well. In addition, along this route there are no current ISP providers that come anywhere close to meeting the desired broadband capable speeds of 1,000 Mbps symmetrical. Please see the attached proposed route maps for the new fiber-optic line.

Optix Media also failed, or does not understand the need, to address the County's necessity to connect our centralized County facilities to our remote fire station located in

the unincorporated area of Archer. This fire station is critical for our emergency response network and services for the southern region of our county.

Along the County's proposed route Madison County currently has no public location that could provide Wi-Fi access where up to 100 citizens could simultaneously access even minimal broadband speeds and still practice physical distancing. Madison County Official have identified multiple potential locations where this could happen.

This proposed new broadband line is not intended to hurt anyone's business. On the contrary, it is designed to help existing broadband providers to potentially reach a new customer base to expand their services. I invite Optix Media, along with other fiber optic line providers, to work with us and our proposed new broadband line. This project will be a county owned asset, but the county will contract only with for-profit ISP's to provide internet service over the broadband network.

Madison County appreciates the services and product Optix Media provides for some of our citizens throughout the county. We look forward to working with them in the future as they continue to expand.

Madison County respectfully requests that the challenge from Optix Media be dismissed and our application continue through the approval process. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley Petersen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Bradley Petersen,
Grant Administrator

Name of Applicant: Potlatch

Application number: 4124



July 28, 2020

Director Tom Kealey
Idaho Department of Commerce
700 West State Street
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0093

Re: City of Potlatch – Response to Ziplly Fiber Challenge
State of Idaho Broadband Grant – CARES Act, #APP-004124

Dear Director Kealey:

This communication serves as a response to Ziplly Fiber’s challenge to the project as conceptualized in the City of Potlatch’s \$621,813 Idaho Broadband Grant application. Ziplly Fiber is challenging based on existing speeds and a “probable build.” We were sent a map and the following communication:

At present, Ziplly Fiber provides service at speeds as indicated on the attached map. Additionally, Ziplly Fiber is in process of engineering network expansions in Potlatch in addition to improving the existing network.

The City of Potlatch has reviewed the challenge and respectfully requests the Idaho Department of Commerce to consider the merits of our project as it stands with no modification. Our reasoning is as follows:

1. **Existing Capacity-Service Speeds:** The City of Potlatch has requested funds from the Public Safety/Local Government” funding source. We backed up our need for this project with an FCC map.

The grant source is for an “infrastructure investment, associated equipment, and accessories related to broadband capable of speeds of 1,000 Mbps download and 1,000 Mbps upload symmetrical.” The application requires public Wi-Fi access where 100 citizens could simultaneously access minimum broadband speeds at 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps uploads. **The City of Potlatch’s application is consistent with these grant project requirements.**

By providing a map of speeds at different locations within the City, we believe that Ziplly is confusing our application to the household application that has different criteria. In fact, Ziplly’s map confirms that no public facility has 1,000 Mbps download and 1,000 Mbps upload speeds. Thus, Ziplly’s map supports the need that we have indicated in our application. In addition, the speeds in Scenic Six Municipal Park are not identified on the Ziplly Fiber map. Thus, they have not demonstrated that these speeds exist in the park.

2. **Ziplly Map Deficiency and Challenge:** Ziplly’s map was provided without sufficient information. It does not have a legend. We cannot determine what is existing build within the City of Potlatch and what is “probable build.” In addition, a “probable build” is not a commitment to build and

Ziply did not provide a timeframe that determines when the build is to occur. From the sparse information provided, there is no way for the City of Potlatch or the Idaho Department of Commerce to determine what is to be built and to what capacity it is going to be built.

- 3. Prior Communication with Frontier Communication Fiber Optic Service:** On December 13, 2019, the City of Potlatch received communication from Frontier Communication's Government & External Affairs Manager Jessica Eply (former owner of Ziply). This communication was prompted by Director Kealey's outreach to the company following a meeting with Clearwater Economic Development Association (CEDA) where broadband infrastructure needs were thoroughly discussed. This is provided as Attachment A to this letter.

As you will see from this communication, Eply states that Frontier Communication had fiber on either side of the City of Potlatch. Fiber does NOT run through the City of Potlatch. Please note that the City of Potlatch believes that she likely misspoke as it has long been understood by the City of Potlatch that fiber is only located on the west side of the City of Potlatch.

Eply also states that the cost of running fiber through the City or providing fiber-to-the-home would be cost to either the City of Potlatch or the entity that needs it. Thus, this is another example of why the City of Potlatch is requesting these dollars. We do not have the resources to do a fiber backbone through the City of Potlatch much less to provide FTTH.

- 4. Closed versus Open Network:** One of the important goals of the City of Potlatch is to ensure that the City's broadband infrastructure system is an "open" versus closed network. As an open network, the broadband can be used by multiple service providers. Currently, the fiber that exists on the edge of town that is owned by Ziply is for their purpose only. Ziply does not lease their fiber to any other provider effectively shutting down any competition with other providers to provide broadband services through fiber.

Through our procurement process and our evaluation criteria, we are going to insist that the selected provider cannot use the fiber strictly for their own purposes. They will be required to have the system open and provide reasonable leasing fees to other providers that want to serve customers within the City of Potlatch. The City of Potlatch plan to be good stewards of government funds. The only way to do this is to ensure fairness. Ziply may not like this requirement and this may be one reason they are challenging this project.

It is important to note that Ziply Fiber is eligible to respond to the City of Potlatch's RFP. They are mentioned in our application as one of at least two providers with the capability of executing this project. Regardless if they are selected or not selected as the provider, they will have use of the fiber.

- 5. Ziply Outreach Prior to Application:** Through Clearwater County Economic Development Executive Director Chris St. Germaine, Ziply did reach out about a week before the Idaho State Broadband Grant applications were due and asked if the City of Potlatch would have interest in working with them to submit a FTTH project within the City of Potlatch. The City was already well into the project design and application. The City of Potlatch let them know that we would be doing an open procurement process and they were welcome to respond. Chris indicated that this was good and would be acceptable to Ziply. **For this reason, the City of Potlatch is surprised by**

the challenge. Zply knows there is not a backbone of fiber that runs through the City of Potlatch.

- 6. Future Benefits-FTTH/FTTP:** The City of Potlatch did indicate in our application that the fiber backbone that this project would fund will eventually lead to a Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) or Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP). It is our goal, and we hope the goal of the Idaho Department of Commerce, to leverage resources for future build out. This project has this capacity.

As indicated in our application, the City of Potlatch has been working toward FTTP. Through a Comprehensive Land Use planning process that included two meetings with the City's business community, it was determined that broadband was a high priority. For the minutes from these business meeting, see Attachment B.

In 2018, the City undertook a planning project to determine the feasibility of FTTP. It was done by an independent telecommunication engineer with local funds and GEM Grant funds. This report was provided with our application. Since that time, we have been in communication with two ISPs (including Zply) about installation of a FTTP project and haven't yet been successful.

The City of Potlatch considered public ownership of a FTTP. The City abandoned this idea because the City does believe that Idaho State Statute clearly allows public ownership of telecommunication systems. Even if we were able to own the system, the City of Potlatch does not have the staff capacity for managing such a system.

It is understood that providers, depending upon their available resources, may have different project concept design and costs to accomplish this project. This can be worked through during the RFP process.

To recap our response, Zply has clearly not provided the evidence needed to prove the capacity we need exists or that it will exist in the future. Should the project be funded, Zply is welcome to respond to our RFP. Zply will be able to lease the fiber to serve customers even if they are not selected to own and manage the system. Zply will be charged reasonable prices for the use of the fiber.

Please fund our grant request as presented in our application.

Sincerely,


David Brown, City of Potlatch

Attachment A

City of Potlatch

Idaho State Broadband Grant Application – Response to Ziplly Fiber Challenge

From: Epley, Jessica <jessica.epley@ftr.com>
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2019 4:17 PM
To: potlatchmayor@potlatch.com
Cc: Long, Steve <stephen.long@ftr.com>; Mulford, Brent <Brent.Mulford@ftr.com>
Subject: Frontier Communications Fiber Optic Service

David:

It was so nice to speak with you today. As I stated, Frontier does have considerable fiber resources on either side of Potlatch as well as a rather robust copper network throughout the City. Frontier is capable of providing fiber to the City of Potlatch today based upon these resources. There are two methods by which fiber based internet service could be deployed to Potlatch. First, if an individual customer wanted service today they certainly could order it. In order to provide the service, Frontier would need to construct fiber facilities from our existing presence in town to their location. The cost for that construction would be borne by the customer. That said, the cost for that construction could be shared amongst several customers (all of those along the way who would also have access to the fiber based internet service). Alternative, if the City wanted to pay for the residents to have access to the Frontier fiber based internet, a project design to deploy fiber throughout the City could be developed. The cost of that project would need to be paid by the City. Once available, residents would have the option for fiber based internet service if they chose to purchase it from Frontier.

Copied on this email are Steve Long, Outside Plant Engineer Manager and Brent Mulford, Outside Plant Engineer. These two gentlemen would be responsible for designing any fiber internet projects for Potlatch and could answer any technical questions you or others may have. If you are interested in the second option outlined above, I will work with this team to develop a rough estimate for the full city deployment. Please feel free to contact me with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jessica Epley
Manager, Government & External Affairs
(M) 503-431-0458 | jessica.epley@ftr.com



Attachment B

City of Potlatch

Idaho State Broadband Grant Application – Response to Ziplly Fiber Challenge

City of Potlatch – Business Breakfast

Input for the Potlatch Comp Plan and Business Development

February 14, 2017
Rebekah Hall, Potlatch
7:30 am – 8:45 am

Attendees:

Carol Rawlsky-Feldman, Latah Credit Union
Tomi Andres, Latah Credit Union
Don Ball, Idaho's Best Homes & Land
Kathi Nygaard, Idaho's Best Homes and Land
Delfred Cone
Steve Normington, Extreme Execution
Cindy Normington, Extreme Execution
Karen Rohn, Blackbird at the Depot/ Return to
Riverside & Historical Society
Sean Miller, US Bank
Travis Koehn, Palouse Valley Septic Service
Tyson Koehn, Palouse Valley Septic Service
Joe Griffin

John Lane, CEDA
Dave Brown, City of Potlatch
Barry Johnson
Ben Anderberg, Northwest Biomass
Tom Moore
Joshua Weller, Weller Mart
Charlie Johnson, Potlatch City Council
Tom Bender, Potlatch Food PANTRY
Joan Bender, Potlatch City Council
Shelly Hammons, City of Potlatch
Nancy Smith, Nancy's Fitness
Christine Frei, CEDA

Facilitator: John Lane, CEDA Business Programs and Finance Director

CEDA Business Programs and Finance Director John Lane opened the meeting at 7:35 am with 24 people and 13 businesses present.

The following are some highlights of the discussion:

1. CEDA provides technical assistance to small businesses and it also operates a finance program that can help business whose projects may not qualify for conventional financing. Criteria for the finance program was provided. John can be reached at: jlane@clearwater-edar.org or (208)746-0015 ext 108.
2. The City of Potlatch is hoping to increase business activity as a result of the Potlatch RV Park and improved park services.
3. Senior daycare services or transition care services are needed in Potlatch.
4. A business incubator may be needed. John Lane briefly explained the challenges with sustaining a business incubator. He suggested that the community might look at a Maker Space. A Maker Space is: A **makerspace** is a community center that provides technology, manufacturing equipment and educational opportunities to the public. The U of I has such a space at their library as does Biketronics in Moscow. Should the community want to create a maker space, a local group must be formed to lead the effort. It will need to analyze the needs and determine what equipment is necessary for the makerspace. This should not be led by the City of Potlatch or CEDA. It needs to be community driven.

5. Homebased businesses are often where new businesses start. High speed internet is something that they need.
6. The City of Potlatch is using the Gem State Prospector when commercial property is available for purchase. Recently, a Richland Company expressed interest through the Idaho Department of Commerce to locate an electronic business in Latah County. They are looking for 16,000 to 27,000 square feet. They require natural gas which Potlatch cannot currently provide. Mayor Brown did contact Avista about the potential of bringing natural gas to Potlatch. It is unlikely. Propane gas was suggested; however, it is twice the cost of natural gas.
7. The City of Potlatch was successful in recruiting Northwest Biomass (a pellet manufacturer) to the business park. They had been looking at a Port of Wilma location. They are not yet producing; but, will be soon.
8. Housing is a need in Potlatch. For example, the school district is having a hard time recruiting teachers because of housing.
9. Small Business Development Center (SBDC) information was provided to attendees.
10. The City of Potlatch currently has some office space available that is very competitive with Moscow. (The Depot)
11. Ben Anderberg with Northwest Biomass suggested that the City expand its limits to include more land currently under Potlatch Corporation ownership and improve the road system into the business park. Two businesses have attempted to negotiate with Potlatch Corporation; but, have not been successful.
12. Recruitment of businesses into the City of Potlatch is not easy. It takes time and effort to recruit the right business.
13. More discussion was centered on an assisted living center for seniors that want to stay in the community.
14. The session ended with more discussion on CEDA's desire to help the City and businesses to grow and thrive in the community. CEDA Executive Director Christine Frei also explained that the City of Potlatch is currently going through revisions on the Potlatch Comprehensive Plan. The input of the meeting will be used to develop a strategy for economic development.

City of Potlatch – Business Meeting

Input for the Potlatch Comp Plan and Business Development

March 15, 2017
Rebekah Hall, Potlatch
6:30 am – 8:45 pm

Attendees:

Gary Weller
Joshua Weller
Gayle Gallagher
Barry Johnson
James Tunnell
Beth Tunnell

Lonnie Nicholson
Paula Nicholson
Shelly Hammons, Potlatch City (Clerk)
Dave Brown, Potlatch City Council (Mayor)
John Lane, CEDA
Christine Frei, CEDA

Facilitator: John Lane, CEDA Business Programs and Finance Director

CEDA Business Programs and Finance Director John Lane opened the meeting at 6:30 pm with 12 people present. Types of businesses present included a logging transportation business, a cabinet maker and resin distributor, and a welder/fabricator. Business ideas include website development and craftware.

The following are some highlights of the discussion:

1. CEDA provides technical assistance to small businesses and it also operates a finance program that can help business whose projects may not qualify for conventional financing. Criteria for the finance program was provided. John can be reached at: jlane@clearwater-edar.org or (208)746-0015 ext 108.
2. John Lane went over some important concepts for any startup:
 - a. A business idea must align with personal goals. Business ideas must support what a business owner wants to accomplish.
 - b. A business must access if it is financially ready to startup or expand its business. Less debt is better.
3. John passed around several handouts that can help any startup or expanding business.
4. Attendees asked several questions that were pertinent to their business or their business idea.
5. Housing was identified as a barrier to businesses.
6. High Speed Internet was extensively discussed. The consensus was that high speed internet is the single most detriment to business development. If the City of Potlatch had high speed internet, it could be very competitive because of its close proximity to Moscow and Pullman. CEDA Executive Director Christine Frei explained that an fiber cost analysis was completed for the City of Kendrick and would cost about \$450,000. Christine explained that fiber can be brought into a community by either a private business or by a public entity like the City of Potlatch. She is happy to work with the City of Potlatch to address this issue.

Name of Applicant: Hazelton

Application number: 4131



City of Hazelton
246 Main St. / PO Box 145
Hazelton, ID 83335

Phone/Fax: 208-829-5415

City of Hazelton
Art Watkins
Mayor of the City of Hazelton
246 Main St.
Hazelton, ID 83335

Eric Forsch
Broadband Development Manager
Idaho Commerce
700 W. State Street
Boise, ID 83702

July 29, 2020

Mr. Forsch:

Re: Idaho Dept. of Commerce application ID – ID APP-004131

This is the City of Hazelton's formal rebuttal for the comments on the 2020 Broadband Project offered by the State of Idaho.

The City of Hazelton has been actively pursuing this grant with the cooperation of Region IV Development, Tekfinity LLC and the City of Eden.

If we receive this grant, it is with full knowledge that the outcome hinges on whether the City of Eden receives their grant as well. Without the City of Eden receiving the grant, then the City of Hazelton will not qualify for this particular grant that is currently being offered.

SafeLink and White Cloud have issued a protest for the City of Hazelton claiming that the City (which translates into all of its residents) does not meet the requirements of : **The application does not meet the criteria of 50% of households are currently in an unserved area and 50% of households are in an underserved area.**



The City of Hazelton strongly disagrees with the above statement. The City Clerk and one Councilmember took the time yesterday to canvas the entire City of Hazelton either by phone (if we had their phone number) or by going door to door. Please find the results attached to this rebuttal.

In today's ever-changing world, the City of Eden and Hazelton need fiber optics to encourage growth within our communities. Companies that come in and offer wireless internet (by using towers to provide the internet) are simply not able to provide adequate service for our city residents, to say nothing of the residents in the surrounding area. The outlying residents of the East End of Jerome County have a difficult time even getting internet service at all. Please remember that we are farming communities and as such there is quite a bit of land between the "town" residents and the "country" residents. We would like to be able to have all of our school students and all of our work from home residents be able to have internet capabilities available to them.

The current internet situation in Eden and Hazelton and the surrounding outlying areas are not adequately represented within the "Best Providers in Hazelton Idaho (updated 2020).

As you can tell from our attachment, most of our people that we had contact with yesterday have Century Link as their internet provider. I did not have 1 single person say that they were happy with any internet service that they have tried. As a matter of fact, one of those people (you will be able to tell by the comments on that survey that is attached) stated that his family actually has to have two different companies for internet access because one company is not able to provide enough MBPS for them to actually run their household.

We would also like to point out that White Cloud's owner (Joe Shelton and 2 other people with him) personally came out to the City of Hazelton's City Council meeting (**at their own request**). White Cloud wanted to put a tower right in the middle of the City to accomplish this, and he could **not** guarantee that everyone within the City of Hazelton would be able to receive a signal from this tower. **Making high speed internet available to our community at a price that is affordable to our citizens is what we want to receive. This is something that wireless simply cannot provide.**

White Cloud is serving only a small handful of citizens within the City of Hazelton. There were 8 residential and 1 commercial customer that we were able to reach yesterday. Here is the average (you will be able to see actual numbers in the attachment): **Download MBPS: 4.34555** and **Upload MBPS: 0.7488**.

SafeLink is serving only a small handful of citizens within the City of Hazelton. There were 8 residential customers that we were able to reach yesterday. Here is the average (you will be able to see actual numbers in the attachment): **Download MBPS: 8.18625** and **Upload MBPS: 0.88**.



Our local school that serves both the City of Eden and the City of Hazelton has had success with Tekfinity and both communities believe that that Tekfinity will serve us with the same service that they do give to the school.

There are a lot of tall trees in Hazelton that hinder wireless access. The City would benefit from fiber optics for this reason. At this time fiber optics are not being made available to the residents of Hazelton.

Please consider the Cities of Eden and Hazelton as worthy candidates for this amazing opportunity that will definitely help our cities grow within this ever-changing world.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Art Watkins". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Art Watkins
Mayor Art Watkins
City of Hazelton

RE: WhiteCloud Communcations Grant Challenge city of Hazelton APP-004131

WhiteCloud claims Hazelton is covered currently with SafeLink and Tekfinity.

Please see my response above regarding Safelink dispute.

Tekfinity is my company, and we currently do not provide residential services in the city of Hazelton.

CenturyLink did not submit an application to contest this grant. If they thought it needed to be protested, or they could already serve the community, then they would have.

On a final note, WhiteCloud did attempt to partner with the city of Hazelton to apply for the Grant, so they must have assumed the City of Hazelton met the grant requirements.

Hazelton, ID App-004131
Sample Test - Household Speed
Test
Please see all tests attached in
Challenge Response



Name of Applicant: Rexburg

Application number: 4138



July 29, 2020

State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application Public Safety/Local Government - APP-004138: Response to Challenge from FyberCom

To Whom It May Concern:

This document contains the City of Rexburg's "Response" to FyberCom LLC's "Broadband Grant Challenge" as it pertains to the City of Rexburg's "Public Broadband Grant Application Public Safety/Local Government - APP-004138." A reading of FyberCom's Challenge to this Grant appears to refer to the "State of Idaho Broadband Grant Application-Households", and therefore FyberCom's Challenge does not apply to the City of Rexburg's Grant Application for "Public Broadband Grant Application Public Safety/Local Government."

The City of Rexburg does not challenge the assertion of the Idaho Department of Commerce that "FyberCom is servicing this area currently with 99% of the proposed area covered by its Fixed Wireless products and services with 100 x 10Mbps. FyberCom currently services many of the residences and businesses in the proposed area with its 40 x 10Mbps product." However, the City of Rexburg's reading of the official State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application: Public Safety/Local Government" (the "Grant") Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory i, that the project *be* "infrastructure investment, associated equipment, and accessories related to broadband capable of speeds of 1,000 Mbps download and 1,000 Mbps upload, symmetrical" refutes FyberCom's assertion that their available broadband speeds of 100 x 10Mbps services the locations which were submitted as part of the City of Rexburg's Grant Application as defined in Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory i: "broadband capable of speeds of 1,000 Mbps download and 1,000 Mbps upload, symmetrical."

The City of Rexburg's Grant Application was written in good faith and based on the best data that was available at the time that the Grant Application was open. The City of Rexburg will answer all of FyberCom's challenges to the City's Grant Application and associated Project contained in the email from Idaho Department of Commerce employee Eric Forsch, Broadband Development Manager, received on Friday, July 24, 2020 and contained in that email's PDF attachment.

Responses to FyberCom's Challenge:

1. Overview: "FyberCom has a significant financial investment in building and expanding the broadband infrastructure in the grant proposal area." The City of Rexburg recognizes the significant investment that broadband carriers have made in Idaho communities. In keeping with the requirements of Grant Application, Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory v, that "applicants may own and maintain the infrastructure but make such infrastructure open and available for broadband service from only for-profit companies, or membership owned cooperative corporations as defined in Idaho Code section § 30- 30-103 that provide broadband services to the public." The City of Rexburg issued an Request for Proposals (RFP) for qualified broadband (fiber) providers to build and provide service on the Grant-funded Network.

In addition, the City of Rexburg published the RFP in the local paper (the Upper Valley Standard Journal) on Tuesday, June 30th and Tuesday July 7th, in anticipation of being awarded the Grant on July 31st. The portion of the RFP that was published, which is associated with this Grant was "Addendum 1" of the published RFP. The City of Rexburg affirms that it made a good faith effort to publish its intent to pursue the Grant and to contact private sector telecommunication providers. Further, as Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory v requires that all service be from "only for-profit companies", FiberCom would be welcome (and encouraged) to propose a solution where it could be the Internet Service Provider (ISP) on the Grant Project.

2. Availability of Service: "FiberCom is servicing this area currently with 99% of the proposed area covered by its Fixed Wireless products and services with 100 x 10Mbps." FiberCom's challenge here asserts that FiberCom provides "fixed wireless products and services" with speeds up to 100 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload. This level of service does not meet the required minimum service stated in Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory i: of "infrastructure... related to broadband capable of speeds of 1,000 Mbps download and 1,000 Mbps upload, symmetrical." The City does not challenge FiberCom's claim of 100 x 10Mbps service for "99% of the proposed area" rather, the City asserts that their existing service is 1/10th the required download speed, and 1/100th the upload speed, and is not symmetrical.
3. Availability of Service: FiberCom's next statement, that it "currently services many of the residences and businesses in the proposed area with its 40 x 10Mbps product" again, does not answer the requirements of the Grant (see Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory i).
4. Availability of Service: FiberCom's reference "to picture 3 for current data on FiberCom's availability of service" is immaterial since the Grant states in Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory ii that the funded project "be related to broadband with fiber" and, "to One (1) designated government facility (Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory ii, Subcategory a). FiberCom's "fixed wireless" service is not "broadband [service] with fiber" as required in the Grant Application.
5. Availability of Service: The City of Rexburg asserts that FiberCom's statement that "gigabit service is available upon request" is immaterial since "fixed wireless" service is not "broadband [service] with fiber" (Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory ii, Subcategory a).
6. Criteria of Application: The City of Rexburg believes that FiberCom misstates the Grant Requirements in the first paragraph of the "Criteria of Application" section of their challenge. Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory i states that "the project must be infrastructure investment, associated equipment, and accessories related to broadband capable of speeds of 1,000 Mbps download and 1,000 Mbps upload, symmetrical" not "that this grant must be used for an infrastructure investment related to broadband as defined by the FCC: speeds of 25mbps download and 3mbps upload."

However, if FiberCom is referring to Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory ii, Subcategory b, which states that "One (1) location for public Wi-Fi access where 100 citizens could simultaneously access minimum broadband speeds at 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload while practicing physical distancing then the following items apply. Examples of locations include a municipal building parking area or a municipal park," then the City asserts that FiberCom is incorrect on two accounts: 1) that such broadband service must be "related to broadband with fiber to" (Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory ii), which none of the locations identified in the City of Rexburg's Grant Application claim to be serviced with, and additionally, FiberCom states it does not provide fiber to any of these locations; only providing "Fixed Wireless" solutions. 2), Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory ii, Subcategory b states that "One (1) location [be provided with] public Wi-Fi access." Nowhere in FiberCom's challenge does it state that FiberCom has, or is capable of providing this required service at any of the proposed locations identified in the City of Rexburg's Grant Application.

7. **Criteria of Application:** FiberCom states that “according to Form 477 of the FCC’s broadband map locate at broadbandmap.fcc.gov FiberCom is currently servicing all of the proposed grant area with more than the minimum speeds required by this grant.” The City challenges FiberCom’s assertion that they are “servicing all of the proposed grant area” with “more than the minimum speeds required by this grant”; first, because the Grant states that “broadband service” as stated in the Grant must be “fiber” (Line 2 ‘Eligible Projects’, Item A, Subcategory ii, Subcategory a); and, second, those speeds do not meet the minimum level of service of “1,000 Mbps download and 1,000 Mbps upload, symmetrical” (Line 2 ‘Eligible Projects’, Item A, Subcategory i). The table below contains data from the FCC’s Broadband Map ([https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/#/location-summary?version=jun2019&lat=43.801273&lon=-111.778465&tech=acfosw&speed=25 3&vlat=43.79957504842062&vlon=-111.7797460000196&vzoom=11.908554373414269](https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/#/location-summary?version=jun2019&lat=43.801273&lon=-111.778465&tech=acfosw&speed=25%203&vlat=43.79957504842062&vlon=-111.7797460000196&vzoom=11.908554373414269)) which shows that FiberCom’s Fixed Wireless solution, in six instances, does not provide the minimum level of service at the proposed locations listed in the City of Rexburg’s Grant Application, with no more than 40 Mbps down and 10Mbps up in all remaining locations.

Census block ID	Mbps Down/Up	Grant Location
160659503022030	40/10	Evergreen Park
160659503022003	Service Not Available	Evergreen Park
160659501002107	40/10	Teton Lakes Golf Course
160659502003014	40/10	Legacy Golf Course & Airport
160659502003020	Service Not Available	Nature Park
160659502003046	Service Not Available	Nature Park
160659503012002	40/10	Porter Park
160659502001020	40/10	Romance Theater/Center Street
160659502001026	Service Not Available	Center Street East
160659502001019	40/10	Center Street (West)
160659502001014	40/10	City Hall
160659504002029	Service Not Available	Smith Park
160659503023031	Service Not Available	Water Tower

Please note that this data is provided to the FCC by the telecommunication provider annually through the FCC’s Form 477 (<https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/#/about>).

8. **Criteria of Application:** FiberCom’s second paragraph under “Criteria of Application” states that “Line 2 ‘Eligible Projects’, Item A, Subcategory iii. that the proposed grant must be for a project that serves an under-built area and does not overbuild existing broadband service.” This reference refers to the “CARES Act criteria” from what the City believes to be found in the online Grant Application. If this is the case, then the City quotes from its Grant Application: “Yes.”

However, if the challenge refers to Line 2 ‘Eligible Projects’, Item A, Subcategory iv “be a project that does not overbuild existing broadband infrastructure at the required speeds to a local government facility for

public safety and local governance”, then the City of Rexburg asserts that its Grant Application does not “overbuild” since: 1) these facilities do not have a fiber broadband connection, except for Rexburg City Hall which is served by a 300 Mbps redundant fiber connection, but is the Network Center for the proposed Project; 2) the remaining locations do not have a fiber broadband connection (see Line 2 ‘Eligible Projects’, Item A, Subcategory ii “that the funded project ‘be related to broadband with fiber’”); and that 3) in any case, FyberCom does not serve any of these locations with even a “Fixed Wireless” solution at speeds required by this Grant (Line 2 ‘Eligible Projects’, Item A, Subcategory i). See Table above.

9. Criteria of Application: FyberCom states that it “has already built out the proposed area with its private funds.” The City asserts that FyberCom has not built out these areas to the level of service required by the Grant (Line 2 ‘Eligible Projects’, Item A, Subcategory i), nor with the technology required (Line 2 ‘Eligible Projects’, Item A, Subcategory ii.)
10. Criteria of Application: FyberCom states that “it has spent over several years building the infrastructure in the proposed area.” The City asserts that FyberCom has not built out these areas to the level of service required by the Grant (Line 2 ‘Eligible Projects’, Item A, Subcategory i), nor with the technology required (Line 2 ‘Eligible Projects’, Item A, Subcategory ii.)
11. Criteria of Application: FyberCom states that “according the FCC data there are 8 other providers who also cover this area at the minimum listed speeds by the FCC. See Form 477 data below that covers each census block in the proposed grant area.” The City of Rexburg asserts that none of these locations are served by any provider at the levels of service or technology required by this Grant (see Number 8 above). Further, of the information provided by existing telecommunication providers in Rexburg directly to the City of Rexburg, shows that none of the locations specified in the City of Rexburg’s Grant Application are serviced by 1) a provider with a 1,000 Mbps download/1,000 bps upload (symmetrical) and 2) with the technology required, i.e. fiber (Line 2 ‘Eligible Projects’, Item A, Subcategory ii). Please refer to the City of Rexburg’s Grant Application: Question “Map of the project area demonstrating the insufficient availability of broadband service for a public facility symmetrical service and in the proposed public service area for 100 citizens using minimum service”, and attachment “Question 32 Maps.pdf (uploaded on 7/15/2020 at 2:57 PM)”.
12. 477 Form Data: In Reference to FyberCom’s table of “Form 477” data, please reference the table provided above in Answer 7 (data was obtained on Sunday July 26, 2020 at 10:00 pm).
13. Picture 1: While the picture provided by FyberCom in their Challenge shows customer locations, none of these are at the locations identified in the City of Rexburg’s Grant Application. Further, FyberCom has not built out these areas to the level of service required by the Grant (Line 2 ‘Eligible Projects’, Item A, Subcategory i), nor with the technology required (Line 2 ‘Eligible Projects’, Item A, Subcategory ii.)
14. Picture 2: The picture provided by FyberCom in their Challenge shows most of the area within the City Limits of Rexburg, but does not show the specific speeds or individual providers serving those areas. Please see the table provided in Answer 7 for a specific breakdown of FyberCom’s level of service within the locations identified in the City of Rexburg’s Grant Application, and note that FyberCom does not service these locations with the required speeds or technology specified in the Grant (Line 2 ‘Eligible Projects’, Item A, Subcategory ii).
15. Picture 2: FyberCom's FCC Broadband Map Data Cont.: The Census Block referenced here does not contain a location identified in the City of Rexburg’s Grant Application. Therefore, the City of Rexburg

asserts that this picture is immaterial, it does not show FiberCom's level of service at a location specified in the City of Rexburg's Grant application.

16. Final Remarks: FiberCom states that "FiberCom has been providing broadband in Rexburg ID for 5 years." The City of Rexburg does not dispute this statement.
17. Final Remarks: FiberCom states that "FiberCom would also like to state that this grant is not for running fiber in an over-served area." The City of Rexburg asserts that:
 - a. This Grant is for fiber based projects at government locations that do not currently have a fiber connection (see Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, ii, and Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, ii, Subcategories a and b);
 - b. That the locations and facilities identified in the Grant Application are not overserved: see the table in Answer 7; and Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory iv;
 - c. The intent of Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory v, that the "broadband service [be] only from for-profit companies" because the City of Rexburg does not intend to be an ISP but to contract for service at all the proposed Grant locations through a for-profit ISP.
18. Final Remarks: FiberCom states "if this is the case FiberCom would like to be considered by Madison County to help with this project." The City of Rexburg is not Madison County and therefore cannot speak to whether or not FiberCom could be considered in a Madison County Project. However, if the City of Rexburg is awarded this Grant, FiberCom is welcome to participate in any bid or RFP to build, deploy or provide service on the Project Network, provided that they are able to meet the timeline and minimum technology requirements of the Grant Project (see Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, all applicable Subcategories).
19. Final Remarks: FiberCom states that "This area is NOT underserved and does NOT meet the grant criteria." The City of Rexburg strongly disagrees with FiberCom's assertion. The Grant and the proposed Project are not intended to serve the "Rexburg Area", but only the specific locations identified in the Grant Application. Refer to Answers 2 through 17 in this document. According to Criteria listed in the published "State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application: Public Safety and Local Government" PDF and in the online Grant Application at the State of Idaho's Department of Commerce's grant portal, the City of Rexburg has made a good faith effort to write its Application to meet the requirements of this Grant.

The City of Rexburg feels that the "last mile" technology employed by FiberCom to bring broadband to the premise does not fulfil the intent of this Grant.

In addition, in order to provide 1,000 Mbps download service to a location, Fixed Wireless technologies require fiber optic broadband connections to their towers. FiberCom would benefit from the Rexburg Grant Project because it would bring fiber services closer to their existing customer base within Rexburg's City Limits. The Grant envisions for-profit ISPs utilizing and providing service on the Grant funded Project Network. FiberCom, and any for-profit telecommunications company, would potentially have access to any fiber laid through this Grant's funding.

In conclusion, the City of Rexburg feels that this Grant will allow the City to meet the requirements of the CARES Act by allowing citizens of Rexburg to access the Internet at public facilities, while practicing physical distancing. This Project will bring high speed broadband Internet to areas of the community that would otherwise not see this level of service.

The COVID-19 health emergency placed strains on public sector organizations in our community. Public schools and healthcare providers will benefit from the Project providing locations where citizens can access education (distance learning) and telehealth. The Madison School District reported that families struggled to connect to online education, and parents to work, as they were all competing for bandwidth within their homes, due to gathering and meeting restrictions imposed by the response to COVID-19.

Finally, this Project will allow connections to government and public facilities, such as pump houses, wells, park pavilions, parking areas, etc. This will allow for monitoring vital city services remotely to meet the protective measures associated with COVID-19, allowing the City to provide better services, reduce costs and provide increased public safety.

The City of Rexburg supports Governor Brad Little's "Idaho Broadband Task Force's" recommendations to improve broadband access for Idaho. Awarding Rexburg's Grant Application will further the Task Force's recommendations.

Sincerely,



Mary Flanary
Grant Writer
City of Rexburg

Name of Applicant: Rexburg

Application number: 4138



July 29, 2020

**State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application Public Safety/Local Government - APP-004138:
Response to Challenge from CableOne**

To Whom It May Concern:

This document contains the City of Rexburg's "Response" to CableOne's "Broadband Grant Challenge" as it pertains to the City of Rexburg's "Public Broadband Grant Application Public Safety/Local Government - APP-004138."

The City of Rexburg disputes the claim made by CableOne (d.b.a. "Sparklight") that "Per Public Safety and Local Government Grant Program Guidelines, the project 'must be a project that does not overbuild existing broadband infrastructure at the required speeds to a local government facility for public safety and local governance.'" The City of Rexburg asserts that Sparklight's claim is irrelevant. The City of Rexburg's Project seeks to connect government facilities which are not currently connected to any fixed fiber network. Adhering to the requirements of the Grant, the City plans to connect existing government facilities at "the required speeds" and the required technology (Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory ii, and Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory iv).

The City of Rexburg disputes Sparklight's claim in Item 4, Subcategory b, that the "project would overbuild existing broadband infrastructure...to a local government facility." The facilities enumerated in the City of Rexburg's Grant Application are: Center Street, Legacy Golf Course, Porter Park, Smith Park, Teton Lakes Golf Course and the Rexburg Water Tower. All of these locations are either not served, or not served (see Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory iv) at the upload and download speeds required by the Grant (see Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategories i and ii, as well as Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategories ii, Subcategory a). Further, the Data Center Connection identified in the Grant Application, is located at Rexburg City Hall (35 N 1st E Rexburg, ID 83440), but is not a location that requires new broadband service. It is anticipated that this location will serve as the "network hub" for the Grant Project where for-profit Internet Service Providers (ISPs) can inject services for the Project's fiber Network (see Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory ii, and Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory v).

The City rejects Sparklight's claim in Item 4, Subcategory b that the "project would overbuild existing broadband infrastructure at the required speeds to a local government facility" and Item 4, Subcategory c, that "currently City Hall, the City Police Department and the City Fire Department are Sparklight customers." The City of Rexburg has a monthly contract with Sparklight for "Standard Cable" (cable television service) at the Madison Fire Department Building. However, Sparklight provides *free* cable TV

service at the Rexburg Police Department Building and at Rexburg City Hall; *not* internet broadband service. Further, the City of Rexburg has not listed any of these locations as Project locations in the City of Rexburg's Grant Application.

If the City of Rexburg is awarded this Grant, Sparklight is encouraged to seek the contract to provide broadband service at the Grant required "1,000 Mbps download and 1,000 Mbps upload symmetrical" as specified in Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory i. Further, Sparklight's participation as an ISP in a funded Rexburg Grant Project would fulfill the requirements of Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory v that "applicants may own and maintain the infrastructure but make such infrastructure open and available for broadband service from only for-profit companies..."

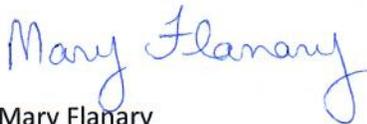
The Map provided by Sparklight shows where Sparklight provides service, but does not specify the types, technology, or level of services. Sparklight has shared a detailed map which shows the location of their fiber within the City of Rexburg. This map was obtained prior to the CARES Public Safety and Local Government Broadband Grant becoming available. In writing its Grant Application, the City of Rexburg made a good faith effort to use the data on hand to ensure compliance with the Grant requirements. The City of Rexburg asserts there are no Sparklight fiber optic connections at any of the locations listed in the City of Rexburg's Grant Application.

In conclusion, the City of Rexburg feels that this Grant will allow the City to meet the requirements of the CARES Act by allowing citizens of Rexburg to access the Internet at public facilities, while practicing physical distancing.

This Project will be a City owned asset, but the City will contract only with private sector ISP's to provide Internet service over the broadband network. This Project will bring high speed broadband Internet to areas of the community that would otherwise not see this level of service.

The City of Rexburg supports Governor Brad Little's "Idaho Broadband Task Force's" recommendations to improve broadband access for Idaho. Awarding Rexburg's Grant Application will further the Task Force's recommendations.

Sincerely,



Mary Flanary
Grant Writer
City of Rexburg

Name of Applicant: Elk River

Application number: 4147

During the COVID-19 outbreak when schools and businesses sent children and employees home to work our internet was challenged. We appreciate the Idaho Department of Commerce for providing the opportunity to bolster internet capacity across rural Idaho. The City of Elk River appreciates the opportunity to provide facts around the challenge presented to the City Household Broadband grant application.

The challenger, Jason Frawley does own a Wireless Internet Service business that according to the website <https://broadbandnow.com/Leader-Communications-LCC> the service area for Leader Communications LLC is primarily St Maries, and surrounding communities from Coeur d'Alene to Santa, ID.

- Leader Communications LLC does not provide internet services in Elk River, which would suggest they are not eligible to submit a challenge.

According to the Leader Communications LLC website <http://sm-email.com/services.html> the service tiers they do offer in the service area include 2 Mbps, 3 Mbps and 5 Mbps.

- Leader Communications LLC does not provide connectivity as the eligible rate of at a minimum of 25/3 Mbps.

Regarding the challengers comment "... almost all of town has existing service..." yes, most of town has service provided by the Library. Since the early 2000's Elk River has been served by its Library; who sought out USDA Community Connect funding to bring internet to Elk River. This service has served the community well over the years with tiers of 1/1, 2/2 and 6/3 Mbps.

- According to the guidelines the existing service of up to 6/3 Mbps does not meet connectivity rate of 25/3 Mbps.

It is interesting to read the challengers suggestion that there are two companies working on internet solutions for our community; we know nothing of their plans. WE have however been aware of and working with Inland Cellular to develop options for fixed wireless service upgrades and meet the needs at CPTPA for several years. Inland Cellular has been the mobile provider in Elk River and their business decision to enter the fixed wireless service arena across north central Idaho builds on the backhaul infrastructure in place. By bolstering the Inland Cellular existing backhaul to enable delivery of fixed internet the proposed project is not wasteful but mindful of the low hanging fruit opportunity to deploy in a timely manner and efficiently, thus meeting the Idaho CARES Act funding timeline constraints.

Feel free to reach out if there is additional information we can provide to show the Department of Commerce that funding a broadband enhancement project in Elk River meets the full intent of the Idaho CARES Act Broadband grant program for households.

Name of Applicant: Lewisville

Application number: 4153



P. O. Box 160
Lewisville, ID 83431
clerklewisville@gmail.com

State of Idaho Broadband Grant - Households Application APP-004153

REBUTTAL TO CHALLENGE BY FYBERCOM LLC

I. Applicant Information

1. Contact information of applicant

- a. Name George A. Judd on behalf of the City of Lewisville, Idaho
- b. Title Mayor
- c. Mailing Address PO Box 160
- d. City/Zip Lewisville, ID 83431
- e. Email mayorlewisville@gmail.com
- f. Phone (208) 313-8338

2. Grant Administrator

- a. Name Donetta Fife, Clerk/Treasurer, City of Lewisville
- b. Email clerklewisville@gmail.com
- c. Phone (208) 390-0829

II. Purpose

Rebut Broadband Grant Challenge by FyberCom LLC that Lewisville does not meet the grant criteria:

FyberCom is servicing this area currently with 90% of the proposed area covered by its Fixed Wireless products and services with 100 x 10Mbps. FyberCom currently services 49% of the residences in the proposed area with its 40 x 10Mbps product. Refer to picture 3 for current data on FyberCom's availability of service. Gigabit service is available upon request.

III. FyberCom has historically provided unreliable service to Lewisville and surrounding areas

1. On March 4, 2014 the Lewisville Planning & Zoning Commission held a public meeting with FyberCom with regard to the installation of a cell tower within the City of Lewisville. The meeting was recorded and is available. Planning & Zoning Chairperson, Charlene Johnson reported as follows to the Lewisville City Council on March 12, 2014:

“Charlene reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission held a Public Hearing on the Conditional Use Application from FyberCom and Bo Porter for a high-speed internet tower on the 4th day of March, 2014 at the Lewisville Community Center. Many positive comments were received but no one spoke in the negative. Mostly, people just wanted to know what to expect. They are working on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions to be mailed to the City residents. In the event any citizen disagrees with the terms of the proposed permit, they will have 15 days from its mailing to appeal the matter to City Council. After 15 days, a permit can be issued if there is no appeal. Kris will be helping with this. During the public hearing Kris cited from the City Code that the Planning and Zoning Commission is responsible to make the decision on the Application.”

On April 4, 2014 The Lewisville Planning and Zoning Commission signed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and authorized FyberCom to install a tower to increase internet reception to the City of Lewisville. After months of delay and promised dates of service, it was determined that the tower they had ordered did not meet the necessary criteria to be used in the State of Idaho and they abandoned the project. The closest tower to the City of Lewisville is located on the Menan Butte which lies about 4 miles north-northeast of the City of Lewisville. Fybercom projects their wireless broadband from that tower.

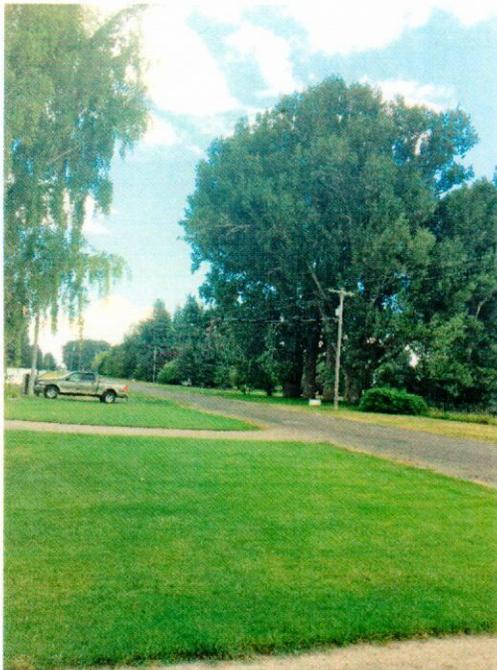
2. FyberCom has continued to service some residents within the City of Lewisville with limited success using a shared access network rather than the dedicated connection that fiber optics provides. Exhibit 1 taken from FyberCom Picture 3, attached indicates households serviced by FyberCom at present. In order to determine the satisfaction of FyberCom customers, volunteers from the City of Lewisville did a survey to the homes indicated on the map. The survey, attached as Exhibit 2, indicated that many homes which were marked as serviced by FyberCom were actually serviced by other providers. Some of the markers were placed on points where no homes exist. The survey area was expanded to households in the same vicinity as the ones marked on the map in order to determine where the FyberCom customers are located. A few households utilizing FyberCom as their internet provider were located. The residents most satisfied with FyberCom service were those who have signed up in the past 2 months. Many residents have switched providers several times to try to obtain better internet connections. None of the resident interviewed indicated that they receive 40/10 Mbps consistent coverage. During times of higher demand, i.e. when children are doing distance learning or residents are engaged in telework, and at night when residents are using the internet for recreational activities, the speeds drop considerably and sometimes they lose internet connections altogether.
3. FyberCom has been in the process of installing fiber optic cable in the City of Menan, just 3 miles north of the City of Lewisville. At the June 13, 2019 City Council meeting the Menan City Council passed Ordinance 2019-1 granting FyberCom access to the City right-of-way through a franchise agreement. Since that time FyberCom has run into many problems and the system **is still not functional**.
4. In the Final Remarks of the FyberCom Challenge they state:

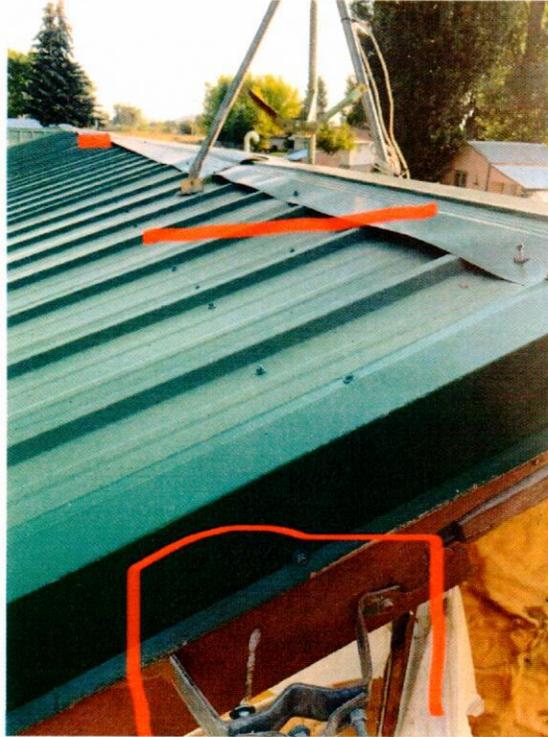
“FyberCom is in the planning stage of running fiber optics to Lewisville with projected finish date of passing all homes by March 2021.”

FyberCom **has not** had any contact with the City of Lewisville with regard to installing fiber optic cable in the City and has not entered into any right-of-way or franchise agreement permitting them access to City of Lewisville right-of-way.

IV. Wireless Internet Has Proven Insufficient in City of Lewisville

1. FyberCom projects their wireless broadband (line of sight internet) from the Menan Butte which lies approximately 4 miles north-northeast of the City of Lewisville.
2. The City of Lewisville has a large number of old 120-foot cottonwood trees disbursed throughout the City (pictured below) which affect the fixed wireless service and especially in the summer when the trees have leaves. These trees seriously affect line of sight internet service available to most residents of the City.
3. Many residents have tried service from different providers with the same poor reception as indicated in the letter and picture below:





"If you'll notice there are three unused mounts on my roof. One from FiberCom, the others from other wireless providers.

How many more holes do I need in my roof from wireless providers promising reliable service? If you'll note the huge cottonwoods in the picture. Wireless service is not reliable in the summer as line of sight gets obstructed by the full trees.

Lewisville is full of old growth cottonwoods that affect reliable line of sight service. Lewisville drastically needs service hardwired to the homes.

George Judd
Mayor of Lewisville, ID"

4. During the stay-at-home order, residents of the City, including those with FiberCom, did not have sufficient internet to run one or more devices at the same time as required in their households for distance learning, telework and other essential needs. Even though they had purchased a certain amount of Mbps, it was not delivered at the speed promised when it was needed as it is shared access rather than a dedicated connection. At times there was no internet access at all or as little as 0.9 Mbps. With the increase of COVID-19 in Idaho at this time it is very likely that distance learning and telework will be necessary until a cure is found. Therefore, it is essential that residents have more reliable internet access.

V. The City of Lewisville Followed the Proper Application Process

1. On June 26, 2020 The City Council met with Direct Communications to discuss the possibility of applying for the Households Grant. From the minutes of that date, it states:

“The meeting had been called by Mayor Judd and duly published by posting on the website of the City of Lewisville and at the Community Center of the City of Lewisville 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

2. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of obtaining an Idaho Department of Commerce grant to fund the installation of a broadband network to the residents and businesses in the City of Lewisville to improve the capability of families and businesses to work from home and to facilitate distance learning through monies made available through the CARES Act....

“James moved that we proceed with the grant and authorize the lawyer to proceed with the franchise agreement or whatever needs to be negotiated with Direct Communications, Linda seconded. Motion passed.”

On June 29, 2020, after our meeting with Direct Communications, and a week after Direct Communications’ initial contact with the City of Lewisville, we received a phone message on the Library answering machine. That telephone is listed as the City’s contact number since all of the City employees work only part time. The message is as follows:

Mon, 6/29/2020, 10:56am

George Swanson w/ Fibercon Internet, 208-690-0866 (cell #)

Working with the State of Idaho on a grant to bring internet to some Idaho cities. Lewisville was one that came up on their map and wanted to discuss potential of working with Lewisville on this grant. State hasn’t given them much time; deadline is July 8 and it will take 3-4 days to get the application ready to go. Please call back asap.

3. Since the City of Lewisville was under a disaster declaration and eligible for single source procurement and due to the limited time for preparing a grant application, we did not respond to the call. FiberCom made no further effort to contact the City through the mayor, council or employees even though contact numbers for all persons are located on the City’s website: cityoflewisville.org.
4. On June 26, 2020, the City of Lewisville met with Direct Communications to discuss the plan to proceed with the State of Idaho Broadband Grant for Households Application. On motion of James Ball and seconded by Linda Linsenmann, the motion passed and the Mayor was authorized to proceed with the grant Application with Direct Communications as the provider. The Grant was filed with the Idaho Department of Commerce on June 14, 2020. A confirmation of the Application was received on June 15, 2020.

VI. Community Support

As noted in the 26 letters of support from residents and businesses and the 3 letters from the community services attached to the original grant, the residents of Lewisville are in need of more reliable internet service, and especially in these times of declared disaster. Fixed wireless internet service does not provide reliable service in the City of Lewisville.

VII. Evidence to the Refute FiberCom Claim of Covering 49% of Residences

1. FiberCom has claimed: "FiberCom currently services 49% of the residences in the proposed area with its 40 X 10 Mbps product." The map attached as Exhibit 1 (provided by FiberCom in their Challenge) indicates that FiberCom is servicing 41 residences within the City of Lewisville townsite. The map attached as Exhibit 3 from the Jefferson County website shows current residences within the City of Lewisville. The numbers in the center of each blocks indicate the block number and the number of households within that block. A tally of the residences as set forth in Exhibit 4 shows 172 households and 15 businesses, City service buildings and other structures totaling 187 structures. In the unlikely event that FiberCom were servicing 41 residences within the City, the coverage percentage would only be 22.4%.
2. In a door-to-door survey performed by volunteers from the City on July 27, 2020 between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., which was targeted toward these 41 residences, we were unable to confirm that many of these residences had FiberCom internet service. (See Exhibit 2). Many residents who were identified with a pin as being FiberCom customers were actually using another internet provider. Even by expanding the search to homes within close proximity we were only able to interview 11 residents who were covered by FiberCom. Thus, the actual percentage of residences covered by FiberCom would be considerably lower than 22.4%.

VIII. Supporting Concepts

1. Lewisville drastically needs internet service hardwired to the homes. Wireless service with a shared access network has proven unreliable, and especially in the summer as line of sight gets obstructed by the trees when they are fully leafed. Lewisville is full of old growth cottonwoods that affect the reliability of line of sight (or fixed wireless) service.
2. FiberCom does not provide the quality and amount of service to individual households at 40 Mbps/10 during high demand hours, i.e. those hours when children are distance learning and residents are working from home, and when residents are engaged in recreational activities in the evening. The shared access provided to the homes is not sufficient to support the necessary activities. See survey attached as Exhibit 2. Also note the speed test of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building (with internet supplied by FiberCom) in Lewisville, Idaho, attached as Exhibit 5. A speed test performed outside of the Church building at 8:28 p.m. when the building was empty shows 21.65 Mbps rather than the 40 Mbps download claimed by FiberCom.
3. FiberCom **has not** at any time contacted the City of Lewisville with regards to "running fiber optics to Lewisville and passing all homes by March 2021" as stated in the Final Remarks section of the Challenge. No plan of this type has been revealed to the City of Lewisville from any source.
4. On June 29, 2020 FiberCom contacted the City through a voice message to engage in "working with Lewisville on this grant." (see V-2 above) Even though they did not have the deadline correct nor the amount of work it would take to prepare the grant, the call indicated that they felt we would qualify for the grant by reaching out to us at that time. FiberCom has filed a Challenge to the City of Lewisville Grant Application as retribution for not being able use the grant to expand their network throughout the City.

Conclusion:

The City of Lewisville does meet the criteria for obtaining the State of Idaho Broadband Grant for Households because:

- The internet access currently provided by FyberCom and other networks does not meet the necessary 25/3 Mbps requirement during hours of high demand i.e. school and work hours or during evening hours when people are engaged in alternative internet activities.
- The old growth trees within the City make it difficult for many residents to receive reliable fixed wireless internet and the only way for residents to receive reliable internet is through fiber optic service wired to the homes.

Exhibit 1

FyberCom map of residents with FyberCom service from FyberCom Challenge Picture 3 used for survey of residents on July 27, 2020.

Volunteer 1 – Terry Northwest quarter

Volunteer 2 – James – Northeast quarter



Volunteer 3 – Donetta – Southwest quarter

Volunteer 4 – Linda Southeast quarter

Map indicates FyberCom has approximately 41 households using FyberCom services. A survey was done by volunteers to try to determine the satisfaction of FyberCom customers. See results in Exhibit 2

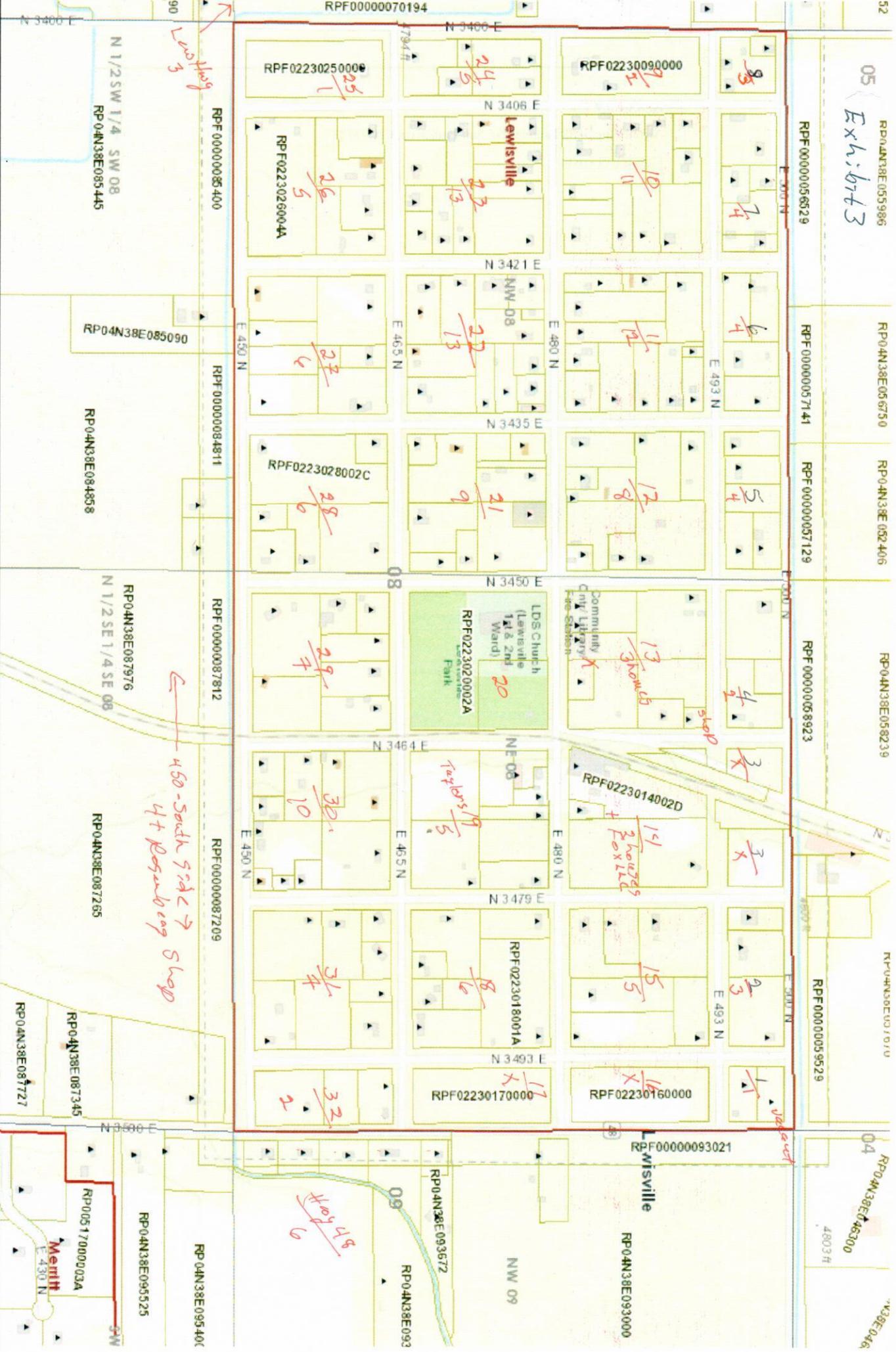
City of Lewisville
Internet Quality Questionnaire 7-27-2020

Address	Provider	Contracted Speed	Connection Speed	Rating (1 worst 5 best)	Additional Comments
3409 E 480 N	FyberCom			5	Likes it much better than Hughes and Century Link disconnected internet when they disconnected their landline
3410 E 480 N	Century Link				Could be a lot better
3412 E 493 N	Century Link				
3413 E 493 N	Century Link			4	Hoping for better internet
3414 E 500 N	Century Link	15		4	
3426 E 450 N	FyberCom	50	Up & down	2	Up and down, in and out; both her and her husband work from home. Rosenberg Auto needs to be able to order parts and they can't send invoices or letters; frustrated - service is horrible most of the time
3443 E 465 N	Rise Broadband	15	1 to 15	3	After two years of calling every few months, they finally sent a supervisor out to fix our internet and it works a good part of the time; sometimes it is totally out
3459 E 480 N	Century Link	1		5	Slow; would love to change
3471 E 450 N	Century Link	12	22/.8	2	Internet speed inconsistent
3471 E 480 N	Fybercom	50	20	3	Would change to hard wire if it was available to my home
3475 E 480 N	Fybercom	20	7	2	Customer service is awful, slow and inconsistent, works from home 50% of the time and needs good connectivity; switched several times
3480 E 465 N	Fybercom	5	1.8	4.5	
3483 E 465 N	Fybercom	20	13-15	3	Internet fluctuates and inconsistent
3486 E 650 N	Fybercom	5		4	Fluctuated, affected by the weather
3513 E 430 N	Fybercom	25	10 to 12	3	Not very good
424 N 3450 E	Fybercom	40	see screen shot (21.65/0.14)		Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

**City of Lewisville
Internet Quality Questionnaire 7-27-2020**

4502 N 3450 E	Century Link	12			No internet at night, new router; everyone is stealing their internet
455 N 3450 E	Century Link	30	15 to 30		4.5 months, they finally got it to work semi
456 N 3479 E	Century Link	20			1
458 N 3479 E	Century Link	20		10	speeds at night when we are home and want to use it, but better than any sight-in-
468 N 3400 E	FyberCom	50			5 Very Good
468 N 3479 E	Century Link				3
469 N 3421 E	Century Link	12	4 or 5		Less at night; would love to have better internet
471 N 3421 E	Century Link	15		9	2 Been up and down for 2 weeks, spotty
474 N 3421 E	Century Link				2 when they come
477 N 3421 E	Century Link	25		10-May	Inconsistent, not good for price; late night there is nothing
480 North	FyberCom				Slow in the evening, inconsistent; would change if possible
482 N 3400 E	FyberCom	50			4 She is for a new fiber service
486 N 3479 E	Century Link	20		12	Slow in evening, slow with kids and work from home
488 N 3406 E	Century Link	20		12	Poor service, inconsistent
490 N 3406 E	Century Link				His internet is crappy, he is hoping for fiber optic
490 N 3421 E	Century Link				2.5 School teacher and cannot work from home
490 N 3421 E	Century Link				1 Slow, would love to change
493 N	Century Link	10		8	No FyberCom because of trees; slow and inconsistent
	Century Link	10	4 to 6		3 Couldn't connect to Fybercom or Safelink

05 Exh: b73



Total 172

450-foot 5' x 4' 4" Shop
4+ Porch/veg

8 1/2 x 6

Township
 Township
 Quarter
 Manufactured Homes

0 0.07 0.14 0.21

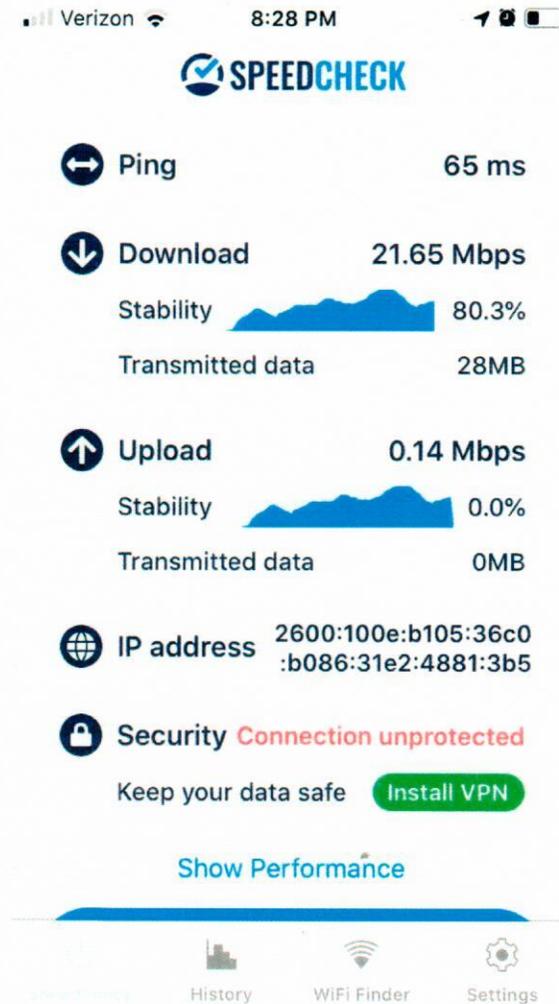
1:5

Exhibit 4

**City of Lewisville
House Density 7/27/2020**

Block	Number of Houses	Other			
1	2	(1 Vacant)			
2	3				
3	0				
4	2				
5	4				
6	4				
7	4				
8	3				
9	2				
10	11				
11	12				
12	8				
13	3	Community Center, Library, Fire Station, City Garage			
14	2	Fox LLC			
15	5				
16	0				
17	0				
18	6				
19	5	One home under building permit, Clement Bros LLC			
20	0	LDS Church			
21	8	U.S. Post Office			
22	13				
23	13				
24	5				
25	1				
26	5	Teton Bird Dogs			
27	6				
28	6				
29	7				
30	10	Linden Elevator Specialists			
31	7				
32	2				
Hwy 48	6	1 Home set back			
450 South Side	4	Rosenberg Auto			
		2 Homes just outside on Hayes			
Lew Hwy	3	Property			
500 N North Side		Ball Produce			
Totals	172		15	187	22.40%

Speed check done outside of the building of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
474 North 3450 East, Lewisville, Idaho, on July 27, 2020 at 8:28 p.m.



Name of Applicant: Owyhee

Application number: 4158

Perry S. Grant
SHERIFF



J. Lynn Bowman
CHIEF DEPUTY

July 27, 2020

Dear Idaho Department of Commerce,

Owyhee County is in receipt of the challenge submission from Sparklight regarding our Broadband Grant #APP-004158, Owyhee County Broadband to Households Critical Infrastructure Project 1 – Murphy to Marsing, and as the writer of the grant application, I am responding to the challenge on behalf of Owyhee County. We contend the challenge is unfounded, and assert that our project meets the challenged criteria as follows.

1. Owyhee County agrees that Sparklight has service in Marsing, Idaho, which covers over 50% of households in and near the city limits of Marsing.
2. However, Owyhee County's project service area does *not* cover the city limits of Marsing, nor does it overlap with Sparklight's coverage area, per Sparklight's provided "Serviceability Map."
3. Owyhee County's project begins near the intersections of Highway 78 and Pershall Road, south of the city of Marsing, and therefore south of Sparklight's coverage area, and proceeds along Highway 78 to the Owyhee County Campus in Murphy, Idaho.
4. Owyhee County's project will bring broadband to the unserved and underserved areas which begin at the southern outskirts of Marsing to the County Seat of Owyhee County in Murphy.

Please see the attached maps for further evidence that our project meets the challenged criteria.

- Marsing to Murphy Project – Sparklight Challenge Map
- Murphy Speedtest Map
- Marsing to Murphy Project Map

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact me directly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SK", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Sarah Kipper
911 Coordinator | Dispatch Manager
Owyhee County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 128
Murphy, Idaho 83650
Office: 208-495-1154 Ext 101
Fax: 208-495-1259
Cell: 208-919-4688
skipper@co.owyhee.id.us

Overlaid Map is Sparklight's coverage area, as submitted in their Challenge to the Owyhee County Broadband to Households Critical Infrastructure Project 1 - Murphy to Marsing. There is no overlap in Sparklight's current coverage and Owyhee County's proposed project area.

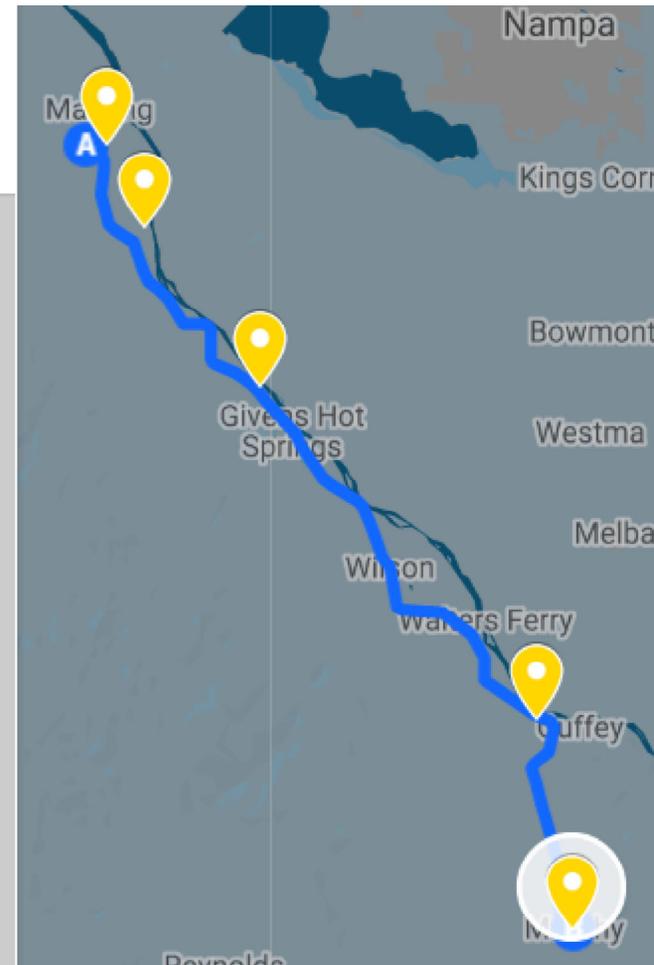


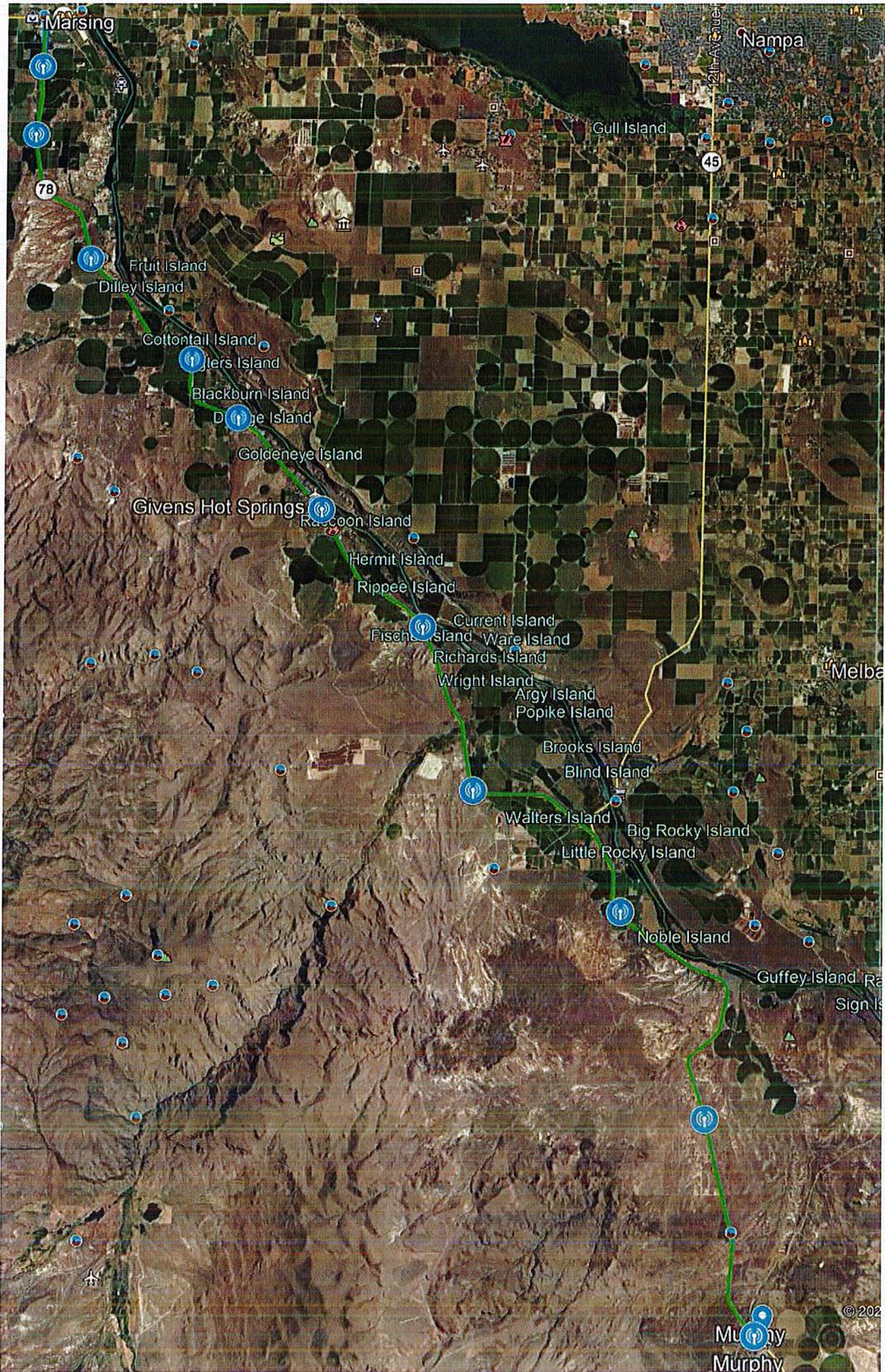
Murphy to Marsing Project Begins at Highway 78 & Pershall: Point "A" on Map

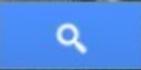
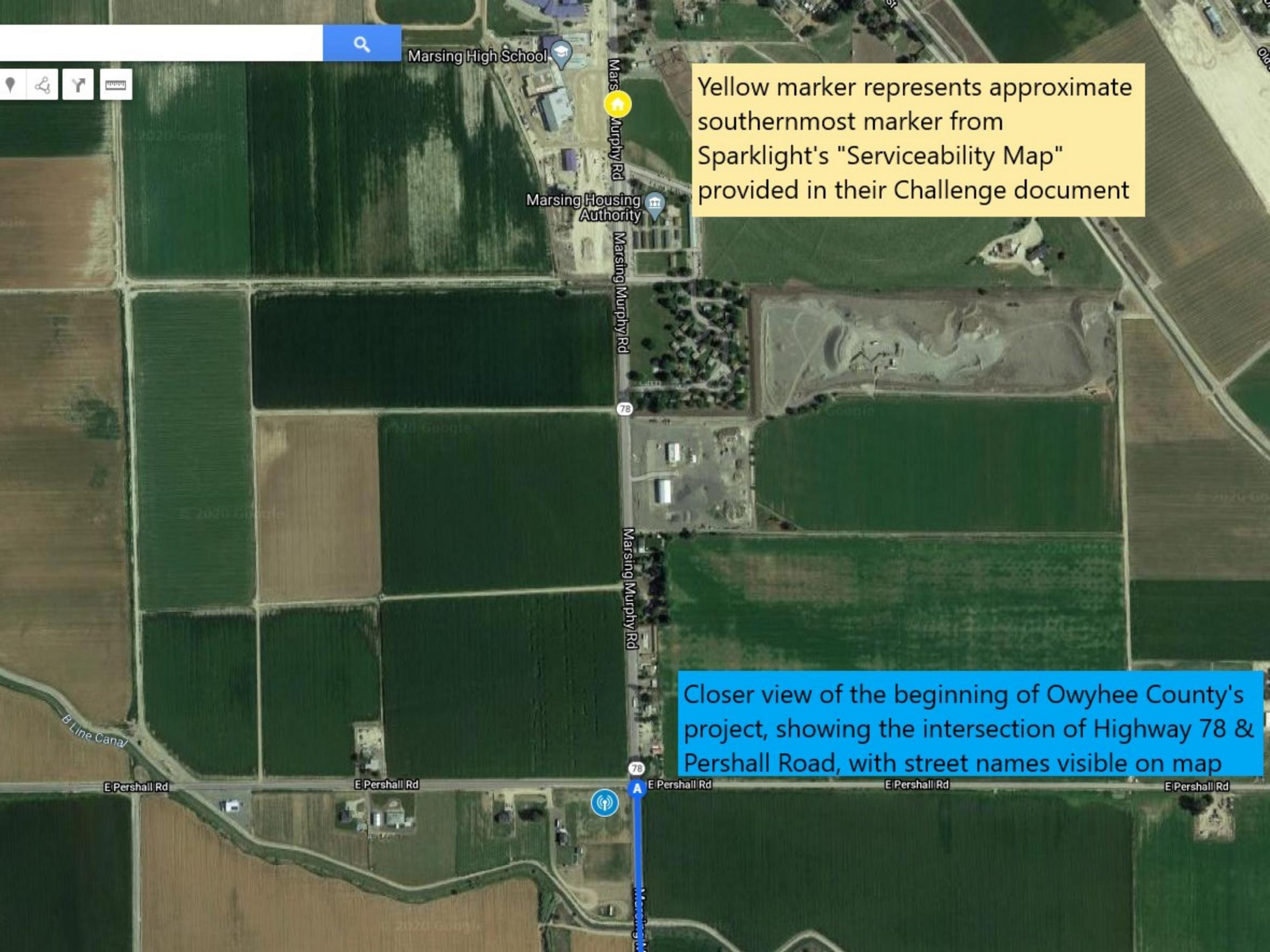


Houses on Project route and their current download/upload speeds, as measured by broadbandnow.com/speedtest. (See Letters of Support for further.)

- 📍 Hope House 3.76/1.76
- 📍 10550 H78, Melba 7.5/1.72
- 📍 6056 H78, 4.75/1.49
- 📍 17033 H78 Satellite Only/0
- 📍 **17050 Pedracini Satellite On...**







Marsing High School

Marsing Murphy Rd

Marsing Housing Authority

Marsing Murphy Rd

78

Marsing Murphy Rd

78

A

E Pershall Rd

E Pershall Rd

E Pershall Rd

B Line Canal

E Pershall Rd

E Pershall Rd

Yellow marker represents approximate southernmost marker from Sparklight's "Serviceability Map" provided in their Challenge document

Closer view of the beginning of Owyhee County's project, showing the intersection of Highway 78 & Pershall Road, with street names visible on map

Name of Applicant: Wendell

Application number: 4185



Box 208 375 1st Ave E Wendell, Idaho 83355
Phone 208-536-5161 Fax 208-536-5527 cityofwendell@gmail.com

July 29, 2020

Idaho Department of Commerce
700 W State Street
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0093

RE: Challenges to City of Wendell Broadband Grant Application

Dear Idaho Department of Commerce:

Our Wendell area citizens and businesses have a need for high speed, reliable broadband services, and the need has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our citizens and businesses would be better served by having multiple choices available for their broadband services. There are several areas in our City that only have one broadband provider, if any, and the speed and reliability of the service delivered by that one provider do not meet the 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload criteria. Reliability is also an issue for some providers.

We worked very hard on a short time schedule to submit our Broadband Grant application because we believe that all citizens of our Wendell area deserve access to high speed, reliable broadband services, and they deserve more choices for those services. We were extremely disappointed to receive these challenges from providers who are not adequately serving all areas of our community. Of course, competition for consumers' dollars often produces more affordable services for all.

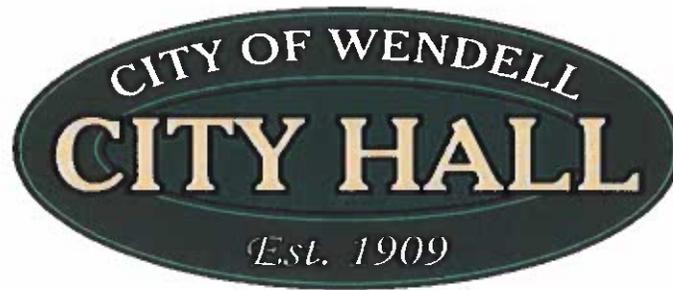
As the number of COVID-19 cases surges daily, Wendell area students and their families will be struggling to access Zoom and other online instruction methods during the school year if they do not have access to reliable broadband. Our citizens that could work from home will be denied that option if they do not have dependable broadband services available. Senior citizens and others in high-risk groups need reliable broadband services to access telehealth methods to consult with their healthcare providers and avoid potential exposure to COVID-19, influenza, or other diseases. For these reasons, we believe that our proposed project is necessary.

Thank you for considering our challenge response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bonnie (BJ) Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bonnie (BJ) Marshall
Councilmember
City of Wendell



Box 208 375 1st Ave E Wendell, Idaho 83355
Phone 208-536-5161 Fax 208-536-5527 cityofwendell@gmail.com

July 27, 2020

Application Title – City of Wendell

Households Grant Program - Application ID: App-004185

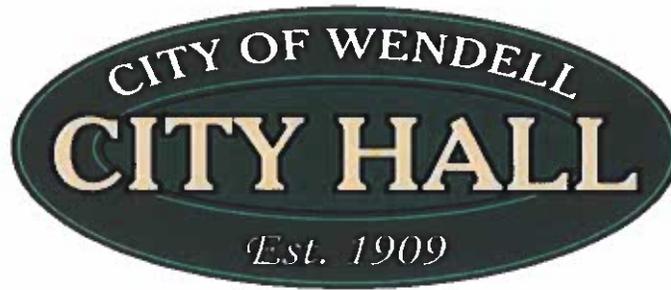
Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional clarifying information for our grant application. The proposed project has been developed to not only serve the citizens within the city boundaries, but also providing important and currently lacking service to the citizens living outside of the city limits.

Please see the attached two coverage maps for a visual representation of the proposed tower implementation and upgrade for the project. Updating the infrastructure on the water tower will (Wendell 60 Gig Coverage Map) provide 60Ghz technology coverage to the area and can deliver speeds of up to 1000x1000.

With the additional two new towers (Wendell 3.5Ghz and 900Mhz Coverage Map) the new technology will provide 3.5Ghz and 900 Mhz technology, which expands into the rural community and can deliver speeds up to 100x20. This additional service provided by the construction of the new towers will increase the availability of additional coverage areas to four-mile radius outside of the city limits. These upgrades and new installs will provide service to the unserved and underserved citizens of the city and counties areas.

The single largest obstacle to delivering fixed wireless internet to customers is impediments (trees/buildings) blocking the signal. One way to circumvent tree canopy blockage is to increase the height of the tower broadcasting signal. The construction of the proposed 125-foot towers would greatly increase the odds of being able to deliver broadband to these underserved/unserved households.

Wendell is a small, rural community located in Southern Idaho. Rural communities are challenged with reliable and stable internet services for their citizens and business needs. As COVID reached our communities our citizens struggled to connect to services for their educational, business and telehealth needs. Many parents rely on broadband coverage to allow their children to attend school from home, as well as



Box 208 375 1st Ave E Wendell, Idaho 83355
Phone 208-536-5161 Fax 208-536-5527 cityofwendell@gmail.com

continue their employment while working at home. Rural areas need access to high speed, reliable coverage in our communities.

Thank you for taking time to review our challenge response. We are very excited for this grant opportunity and the benefit it can provide to our community! Please let us know if there is any additional information we are able to provide.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bonnie J. Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

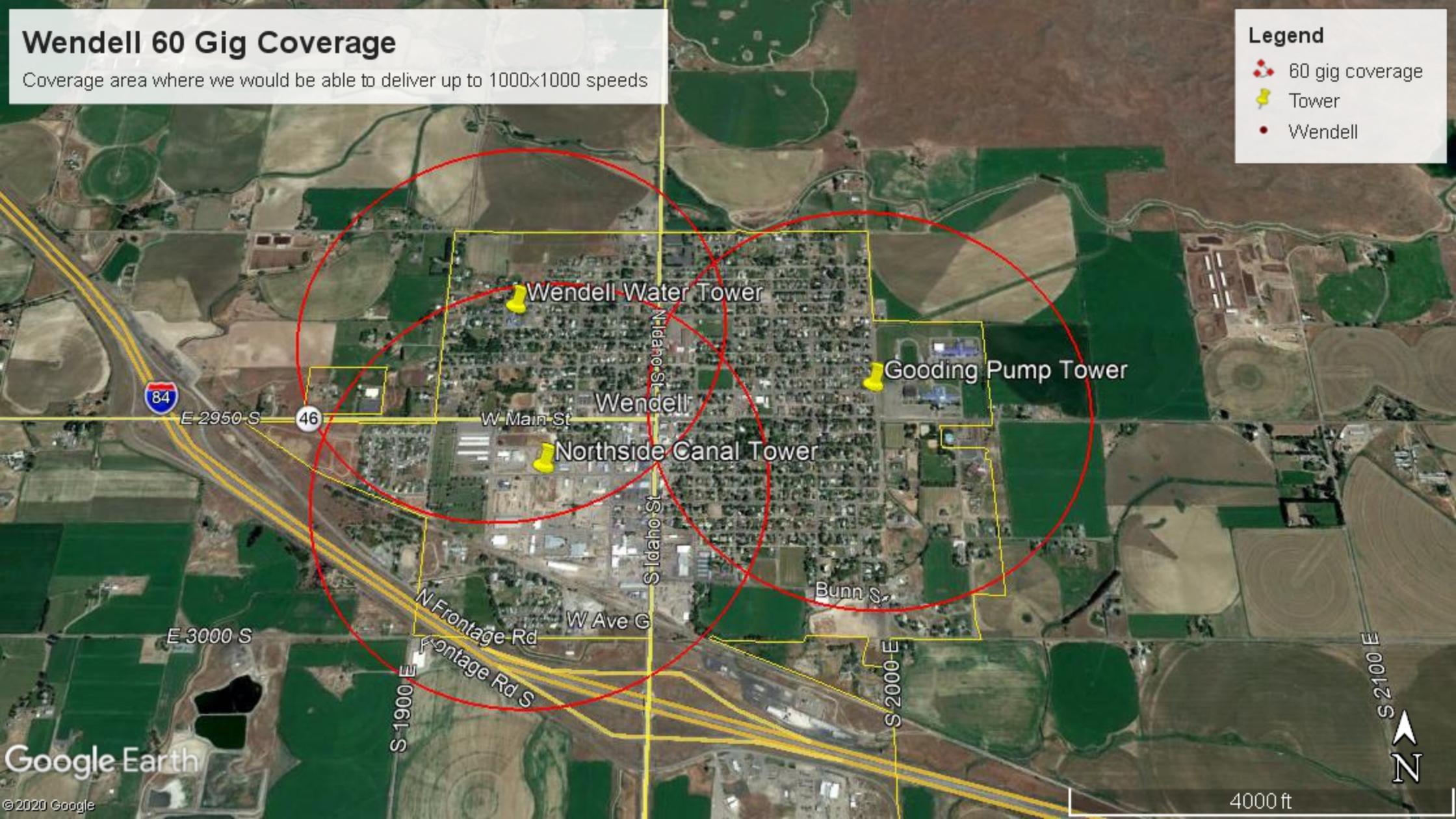
Bonnie J. Marshall
Councilmember
City of Wendell

Wendell 60 Gig Coverage

Coverage area where we would be able to deliver up to 1000x1000 speeds

Legend

-  60 gig coverage
-  Tower
-  Wendell

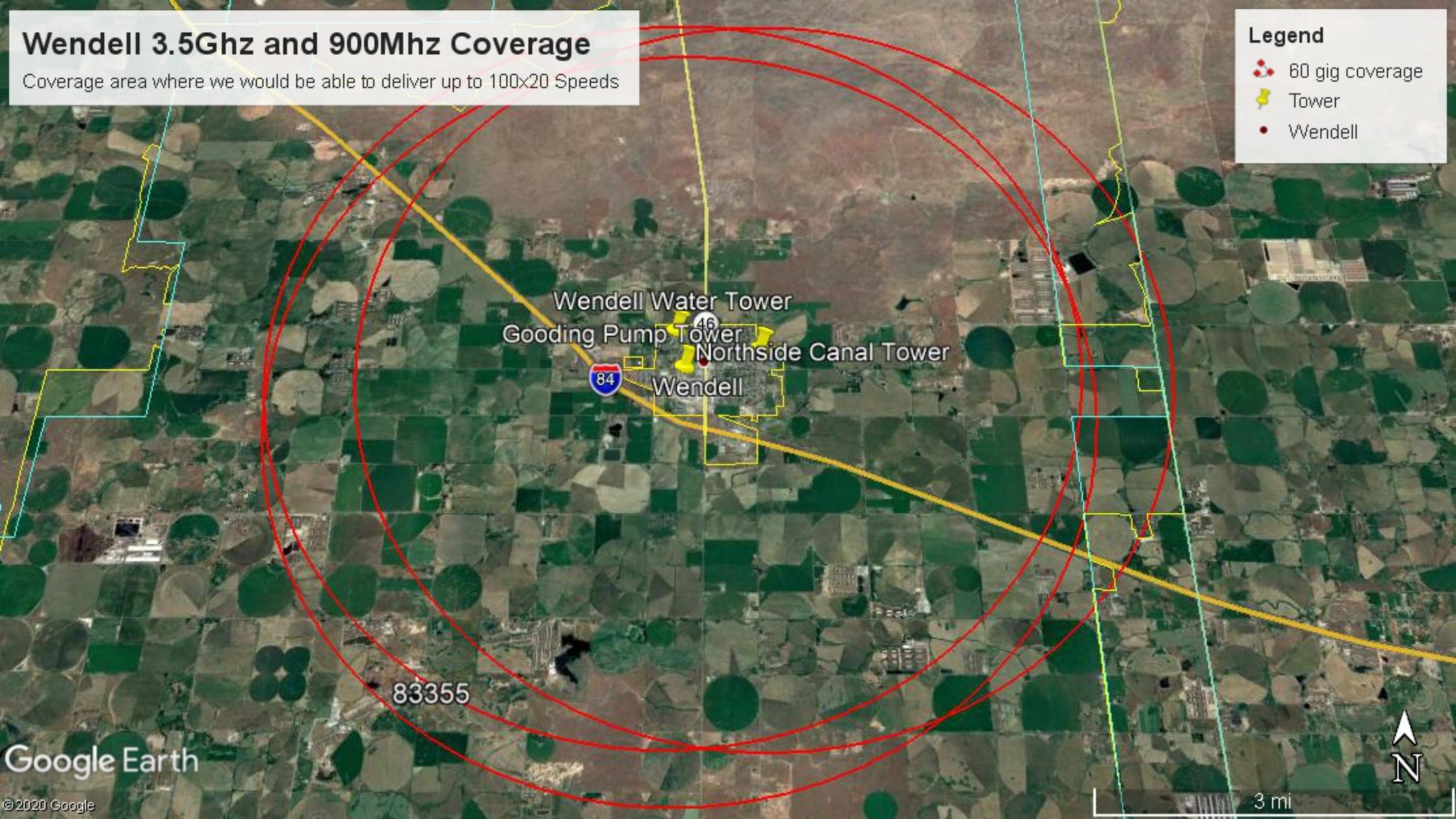


Wendell 3.5Ghz and 900Mhz Coverage

Coverage area where we would be able to deliver up to 100x20 Speeds

Legend

- 60 gig coverage
- Tower
- Wendell



Wendell Water Tower
Gooding Pump Tower
Northside Canal Tower
Wendell



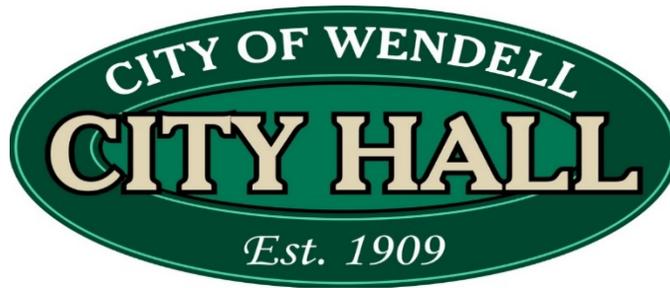
83355

Google Earth

© 2020 Google

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Box 208 375 1st Ave E Wendell, Idaho 83355
Phone 208-536-5161 Fax 208-536-5527 cityofwendell@gmail.com

July 24, 2020

Tom Kealey, Director
Idaho Dept of Commerce
Broadband Office
700 W State Street
Boise ID 83702

Re: Safelink and Sparklight challenges to Idaho Broadband Grant Program Applications

Dear Director Kealey,

Safelink has filed a challenge to the City of Wendell's application. Safelink states that they already cover the proposed service area with the minimum 25/3 broadband speeds. I am writing this letter to attest that there is a big difference to what they say and what they deliver. I have been a Safelink subscriber for some time now and I am continually frustrated by their lack of ability to deliver what they promise. I am on the phone with their technical support about once a week.

I can attest they never deliver their promised speeds. I can also attest that my neighbor is a Safelink subscriber and also does not get the promised speeds. Please see my attached speedtest which shows I am not getting anywhere close to the promised 25/5.

I also can attest that Sparklight is not available where I am and I live in city limits. My address is 376 7th Ave West. Sparklight may serve parts of Wendell but they do not service the whole city by any means.

Please give our greater community the opportunity to get broadband internet. In the proposed service area there are approximately 930 households or 66.7% of total households that don't have access to broadband internet.

Respectfully submitted,

Seaira Gold

Wendell City Councilwoman
375 1st Ave E
Wendell ID 83355

Make it with Creative Cloud.
 Apps for photography, design, video, and web from US\$9.99/mo. [Join now](#)

SHARE

Result ID: 9803994386

RESULTS SETTINGS

PING ms: 47

DOWNLOAD Mbps: 19.85

UPLOAD Mbps: 5.61

GO

Connections: Multi

Syringa Networks
Idaho Falls, ID
[Change Server](#)

Safelink Internet Services
104.153.34.241

HOW DOES YOUR DOWNLOAD SPEED COMPARE WITH YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

1	2	3	4	5
Much worse		As expected		Much better

Ads by Google

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[Why this ad? >](#)

Having Internet Problems?
Popular services with reported issues

- [Crunchyroll](#)
Possible Problems >
- [Snapchat](#)
Possible Problems >
- [Sourceforge](#)
Problems >

View all outages on [downdetector.com](#)

it COSMETICS

Confidence in a Cream Hydrating Moisturizer Home & Away Set (\$64 Value) [SHOP IT](#)

Vitality Lip Flush Hydrating Lip Gloss Soft Stain [SHOP IT](#)

Heavenly Luxe™ Must-Haves! Brush Set & Case [SHOP IT](#)

Confidence in a Cream Hydrating Moisturizer [SHOP IT](#)

Ombre Radiance Blush™ [SHOP IT](#)

Bye Bye Foundation Oil-Free Matte Custom Kit (\$83.50 Value) [SHOP IT](#)

From: Deputy Clerk <deputyclerk@wendell.id.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 4:21 PM
To: Brandy E Lowe <BELowe@csi.edu>
Subject: FW: Internet speed test results

Leisa Williamson

Deputy Clerk

375 1st Ave. East
Wendell, Idaho 83355
Office -208-536-5161
Fax-208-536-5527



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 9:43 AM
To: Deputy Clerk <deputyclerk@wendell.id.gov>
Subject: Internet speed test results

376 E Ave B

Download speed: 15.75 Mb/s

Upload Speed: 900 Kb/s

Residence is paying for basic service only from Sparklight: \$45/m

**SOUTHERN IDAHO REGIONAL
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**



"911 DISPATCH"

JEROME-TWIN FALLS-GOODING-LINCOLN COUNTY

911 East Avenue H • P.O. Box 504 • Jerome, Idaho 83338
(208) 324-1344 • Fax (208) 324-1443

*Director
Brett Reid*

*Deputy Director
Kristy Churchman*

White Cloud Communications
Letter of Recommendation
July 7th, 2020

In January of this year, discussions between Southern Idaho Regional Communication (SIRCOMM) and White Cloud Communications began regarding a very important radio build out project. The culmination of that project will ultimately serve more than 41 first responder agencies who are stakeholders spread across the four county SIRCOMM service area.

To date, SIRCOMM has entered into four separate service agreements with White Cloud, and each agreement has been, or is currently being, fulfilled with all expectations being met or exceeded. White Cloud Communications' performance record has been excellent.

White Cloud has been responsive to requests of all kinds, including, but not limited to emergency service call-outs. Our relationship with White Cloud Communications has been a positive experience. They have proven themselves trustworthy, responsible, and dedicated to our mission here at SIRCOMM. We expect to continue to utilize their expertise as we strive to improve services in an ever changing and complex environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Reid
Director, SIRCOMM



Illinois Electric Cooperative

Two South Main Street
Winchester, Illinois 62694
Telephone: (217) 742-3128
Fax: (217) 742-3831

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing this letter to recommend the services of White Cloud Communications, WCC. Summer of 2019, WCC completed a large project for us, Illinois Electric Cooperative, IEC, and has been working with us ever since. We have always been more than satisfied with their work.

WCC is a leader in Telrad deployments in the nation. WCC provided IEC with a turnkey implementation of Telrad which IEC has never dealt with before. WCC deployed 8 tower sites/32 sectors for IEC's network. WCC procured, provisioned, and installed the equipment. Trained IEC staff on best practice. Assisted with network design. WCC also provides IEC with ongoing support and training for the consistently changing technology that fixed wireless is. These 8 towers have been active for over a year now and IEC has seen an uptick in data usage and installs from the Telrad equipment. The WCC staff are highly experienced with the Telrad equipment and are extremely well to work with. WCC always go above and beyond with support and work swiftly to resolve any issues that we may have.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Haverfield".

Matt Haverfield,
Manager of Network Operations



Twin Falls School District #411
201 Main Ave. W
Twin Falls, ID 83301

P 208.733.6900
F 208.733.6987
www.tfsd.org

Ryan Bowman, Operations & Educational Technology Director

August 28, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of endorsement for White Cloud Communications. They are currently providing the Twin Falls School District with service for one hundred radios that we use for communication with our buildings and throughout the district. We are extremely satisfied with the service we have received, and I highly recommend their service to others.

Last year we began using these radios to enhance communication in our buildings for safety and security purposes. They have performed well and when a minor issue has come up, White Cloud has been prompt and ready to come and work to fix the issue in a timely manner. We are very pleased with the service and quality of the product.

Please give White Cloud Communication your highest consideration. I am confident they will provide you with the same outstanding service we have received. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ryan Bowman
Operations & Educational Technology Director



TWIN FALLS CANAL COMPANY

357 6TH AVE WEST
POST OFFICE BOX 326
TWIN FALLS, IDAHO 83303-0326



To whom it may concern,

The Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC) has had a relationship with White Cloud since the 1980's or 1990's. We currently have automation on our canal system that consists of over 50 sites and covers an area of over 200,000 acres, two-way radios and phones for over 70 employees, and recently added internet service to one of hydro power plants, all of which are maintained by White Cloud Communications and White Cloud Technologies.

As Engineering Technician I work closely with White Cloud in all aspects of our communications program. I am confident that White Cloud is able to perform to highest standards.

If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Louis Zamora
Engineering Tech.
Twin Falls Canal Company
Office (208) 733-6731
Cell (208) 731-6851



Gooding School District

Home of the Senators

507 Idaho Street
Gooding, ID 83330
(208) 934-4321

May 25, 2016

White Cloud Communications
663 Main Ave E
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Dear White Cloud Communications,

On behalf of the Gooding Technology Consortium, I would like to say thank you for all the top quality services you have provided to Gooding and Dietrich Schools. The professionalism exhibited and rapid response to support requests by White Cloud has been noticed by all the staff here at Gooding Schools.

Our goal is to provide a high quality, technology driven education to the students we serve. The WAN link White Cloud setup between the two districts has provided significant savings allowing us to free up funds to spend in other areas. Your assistance in helping us accomplish this goal is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to use me as a reference in the future for any current or potential customers.

Sincerely

Don Van Kleeck
I.T. Director



June 25, 2013

Re: Financial strength and business acumen

To Whom-it-may-concern:

Let me introduce myself: I am Ray Parrish, Sr. Commercial Loan Officer for the Falls Branch of D.L. Evans Bank in Twin Falls. I have worked with Joseph Shelton and his company, White Cloud Communications, Inc., for over eight years. Mr. Shelton has had numerous loans with D.L. Evans Bank and has always paid them as agreed and, most times, has paid them off early as his cash flow has permitted. His integrity has always been one of great respect and he has always completed commitments to the bank in a very good manner. He is highly respected in the community and is considered a very valuable customer of this bank.

His business, White Cloud Communications, Inc., has been a very successful company due to Mr. Shelton's leadership and foresight in communications requirements and needs throughout the State of Idaho. He has kept very strong business deposits with the bank over the last eight years and looks to increase that relationship. He has been a customer who plans his debts with exactness and then presents a plan for timely payment of such obligations.

I would heartily support him in his endeavors and would offer this letter in support of any project for which he would submit to you. Should you have any other questions, please feel free to call me so that I can answer them for you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray M. Parrish". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Ray M. Parrish
Sr. Commercial Loan Officer



Kevin Guthrie
Commercial Banking
103 Main Ave E
Twin Falls, ID 83301
Phone: 208-735-5609
Fax: 208-734-0285

June 26, 2013

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I am writing in regards to White Cloud Communication, LLC. White Cloud Communication has been a client of ours for 15+ years. Their performance is outstanding. White Cloud has borrowed funds in excess of a million dollars and payments and their ratios were always met and/or exceeded. White Cloud keeps a substantial amount of funds in their deposit accounts with us and we have never had any issues nor do we ever expect to.

If you require additional information, please feel free to contact me at the phone number above.

Kevin Guthrie

**Vice President/Relationship Manger
KeyBank Commercial Banking**

TS

Name of Applicant: Latah County

Application number: 4224



Latah County
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 8068 ♦ 522 South Adams ♦ Moscow, Idaho 83843
(208) 883-7208 ♦ fax (208) 883-2280 ♦ e-mail bocc@latah.id.us
Thomas C. Lamar ♦ David McGraw ♦ Kathie LaFortune

July 29, 2020

Latah County's broadband grant application's focus is to provide community access in five of the 8 incorporated cities in Latah County. This application is requesting funding for infrastructure and equipment to accommodate the goal of increasing and improving community access to critical communications. For education, for emergency service access, and the increasingly important social connectivity during the COVID-19 pandemic, this Latah County application has come forward. Presently, in all of the target communities, the equipment is either undersized, in few locations, or non-existent as highlighted below.

The Latah County team estimates serving 1200 households throughout the county. Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. estimates current poverty levels in Latah County for two major constituent groups - children under 18, and seniors to be 18% and 7.5% respectively. Both groups are often on fixed incomes, and may have variable access to critical infrastructure - including internet - as a result. This infrastructure-centric grant has specifically EXCLUDED the circuits to provide connectivity between each of these municipalities as the ongoing costs are not eligible for grant funds.

The contesting provider specifically highlights two areas where they feel that Latah County is proposing an overbuild of existing services. Specifically, they have called out the following locations:

Troy, ID

The provider contests that this application must be rejected because the provider has commenced construction into this market with an expected completion date of December 2020. This complaint is incorrect in assumptions in two areas. First, the provider does not have services currently in this market and second, the Latah County infrastructure application does not preclude the provider from providing connectivity required to activate the community access network in this market. In fact, if awarded, Latah County will be requesting a circuit in this market for delivery no later than December 1, 2020.

Moscow, ID

The provider contests that the application must be rejected because the provider provides services in this market. This complaint is incorrect as the requested grant funds are for providing community access at the entire Latah County Fairgrounds including all outdoor areas and also at the Latah County Courthouse. These are not services that are currently being provided at these locations. The network design will centralize the community access network at the Latah County Courthouse. The funding requests at this location will provide support for the other municipalities and be used to create a consistent experience for the entire solution. The intention is to utilize current internet connectivity to provide this service. If additional internet connectivity is required, the contesting provider will have the opportunity to provide pricing for this connectivity at the Latah County Courthouse or Moscow City Hall.

Digital divide and user access is a complicated problem that will not be solved with a one size fits all approach to connectivity. It has become more apparent now than ever that solving this issue requires an innovative approach. The Latah County application provides access to a large number of people in the communities that we serve. It activates investments that Latah County and our communities have already made in facilities, community centers and outdoor spaces. This grant enables us to better service our constituents.

For these reasons we believe that the contest to our application is without merit.

Name of Applicant: Murtaugh

Application number: 4237



CITY OF MURTAUGH

P.O. Box 157
MURTAUGH, IDAHO 83344
Telephone: 208-595-8196
Cityofmurtaugh.org

Mayor: Dee Hunsaker
Clerk: Eli H. Andersen

July 27, 2020

Director Tom Kealy,

On behalf of the City of Murtaugh I would like to thank you for the opportunity to apply for the Idaho Broadband Grant through the CARES Act. The City feels that this grant gives the City the opportunity to improve our community in several ways. Since we have started working with the Southern Idaho Economic Development on this grant, we have been working diligently to collect all of the materials necessary for the application. This process started by reaching out to the citizen of Murtaugh.

For years Murtaugh has suffered from a lack of reliable high-speed internet. Several internet service providers (ISP's) have advertised the speeds that the citizens need but have failed to regularly deliver. As we spoke to the citizens, they almost unanimously shared the opinion that the internet offerings in Murtaugh were not sufficient for their needs. This situation became more dire as the events surrounding COVID-19 started to affect our small town. As our school closed and students were sent home with wireless devices to continue their education, the limited reliable internet options of the area were overtaxed by the number of users and the speeds in the area decreased further. This also applied to employees who were asked/encouraged to work from home. In both situations' individuals were expected to participate in live video meetings/lessons that require a minimum internet bandwidth that some were unable to achieve.

With the input from citizens in mind the City wanted to reach an agreement with a new ISP for the purpose of this grant. White Cloud Communication, LLC was the ISP that the City selected. The City chose this ISP for several reasons. First was the advanced technology that they promised to bring to our small community. The infrastructure that they planned to bring to our City would not only help the areas internet problems but additionally offer high speed options that the City could use to possibly draw new businesses to the city who require higher internet speeds.

Secondly the City chose to work with White Cloud Communications because of their years of diligent work with SIRCOMM. Being a rural community on the outskirts of the local Rock Creek Fire Protection District, communication capabilities for our first responders has always been spotty and unreliable. White Cloud has promised use of the proposed tower to SIRCOMM for installation of new and updated equipment to help first responders in our rural community. The peace of mind provided by knowing that our first responders can quickly and efficiently communicate surpasses much of what we could have hoped for with this project.

The final reason that the City chose to work with White Cloud Communications was their dedication to help us as a City take care of the residents. They have worked with us to give us the opportunity to offer a limited community wireless network at City Hall to residents who may need just a couple of minutes of internet to finish a school assignment or send a work document.

Dee Hunsaker, Mayor

City of Murtaugh APP-004237 – Idaho Department of Commerce CARES Act Broadband Grant

– Households – Rebuttal

To respond to the challenge submitted by Tekfinity:

1. The application submitted states Tekfinity only provides a maximum service of 10Mbps. This is incorrect. Tekfinity offers broadband speeds up to 25Mbps.

Citizens of Murtaugh are not receiving adequate broadband at a time where internet speed is crucial with the impact of COVID-19 to students, educators, business owners, and more. Per the attached and linked speed tests, members of the community are receiving less than 25x3 Mbps with most at or below 10 Mbps. There is a clear need that is not being relieved by services at Tekfinity despite their presence in the community. Please view attached speed tests for reference.

With the capabilities at White Cloud Communications, citizens within the smaller mapping circle area will be able to utilize and enjoy speeds of up to 1000x1000 Mbps symmetrical with the help of 60 Ghz technology. In the larger mapping circle area, citizens will be able to utilize speeds of up to 100x20 Mbps with the help of 3.5 Ghz and 900 Mhz technology. Please also view attached letters of recommendation from local and national anchor institutions citing the capabilities of White Cloud Communications for such a project.

2. The application does not meet the criteria of 50% of households are currently in an unserved area and 50% of households is in an underserved area. There are currently 3 providers that already exist in this area with wireless technology.

Per the 10 speed tests collected from citizens at the City of Murtaugh, it is shown that despite the presence of 3 providers within the City, broadband needs are not being met. The speed tests submitted by Tekfinity as a challenge to the application are invalid as these have not been collected illustrating what they are truly being delivered. Tekfinity does not deliver adequate broadband speeds to customers within the City of Murtaugh as originally stated. Please view attached speed tests and mapping document showing locations of residents that submitted speed tests.

The height of the tower to be built by White Cloud Communications will be able to deliver upgraded speeds to residents that cannot currently access this. A frequent issue when accessing fixed wireless internet is large trees where installing a large tower located within the City of Murtaugh that can shoot down and through tree canopy is crucial to delivering broadband to households that cannot access and are underserved.

To respond to the challenge submitted by SafeLink:

1. The application does not meet the criteria of 50% households are currently in an unserved area and 50% of households are in an underserved area.

As stated in the previous challenge, per the 10 speed tests collected from citizens at the City of Murtaugh, it is shown that despite the presence of 3 providers within the City, broadband needs are not being met. SafeLink does not deliver adequate broadband speeds to customers within the City of Murtaugh as stated in the challenge. Please view attached speed tests and mapping document showing locations of residents that submitted speed tests.

The height of the tower to be built by White Cloud Communications will be able to deliver upgraded speeds to residents that cannot currently access this. A frequent issue when accessing fixed wireless internet is large trees where installing a large tower located within the City of Murtaugh that can shoot down and through tree canopy is crucial to delivering broadband to households that cannot access and are underserved.

2. The application submitted included customers not receiving 25 Mbps from SafeLink; this customer does not subscribe to the 25 Mbps plan.

Despite SafeLink offering this plan, it is not capable of being provided to citizens of Murtaugh where they are not receiving adequate broadband. Per the attached and linked speed tests, members of the community are receiving less than 25x3 Mbps with most at or below 10 Mbps. There is a clear need that is not being relieved by services at SafeLink despite plan advertised in the community. Please view attached speed tests for reference.

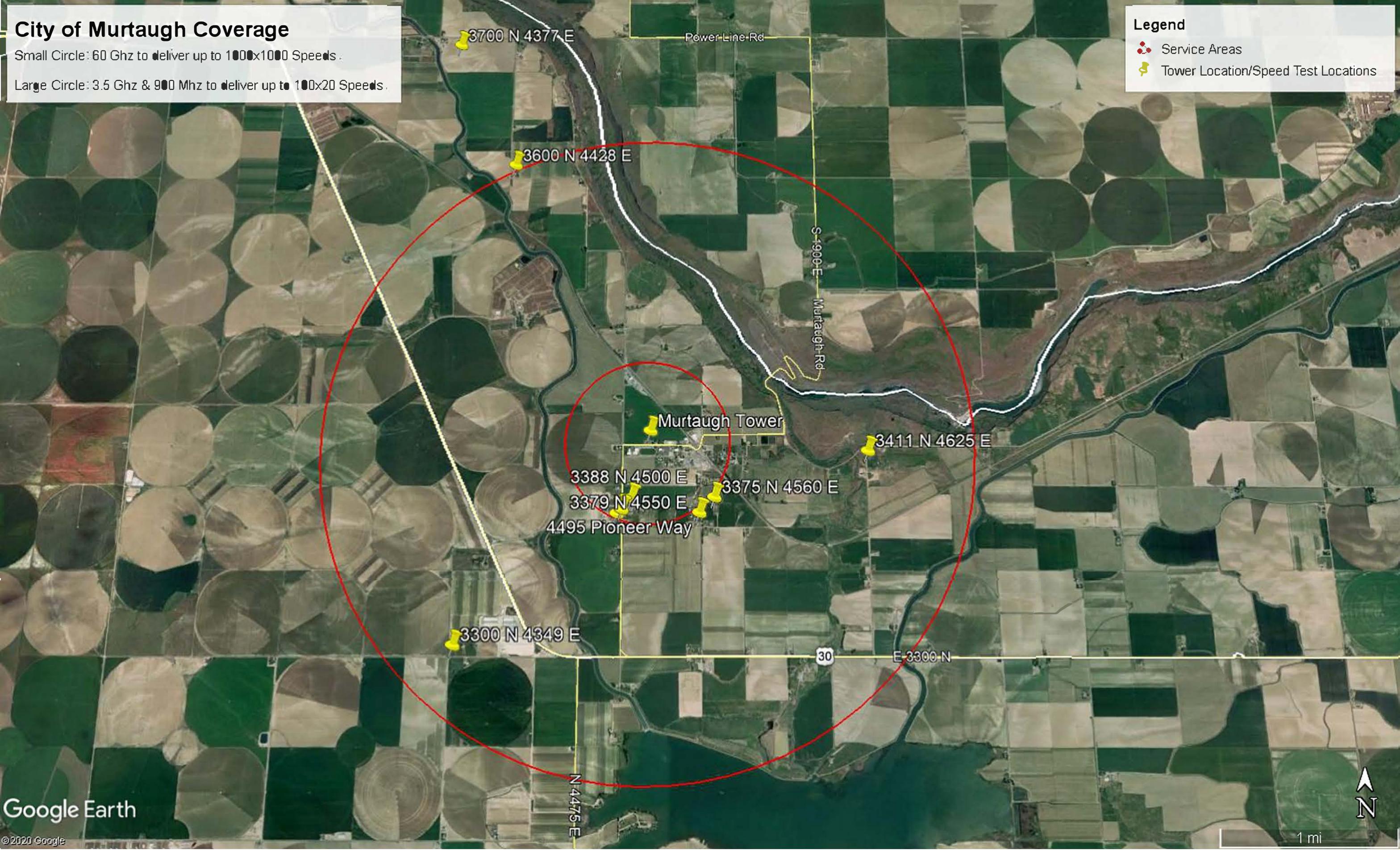
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City of Murtaugh Coverage

Small Circle: 60 Ghz to deliver up to 1000x1000 Speeds.
Large Circle: 3.5 Ghz & 900 Mhz to deliver up to 100x20 Speeds.

Legend

-  Service Areas
-  Tower Location/Speed Test Locations



INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



4495 Pioneer Way Murtaugh, ID

Summary

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

1.57 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

1.87 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is slower than average. It is sufficient for basic uses like email and web browsing but will likely struggle when streaming HD video, using Skype, and other video-based use cases.

Network latency: 144 msec round trip time

INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



3388 North 4500 E Murtaugh, ID

Summary

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

1.02 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

0.6 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is slower than average. It is sufficient for basic uses like email and web browsing but will likely struggle when streaming HD video, using Skype, and other video-based use cases.

Network latency: 81 msec round trip time

Summary

Details

Advanced

 DOWNLOAD SPEED**6.60** Mb/s

3600 N 4428 E Murtaugh, ID

 UPLOAD SPEED**838.67** kb/s

Your Internet speed is fast enough for normal use by 1-2 people. Video services like Netflix may struggle in HD, or if multiple users attempt to stream at the same time.

INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



3300 N 4349 E Murtaugh, ID

Summary

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

7.17 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

1.96 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is fast enough for normal use by 1-2 people. Video services like Netflix may struggle in HD, or if multiple users attempt to stream at the same time.

Network latency: 189 msec round trip time

INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



3700 N 4377 E Murtaugh, ID

Summary

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

7.13 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

2.52 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is fast enough for normal use by 1-2 people. Video services like Netflix may struggle in HD, or if multiple users attempt to stream at the same time.

Network latency: 209 msec round trip time



Summary

Details

Advanced

 DOWNLOAD SPEED

7.68 Mb/s

3411 N 4625 E Murtaugh, ID

 UPLOAD SPEED

2.93 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is fast enough for normal use by 1-2 people. Video services like Netflix may struggle in HD, or if multiple users attempt to stream at the same time.

Share Result URL

<https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/a59nrh9l-uxx>



[url]<https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/a59nrh9l->





Summary

Details

Advanced

 DOWNLOAD SPEED

12.50 Mb/s

3379 N 4550 E Murtaugh, ID

 UPLOAD SPEED

5.98 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is normal. Your Internet

RATE YOUR PROVIDER

INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



4489 Silvers Dr. Murtaugh, ID

Summary

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

10.48 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

2.25 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is normal. Your Internet speed is sufficient for most regular uses like streaming video or online shopping and banking.

Network latency: 419 msec round trip time



Download Speed



3125 N 4549 E Murtaugh, ID



SPEED TEST COMPLETED

Server: ndt-iupui-mlab1-lax05.mlab-oti.measurement-lab.org

INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



3375 N 4560 E Murtaugh, ID

Summary

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

5.07 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

3.35 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is fast enough for normal use by 1-2 people. Video services like Netflix may struggle in HD, or if multiple users attempt to stream at the same time.

Network latency: 271 msec round trip time

SOUTHERN IDAHO REGIONAL
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



"911 DISPATCH"

JEROME-TWIN FALLS-GOODING-LINCOLN COUNTY

911 East Avenue H • P.O. Box 504 • Jerome, Idaho 83338
(208) 324-1344 • Fax (208) 324-1443

*Director
Brett Reid*

*Deputy Director
Kristy Churchman*

White Cloud Communications
Letter of Recommendation
July 7th, 2020

In January of this year, discussions between Southern Idaho Regional Communication (SIRCOMM) and White Cloud Communications began regarding a very important radio build out project. The culmination of that project will ultimately serve more than 41 first responder agencies who are stakeholders spread across the four county SIRCOMM service area.

To date, SIRCOMM has entered into four separate service agreements with White Cloud, and each agreement has been, or is currently being, fulfilled with all expectations being met or exceeded. White Cloud Communications' performance record has been excellent.

White Cloud has been responsive to requests of all kinds, including, but not limited to emergency service call-outs. Our relationship with White Cloud Communications has been a positive experience. They have proven themselves trustworthy, responsible, and dedicated to our mission here at SIRCOMM. We expect to continue to utilize their expertise as we strive to improve services in an ever changing and complex environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Reid
Director, SIRCOMM



Illinois Electric Cooperative

Two South Main Street
Winchester, Illinois 62694
Telephone: (217) 742-3128
Fax: (217) 742-3831

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing this letter to recommend the services of White Cloud Communications, WCC. Summer of 2019, WCC completed a large project for us, Illinois Electric Cooperative, IEC, and has been working with us ever since. We have always been more than satisfied with their work.

WCC is a leader in Telrad deployments in the nation. WCC provided IEC with a turnkey implementation of Telrad which IEC has never dealt with before. WCC deployed 8 tower sites/32 sectors for IEC's network. WCC procured, provisioned, and installed the equipment. Trained IEC staff on best practice. Assisted with network design. WCC also provides IEC with ongoing support and training for the consistently changing technology that fixed wireless is. These 8 towers have been active for over a year now and IEC has seen an uptick in data usage and installs from the Telrad equipment. The WCC staff are highly experienced with the Telrad equipment and are extremely well to work with. WCC always go above and beyond with support and work swiftly to resolve any issues that we may have.

Thanks,

Matt Haverfield,
Manager of Network Operations



Twin Falls School District #411
201 Main Ave. W
Twin Falls, ID 83301

P 208.733.6900
F 208.733.6987
www.tfsd.org

Ryan Bowman, Operations & Educational Technology Director

August 28, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

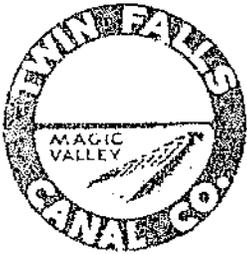
It is my pleasure to write this letter of endorsement for White Cloud Communications. They are currently providing the Twin Falls School District with service for one hundred radios that we use for communication with our buildings and throughout the district. We are extremely satisfied with the service we have received, and I highly recommend their service to others.

Last year we began using these radios to enhance communication in our buildings for safety and security purposes. They have performed well and when a minor issue has come up, White Cloud has been prompt and ready to come and work to fix the issue in a timely manner. We are very pleased with the service and quality of the product.

Please give White Cloud Communication your highest consideration. I am confident they will provide you with the same outstanding service we have received. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ryan Bowman
Operations & Educational Technology Director



TWIN FALLS CANAL COMPANY

357 6TH AVE WEST
POST OFFICE BOX 326
TWIN FALLS, IDAHO 83303-0326



To whom it may concern,

The Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC) has had a relationship with White Cloud since the 1980's or 1990's. We currently have automation on our canal system that consists of over 50 sites and covers an area of over 200,000 acres, two-way radios and phones for over 70 employees, and recently added internet service to one of hydro power plants, all of which are maintained by White Cloud Communications and White Cloud Technologies.

As Engineering Technician I work closely with White Cloud in all aspects of our communications program. I am confident that White Cloud is able to perform to highest standards.

If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Louis Zamora
Engineering Tech.
Twin Falls Canal Company
Office (208) 733-6731
Cell (208) 731-6851



Gooding School District
Home of the Senators

507 Idaho Street
Gooding, ID 83330
(208) 934-4321

May 25, 2016

White Cloud Communications
663 Main Ave E
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Dear White Cloud Communications,

On behalf of the Gooding Technology Consortium, I would like to say thank you for all the top quality services you have provided to Gooding and Dietrich Schools. The professionalism exhibited and rapid response to support requests by White Cloud has been noticed by all the staff here at Gooding Schools.

Our goal is to provide a high quality, technology driven education to the students we serve. The WAN link White Cloud setup between the two districts has provided significant savings allowing us to free up funds to spend in other areas. Your assistance in helping us accomplish this goal is greatly appreciated.

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I.T. Director



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Ray M. Parrish
Sr. Commercial Loan Officer



Kevin Guthrie
Commercial Banking
103 Main Ave E
Twin Falls, ID 83301
Phone: 208-735-5609
Fax: 208-734-0285

June 26, 2013

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Kevin Guthrie

**Vice President/Relationship Manger
KeyBank Commercial Banking**

TS

Name of Applicant: Dietrich

Application number: 4248

City of Dietrich

35W 1st Street
Dietrich, Idaho 83324
(208) 544-2102

July 29th, 2020

RE: White Cloud Communications Grant Challenge city of Dietrich APP-004248

Idaho Department of Commerce Director Tom Kealy.

Dear Tom,

This letter and supporting documents are in response to the Challenge by White Cloud that the City of Dietrich does not qualify for the Broadband Grant because it is already being adequately served. Every statement in the Challenge from White Cloud is either false or misleading.

I would like to express my personal response to the fact that White Cloud even considered to “Challenge” in the first place. White Cloud was one of three candidates. **If the three candidates were sports teams, White Cloud would be penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct.**

I am appalled that White Cloud could even be eligible to submit a Challenge when they were trying partner to obtain the Broadband Grant until they lost the bid. This is a totally unprofessional and falls into the category of **Bullying!** Communities in Idaho spend a lot of time, money and energy to combat bullying in our schools. It is wrong to allow a company to behave this way.

Each of the three candidates; White Cloud, Safelink and Tek Hut (Tekfinity) had done their own research to conclude that the City of Dietrich was one of the strongest candidates to receive the grant. They each reached out to us with proposals.

White Cloud was the first to approach me, as the Mayor of Dietrich, to partner in obtaining the Broadband Grant with the understanding that White Cloud was to build the network infrastructure. They were confident they could prove the need for improved internet knowing the poor existing speeds in Dietrich. I have attached the Letter of Intent from White Cloud which I did not sign. White Cloud was very persistent in trying to get me to sign the document, even to the point I would classify as harassment. I let them know that I represented the City of Dietrich and I needed to get additional information and the approval of the City Council before I would sign anything.

The City Council and I interviewed each for the Broadband Project. We decided Tek-Hut offered the best solution for the City of Dietrich. Their proposal is to provide Fiber Optic directly

to the residences of Dietrich in a timely manner. Safelink had proposed bringing Fiber Optic but it was going to be phased due to logistics within the scope. White Cloud proposed two new towers with no option of Fiber Optic. The Council and I were not interested in additional towers in our City. We have a lot of trees and wind which impact the reliability of microwaves from any tower. Since we are not willing to cut down our trees, Fiber Optic is the best solution for us.

I would like to acknowledge the excitement of the opportunity this Grant has provided for Dietrich. I felt like, finally, our community would get a positive boost rather than feeling we are overlooked as unimportant.

There is no question our community is underserved. During the Covid-19 Stay at Home Order, we were not able to have successful Zoom Council Meetings because even our Council Members had inadequate internet service to participate. We are all waiting with anticipation. This grant will give us an edge in the marketplace that we would not be able to afford without. It is a much-needed service for our Community and will be the perfect launch to the direction that I as Mayor and our Council are trying to accomplish for the City of Dietrich. We would be honored and grateful to the State of Idaho. We are working hard to make improvements to Dietrich which has suffered a lack of maintenance for a long time. We want to create a town that the kids of Dietrich are proud of and will want to stay to raise their own families. Reliable internet is a critical component.

A special Thank You to Ervina Covcic from Southern Idaho Economic Development, Georgia Dimick from Region IV Development Association, Nate Bondelid from Tek-Hut Inc. who all worked diligently to support Dietrich in the process to obtain this Grant. Due to the time restraints for compliance, everyone went above and beyond to make this a success.

The City Council of Dietrich also were amazing at doing everything they could to make the best decisions for the City. They were available at all hours and reached out to the community as much as possible with the time we were allowed.

I would also like to thank The Association of Idaho Cities, Representative Sally Toone and Commissioner Rebecca Wood from Lincoln County for reaching out to make sure we were aware of the Grant and offering any help we needed to navigate through this process.

I would also like to thank Safelink for helping me to understand Fiber Optic vs Microwave Broadband options. They acted professionally through this process. They did not challenge the Grant for Dietrich because they understand that our community is underserved.

Regarding the issues of the Challenge presented by White Cloud:

1. Syringa Networks currently has a Fiber Optic line available:

It was addressed in our interview process as to why we could not tap into the existing Fiber Line that runs through Dietrich that is owned by Syringa. It was communicated that Syringa will not serve residential customers that it is only a commercial line. Council Member John Howard called Syringa July 28th, 2020. Syringa confirmed they would not sell or connect to a residential customer in Dietrich. If White Cloud is claiming that Syringa has Fiber Optic available, why didn't White Cloud propose providing Fiber Optic since they had the opportunity to tie into Syringa's line? Why, if Syringa provided Fiber Optic already to the residents of Dietrich, didn't they Challenge the Grant? The answer is: The Fiber Optic Line Owned by Syringa is a commercial line only and is NOT available to the residences of Dietrich.

2. The City of Dietrich School District is an underserved or unserved community:

It is absolutely true that the School District is an underserved and unserved community. The School itself, it has sophisticated equipment, not obtainable or affordable to the residents, and has a clear shot to the Gooding Tower. The fact the School has good service is irrelevant. It only can serve itself. Our school district struggled with distance learning due to the lack of adequate internet available to the students. Just because your neighbor owns a Ferrari doesn't mean you can use it because you don't have one.

3. The average cost per household being \$61.61:

This is what the average cost to the fiber optic service will be to the customer. The whole purpose of the Grant is that it covers the capital expenditure to bring in the Fiber Optic to the residents of Dietrich because the State of Idaho is aware that the Residents of Dietrich cannot afford a project like this on their own. The State of Idaho recognizes how critical it is for our rural citizens of Idaho to have the same opportunities as the big cities.

4. 100% of the homes meet less than the minimum grant requirements of 25/3 Mbps.

White Cloud provided examples of two residences in Dietrich that supposedly get highspeed internet.

Brandon Rasmussen does not live within the City Limits. He works for White Cloud. It is my understanding that Brandon, as an employee of White Cloud, has access to upgraded equipment. For these reasons his report should be considered a **Conflict of Interest** and not allowed.

Mike Torgerson lives more than 2 miles outside of the Dietrich City limits. I spoke with Mike regarding his internet. I would like to first say that Mike was upset that White Cloud is using his internet speed information for the purposes of hurting the City of Dietrich's chances at

receiving the Broadband Grant. Mike stated that his internet service is considered a Business Service. White Cloud told him he is the only client that has this equipment. He stated he has Pier to Pier service directly to the Jerome Butte. He has upgraded equipment that cost him approximately \$550 to install and \$120 per month for the service. Mike Torgerson is available to confirm this information if you would like to hear directly from him.

These are some internet speed readings that are within the Dietrich City Limits. If there was more time, I would be able to produce additional information.

Broadbandnow.com or Speedtest.net:

7/28/2020 211 N Waucanza St.- 8.57 Download 1.95 Upload, 10.08 Dn 1.89 Up(speedtest.net)

7/29/2020 211 N Waucanza St.- 8.70Mb/s Download 609 kb/s Upload

7/28/2020 35W 1st St- 9.28 Download 1.77 Upload

7/28/2020 575 N Main St, Dietrich- 3.89 Download 1.46 Upload

5. Safelink reports that have 100% coverage of Dietrich with broadband speeds of 25/3.

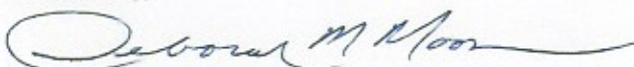
This is totally untrue; you will notice that speedtest.net identifies Safelink as the provider in the speedtest results reflected in the paragraph above. Safelink was a candidate provided a proposal to Dietrich to install Fiber Optic service and was ready to prove to the State of Idaho that the residents of Dietrich speeds are below the 25/3 requirements. If this was not the case, Safelink would have Challenged the Grand Request.

The list of 5 providers that White Cloud included is not accurate. Those companies are not all available in Dietrich. Notice that Sparklight is only available to 6.9% of the people in the entire zip code of 83324. If you call them and tell them your location is Dietrich, many of them inform you that they are not actually available in Dietrich. Their claims for internet speeds are "Speeds up to", no one achieves the speeds they claim are potential. They are achievable only in potential perfect conditions. They do not reflect the real conditions and resulting speeds.

This action by White Cloud to hurt the City of Dietrich only verifies their lack of ethics. They obviously do not value the people of Dietrich. They are sore losers should not be allowed to play both sides of the coin.

I hope that you and the State of Idaho award this Grant to the City of Dietrich. It would greatly contribute to the goal of igniting Community Pride. We would be abundantly grateful. We want the Idaho to be proud of what Dietrich can contribute as well. We have so many hidden treasures that we will be able to bring into the spotlight with the ability to better communicate. Thank you for the opportunity and for considering us for this Grant.

Sincerely,



Deborah Moon, Dietrich Mayor



Boise
10350 W. Emerald
Boise, ID 83704
(208)332-0188

Twin Falls
460 Main Ave S
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208)736-0188

<http://www.tek-finity.com>

RE: WhiteCloud Communcations Grant Challenge city of Dietrich APP-004248

WhiteCloud claims Syringa Networks already offers fiber-based services that meet the minimum requirements to the residences of Dietrich. If they already offer services to the residences of Dietrich, then why didn't Syringa Networks contest this application, or why doesn't any of the residences in Dietrich have services from Syringa Networks?

SafeLink did not contest this application but did contest others. If Safelink believed they already offer the minimum services, they would have contested this application.

The City of Dietrich is rural, and when students were at home during Covid, many had a poor experience due to the lack of broadband in the community of Dietrich.

WhiteCloud claims they offer services that meet the minimum requirements to the community currently.

The evidence they presented is from the school and two residents(one of which works for WhiteCloud). If the service is available and WhiteCloud also approached the city of Dietrich to partner with on the grant application, why didn't the city pick WhiteCloud for the grant. The answer is because currently the residences cannot receive the speeds advertised, which is why WhiteCloud asked to partner with the City.

Dietrich is a rural community who has always been underserved. Many wireless technologies currently serve the community but fail to offer reliable, high-speed options. The reason the city of Dietrich has selected Tekfinity is because fiber will offer unlimited capacity and opportunities for a small community that has been without for so long.

Once fiber has been installed in the community, the following symmetrical packages will be available,

50M \$34.95 per month

100M \$64.95 per month

1000M \$84.95 per month

HughesNet  **HughesNet Gen5**
 High-speed Satellite Internet
 Available Where You Live [Order Now](#)

SHARE 

Result ID 9826395839

[RESULTS](#) [SETTINGS](#)

PING ms

49

DOWNLOAD Mbps

9.28

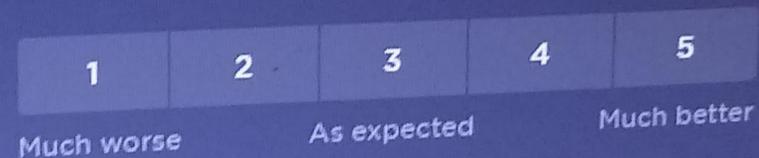
UPLOAD Mbps

1.77

GO

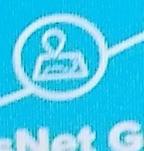
- Connections**
Multi
- Syringa Networks**
Idaho Falls, ID
[Change Server](#)
- SpeedConnect**
204.12.175.64

HOW DOES YOUR DOWNLOAD SPEED COMPARE WITH YOUR EXPECTATIONS?



Having Internet Problems?
Popular services with reported issues

-  [Garmin Connect Problems](#)
-  [Garmin Problems](#)
-  [Friday the 13th The Game](#)

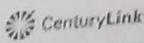
HughesNet  **HughesNet Gen5**
 High-speed Satellite Internet
 Available Where You Live

CenturyLink Internet
 with Price For Life

\$49/mo

Rate requires paperless billing and excludes taxes. Additional fees apply. Get the fastest internet speed available at your home (max speed is up to 100 Mbps).

[Learn More](#)

Details 

INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

211 N Waucanza St. Dietrich, ID

Download Speed



SPEED TEST COMPLETED

Server: ndt-iupui-mlab3-den06.mlab-oti.measurement-

lab.org

Compare Providers

Bandwidth Calculator

Share this Result

Test Again

Summary

Details

Advanced

DOWNLOAD SPEED

8.70 Mb/s

UPLOAD SPEED

609.00
kb/s

Your Internet speed is fast enough for normal use by 1-2 people. Video services like Netflix may struggle in HD, or if multiple users attempt to stream at the same time.

Share Result URL

<https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/anol5f72-c40e-4a8a-8a3f-86fbt>

[url]<https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/anol5f72-c40e-4a8a-8a3f-8>

Share Result Image

<https://speedtest.broadbandnow.com/7/9/c/anol5f72-c40e-4a8a-8a3f>

[img]<https://speedtest.broadbandnow.com/7/9/c/anol5f72-c40e-4a8a>

BroadbandNow is supported by commissions from some of the providers listed on our site. [Learn More](#)

575 Main St. Dietrich, ID

INTERNET SPEED TEST

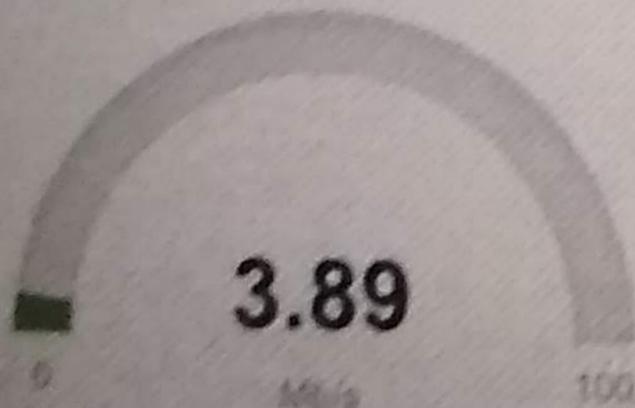
In the past 30 days over 33,670,871 people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Summary

Details

Advanced

Download Speed



↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

3.89 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

1.46 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is slower than average. It is sufficient for basic uses like email and web browsing but will likely struggle when...

Name of Applicant: Eden

Application number: 4257

City of Eden
Blaine Campbell
Mayor City of Eden
250 N. Pacific Street
Eden, ID 83325

Eric Forsch
Broadband Development Manager
Idaho Commerce
700 W State Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

July 28, 2020

Mr. Forsch

I am writing in response to the protest challenge to our broadband grant APP-004257. The data collection and rebuttal has certainly been a difficult burden for a small city with one full time employee and one part time employee and a willing group of three volunteers to gather data in just three business days. As I understand the process the protesting and public comment period went from July 13-July 24. If I am correct that provides 11 some days for a full time staff and the legal team of a large company to challenge our grant.

In the beginning of this grant process. We were asked by White Cloud Communications if they could meet with me to present a plan which they did. I invited them back to the Eden City Council meeting. I also extended the invitation to SafeLink, Project Mutual Telephone and Tekfinity. At our city council meeting only Tekfinity, and White Cloud presented. We asked both companies questions related to the project and asked both companies to send us documents explaining their plan within the following 24 hours. A council member then made the motion to postpone the decision for 48 hours. We then posted another meeting and following Idaho code for posting a special meeting after the required 24 hours met again. During the time span of those two special meetings only Tekfinity provided the documents we asked for. The council reviewed the documents and made a decision to partner with Tekfinity based on the evidence and documentation they provided.

White Cloud Communications is challenging our grant. As you can see from the above history White Cloud Communications sought us out, presented to me and the council on two different occasions thereby implying that they believed we qualified for the grant as per the grant requirements. That being our citizens were not receiving the minimum 25/3 internet speeds.

The evidence gathered from speed tests and surveys from local residents do not bear out the claims made by Whitecloud communications that we already receive 25/3 internet connections. Over a three day span the average internet speed is 12.48 MBPS download and 2.08 MBPS upload. In the survey we discovered the following providers with the majority share being century link, followed by Safelink, with one customer each of Rise Broadband, Whitecloud, and Straight Talk Wireless. The range goes from the top speed of

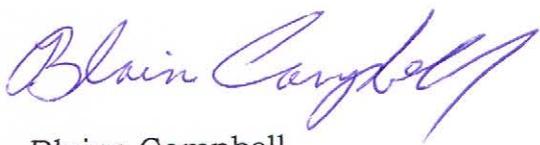
50 MBPS which is the business account to .08 at a residence. You can see from the range that the services provided are not consistent and many citizens complained that speeds vary by the time of day and sometimes are much worse. Nearly every family with school age children commented that when students were forced to go to on-line instruction that the speeds plummeted and they noted that it was very difficult to complete assignments.

You can see that the evidence denotes unreliable and unstable service. In addition to being unreliable and unstable it is also very expensive. Nearly everyone except the business account is paying for a product and a service they are not receiving. Many of them are paying \$80-\$90 some of them are paying much more. In the worst case discrepancies a family was paying \$62 a month and were receiving at the time of the speed test 3.08 MBPS download. In another case a family was paying \$80 for the package and was receiving 5.33 MBPS. This particular case has been using the speedtest app for several months and showed me the record it was consistently in the low single digits. The particular package this family purchased claims it provides 15 MBPS download and 3 MBPS upload. Clearly it is a rare occurrence when internet speeds are delivered at the rates these companies claim.

Finally, this grant is vital to several communities between the connection point and point of delivery in Eden. We have the opportunity to enhance service in Murtaugh, bring high speed internet into the city of Hazelton and bring higher speeds to our school as the fiber optic cable will go right by Valley Elementary and Valley High School. Providing improved and enhanced services to a population that has been overcharged and underserved for decades. As a small city we have a total city budget of about \$250,000 much of that goes to provide the basic services a city should provide for its citizens. As you can see we would never be able to afford bringing fiber optic into our community with our current budget.

The time has come and the opportunity is here to finally provide services to an underserved population. We ask the Department of Commerce to review the facts we have provided. The evidence is clear that we need fiber optic in our community as we look to strengthen our infrastructure. We look forward to partnering with Tekfinity and the Department of Commerce to make this a reality.

Respectfully,



Blaine Campbell
Mayor City of Eden

Attachments:

- 52 surveys
- Letter of support
- 1 data table
- 2 screenshots of speed tests

City of Eden App-004257 – Idaho Department of Commerce CARES Act Broadband Grant – Households – Rebuttal

To respond to the challenge submitted by White Cloud:

1. Per the Household Grants Program Guidelines: 50% of households are currently in an unserved and 50% of households are in an underserved area.

The City of Eden has gone the extra mile and knocked on random doors – asking the question – what is your download/upload speeds? As the exclamations of “I have no idea what you are talking about” escaped the neighbors’ mouths – the friendly Mayor, Councilpersons, and staff exclaimed “here let me help you”. And so, began a community outreach effort – Broadband in a small town!!!

You will see by the attached excel spreadsheet that the current average speed of download MBPS is 12.48958333 and the upload average speed is 2.083461538. This of course is a percentage of the households that are currently receiving broadband in the City of Eden. As the Mayor of a small community I gave screen shots of my internet speeds at three different time of the day to support my claim of poor internet service. With this information we are seeing that Eden needs the proposed Tekfinity proposal.

During this time of pandemic and stay-at-home orders we must make sure that our rural Idaho communities have access to reliable internet services. Our children may be online for school, our parents may be working from home, and our public officials may be remote access for their meetings. This is an opportunity for the City of Eden to meet the needs of their community.

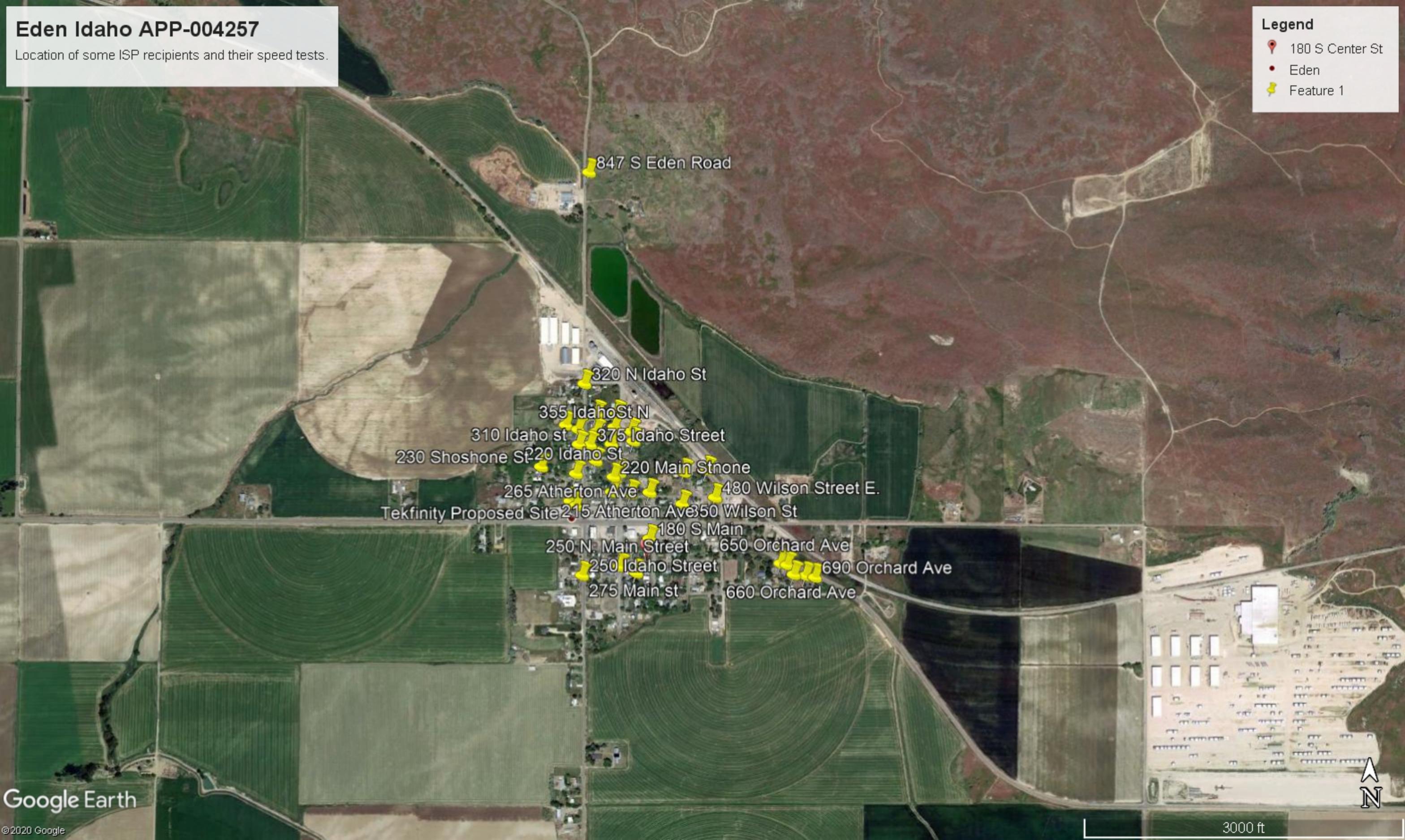
Tekfinity proposed a fiber route from the local community of Murtaugh past the local high school then into the City of Eden. This was a well-thought-out proposal from Tekfinity since they can cost effectively provide service to households along the fiber path. They will provide service to the City of Eden and the City of Hazelton. Tekfinity considered both communities in their proposal by proposing cost breaks to both communities.

Eden Idaho APP-004257

Location of some ISP recipients and their speed tests.

Legend

- 📍 180 S Center St
- Eden
- 📌 Feature 1



847 S Eden Road

320 N Idaho St

355 Idaho St N

310 Idaho st

375 Idaho Street

230 Shoshone St

220 Idaho St

220 Main St none

265 Atherton Ave

480 Wilson Street E.

Tekfinity Proposed Site

215 Atherton Ave

350 Wilson St

180 S Main

250 N. Main Street

650 Orchard Ave

250 Idaho Street

690 Orchard Ave

275 Main st

660 Orchard Ave



Mayor's

SPEEDTEST Apps Insights Network Developers Enterprise About Log In

Ad
Do This To Fix Slow Wi-Fi
New plug-in device will double internet speeds & Wi-Fi signal
UltraWiFiPro **OPEN**

SHARE Result ID: 9820737803 RESULTS SETTINGS

PING ms	DOWNLOAD Mbps	UPLOAD Mbps
25	0.08	1.55

GO

Connections
Multi
CenturyLink
Boise, ID
Change Server
CenturyLink
75.174.65.33

RATE YOUR PROVIDER
CenturyLink
★★★★★

Honda Summer CLEARANCE Event
2020 HR-V CVT AWD LX
\$179 per month for 36 months **\$3,599** due at lease ending
Includes down payment, no security deposit required, excludes tax, title, license and dealer fees. For well-qualified customers.
SEE OFFERS
Southern Idaho Honda Dealers

SafeLink 477 Block...kmz SafeLink 477 Bloc...html Eden Century Lin...html Broadband Grant...tml Broadband Grant...tml Show all

Document1 - Word Internet survey CIT... Speedtest by DoFile... The Agricultural Ex... Calculator - Calcul... 8:54 AM 7/27/2020

①

May 2015

speedtest.net/result/9820779532

SHARE RESULTS SETTINGS

Result ID: 9820779532

Metric	Value
PING ms	191
DOWNLOAD Mbps	0.48
UPLOAD Mbps	3.05

GO

Connections: Multi, CenturyLink, Boise, ID, Change Server, CenturyLink, 75.17: 65.33

RATE YOUR PROVIDER: CenturyLink, ★★★★★

Having Internet Problems? Popular services with reported issues

- Garmin Connect Possible Problems
- Garmin Problems

Ad: Do This To Fix Slow Wi-Fi. New plug-in device will double internet speeds & Wi-Fi signal. OPEN

Summer Clearance Event

Taskbar: Safelink 477 Block...kms, Safelink 477 Bloc...html, Eden Century Link...html, Broadband Grant...html, Broadband Grant...html, Show all

System Tray: 9:00 AM, 7/27/2020

2

Mayors

SPEEDTEST Apps Insights Network Developers Enterprise About Log In

SHARE [Icons] Result ID: 9812599380 RESULTS SETTINGS

PING ms: 40 DOWNLOAD Mbps: 10.64 UPLOAD Mbps: 4.25

GO

Connections:
Multi
The College of Idaho
Caldwell, ID
Change Server
CenturyLink
75.174.65.33

HOW LIKELY IS IT THAT YOU WOULD RECOMMEND CENTURYLINK TO A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

100% at all times Extremely Lively

HONDA
Honda Summer CLEARANCE Event
2020 HR-V CVT AWD LX
\$179 per month for 36 months **\$3,599** due at lease ending
Includes down payment, no security deposit required, excludes tax, title, license and dealer fees. For well-qualified customers.
SEE OFFERS
Southern Idaho Honda Dealers

Safelink 477 Block... Safelink 477 Bloc...html Eden Century Lin...html Broadband Grant...htm Broadband Grant...html Show all

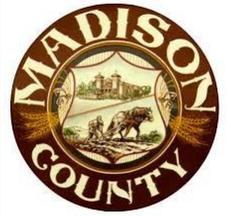
Document1 - Word Document2 - Word Speedtest by Ookla... The Agricultural Ex... 12:02 PM 7/25/2020

(13)

Name of Applicant: Madison

Application number: 4275

MADISON COUNTY
134 E Main, Rexburg ID 83440
Phone (208)359-6259
Fax (208) 356-6308



Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Idaho Department of Commerce
700 W. State Street
Boise, Idaho 83440

Subject: Cable One Inc., d.b.a. Sparklight Broadband Challenge to Madison County's State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application Public Safety/Local Government - APP-004275

Dear Mr. Forsch, Broadband Development Manager:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Sparklight's challenge to Madison County's grant application for the "Idaho Public Broadband Grant – Public Safety and Local Government." Sparklight claims Madison County's grant is ineligible because, the application does not meet the stated criteria:

- a. Per Public Safety and Local Government Grant Program Guidelines, the project "must be a project that does not overbuild existing broadband infrastructure at the required speeds to a local government facility for public safety and local governance."
- b. Project would overbuild existing broadband infrastructure at the required speeds to a local government facility.
- c. All Madison County buildings in Rexburg can be serviced by Sparklight at the required speeds. Currently the County Office, the County Sheriff's Office, the County Fire Office, and the Madison County Hospital are Sparklight customers.

Madison County is grateful for and recognizes that Sparklight and other broadband service providers in the County do indeed provide services for most of the City Rexburg and very limited populated areas within the unincorporated regions in the County. It is the underserved unincorporated areas that is the focus of Madison County's grant application.

The majority of the proposed route by Madison County is one that currently has no broadband infrastructure, including any associated equipment, or any accessories as well. In addition, along this route there are no current ISP providers that come anywhere close to meeting the desired broadband capable speeds of 1,000 Mbps symmetrical. Please see the attached proposed route maps for the new fiberoptic line.

Sparklight mentioned that the some of the centralized County facilities within the City of Rexburg are current customers of theirs. That is correct, but Sparklight failed to mention, or understand, that the purpose of this grant and its proposed route addresses the County's critical need to connect these centralized facilities to our remote fire station located in the unincorporated area of Archer. This fire station is essential for our emergency response network and services for the southern region of our county.

Along the County's proposed route Madison County currently has no public location that could provide Wi-Fi access where up to 100 citizens could simultaneously access even minimal broadband speeds and still practice physical distancing. Along this proposed route Madison County Officials have identified several potential locations where this could happen.

This proposed new broadband line is not intended to hurt anyone's business. On the contrary, it is designed to help existing broadband providers to potentially reach a new customer base to expand their services. I invite Sparklight, along with other fiber optic line providers, to work with us and our proposed new broadband line. This project will be a county owned asset, but the county will contract only with for-profit ISP's to provide internet service over the broadband network.

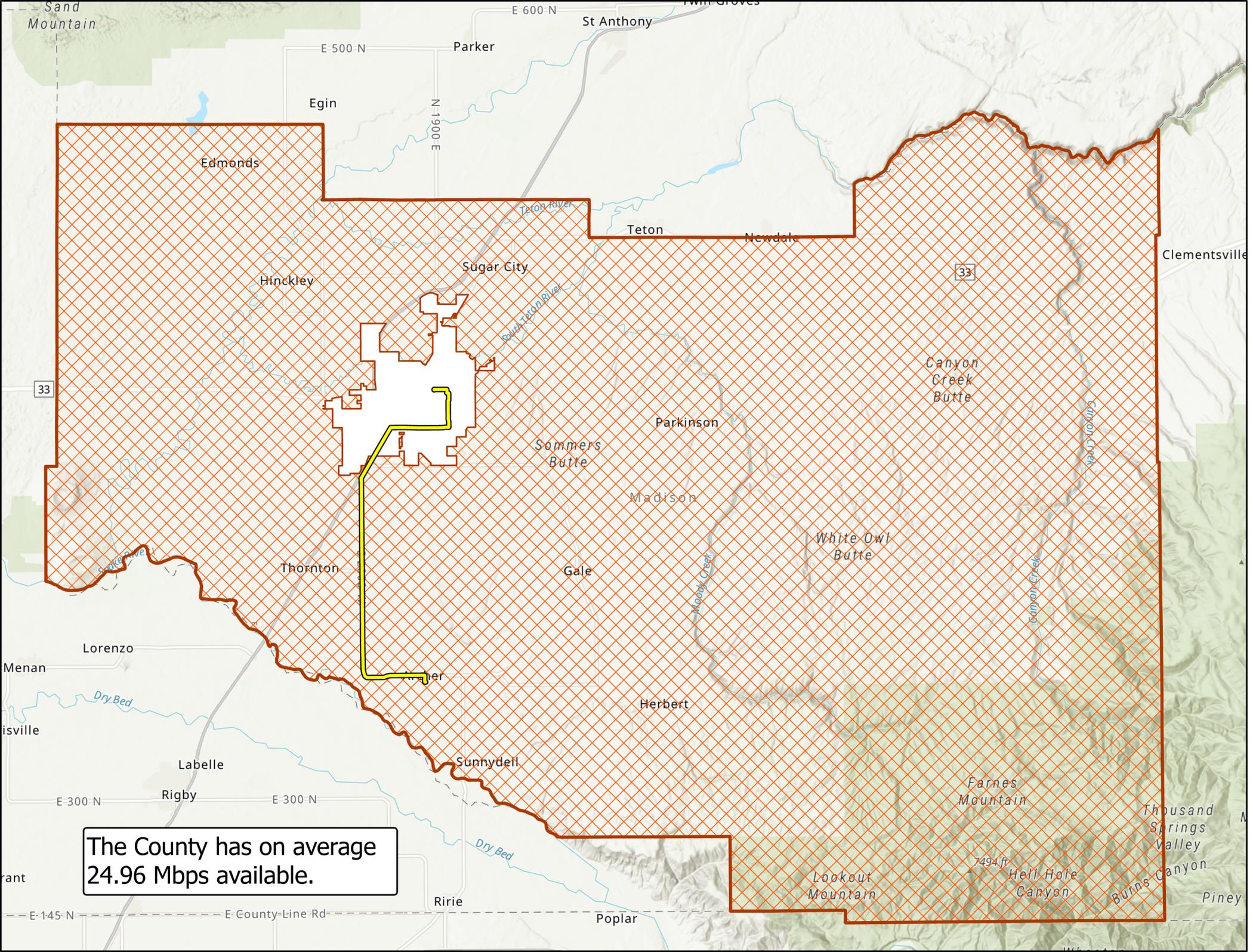
Madison County appreciates the services and product Sparklight provides for some of our citizens throughout the county. We look forward to working with them in the future as they continue to expand.

Madison County respectfully requests that the challenge from Sparklight be dismissed and our application continue through the approval process. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley Petersen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Bradley Petersen,
Grant Administrator



The County has on average
24.96 Mbps available.

County Admin Building

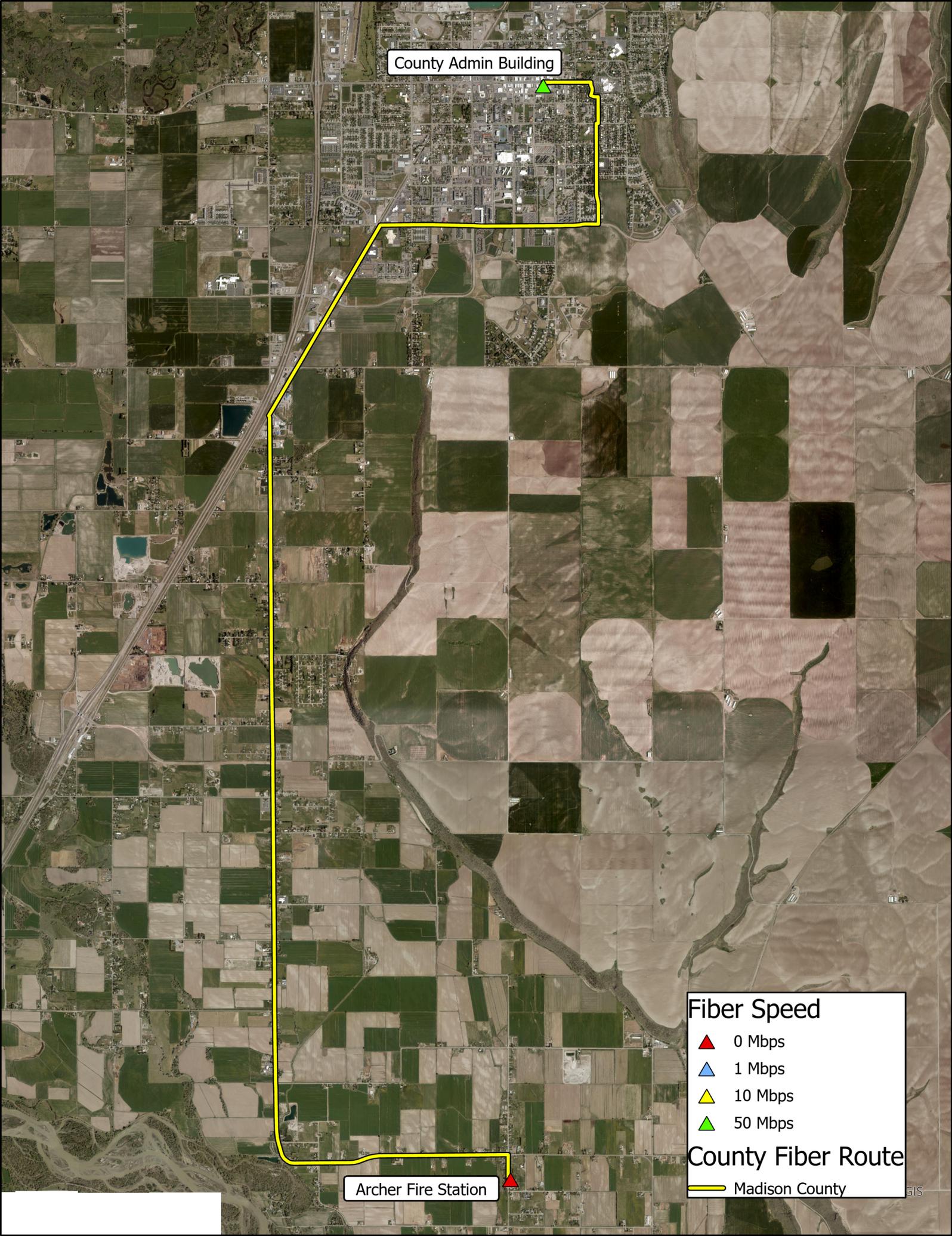
Fiber Speed

- ▲ 0 Mbps
- ▲ 1 Mbps
- ▲ 10 Mbps
- ▲ 50 Mbps

County Fiber Route

— Madison County

Archer Fire Station

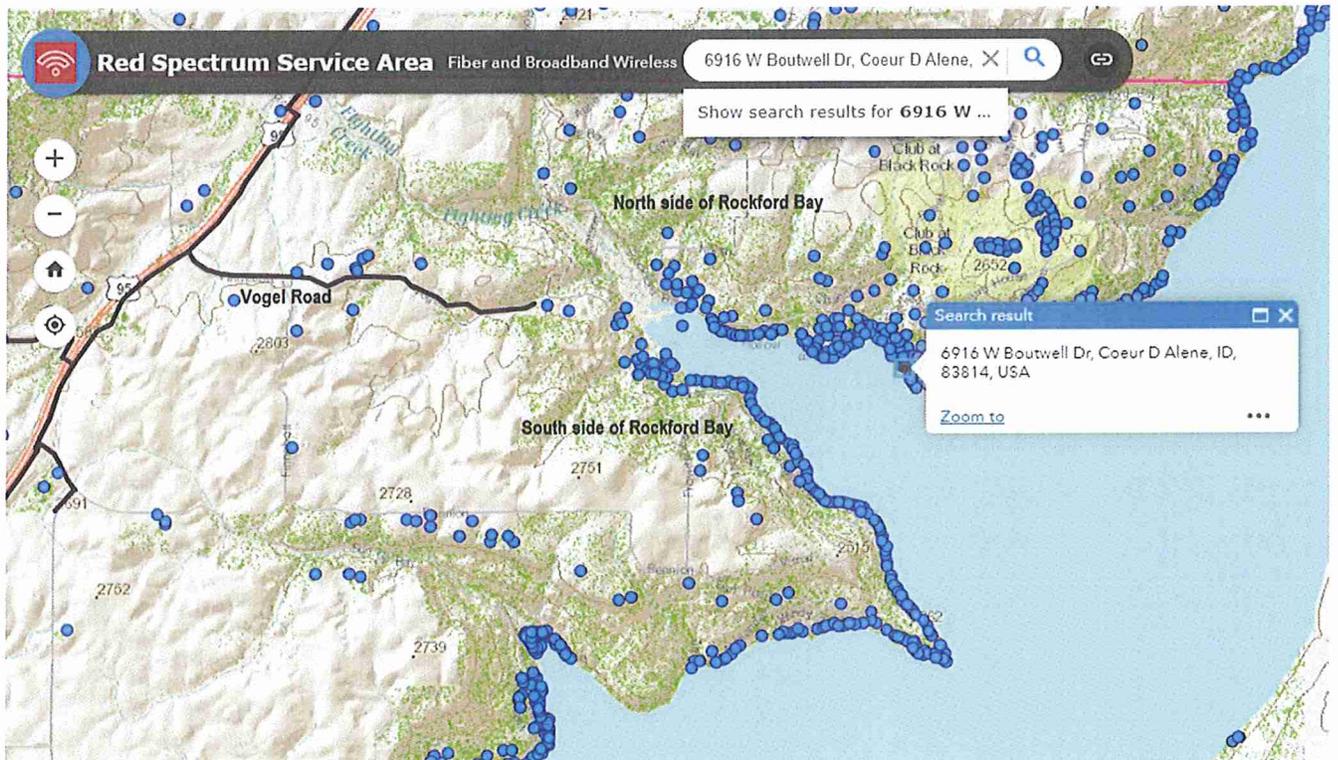


Name of Applicant: Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Application number: 4289

Response to the challenge submitted regarding Idaho Broadband Grant #APP-004289

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe received notice of Spectrum Pacific West, LLC's challenge to our proposed grant project titled Vogel Rd to Rockford Bay.

In their challenge, Spectrum states that the project area includes an area that they already serve, specifically the North side of Rockford Bay, and the south west parts of Rockford Bay. Spectrum provided a screen shot from their publicly-available service tool which describes the broadband internet products available to homes and businesses in Rockford Bay. The address they used to verify service is located in the North side of Rockford Bay at 6916 W Boutwell Dr, Coeur D Alene, ID 83814.



Our proposed project does not include the North side of Rockford Bay. The project area is located along Vogel Road into the South side of Rockford Bay, ending on West Ben Pointe Road, as shown below.



Using Spectrum's publicly-available service tool on their website, I entered the following addresses to verify whether service was available in our project area on the South side of Rockford Bay:

10642 Vogel Rd, Worley, ID 83876

19835 S Watson Rd , Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

6816 W. Half Circle Loop, Worley, ID 83876

servlet.EmailAttachmentDown X Spectrum Residential - Error X +

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 https://buy.spectrum.com/buyflow/localization-... 🔍 Search

Spectrum

[Start Again](#)

Please call 1-855-640-0893 to verify that Spectrum services are available at the address you provided

You entered: **10642 Vogel Rd, 83876** [edit address](#)

Spectrum customer support hours:
Monday through Friday
8 AM - 12 AM EST
Saturday through Sunday
9 AM - 12 AM EST

servlet.EmailAttachmentDown X Spectrum Residential - Error X +

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 https://buy.spectrum.com/buyflow/localization-... 🔍 Search

Spectrum

[Start Again](#)

Please call 1-855-640-0893 to verify that Spectrum services are available at the address you provided

You entered: **19835 S Watson Rd, 83814** [edit address](#)

Spectrum customer support hours:
Monday through Friday
8 AM - 12 AM EST
Saturday through Sunday
9 AM - 12 AM EST

Not all products, pricing, and services are available in all areas. Pricing and actual speeds may vary. Speed based on wired connection. Available internet speeds may vary by address. Restrictions apply.
[Your Privacy Rights](#) | [Policies](#) | [Contract Buyout Information](#) | [Ratecard](#)

servlet.EmailAttachmentDown X Spectrum Residential - Error X +

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 https://buy.spectrum.com/buyflow/localization-... 🔍 Search

Spectrum

[Start Again](#)

Please call 1-855-640-0893 to verify that Spectrum services are available at the address you provided

You entered: **6816 W Half Circle Loop, 83876** [edit address](#)

Spectrum customer support hours:
Monday through Friday
8 AM - 12 AM EST
Saturday through Sunday
9 AM - 12 AM EST

All three addresses came back with messages to call them to verify if Spectrum services are available at the addresses provided. I called Spectrum at 1-855-640-0893 and verified that service is not available at the three address located in the South side of Rockford Bay. Therefore, the South side of Rockford Bay remains an unserved area and should remain as an eligible area for funding under the State of Idaho Broadband Grant Application Program.

Respectfully submitted,

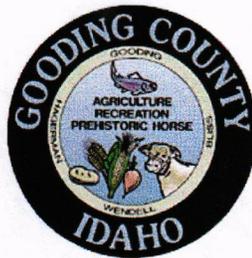


7-27-2020

Valerie Fast Horse
IT Director
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Name of Applicant: Gooding

Application number: 4291



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 417
Gooding, ID 83330
(208) 934-4841

Susan Bolton @ **Mark Bolduc** @ **Ronald Buhler**
Denise M. Gill, Clerk

July 28, 2020

Tom Kealy, Director
Idaho Department of Commerce
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0093

Dear Mr. Kealy,

Gooding County has been working daily speaking with our constituents on the need of Broadband in our rural areas. Gooding County is seeing a large growth of families moving to our area and Broadband is just as important to them as utilities. More and more of these people need it to perform their jobs from home and their children's online education.

Our Healthcare Providers need strong reliable broadband to provide telemedicine to their patients and, our citizens, depend on this communication. We realize some people in our small towns can get internet but the people in the rural areas are being deprived and left out of this new technology.

We have viewed potential tower sites, held special meetings, discussed this issue in our regular meeting and have met with White Cloud Communications about filling this need since we are very motivated to help our communities. White Cloud Communications is the only Internet Service Provider that has expressed an interest in working with us.

Additionally you should know that Region IV Development has been a tremendous asset to Gooding County and we strongly recommend their services.

We encourage you to approve this application so we can be competitive in this ever changing world.

Respectfully,

Mark Bolduc
Chairman Gooding Commissioners

**Gooding County App-004291 – Idaho Department of Commerce CARES Act Broadband Grant –
Households – Rebuttal**

To respond to the challenge submitted by Sparklight:

1. Per the Household Grants Program Guidelines, projects in underbuilt areas are prohibited from “overbuild[ing] existing broadband service.”

When Gooding County and the City of Gooding discussed the Broadband application, the City of Gooding decided not to apply for the Broadband grant because of this statement. They did not want to saturate the area with more than necessary Internet Service Providers (ISP). The City of Gooding provided a letter of support for the County application so the ISP could include the coverage map and area that would overlap. The reason behind that decision was that there are certain locations within the City of Gooding that have access to internet with lackluster speed. Even with the options of multiple ISP’s we have residents who are most certainly unserved per the random speed tests we received throughout Gooding County.

Please refer to the map for internet speed tests in Gooding County. The addresses within the city show that the speed tests conducted came back as slow internet speed. The Covid- 19 pandemic has identified a greater need for better internet connectivity for distance learning and working from home. The current services offered in Gooding County have caused frustration for residents complying with the stay at home order because of the slow download speed.

Our question is – if we have an overbuild of Internet Service Providers but they are not providing the residents of Gooding County with broadband to meet the minimum 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload - how do we as public servants –answer to them? Who decides underbuilt and overbuilt requirement in a small rural community?

2. Underbuilt areas are “locations where less than 50% of the locations in the project area have access to broadband service [25 Mbps down/3 Mbps up].”

As stated above, per our random speed tests the residents of Gooding County are unserved. They are well below the 10 Mbps download and the 1 Mbps upload speed required to meet the unserved requirement. Again, we want to ask – is the area projected “underbuilt”?

3. Sparklight has service in Gooding, ID – covering over 50% of the households.

Both Gooding County and the City of Gooding do realize that Sparklight is an Internet Service Provider in the area – however it is not clear if Sparklight provides service to OVER 50% of the households within the County of Gooding. The county has pursued this broadband opportunity since WhiteCloud has provided adequate documentation that they can provide towers that will reach our residents outside of the City of Gooding. Whitecloud can provide the 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speeds because of their technology and location of the proposed towers.

To respond to the challenge submitted by Safelink:

1. The application does not meet the stated criteria: 50% of households are currently in an unserved area and 50% of households are in an underserved area.

To reiterate, The City of Gooding did not submit an application for the Broadband Grant as stated in Safelink's challenge. When Gooding County and the City of Gooding discussed the Broadband application, the City of Gooding decided not to apply for the Broadband grant because of this statement. They did not want to saturate the area with more than necessary Internet Service Providers (ISP). The City of Gooding provided a letter of support for the County application so the ISP could include the coverage map and area that would overlap. The reason behind that decision was that there are certain locations within the City of Gooding that have access to internet with lackluster speed. Even with the options of multiple ISP's we have residents who are most certainly unserved per the random speed tests we received throughout Gooding County.

Please refer to the map for internet speed tests and a location of a Safelink tower in Gooding County. The addresses within the city show that the speed tests conducted came back as slow internet speed. The Covid- 19 pandemic has identified a greater need for better internet connectivity for distance learning and working from home. The current services offered in Gooding County have caused frustration for residents complying with the stay at home order because of the slow download speed.

Our question is – if we have an overbuild of Internet Service Providers but they are not providing the residents of Gooding County with broadband to meet the minimum 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload - how do we as public servants –answer to them? Who decides underbuilt and overbuilt requirement in a small rural community?

To respond to the challenge submitted by Tekfinity:

1. The application does not meet the stated criteria: 50% of households are currently in an unserved area and 50% of households are in an underserved area.

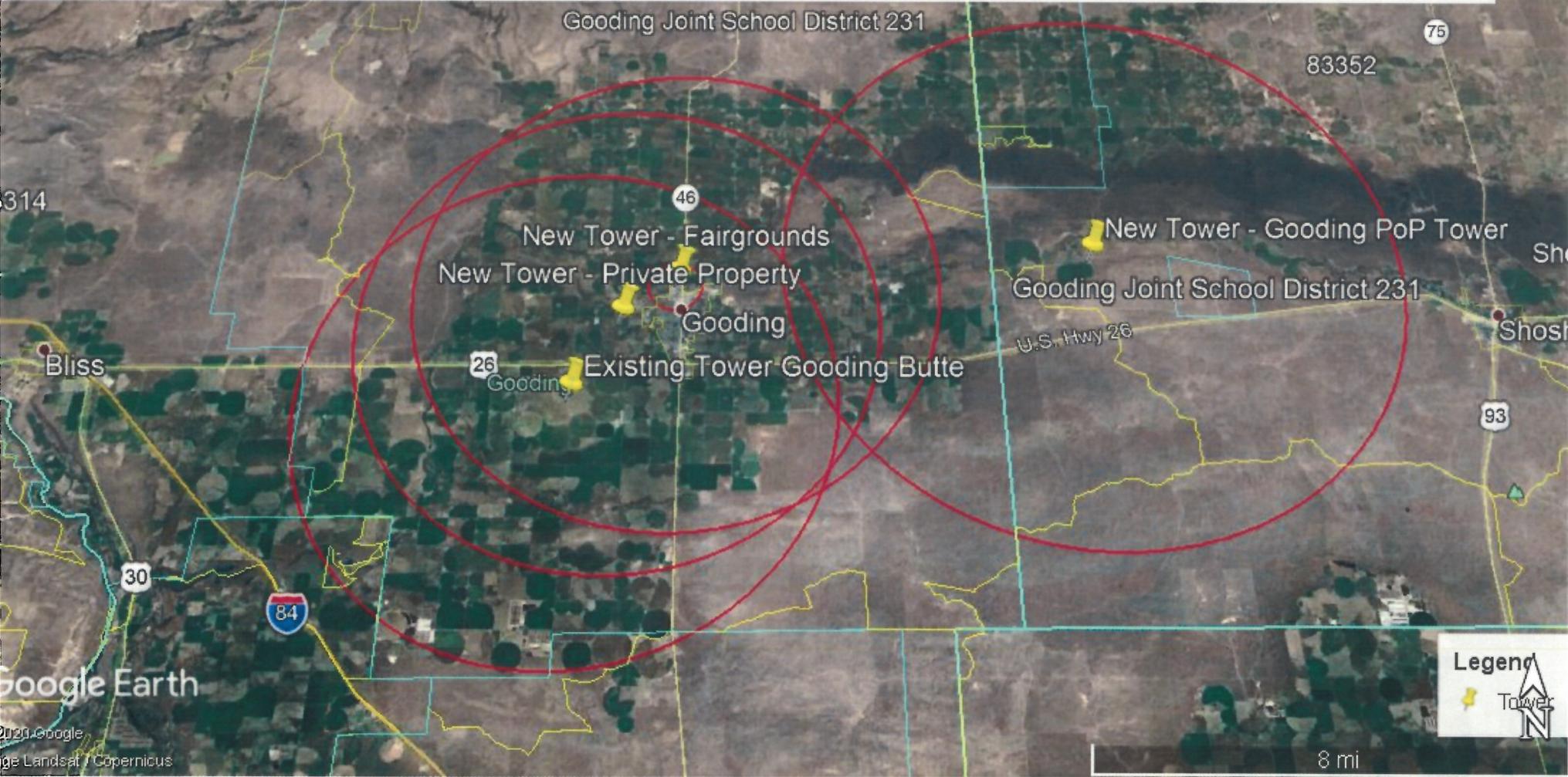
When Gooding County and the City of Gooding discussed the Broadband application, the City of Gooding decided not to apply for the Broadband grant because of this statement. They did not want to saturate the area with more than necessary Internet Service Providers (ISP). The City of Gooding provided a letter of support for the County application so the ISP could include the coverage map and area that would overlap. The reason behind that decision was that there are certain locations within the City of Gooding that have access to internet with lackluster speed. Even with the options of multiple ISP's we have residents who are most certainly unserved per the random speed tests we received throughout Gooding County.

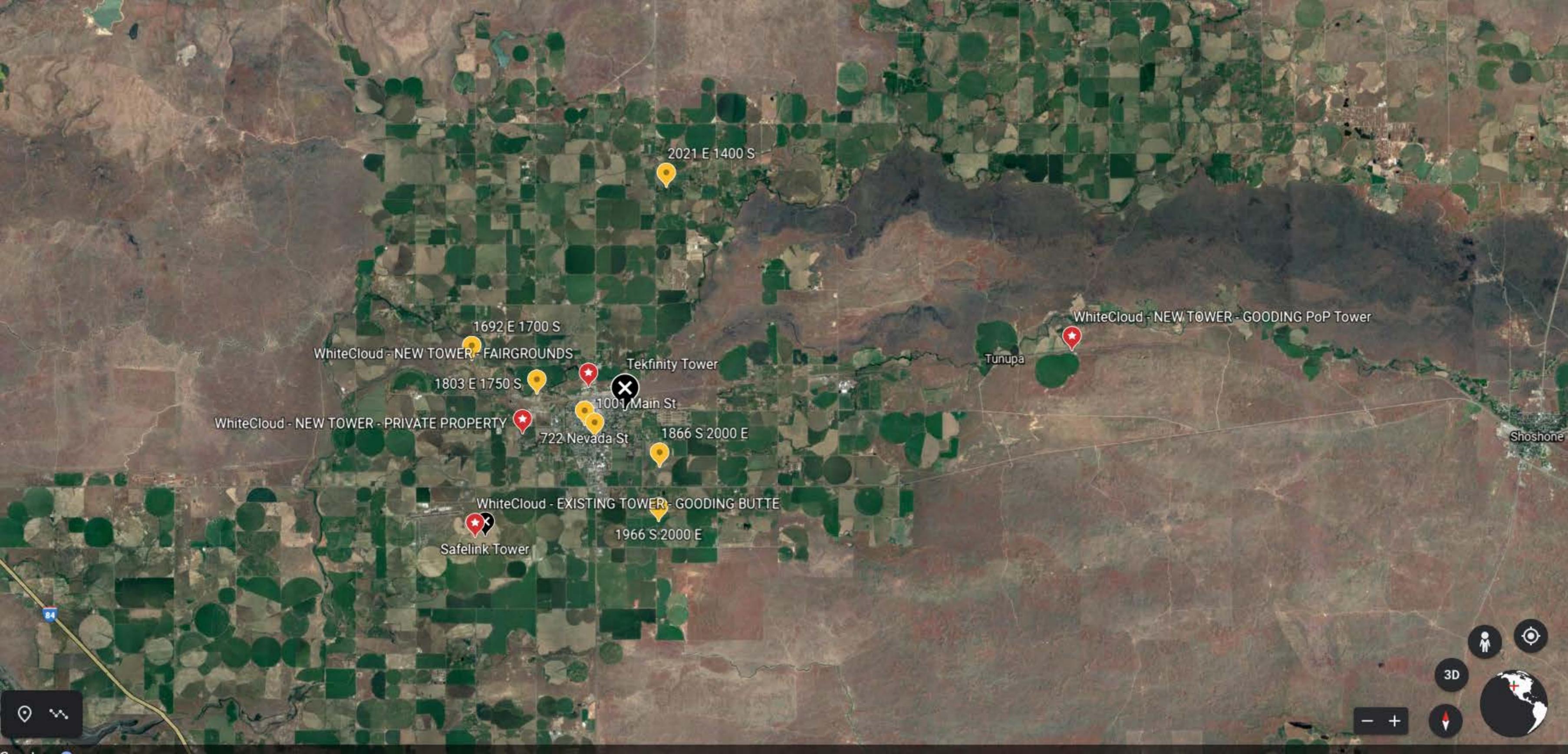
Please refer to the map for internet speed tests and a location of a Tekfinity tower in Gooding County. The addresses within the city show that the speed tests conducted came back as slow internet speed. The Covid- 19 pandemic has identified a greater need for better internet connectivity for distance learning and working from home. The current services offered in Gooding

County have caused frustration for residents complying with the stay at home order because of the slow download speed. Our question is – if we have an overbuild of Internet Service Providers but they are not providing the residents of Gooding County with broadband to meet the minimum 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload - how do we as public servants –answer to them? Who decides underbuilt and overbuilt requirement in a small rural community?

Gooding Project Coverage Circles

Coverage area where we would be able to deliver up to 100x20 Speeds. The small circle around the Fairground tower would be able to deliver up to 1000x1000





2021 E 1400 S

1692 E 1700 S

WhiteCloud - NEW TOWER - FAIRGROUNDS

Tekfinity Tower

WhiteCloud - NEW TOWER - GOODING PoP Tower

Tunupa

1803 E 1750 S

1001 Main St

WhiteCloud - NEW TOWER - PRIVATE PROPERTY

722 Nevada St

1866 S 2000 E

Shoshone

WhiteCloud - EXISTING TOWER - GOODING BUTTE

1966 S 2000 E

Safelink Tower

84

3D

- +

Compare Providers

Bandwidth Calculator

↪ Share this Result

↻ Test Again

Summary Details Advanced

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

7.40 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

680.00 kb/s

Your Internet speed is fast enough for normal use by 1-2 people. Video services like Netflix may struggle in HD, or if multiple users attempt to



1803 E 1750 S
Gooding, ID
83330

Summary	Details	Advanced
<p>↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED</p> <p>4.41 Mb/s</p>		
<p>↑ UPLOAD SPEED</p> <p>4.14 Mb/s</p>		



Address: 1803 E 1750 S

MON 8:35 PM



Aa



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INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over 33,670,871 people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



Summary

DOWNLOAD SPEED

200.00
kb/s

UPLOAD SPEED

1.92 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is slower than average. It is sufficient for basic uses like email and web browsing but will likely struggle when streaming HD video, using Skype, and other video-based use cases.

Network latency: 663 msec round trip time

ENTER A ZIP CODE TO FIND PROVIDERS IN YOUR AREA.



Speed Test

See your download & upload speeds

Fastest Cities

Top 100 Fastest Cities in the US

Fastest Providers

Top 100 Fastest Providers in the US

Providers With Data Caps

Internet providers with data caps.

Municipal Providers

Municipal broadband in the US

AVERAGE INTERNET SPEED TEST RESULT IN THE US (2019-2020)



In this chart we show the average download speed across all users who ran a speed test in the last 12 months.

UNDERSTAND YOUR SPEED TEST RESULTS

[Is my internet speed test result fast enough?](#)

[Why run an internet speed test?](#)

[How to run a speed test](#)

[Understanding your internet speed test results](#)

[How much internet speed do I really need?](#)

1

72.13 MBPS

AVERAGE US INTERNET SPEED
DOWNLOAD MBPS

2

28.94ms

AVERAGE US SPEED TEST LATENCY

1966 S 2000 E
Gooding, ID
83330

INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



lab.org

SPEED TEST COMPLETED

Server: ndt-iupui-mlab3-sea02.mlab-oti.measurement-

[Compare Providers](#)

[Bandwidth Calculator](#)

Summary

Details

Advanced

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

363.00
kb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

943.62
kb/s

Your Internet speed is slower than average. It is sufficient for basic uses like email and web browsing but will likely struggle when streaming HD video, using Skype, and other video-based use cases.

Share Result URL

<https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/9nolhbot-vy3a-4c81-9e29-0dea>





BroadbandNow is supported by commissions from some of the providers listed on our site. [Learn More](#)

BROADBANDNOW®



2021 E 1400 S
Gooding, ID 83330

INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



SPEED TEST COMPLETED

Server: ndt-iupui-mlab2-sea03.mlab-oti.measurement-lab.org

[Compare Providers](#)[Bandwidth Calculator](#)

SOUTHERN IDAHO REGIONAL
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



"911 DISPATCH"

JEROME-TWIN FALLS-GOODING-LINCOLN COUNTY

911 East Avenue H • P.O. Box 504 • Jerome, Idaho 83338
(208) 324-1344 • Fax (208) 324-1443

Director
Brett Reid

Deputy Director
Kristy Churchman

White Cloud Communications
Letter of Recommendation
July 7th, 2020

In January of this year, discussions between Southern Idaho Regional Communication (SIRCOMM) and White Cloud Communications began regarding a very important radio build out project. The culmination of that project will ultimately serve more than 41 first responder agencies who are stakeholders spread across the four county SIRCOMM service area.

To date, SIRCOMM has entered into four separate service agreements with White Cloud, and each agreement has been, or is currently being, fulfilled with all expectations being met or exceeded. White Cloud Communications' performance record has been excellent.

White Cloud has been responsive to requests of all kinds, including, but not limited to emergency service call-outs. Our relationship with White Cloud Communications has been a positive experience. They have proven themselves trustworthy, responsible, and dedicated to our mission here at SIRCOMM. We expect to continue to utilize their expertise as we strive to improve services in an ever changing and complex environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Reid
Director, SIRCOMM



Illinois Electric Cooperative

Two South Main Street
Winchester, Illinois 62694
Telephone: (217) 742-3128
Fax: (217) 742-3831

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing this letter to recommend the services of White Cloud Communications, WCC. Summer of 2019, WCC completed a large project for us, Illinois Electric Cooperative, IEC, and has been working with us ever since. We have always been more than satisfied with their work.

WCC is a leader in Telrad deployments in the nation. WCC provided IEC with a turnkey implementation of Telrad which IEC has never dealt with before. WCC deployed 8 tower sites/32 sectors for IEC's network. WCC procured, provisioned, and installed the equipment. Trained IEC staff on best practice. Assisted with network design. WCC also provides IEC with ongoing support and training for the consistently changing technology that fixed wireless is. These 8 towers have been active for over a year now and IEC has seen an uptick in data usage and installs from the Telrad equipment. The WCC staff are highly experienced with the Telrad equipment and are extremely well to work with. WCC always go above and beyond with support and work swiftly to resolve any issues that we may have.

Thanks,

Matt Haverfield,
Manager of Network Operations



Twin Falls School District #411
201 Main Ave. W
Twin Falls, ID 83301

P 208.733.6900
F 208.733.6987
www.tfsd.org

Ryan Bowman, Operations & Educational Technology Director

August 28, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

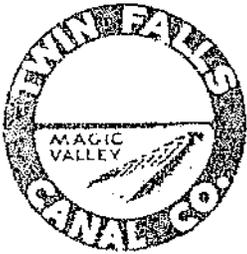
It is my pleasure to write this letter of endorsement for White Cloud Communications. They are currently providing the Twin Falls School District with service for one hundred radios that we use for communication with our buildings and throughout the district. We are extremely satisfied with the service we have received, and I highly recommend their service to others.

Last year we began using these radios to enhance communication in our buildings for safety and security purposes. They have performed well and when a minor issue has come up, White Cloud has been prompt and ready to come and work to fix the issue in a timely manner. We are very pleased with the service and quality of the product.

Please give White Cloud Communication your highest consideration. I am confident they will provide you with the same outstanding service we have received. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ryan Bowman
Operations & Educational Technology Director



TWIN FALLS CANAL COMPANY

357 6TH AVE WEST
POST OFFICE BOX 326
TWIN FALLS, IDAHO 83303-0326



To whom it may concern,

The Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC) has had a relationship with White Cloud since the 1980's or 1990's. We currently have automation on our canal system that consists of over 50 sites and covers an area of over 200,000 acres, two-way radios and phones for over 70 employees, and recently added internet service to one of hydro power plants, all of which are maintained by White Cloud Communications and White Cloud Technologies.

As Engineering Technician I work closely with White Cloud in all aspects of our communications program. I am confident that White Cloud is able to perform to highest standards.

If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Louis Zamora
Engineering Tech.
Twin Falls Canal Company
Office (208) 733-6731
Cell (208) 731-6851



Gooding School District
Home of the Senators

507 Idaho Street
Gooding, ID 83330
(208) 934-4321

May 25, 2016

White Cloud Communications
663 Main Ave E
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Dear White Cloud Communications,

On behalf of the Gooding Technology Consortium, I would like to say thank you for all the top quality services you have provided to Gooding and Dietrich Schools. The professionalism exhibited and rapid response to support requests by White Cloud has been noticed by all the staff here at Gooding Schools.

Our goal is to provide a high quality, technology driven education to the students we serve. The WAN link White Cloud setup between the two districts has provided significant savings allowing us to free up funds to spend in other areas. Your assistance in helping us accomplish this goal is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to use me as a reference in the future for any current or potential customers.

Sincerely

Don Van Kleeck
I.T. Director



June 25, 2013

Re: Financial strength and business acumen

To Whom-it-may-concern:

Let me introduce myself: I am Ray Parrish, Sr. Commercial Loan Officer for the Falls Branch of D.L. Evans Bank in Twin Falls. I have worked with Joseph Shelton and his company, White Cloud Communications, Inc., for over eight years. Mr. Shelton has had numerous loans with D.L. Evans Bank and has always paid them as agreed and, most times, has paid them off early as his cash flow has permitted. His integrity has always been one of great respect and he has always completed commitments to the bank in a very good manner. He is highly respected in the community and is considered a very valuable customer of this bank.

His business, White Cloud Communications, Inc., has been a very successful company due to Mr. Shelton's leadership and foresight in communications requirements and needs throughout the State of Idaho. He has kept very strong business deposits with the bank over the last eight years and looks to increase that relationship. He has been a customer who plans his debts with exactness and then presents a plan for timely payment of such obligations.

I would heartily support him in his endeavors and would offer this letter in support of any project for which he would submit to you. Should you have any other questions, please feel free to call me so that I can answer them for you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray M. Parrish". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Ray M. Parrish
Sr. Commercial Loan Officer



Kevin Guthrie
Commercial Banking
103 Main Ave E
Twin Falls, ID 83301
Phone: 208-735-5609
Fax: 208-734-0285

June 26, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to White Cloud Communication, LLC. White Cloud Communication has been a client of ours for 15+ years. Their performance is outstanding. White Cloud has borrowed funds in excess of a million dollars and payments and their ratios were always met and/or exceeded. White Cloud keeps a substantial amount of funds in their deposit accounts with us and we have never had any issues nor do we ever expect to.

If you require additional information, please feel free to contact me at the phone number above.

Kevin Guthrie

**Vice President/Relationship Manger
KeyBank Commercial Banking**

TS

Name of Applicant: Idaho Falls

Application number: 4305

Magaly Carrillo

From: Jace Yancey <JYancey@ifpower.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:48 AM
To: COM Broadband
Cc: Eric Forsch
Subject: Fybercom challenge

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This email is in response to Fybercom's challenge to the State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application Public Safety/Local Government - APP-004305. Below is Idaho Falls Power's statement with additional information and clarification to the Application.

1. Idaho Falls first priority with this application was to provide an area that if needed could provide residents access to high speed bandwidth regardless of where they lived. The current bandwidth speeds provided in an area was irrelevant to us. Our goal was to provide an area that could provide 100 residents simultaneous access to at least 25x3 speeds. We felt we could offer this and provide it by our FTTH network that is currently being constructed. As the Dept. of Commerce is aware based on our application we are only asking for a cost share to help and assist in providing this capability. The area we had in mind would be the parking lot and adjacent area next to Meleleuca field. To our knowledge no service providers currently provide service to the adjacent areas of Melaleuca field only to the baseball field itself.
2. Fybercom's test speed analysis that was provided as part of the challenge does not appear to offer the required 3Mbps that is required to meet the standard, it also does not provide a map stating WiFi coverage is provided to the adjacent areas that would facilitate at least 100 residents.



Jace Yancey | *Operation Technology Manager*

140 S Capital Ave
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
(208) 612-8121
jyancey@ifpower.org

Name of Applicant: Idaho Falls

Application number: 4305

Response to Challenge

It is true that Fybercom is currently working to serve homes in this area. We went out to the community and walked the neighborhoods and we could see two homes that were connected to Fybercom fiber. While we were visiting the neighborhood, we asked one of those two homeowners there how their internet reliability was and the resident said: "It sucks."

Fybercom is shooting a wireless signal from the Ammon area to the Country Club neighborhood – a distance of over 7 miles using equipment that is rated at 1.2Gbps. Fybercom then converts that wireless signal to a Fiber Optic network that they have started to build.

The difference between what Bonneville County and the Idaho Broadband Cooperative is proposing and what Fybercom is doing includes the following:

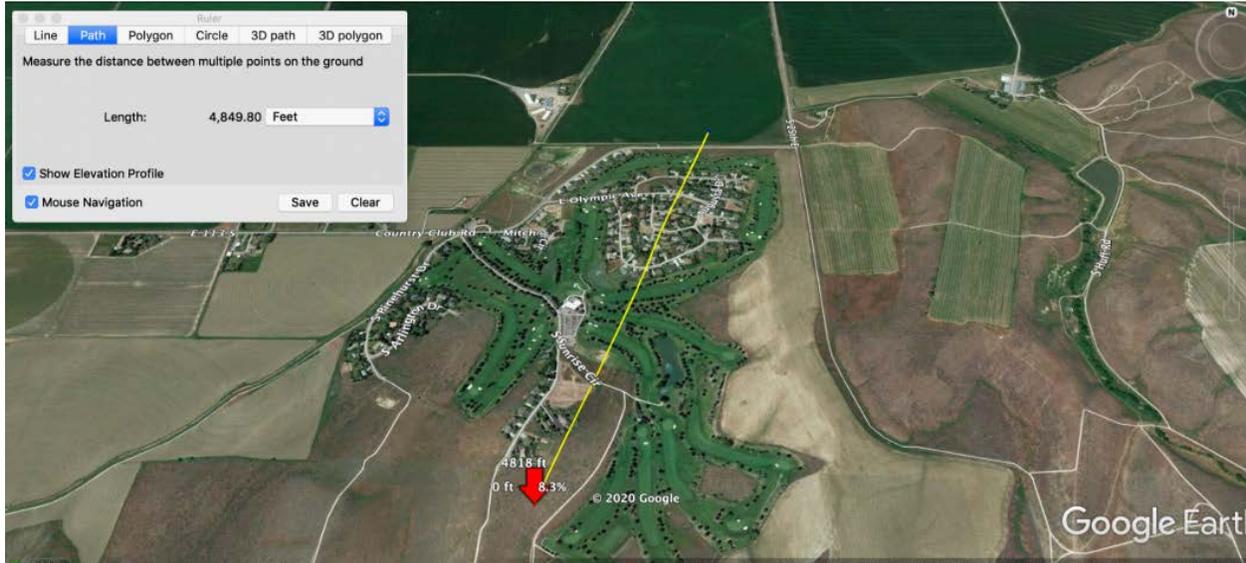
	Idaho Broadband	FyberCom
Infrastructure Ownership	Member Owned	FyberCom Owned
Number of ISP's	Open Access	1 ISP – FyberCom
Price	Less than \$60 per month	Varies between \$80 ~ \$200 pre month
Architecture	Fiber Backbone, Fiber to the Home	Wireless Backbone, Fiber to the Home
Network Design	Dedicated Fiber to the Home	Shared off Wireless Backbone
Reliability	Consistent 940 Mbps	Variable

If the State of Idaho seeks to support robust networks that are reliable in times of emergency for essential activities like school from home, working from home, telemedicine and public safety activities, the request by Idaho Broadband to connect this Country Club community with a fiber optic backbone is orders of magnitude more reliable than a signal over a 7 mile wireless backbone. Actual testing of the network design being deployed by Fybercom will reveal that reliability is a substantial problem. Rain and snow will cause fade in the signal and because this area is surrounded by golf course, there are many tree obstructions. Additionally, the topology has a rise/fall and dip in the middle that eliminates good microwave coverage from the valley.

We are requesting that the State grant this request to support a reliable network with a fiber optic backbone that can not only serve this community but additional developments that will emerge in years to come. Idaho Broadband is community owned and controlled. A Board of Directors is selected by those who voluntarily choose to participate.

We are not proposing to eliminate Fybercom from an ability to serve this area. The open access technology behind this network is the same technology used in Ammon, where Fybercom is today a service provider with 60% market share. Fybercom will be invited to be a service provider in a competitive environment with other service providers over a network that has a

dedicated fiber connection to each home and will remain reliable regardless of weather, geography or crisis.



Name of Applicant: Athol

Application number: 4297



2065 w. Riverstone drive ste. 105
Coeur d'Alene, id 83814

o 509 344 1008
f 509 344 1009

July 29, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Application – 004297
State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application
Public Safety and Local Government

RE: Spectrum Pacific West, LLC's Challenge to Fatbeam, LLC's Grant under APP – 004297

Dear Idaho Commerce Department:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a response to Spectrum Pacific West, LLC's ("Spectrum") challenge of the recent grant application that was submitted for the City of Athol, Idaho, broadband grant application number 004297 ("Application").

The Application's focus is to provide community access to the patrons of the City of Athol and to assist the City with a durable and reliable 1 GIG fiber optical Internet connection. The Application is requesting funding for infrastructure, equipment, and services to accommodate this immediate goal.

Spectrum's challenge to Fatbeam, LLC's ("Fatbeam") response under the Application ("Challenge") fails as Spectrum provides only coax service, not fiber optical service, thus the entire response and comparison is inaccurate and moot. Currently, Spectrum provides broadband coax services in a portion of the Athol, Idaho. Spectrum, however, does not provide dedicated symmetrical 1 GIG fiber optical Internet connections in Athol Idaho. There is a substantial technical difference between a coax connection and a fiber optical connection. Fatbeam offers a 100% fiber optical Internet connection which is critical to the City of Athol, as specifically provided in the City's Application. As you are likely aware, a fiber optical connection provides faster speeds, ability to increase bandwidth, and thus planning for the future based on scalability. Additionally, the City's Application contains certain service level requirements to the Athol City Hall, which, arguable, a coax connection could not provide, which is likely the reason the Application states a 1 GIG dedicated fiber optical connection is required. Fatbeam's 1 GIG dedicated fiber optical connection also provides significant Wi-Fi coverage outside the City's building and into the adjacent City park which provides the citizens and patrons of Athol, Idaho with a reliable and durable Internet connection, another requirement of the Application. Another Application requirement that, arguable, a coax connection could not provide. For these reasons, Fatbeam's offering adheres to the City's grant Application requirements whereas Spectrum's current offering, and thus Challenge, does not.

In reference to the Challenge language regarding overbuilding existing infrastructure, the Application states: "Be a project that does not overbuild existing broadband infrastructure at the required speeds to a local government facility for public safety and local governance." (Section 2. Iv). Spectrum does not provide the required speeds to the City of Athol via a symmetrical fiber internet-based offering. Attempting to compare the service offerings of Spectrum's coax services to Fatbeam's dedicated 1 GIG symmetrical fiber optical Internet offering is like comparing apples to oranges. Furthermore, Fatbeam also has fiber infrastructure in and around Athol, Idaho today.

The Challenge letter also references a two-step process regarding eligibility and mentions 50% of households. This Application is for the local government services grant and not applicable to the broadband grant which requires connections to households. Therefore, this argument also fails.

For all of the above stated reasons, Fatbeam asserts that the Challenge to the Application is without merit. Fatbeam's offering adheres to the requirements of the Application and accomplishes the goals of the community.

Kind regards,

Graham Taylor

Name of Applicant: McCall

Application number: 4160

Magaly Carrillo

From: Delta James <djames@mccall.id.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 1:21 PM
To: COM Broadband
Cc: Eric Forsch; Chris Curtin; Anette Spickard
Subject: CARES Act Broadband Grant Application Challenge Response - City of McCall
Attachments: 2020-9-29-CARES Act Broadband Challenge Response - City of McCall.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Attached please find a letter of response from the City of McCall Information Systems Manager to the Sparklight challenge submission regarding Idaho Broadband Grant #APP-004160 within the State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application Public Safety/Local Government.

Please note that this letter also provides notice that the City of McCall hereby withdraws its Idaho Broadband Grant #APP-004180 within the State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application: Households.

Thank you for your continued consideration,

Delta James | Economic Development Planner
City of McCall | 216 E. Park St., McCall, Idaho 83638
208.634.3504 | www.mccall.id.us



City of McCall

www.mccall.id.us

216 East Park Street
McCall, Idaho 83638

Phone 208-634-7142
Fax 208-634-3038

Tom Kealey, Director
Idaho Department of Commerce
Broadband Office
700 W. State Street
Boise, ID 83702

RE: Challenge to City of McCall Idaho CARES Act Broadband Grant Applications

Dear Director Kealey,

The City of McCall submitted two (2) applications for Idaho CARES Act Broadband Grant Funding; one each under the Households and Public Safety/Local Government categories.

The project proposed under the Public Safety/Local Government category, titled RAPID McCall Broadband - Connecting Public Services, has been challenged by Sparklight which states that the project “overbuilds existing infrastructure at the required speeds to a local government facility for public safety and local governance.”

The City of McCall elects to modify this application slightly to redistribute the locations at which Wireless Access Portals will be installed to provide more diverse and dispersed free public access opportunities. A modified map demonstrating the WAP locations to be installed as part of the grant project (by Dec. 15, 2020) and future locations to be installed is attached to this letter.

The grant amount requested is unchanged at: \$771,063.00. The City of McCall will not use grant dollars for purposes beyond the public safety purposes as established in the grant application.

As was stated in the initial application, the City of McCall is a rural town of 2,991 full time residents (2010 Census), but often experiences an influx of visitors that can swell the area population to 30,000+ in a weekend. This causes an overload of internet circuits (most cellular traffic uses terrestrial based transport for backhaul) making cellular and internet connectivity nearly unusable. This creates public safety risks, economic hardships, and frustration for the full-time residents and visitors to McCall. This application is concerned specifically with the Public Safety need for enhancing communications in McCall.

The City of McCall is shovel-ready to implement the proposed project by December 15, 2020. The project scope defined in the application and as proposed includes:

1. Install ~5.5 miles of backbone buried 3x1.25 conduit to be used for the deployment to several critical areas including a key north-south collector roadway serving the McCall Police Department, McCall School District, and McCall Water Services Facility.
2. Install and connect ~12 miles of 96 fiber within installed conduit (~6.5 miles already placed in Summer 2019) to connect City facilities, schools, Public Library, McCall

Transit Center, McCall Water Treatment Plant, McCall Golf Course, and McCall's downtown core.

3. Install five Wireless Access Portals (WAP) to provide free public use wireless service at facilities along the fiber backbone, including McCall's downtown core, City Hall / McCall Public Library, McCall Police Station, McCall Water Treatment Plant, and two public parks for members of the public to access distance learning, telework, telemedicine or other crucial needs.

The challenge submitted by Sparklight to the McCall Broadband Grant Public Facilities and Local Government Grant asserts that the application should be denied because Sparklight currently supplies the area with broadband services and the McCall project would therefore be overbuilding the Sparklight network. Sparklight is a private, for-profit company. The City of McCall is not overbuilding Sparklight because it is proposing to use grant funding to provide a service that does not currently exist in McCall with a purpose of meeting public safety needs, a key function of any local government.

The City of McCall proposes to use grant funding in compliance with the listing of eligible projects: 1) The infrastructure investment will be capable of symmetrical 1,000 x 1,000 Mbps speeds, 2) The infrastructure will be built to government facilities, 3) The City will provide public Wi-Fi access where 100 citizens could simultaneously access minimum broadband speeds while practicing physical distancing, 4) The infrastructure meets CARES Act criteria, 5) The application does not overbuild existing infrastructure at the required speeds, 6) The infrastructure will be open and available to for-profit companies or membership owned cooperatives, 7) The project will be completed by December 15, 2020, and 8) The project will include broadband infrastructure and equipment costs meeting CARES Act criteria.

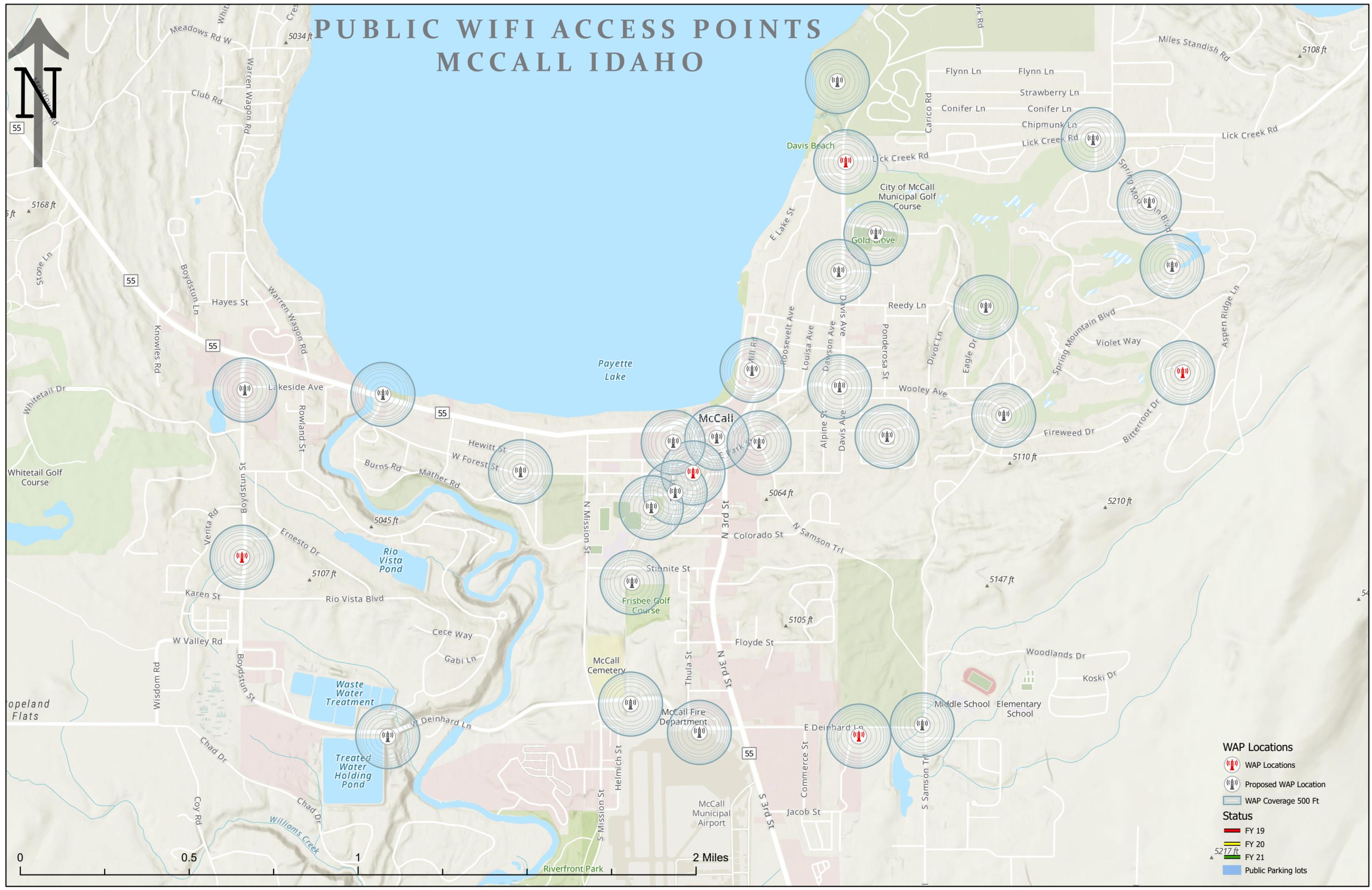
The City of McCall requests that the Director at the Idaho Department of Commerce reject the challenge to this application and award the funding for the specified public safety and access project in McCall.

The application submitted under the Households category was titled RAPID Pilot Neighborhood: Demonstrating Fiber to the Home. The City affirms that it seeks to have ubiquitous fiber optic capacity throughout the city for economic development, livability and the continued viability of the community. However, given the current rules included with the Idaho Broadband Grant program, the City of McCall chooses to withdraw its second application for a Fiber to the Home Pilot project.

Thank you for your consideration,

Chris Curtin
Information Systems Manager
ccurtin@mccall.id.us
208.634.8547

PUBLIC WIFI ACCESS POINTS MCCALL IDAHO



WAP Locations

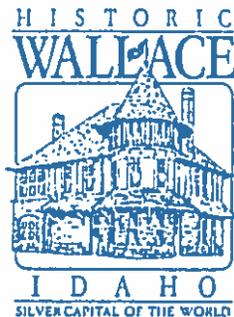
- WAP Locations
- Proposed WAP Location
- WAP Coverage 500 Ft

Status

- FY 19
- FY 20
- FY 21
- Public Parking lots

Name of Applicant: Wallace

Application number: 4290



CITY OF WALLACE

STATE OF IDAHO

703 Cedar Street
Wallace, Idaho 83873-2396
(208) 752-1147
Fax (208) 752-7741

Mayor
Lynn Mogensen

Clerk/Treasurer
Kristina Larson

Response to the Ziplly Fiber Challenge for State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application: Households - APP-004290

Ziplly Fiber challenge: At present, Ziplly Fiber provides service at speeds as indicated on the attached map. Additionally, Ziplly Fiber is in process of engineering network expansions in Wallace in addition to improving the existing network.

As we understand the purpose of the State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant, it is to provide service in currently under served and unserved areas of rural Idaho.

In reviewing the Ziplly Fiber map, we are unable to discern what is current coverage and what is probable build. The claim that Ziplly Fiber currently provides speeds indicated on their map are not realized by their subscribers as stated. Attached are screen shots of speeds from their subscribers at varied times and locations throughout the indicated area on the Ziplly Fiber map. These diminished speeds currently hinder the ability to perform basic tasks and are a barrier to connectivity when more than one device is online at the same time. As subscribers, they do look forward to the time when Ziplly Fiber's upgrades will provide the minimum speeds needed consistently. That is not today and is an unknown that creates a barrier to recovery and planning.

We feel that challenging based on "in the process of engineering network expansion" is not valid by definition of the grant guidelines. As a rural community, we have experienced providers claims to deliver service or exceptionally high speeds that did not come to completion. As a rural community our population diminishes our value for investment and customer service to large providers. Comments from small businesses located in Wallace regarding service and ability to deliver product are attached highlighting this fact. We feel our community cannot move forward based on proposals and promises considering past experience with large providers and respectfully decline Ziplly Fiber's reasoning as a viable disqualification. The funding terms from the State of Idaho for this grant, clearly state the project must be completed no later than December 15, 2020. This provides a clear expectation of a deliverable service giving a sense of hope not previously felt. This gives a clear timeline allowing plans to be made for telecommuting, telemedicine, online learning and attract much needed industry and opportunity to Wallace.

Communities in Shoshone County have the positive experience and speed tests with J&R Electronics to know that their subscribers are delivered the speeds as subscribed. We are confident, based on facts and data, that J&R Electronics will deliver the speeds and affordable access to broadband on time and at or above expectations. We also know that J&R Electronics has made a substantial investment into our county and has created local skilled jobs for our residents. This commitment will continue to provide additional jobs and investment into our economy.

We appreciate that Zply will be improving the existing network at an undetermined date and as yet unknown method. In the best interest of our community's current needs we respectfully reject the Zply Fiber challenge as a valid reason to disqualify the project we have applied for.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Mogensen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lynn Mogensen, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristina Larson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristina Larson, City Clerk

Wallace Speed tests from Frontier / Ziplly subscribers

Screen shot #	Address	Down Mbps	Up Mbps	Date	Time
1	112 Cedar	3.02	1.01	7/28/20	2:01 PM
2	1101 Pearl St	18.3	0.84	7/28/20	1:27 PM
3	112 King St.	2.85	0.71	7/27/20	11:22 PM
4	Sioban - River St	8.86	0.52	7/28/20	9:58 AM
5	160 King St.	6.53	1.42	7/28/20	9:00 AM
6	162 King St	6.6	1.47	7/28/20	2:44 AM
7	209 Pine	3.75	0.7	7/28/20	10:30 AM
8	114 Cedar St	6.2	1.4	7/27/20	9:34 PM
9	166 King St	5.37	1.25	7/28/20	8:10 AM
10	155 King St.	3.55	1.17	7/27/20	8:10 PM
11	162 King St	6.59	1.4	7/27/20	3:28 PM

#1 112 Cedar St.

Internet speed test

3.02 Mbps download	1.01 Mbps upload
-----------------------	---------------------

Latency: 35 ms
Server: Seattle

Your Internet connection is slow.

Your Internet connection should be able to handle one device at a time streaming a video. If multiple devices are using this connection at the same time, you may run into some slowdowns.

[LEARN MORE](#) [TEST AGAIN](#)

Feedback

#2 1101 Pearl St.

Internet speed test

18.3 Mbps download	0.84 Mbps upload
-----------------------	---------------------

Latency: 17 ms
Server: Seattle

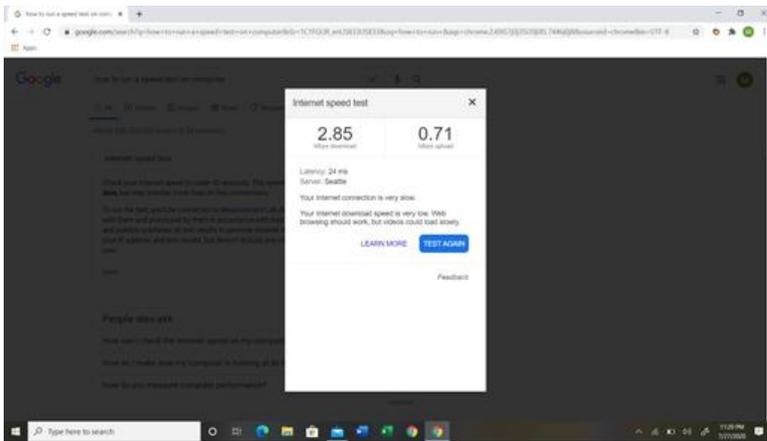
Your Internet connection is fast.

Your Internet connection should be able to handle multiple devices streaming HD videos at the same time.

[LEARN MORE](#) [TEST AGAIN](#)

Feedback

#3 112 King St.



#4 River St.

Internet speed test

8.86 Mbps download	0.52 Mbps upload
-----------------------	---------------------

Latency: 158 ms
Server: Seattle

Your Internet speed is fine.

Your Internet connection should be able to handle streaming an HD video. If multiple devices are streaming video at the same time, you may run into some slowdowns.

[LEARN MORE](#) [TEST AGAIN](#)

Feedback

#5 160 King St.

9:06

SpeedSmart

PING: 60 ms | JITTER: 190 ms | DATA: 9.19 MB

All Finished

[Retest](#)

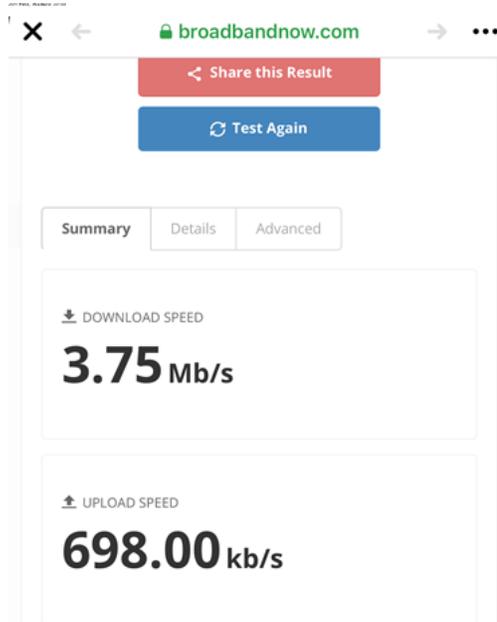
Frontier Communications
Seattle, WA

Download Mbps 6.53	Upload Mbps 1.41
-----------------------	---------------------

#6 162 King St.



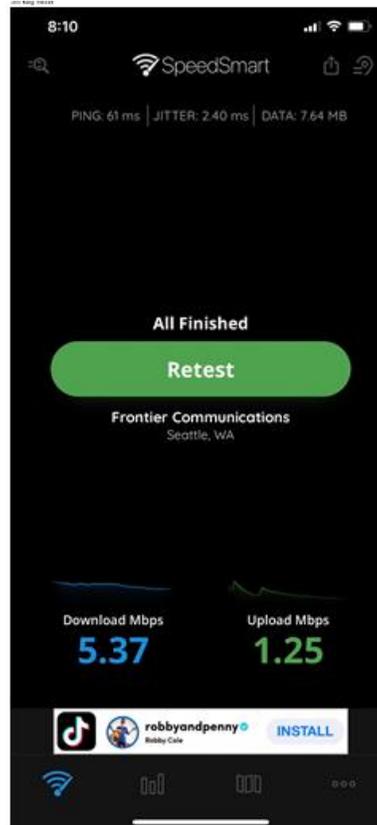
#7 209 Pine



#8 114 Cedar St.



#9 166 King St.



#10 155 King St.

PING: 45 ms | JITTER: 8.15 ms | DATA: 5.42 MB

All Finished

Retest

Frontier Communications
Seattle, WA

Download Mbps

3.55

Upload Mbps

1.17

#11 162 King St.

The site was last updated 11/20/2020 11:20:00 AM PST. © 2020 SpeedSmart

3:28

SpeedSmart

Search

SpeedSmart

Share

PING: 46 ms | JITTER: 2.95 ms | DATA: 9.22 MB

All Finished

Retest

Frontier Communications
Seattle, WA

Download Mbps

6.59

Upload Mbps

1.40

TheGadgetReviewer.com
WIFI Booster Takes US By Storm [Open](#)

Name of Applicant: Idaho Falls

Application number: 4305

4311

Magaly Carrillo

From: Jace Yancey <JYancey@ifpower.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 12:53 PM
To: COM Broadband
Cc: Eric Forsch
Subject: Sparklight Challenge

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This email is in response to Sparklight's challenge to the State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application Public Safety/Local Government - APP-004305 and APP-004311. Below is Idaho Falls Power's statement with additional information and clarification to the Application.

1. Idaho Falls first priority with this application was to provide an area that if needed could provide residents access to high speed bandwidth regardless of where they lived. The current bandwidth speeds provided in an area was irrelevant to us. Our goal was to provide an area that could provide 100 residents simultaneous access to at least 25x3 speeds. We felt we could offer this and provide it by our FTTH network that is currently being constructed. As the Dept. of Commerce is aware based on our application we are only asking for a cost share to help and assist in providing this capability. The areas we had in mind would be the parking lot and adjacent area next to Meleleuca field as well as the adjacent areas near the Idaho Falls Library. To our knowledge no service providers currently provide service to the adjacent areas listed above that meet the criteria. If funding is awarded this would give providers the ability to provide service that to our knowledge is currently unavailable.
2. It does not appear that Sparklight provided a map stating WiFi coverage is provided to the adjacent areas that would facilitate at least 100 residents with 25x3 speeds.



Jace Yancey | *Operation Technology Manager*

140 S Capital Ave
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
(208) 612-8121
jyancey@ifpower.org

Name of Applicant: Mountain Home

Application number: 4115



July 27, 2020

Tom Kealey, Director
Idaho Department of Commerce
PO Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0093

Re: State of Idaho Public Broadband Application Public Safety/Local Government – APP-004115
City of Mountain Home Broadband Project Application - Response to Tekfinity Challenge

Dear Director Kealey,

The Tekfinity Challenge to the Mountain Home Broadband Project claims that the Mountain Home application should be denied because Tekfinity supplies the Mountain Home School District with 1,000 Mbps service and offers other broadband services in town. It states this project would therefore be overbuilding Tekfinity.

The Mountain Home Broadband Project is not overbuilding the Tekfinity infrastructure. The application is focused on public safety services, which is the role of the city and will never be the role of this private sector company. Specifically, the City of Mountain Home proposes to use grant funding to equip existing public meeting places (city parks) with free WiFi for members of the community to use at no cost. This application fits well within our mission to provide for the safety of the public. Further, free WiFi in locations that are accessible to the public at no cost are beneficial for other purposes contemplated by CARES Act funding; like homework for students that cannot afford connectivity or other emergency use for the welfare of the residents of Mountain Home.

Tekfinity is a private, for-profit company. It is not logical to expect Tekfinity to provide a public service like free WiFi in a public space and if Tekfinity saw this application within its mission, it would have pursued this previously.

The City of Mountain Home is not overbuilding Tekfinity. The City of Mountain Home will be using Fiber Optic cable, but the meaning of overbuilding has to do with overbuilding a specific service or application, and not the use of similar or matching technologies. The City of Mountain is proposing to use grant funding to provide a service that does not currently exist in Mountain

Home, for a public safety purpose which is within the domain of the city, and not within the mission of a private, for-profit company.

The City of Mountain Home requests that the Director at the Idaho Department of Commerce approve the Mountain Home application on the merits of the application for advancing public safety and welfare for Mountain Home residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rich Sykes", written in a cursive style.

Rich Sykes
Mayor

Name of Applicant: Boundary County

Application number:

Boundary County Commissioners
Dan R. Dinning, Chairman
Wally Cossairt, Commissioner
Walt Kirby, Commissioner



Telephone (208) 267-7723
Fax: (208) 267-7814
commissioners@boundarycountyid.org

BOUNDARY COUNTY
P. O. Box 419
Bonnors Ferry, ID 83805

July 29, 2020

Idaho Department of Commerce
Attn: Director Tom Kealey

RE: State of Idaho Broadband Grant Application Challenges

Dear Director Kealey:

The Board of Boundary County Commissioners met today to review all challenges submitted to our applications.

Zipty Fiber's Challenge RE: Multiple projects with EL Internet Northwest and Intermax

The first challenges addressed was by Zipty Fiber regarding their challenge of multiple projects with EL Internet Northwest and Intermax, specifically the project areas of O'Callaghan, Copeland, Eastport and Naples. The only thing provided to Commissioners was a map of what Zipty Fiber considers their service areas and we have determined that Zipty Fiber's maps do prove that there are underserved and potentially non-served areas in Copeland, Eastport, Naples, and Bonnors Ferry. Eastport and Copeland are relying heavily on a future 2020 CAF project and Naples shows sparse coverage within our coverage area. The Bonnors Ferry map generally shows internet service along highway corridors and downtown Bonnors Ferry. As far as CAF funding, there was no commitment to complete Zipty Fiber's projects. Commissioners voted to uphold our decision regarding the original applications.

EL Internet Northwest's Challenge to Intermax RE: Meadow Creek and O'Callaghan

A majority of the issues raised were discussed in Commissioners' two opening meetings and nothing in the original plan has changed. Commissioners voted to uphold our decision regarding the original applications.

EL Internet Northwest's Challenge to Intermax RE: Porthill, Copper Ridge, Camp Nine Road, Naples, and Curley Creek

EL Internet Northwest's challenge to Intermax regarding Meadow Reek and O'Callaghan as well as Intermax regarding Porthill, Copper Ridge, Camp Nine Road, Naples, and Curley Creek, we did not feel it was our obligation to understand or address census blocks, broadband transmission technologies, granular data or an existing grant. Therefore, we voted to uphold our original decision.

There was a general questions regarding the Commissioners' prioritization process. We looked at areas of non-served or greatest underserved areas and then looked at provider proposals to see what best matched the needs of our community. That is reflected in the ranking sheet attached by project. The overall goal of this funding is to provide good internet service to our community and that has been our intent all along.

Importance of local jobs was raised and we greatly support that thought, but internet service to the community was the priority determination of the rankings.

Project areas are differing by provider and there may be some overlap in coverage areas. Proposed tower locations are different and will because of geography provide better access to different users.

Our community has long awaited the opportunity to have broadband outside of the developed corridor. We have had expectations of this for years that have never materialized and we sincerely urge approval of these projects.

Respectfully,

BOUNDARY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Dan R. Dinning, Chairman



Wally Cossairt, Commissioner



Walt Kirby, Commissioner

Enclosure: Boundary County Commissioners' rankings letter

Boundary County Commissioners
Dan R. Dinning, Chairman
Wally Cossairt, Commissioner
Walt Kirby, Commissioner



Telephone (208) 267-7723
Fax: (208) 267-7814
commissioners@boundarycountyid.org

BOUNDARY COUNTY
P. O. Box 419
Bonnors Ferry, ID 83805

July 15, 2020

Idaho Department of Commerce
Attn: Tom Kealey, Director
700 West State Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0093

RE: Ranking of projects for State of Idaho CARES Act Broadband Grant

Dear Director Kealey:

Below please find the Boundary County Commissioners' ranking of projects associated with the State of Idaho CARES Act Broadband Grant as approved by the Board of Boundary County Commissioners during their special session on Friday, July 10, 2020.

CARES Act Broadband Grant - Households

- #1. Intermax Networks for the Curley Creek area
- #2. EL Internet Northwest for the Curley Creek area
- #3. EL Internet Northwest for the Copeland area
- #4. EL Internet Northwest for the Deep Creek area
- #5. Intermax Networks for the Naples area
- #6. EL Internet Northwest for the Naples area
- #7. EL Internet Northwest for the Eastport area
- #8. Intermax Networks for the Copper Ridge area
- #9. Intermax Networks for the O'Callaghan's area
- #10. Intermax Networks for the Camp 9 Road area
- #11. Intermax Networks for the Porthill area
- #12. Intermax Networks for the Meadow Creek area

CARES Act Broadband Grant – Government Entity

- #1. Fat Beam for Moyie Springs City Hall

Respectfully

BOUNDARY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan R. Dinning". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dan R. Dinning
Commission Chairman

Name of Applicant: Osburn

Application number: 4307

Phone (208)752-0001
Fax (208)753-8585

Response to the Ziplly Fiber Challenge for State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application:
Households - APP-004307

Ziplly Fiber challenge: At present, Ziplly Fiber provides service at speeds as indicated on the attached map. Additionally, Ziplly Fiber is in process of engineering network expansions in Osburn in addition to improving the existing network.

As we understand the purpose of the State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant, it is to provide service in currently underserved and unserved areas of rural Idaho.

In reviewing the Ziplly Fiber map, we are unable to discern what is *current coverage* and what is *probable build*. The claim that Ziplly Fiber currently provides speeds indicated on their map are not realized by their subscribers as stated. Enclosed are screen shots and a spreadsheet of speeds from Ziplly Fiber subscribers at varied times and locations throughout the indicated area on the Ziplly Fiber map. These diminished speeds currently hinder the ability to perform basic tasks and are a barrier to connectivity when more than one device is online at the same time. As subscribers, they look forward to the time when Ziplly Fiber's upgrades will consistently provide the minimum speeds needed. That is not today and is an unknown that creates a barrier to recovery and planning.

We feel that challenging based on "in the process of engineering network expansion" is not valid by definition of the grant guidelines. As a rural community, we have experienced provider's claims to deliver service or exceptionally high speeds that did not come to completion. As a rural community, our population diminishes our value for investment and customer service to large providers. Comments highlighting this fact from our Sewage Plant Operation Office and residential subscribers located in Osburn regarding current service and ability to deliver product are attached. We feel our community cannot move forward based on proposals and promises considering past experience with large providers and respectfully decline Ziplly Fiber's reasoning as a viable disqualification.

Another concern that has been expressed by our community is Ziplly Fiber's (previously Frontier's) refusal to accept new subscribers. As shown on the attached spreadsheet, 13 subscribers of Suddenlink Communications and HughesNet also provided speed test results. Every one of the subscribers stated that they were refused service by Frontier/ Ziplly Fiber due to a customer "cap" in their area. Many subscribers even stated that Frontier/ Ziplly Fiber informed them that their address simply "did not exist". In the last 7 years, 10 new homes have

been built in a new subdivision in Osburn. When contacted by the homeowner's, Frontier stated that they were unable to provide service to that area and the homeowner's had to resort to alternative providers with slower speeds. The subscribers in our city feel that if Ziplly Fiber cannot accommodate any new subscribers, then they must be given an alternative provider that offers better speeds, prices, and customer service than Suddenlink Communications and HughesNet.

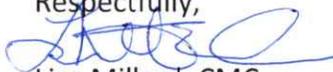
The funding terms from the State of Idaho for this grant, clearly state the project must be completed no later than December 15, 2020. This provides a clear expectation of a deliverable service giving a sense of hope not previously felt. This gives a clear timeline allowing plans to be made for telecommuting, telemedicine, online learning and attract much needed industry and opportunity to Osburn.

Communities in Shoshone County have the positive experience and speed tests with J&R Electronics to know that their subscribers are delivered the speeds as subscribed. We are confident, based on facts and data, that J&R Electronics will deliver the speeds and affordable access to broadband on time and at or above expectations. We also know that J&R Electronics has made a substantial investment into our county and has created local skilled jobs for our residents. This commitment will continue to provide additional jobs and investment into our economy.

We appreciate that Ziplly will be improving the existing network at an undetermined date and as yet unknown method. In the best interest of our community's current needs, we respectfully reject the Ziplly Fiber challenge as a valid reason to disqualify the project for which we have applied.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Respectfully,



Lisa Millard, CMC
Clerk/ Treasurer

LM:jga

enc: 10 Customer Complaints/ Statement, Speed Tests 1-45, Osburn Challenge Response- Speed Tests

10:08



broadbandnow.co

 **Share this Result**

 **Test Again**

Summary

Details

Advanced

Download Speed



Summary

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

7.12 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

0.84 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is fast enough for normal use by 1-2 people. Video services like Netflix may struggle in HD, or if multiple users attempt to stream at the same time.

Network latency: 58 msec round trip time

[← Share this Result](#)[Test Again](#)

Summary

Details

Advanced

Download (1000KB)

631.26 kb/s

Upload (1000KB)

493.00 kb/s

Your internet speed is slower than average. It is sufficient for basic uses like email and web browsing but will likely struggle when streaming HD video, using Skype, and other video-based use cases.

Share Result with:

<https://speedtest.broadbandnow.com/permissions/2/1p/warn>info@speedtest.broadbandnow.com/permissions/2/1p/warn

Share Result through:

<https://speedtest.broadbandnow.com/4/5/7/1w/2/1p/w><img@https://speedtest.broadbandnow.com/4/5/7/1w/2/1p/w>

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

5.76 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

838.75 kb/s

Your Internet speed is fast enough for normal use by 1-2 people. Video services like Netflix may struggle in HD, or if multiple users attempt to stream at the same time.

Share Result URL

<https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/a4rvsov-u2v8>



[url]<https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/a4rvsov->



Share Result Image

<https://speedtest.broadbandnow.com/3/e/a/a4rvsov>



[img]<https://speedtest.broadbandnow.com/3/e/a/a4r>



Network latency: 239 msec round trip time

Jitter: 2.393 sec

[← Show the Results](#)[🔄 Test Again](#)

Summary

Stats

Advanced

↓ Download Speed

1.84 Mb/s

↓ Upload Speed

838.60 kb/s

Your internet speed is slower than average. It is sufficient for basic uses like email and web browsing but will likely struggle when streaming HD video, using Skype, and other video-based use cases.

Share Results URL

<https://speedtestnow.com/speedtest/184-83860><https://speedtestnow.com/speedtest/184-83860>

Share Results Image

<https://speedtestnow.com/speedtest/184-83860><https://speedtestnow.com/speedtest/184-83860>



In the past 30 days over 55,070,071 people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



SPEED TEST COMPLETED

Server: ndt-iupui-mlab2-sea03.mlab-oti.measurement-lab.org

[Compare Providers](#)[Bandwidth Calculator](#)[🔗 Share this Result](#)[🔄 Test Again](#)

INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



Summary

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

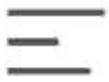
27.93 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

3.67 Mb/s

Your internet speed is sufficient for 2-4 users and regular use cases like Netflix, Skype, YouTube, and other video services. Your internet speed meets the FCC definition of broadband.

Network latency: 76 msec round trip time



 SpeedSmart



PING: 15 MS | JITTER: 223.23 MS | DATA: 5.14 MB

All Finished

Retest

Frontier Communications

Seattle, WA



🔗 Share this Result

🔄 Test Again

Summary

Details

Advanced

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

4.36 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

713.00 kb/s

Your Internet speed is slower than average. It is sufficient for basic uses like email and web browsing but will likely struggle when streaming HD video, using Skype, and other video-based use cases.

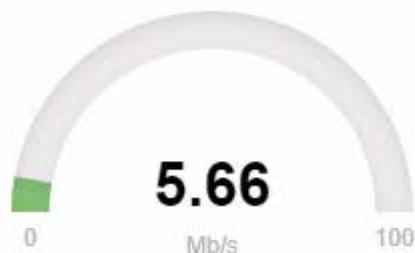
Share Result URL

Input field for sharing the result URL

INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



Summary

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

5.66 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

0.68 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is fast enough for normal use by 1-2 people. Video services like Netflix may struggle in HD, or if multiple users attempt to stream at the same time.

Network latency: 177 msec round trip time

their physical address where they accessed their wifi



broadbandnow.com



Summary

Details

Advanced

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

3.93 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

207.00 kb/s

Your Internet speed is slower than average. It is sufficient for basic uses like email and web browsing but will likely struggle when streaming HD video, using Skype, and other video-based use cases.

Share Result URL

<https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/8m6vsf>



[url]https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/8m



Share Result Image

<https://speedtest.broadbandnow.com/4/9/b/8>



10:38 ↗



broadbandno

Compare Providers

Ba



Share this R



Test Agai

4:37 ↗

Nickrod Jerr...



broadbandno



Share this R



Test Agai

Summary

Details

Advanced

10:38 ↗



broadbar

Compare Providers



Share to

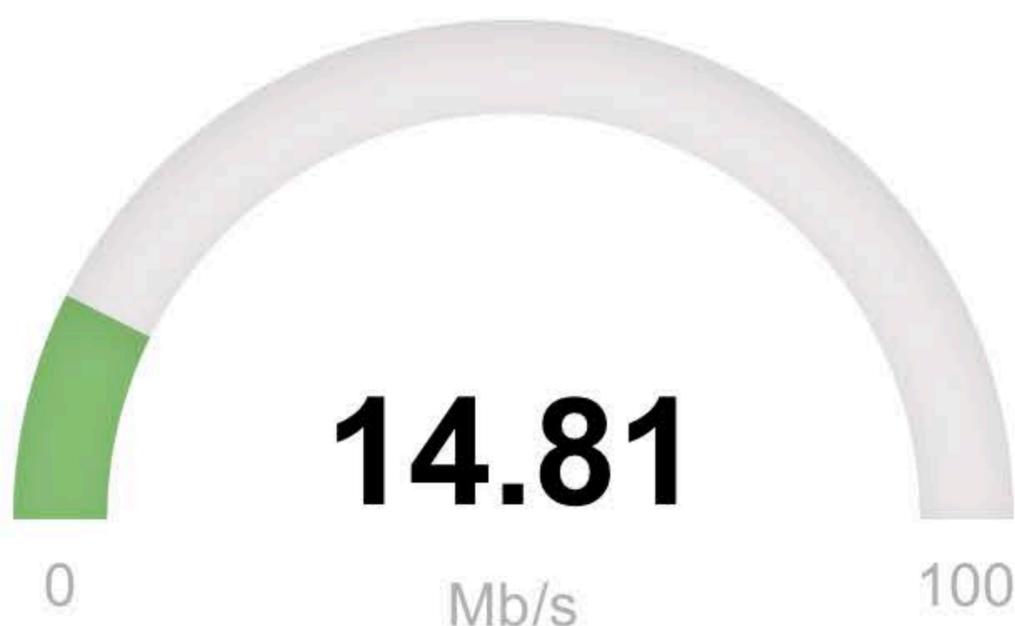


Test

broadbandnow.com

speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed

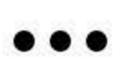


SPEED TEST COMPLETED

Server: ndt-iupui-mlab2-yyc02.mlab-oti.measurement-lab.org

Compare Providers

Bandwidth Calculator



SPEED TEST COMPLETED

Server: ndt-iupui-mlab3-dfw02.mlab-oti.measurement-lab.org

Compare Providers

Bandwidth Calculator

Share this Result

Test Again

Summary

Details

Advanced

DOWNLOAD SPEED

2.27 Mb/s

UPLOAD SPEED

897.00 kb/s

[Share this result](#)[Test Again](#)[Summary](#)[Details](#)[Advanced](#)

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

7.37 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

1.47 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is fast enough for normal use by 1-2 people. Video services like Netflix may struggle in HD, or if multiple users attempt to stream at the same time.

Share Result URL

<https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/a6vk>





CONNECTION.

Upload Speed

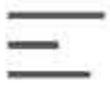


TESTING YOUR UPLOAD SPEED

Server: ndt-iupui-mlab2-sea04.mlab-oti.measurement-lab.org

ENTER A ZIP CODE TO FIND





PING: 15 MS | JITTER: 223.23 MS | DATA: 5.14 MB

All Finished

Retest

Frontier Communications

Seattle, WA

Download Mbps

4.73

Upload Mbps

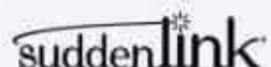
0.61

Fast Internet

\$35 /mo.
1 yr.

w/Auto Pay & Paperless Bill
Plus taxes, fees & charges

Shop now 





All Finished

Retest

Frontier Communications

Seattle, WA

Download Mbps

11.85

Upload Mbps

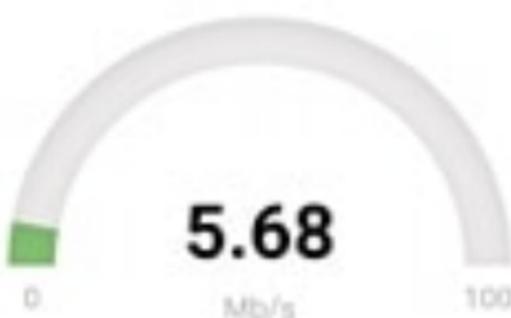
1.63

Speed Test: Test the Speed of Your I...

broadbandnow.com

Speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



SPEED TEST COMPLETED

Server: ndt-lupui-mlab2-sea03.mlab-oti.measurement-lab.org

[Compare Providers](#)

[Bandwidth Calculator](#)

[← Share this Result](#)

[↻ Test Again](#)

Summary

Details

Advanced

All Finished

Retest

Frontier Communications

Seattle, WA

2:13



← Speed Test: Test the Speed of Your I... ⋮

🔒 broadbandnow.com

speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



SPEED TEST COMPLETED

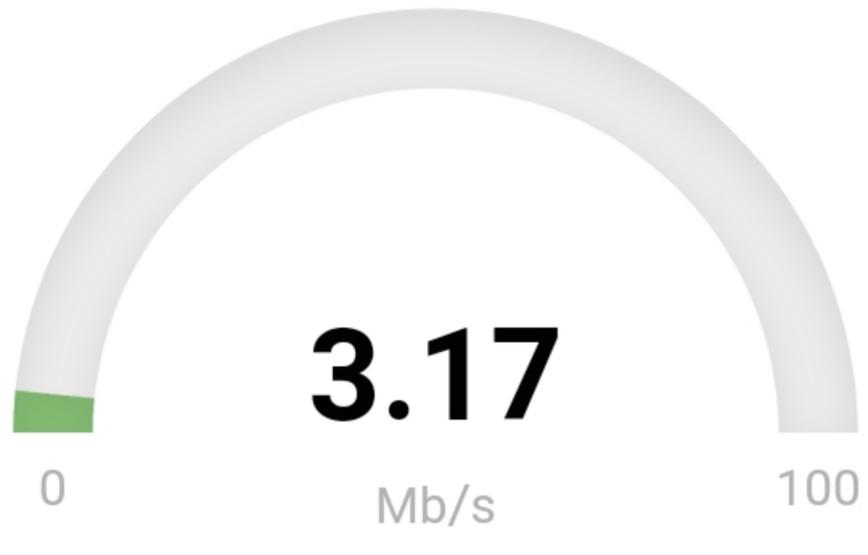
Server: ndt-iupui-mlab2-sea03.mlab-oti.measurement-lab.org

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INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

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lab.org

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SPEED TEST COMPLETED

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Bandwidth Calculator

🔗 Share this Result

🔄 Test Again

Summary

Details

Advanced



INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

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lab.org

Compare Providers

Bandwidth Calculator

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↻ Test Again

Summary

Details

Advanced

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

14.80 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

838.69
kb/s

Your Internet speed is normal. Your Internet speed is sufficient for most regular uses like streaming video or online shopping and banking.

Share Result URL

<https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/ayog9iqb-u3x6-45da-8aec-78bl>

[url]<https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/ayog9iqb-u3x6-45da-8aec-78bl>

Share Result Image

<https://speedtest.broadbandnow.com/a/d/9/ayog9iqb-u3x6-45da-8aec-78bl>

[img]<https://speedtest.broadbandnow.com/a/d/9/ayog9iqb-u3x6-45da-8aec-78bl>

Network latency: 37 msec round trip time

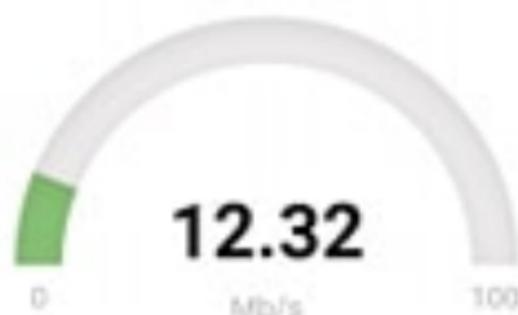
Jitter: 44 msec



INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



SPEED TEST COMPLETED

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lab.org

SPEED TEST COMPLETED

Server: ndt-iupui-mlab2-yye02.mlab-oti.measurement-

Compare Providers

Bandwidth Calculator

 Share this Result

 Test Again

Summary

Details

Advanced

 DOWNLOAD SPEED

13.83 Mb/s

 UPLOAD SPEED

2.41 Mb/s

[Compare Providers](#)[Bandwidth Calculator](#)[Share this Result](#)[Test Again](#)[Summary](#)[Details](#)[Advanced](#)

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

6.79 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

2.10 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is fast enough for normal use by 1-2 people. Video services like Netflix may struggle in HD, or if multiple users attempt to stream at the same time.

Share Result URL

<https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/ay36g0lo-f7bt>



Compare Providers

Bandwidth Calculator

Share this Result

Test Again

Summary

Details

Advanced

DOWNLOAD SPEED

13.02 Mb/s

UPLOAD SPEED

2.20 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is normal. Your Internet speed is sufficient for most regular uses like streaming video or online shopping and banking.

Share Result URL

[← Share this Result](#)[↻ Test Again](#)[Summary](#)[Details](#)[Advanced](#)

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

6.50 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

1.99 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is fast enough for normal use by 1-2 people. Video services like Netflix may struggle in HD, or if multiple users attempt to stream at the same time.

Share Result URL

<https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/agmg8>[\[url\]https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/agmg8](https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/agmg8)

Share Result Image

INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



Summary

↓ DOWNLOAD SPEED

21.90 Mb/s

↑ UPLOAD SPEED

1.14 Mb/s

Your Internet speed is normal. Your Internet speed is sufficient for most regular uses like streaming video or online shopping and banking.

Network latency: 32 msec round trip time



94%



6:21 AM



 broadbandnow.com



Upload Speed



**TESTING YOUR UPLOAD
SPEED**



SPEED TEST COMPLETED

Server: ndt-iupui-mlab3-sea03.mlab-
oti.measurement-lab.org

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[Bandwidth Calculator](#)



In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



SPEED TEST COMPLETED

Server: ndt-iupui-mlab2-dfw02.mlab-oti.measurement-lab.org

[Compare Providers](#)[Bandwidth Calculator](#)[Share this Result](#)[Test Again](#)

 Share this Result Test Again

Summary

Details

Advanced

 DOWNLOAD SPEED**4.91** Mb/s UPLOAD SPEED**3.16** Mb/s

Your Internet speed is slower than average. It is sufficient for basic uses like email and web browsing but will likely struggle when streaming

HD video, using Skype, and other video-based use cases.

Bixby Voice not yet set up. To use Bixby Voice, unlock phone, then press Bixby key again to start setup.

<https://broadbandnow.com/speedtest/9wajs2qi>



INTERNET SPEED TEST

In the past 30 days over **33,670,871** people have used speed tests to see their download speeds, upload speeds, and ping. Press "Start Test" below to get started testing your connection.

Download Speed



SPEED TEST COMPLETED

Server: ndt-iupui-mlab3-sea08.mlab-oti.measurement-lab.org

[Compare Providers](#)

[Bandwidth Calculator](#)



 **broadbandnow.**

CONNECTION.

Upload Speed





 **broadbandnow.**

connection.

Download Speed



Name of Applicant: Kootenai

Application number: 4183
4207
4188
4189
4190
4209
4210
4191
4192
4208
4204
4205
4211
4206



Idaho Department of Commerce Broadband grant program

July 27, 2020

Kootenai County

This is a single response to 14 challenges by Spectrum Pacific West LLC (a cable TV service owned by Charter Communications) to applications submitted by Kootenai County. Challenged grant application numbers are here:

LONE MTN TOWER (backbone includes fiber)	APP-004183
BEST HILL TOWER (backbone includes fiber)	APP-004207
POWDERHORN	APP-004188
ATHOL AND SURROUNDING	APP-004189
MICA	APP-004190
HAYDEN LAKE	APP-004209
HAUSER	APP-004210
SETTERS	APP-004191
BAYVIEW	APP-004192
STATELINE	APP-004208
BLOSSOM MTN/COUGAR GULCH	APP-004204
PAYMENT PEAK	APP-004205
MAJESTIC	APP-004211
HAYCROP (Rathdrum)	APP-004206

The project criteria from the Grant Guideline for Household applications includes:

“Be a project that serves underbuilt areas and does not overbuild existing broadband service. Underbuilt areas are defined as locations where less than fifty percent (50%) of households in the project area have access to broadband service.”

Restated:

- a) Serves underbuilt areas defined as less than 50% of homes have access to Broadband; and
- b) Does not overbuild existing services

Challenger Spectrum provides service to specific locations with cable TV type service or with fiber optic cables. Every location has to be physically hooked up to the copper or fiber network. The only way to judge where Challenger Spectrum serves is a specific map. Challenger Spectrum did not provide a map. The nature of fixed wireless is accurately described in the Spectrum challenge. Broadband service is delivered by a system of radio towers which cover parts of the county. The new tower facilities proposed under the applications will be directed at covering additional parts of rural Kootenai County. The proposed new fixed wireless service will cover over 10,000 locations in unserved and underserved



area in Kootenai county but will not change the competitive nature of existing urban and suburban services where Challenger Spectrum serves.

Some Idaho communities have both fiber optic networks and cable TV type networks. Both are capital intensive physical construction to every service location. In the interest of using capital wisely, the application criteria "does not overbuild existing services" is directed at discouraging applications that would build new fiber facilities alongside of existing fiber or cable TV facilities. The interpretation of "overbuild" when applied to fixed wireless services serving the same area as existing cable TV systems is too broad and is more like a broad opportunistic challenge to prevent the cable TV network from having a competitor.

The Kootenai County applications used FCC 477 filings as of June 2019, the latest available to determine what services were existing. Although the Spectrum challenge claims service to areas of several communities, the challenge does not address underbuilt areas by reporting where Spectrum truly does provide service. The challenge is completely silent on where Spectrum serves by using census blocks or maps of Spectrum service. Kootenai County is determined to provide service to underserved rural areas for work-from-home, distance learning and telehealth.

The county can provide one of three responses to the challenges:

1. **Affirm the application meets the challenged criteria.**
 - o All the applications serve underbuilt areas where less than 50% of the homes have broadband. The Spectrum challenge does not dispute that claim.
2. **The commission can modify the application.**
 - o There is no new substantive data to justify modifying the applications. The Spectrum position that that the new rural fixed wireless service constitutes an "overbuild" is not accurate.
3. **The commission can withdraw the grant request.**
 - o Withdrawal would mean some rural households would be denied broadband service for distance learning, work-from-home or telehealth for no provable reason. This would be the worst outcome for rural Kootenai County residents.

We encourage the applicant, Kootenai County, to choose option 1 and affirm the application meets the challenged criteria. The Director of Commerce for the State of Idaho will make that final determination based on the challenge and this response.

Board of County Commissioners
APPROVED

JUL 28 2020

Three handwritten signatures in blue ink, appearing to be initials or names, written over a horizontal line.



Idaho Department of Commerce Broadband grant program

July 27, 2020

Kootenai County

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PAYMENT PEAK	APP-004205
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HAYCROP (Rathdrum)	APP-004206

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area in Kootenai county but will not change the competitive nature of existing urban and suburban services where Challenger Spectrum serves.

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The county can provide one of three responses to the challenges:

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 - o All the applications serve underbuilt areas where less than 50% of the homes have broadband. The Spectrum challenge does not dispute that claim.
2. **The commission can modify the application.**
 - o There is no new substantive data to justify modifying the applications. The Spectrum position that that the new rural fixed wireless service constitutes an "overbuild" is not accurate.
3. **The commission can withdraw the grant request.**
 - o Withdrawal would mean some rural households would be denied broadband service for distance learning, work-from-home or telehealth for no provable reason. This would be the worst outcome for rural Kootenai County residents.

We encourage the applicant, Kootenai County, to choose option 1 and affirm the application meets the challenged criteria. The Director of Commerce for the State of Idaho will make that final determination based on the challenge and this response.

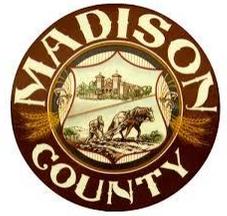
Board of County Commissioners
APPROVED

JUL 28 2020

Three handwritten signatures in blue ink, appearing to be initials or names, written over a horizontal line.

Name of Applicant: Madison

Application number: 4275



Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Idaho Department of Commerce
700 W. State Street
Boise, Idaho 83440

Subject: FyberCom’s Broadband Challenge to Madison County’s State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application Public Safety/Local Government - APP-004275

Dear Mr. Forsch, Broadband Development Manager:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to FyberCom’s challenge to Madison County’s grant application for the “Idaho Public Broadband Grant – Public and Local Government.” **FyberCom has challenged Madison County over the wrong grant application.** FyberCom has mistakenly assumed Madison County applied for the “Broadband Grant – Households.”

Even though FyberCom’s challenge is based on the wrong application, I will still address their reasons for challenging Madison County’s proposal. FyberCom references the Eligibility Section of the “Households” grant application, below is a summary of their issues for challenging:

- FyberCom currently services “99%” of the proposed route with their wireless services, and 34% of the residences and businesses are already their customers.
- This grant must be used for an infrastructure investment related to broadband as defined by the FCC: speeds of 25mbps download and 3mbps upload.
- The County’s proposed area for this grant must be for a project that serves an under-built area and does not overbuild existing broadband service.

Madison County appreciates the great service and product FyberCom provides for our citizens. Because of the proposed coverage from FyberCom and other wireless internet providers, the County was not eligible to apply for the “Households” grant for the proposed region of the county. The County is not looking for increasing wireless services with its grant proposal, it is addressing the lack of fiber-optic needs for one of its underserved unincorporated regions.

Madison County’s focus for applying for the “Broadband Grant – Public Safety/Local Government,” was based on these primary objectives:

- The majority of the proposed route by Madison County is one that currently has no broadband infrastructure, including any associated equipment, or any accessories as well. In addition,

County Admin Building

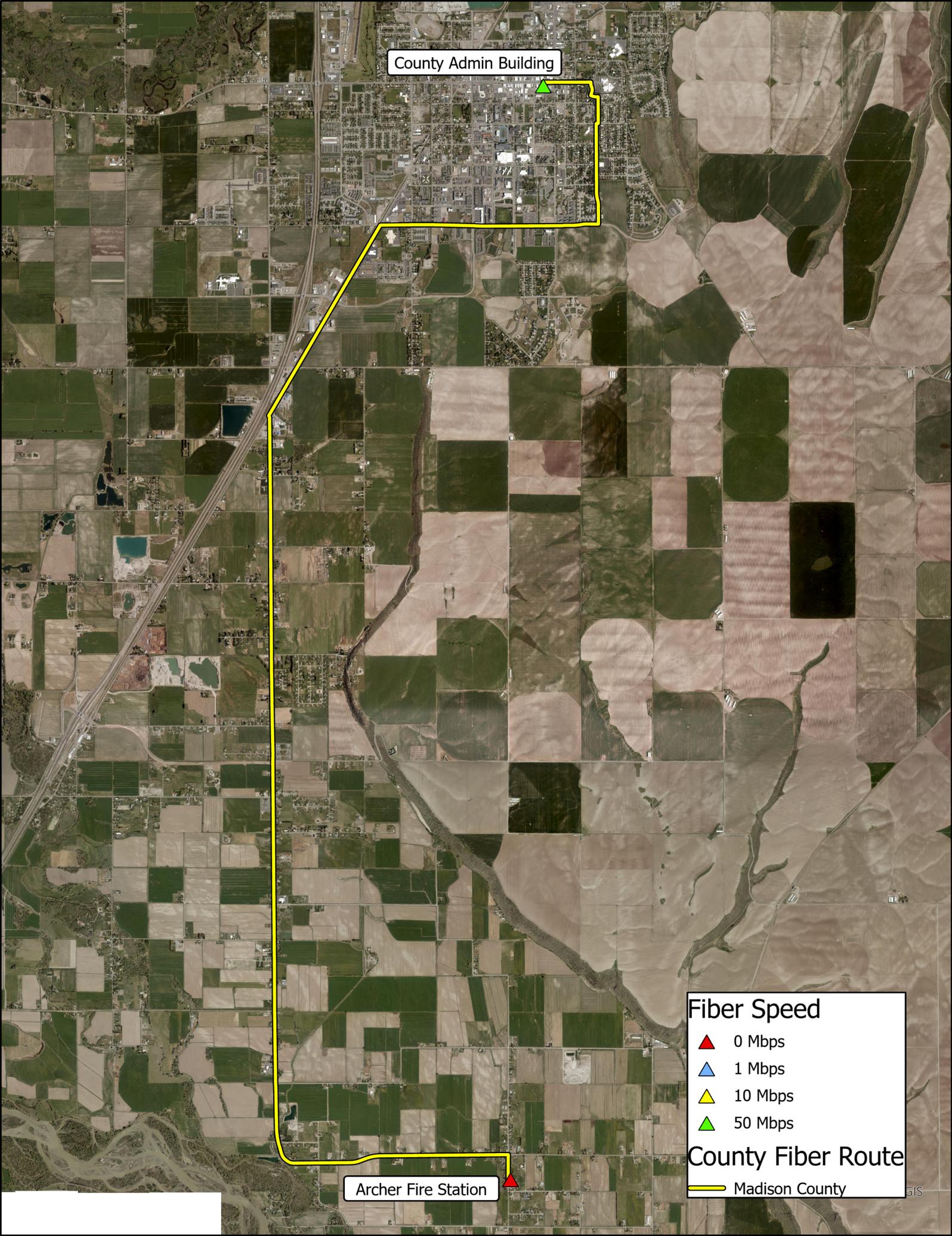
Fiber Speed

- ▲ 0 Mbps
- ▲ 1 Mbps
- ▲ 10 Mbps
- ▲ 50 Mbps

County Fiber Route

— Madison County

Archer Fire Station



along this route there are no current ISP providers that come anywhere close to meeting the desired broadband capable speeds of 1,000 Mbps symmetrical.

- The proposed route addresses two critical needs for the County:
 - To connect its centralized facilities located in the City of Rexburg to our remote fire station located in the unincorporated area of Archer. This fire station is essential for our emergency response network and services for the southern region of our county.
 - Provide Wi-Fi access where up to 100 citizens could simultaneously access even minimal broadband speeds and still practice physical distancing. Along the proposed route, the Madison County Officials have identified multiple potential locations to meet this need where this could happen.

- Meet the CARES Act criteria, to improve public health and safety by expanding opportunities to telework, and facilitate distance learning.

- To not overbuild existing broadband infrastructure, but still provide the opportunity to ensure for public safety and local governance.

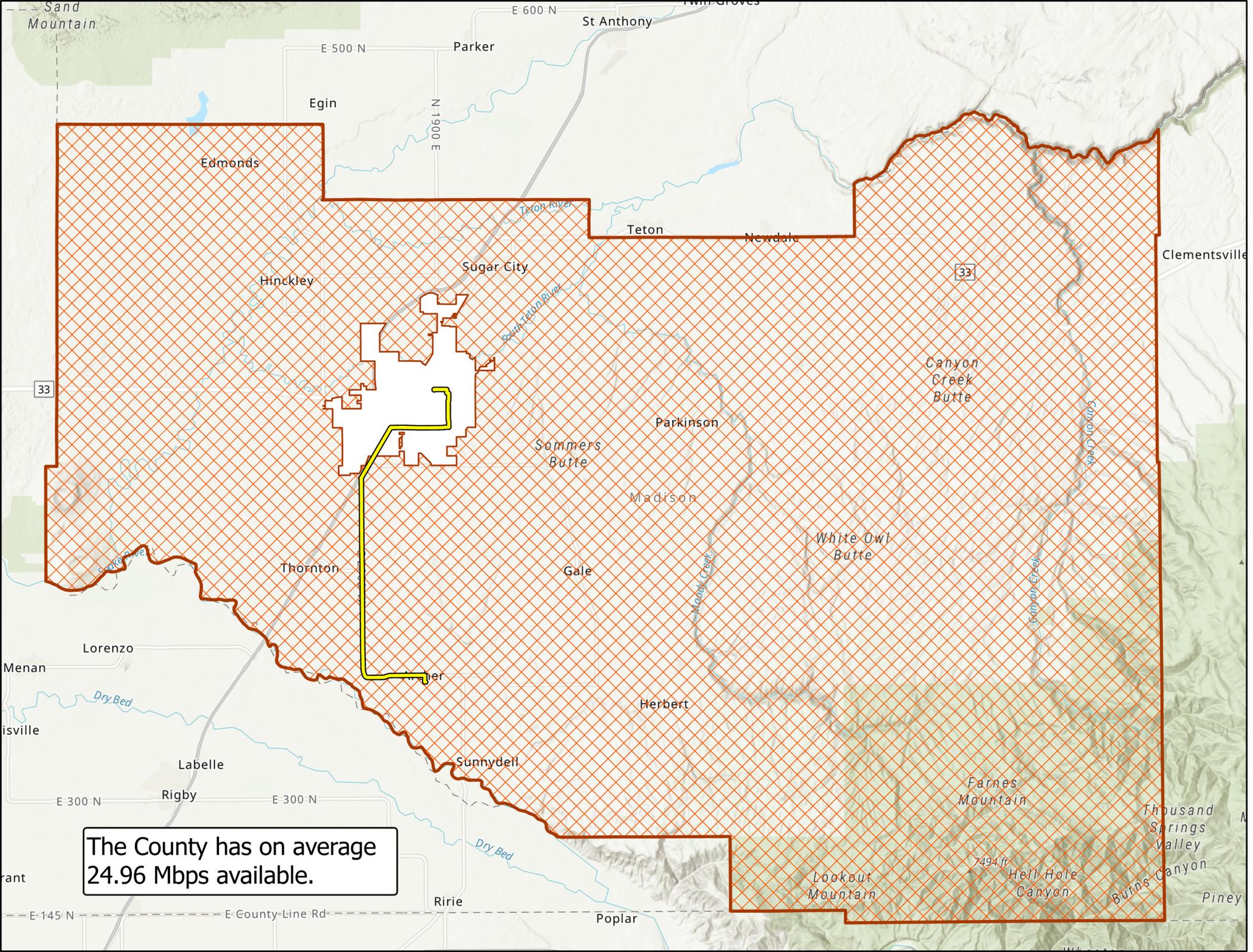
- This project will be a county owned asset, but the county will contract only with for-profit ISP's to provide internet service over the fiber-optic broadband network. Madison County strongly encourages FyberCom to expand their services and apply to use the potential new fiber-line.

Madison County respectfully requests that the challenge from FyberCom be dismissed and our application continue through the approval process. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradley J. Petersen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bradley Petersen,
Grant Administrator



The County has on average
24.96 Mbps available.

Sand Mountain

Edmonds

Egin

E-500 N

Parker

St Anthony

E-600 N

Timber Grove

Edmonds

N-1900 E

Teton River

Teton

Newdale

33

Hinckley

Sugar City

33

Clementsville

Canyon Creek Butte

Parkinson

Sommers Butte

Madison

White Owl Butte

Thornton

Gale

Moody Creek

Canyon Creek

Lorenzo

Thornton

Mer

Herbert

Menan

Dry Bed

isville

Labelle

Sunnydell

Farnes Mountain

E-300 N

Rigby

E-300 N

ant

The County has on average
24.96 Mbps available.

Dry Bed

7494 ft

Hell Hole Canyon

Lookout Mountain

Thousand Springs Valley
Burns Canyon

Piney

E-145 N

E-County-Line Rd

Ririe

Poplar

Name of Applicant: Rexburg

Application number: 4138



July 29, 2020

State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application Public Safety/Local Government - APP-004138: Response to Challenge from Optix

To Whom It May Concern:

This document contains the City of Rexburg's "Response" to Optix's "Broadband Grant Challenge" as it pertains to the City of Rexburg's "Public Broadband Grant Application Public Safety/Local Government - APP-004138." A reading of Optix's Challenge to this Grant appears to refer to the "State of Idaho Broadband Grant Application-Households" and therefore Optix's Challenge does not apply to the City of Rexburg's Grant Application for "Public Broadband Grant Application Public Safety/Local Government." However, the City will respond Optix's Challenge below.

Before answering Optix Media's Challenge to the City of Rexburg's State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application for Public Safety/Local Government, the City of Rexburg would note that Direct Communications (the owner of Optix Media) responded to a Request for Proposal (RFP) for for-profit companies to build and provide service in a fiber-optic network funded by the award of this Grant.

Optix/Direct stated in their RFP response: "We, Direct Communications (DC), have read and are aware of the scope of work as outlined in and requested by the city of Rexburg's RFP. As per the request Direct Communications will provide a lit fiber Optic WAN. Direct will provide to the following locations a lit fiber optic connection with the ability to provide at least the listed Connection Bandwidth."

Optix/Direct provided a Map as part of their RFP response. Based on this data, the City of Rexburg asserts that there are locations which are not served by Optix/Direct's fiber. (Please see the Map at the end of this document.)

The City of Rexburg asserts that Optix/Direct's claim that "The application does not meet the stated criteria: 'Be a project that does not overbuild existing broadband infrastructure at the required speeds'" is irrelevant since the Grant states that Grant Project consist of providing fiber to at least "one (1) designated government facility" (Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A,

Subcategory ii, Subcategory a). Adhering to the requirements of the Grant, the City of Rexburg is not planning on creating a community network, rather it is connecting existing government facilities at "the required speeds" (Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory ii, and Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory iv).

Refer to the Map provided by Direct/Optix. It shows locations which are not currently serviced by Direct/Optix, or any fiber broadband provider. Therefore their claim does not constitute an "overbuild of service" ((Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory iv).

The City of Rexburg does not dispute that there are several existing telecommunication companies operating within the City Limits of Rexburg. However, the City of Rexburg published a Request for Proposals (RFP) in the local paper (the Upper Valley Standard Journal) on Tuesday, June 30th and Tuesday July 7th, in anticipation of being awarded the Grant on July 31st. The portion of the RFP associated with the Grant was "Addendum 1.". The City of Rexburg affirms that it made a good faith effort to publish its intent to pursue the Grant and to contact for-profit telecommunication providers. Further, as Line 2 'Eligible Projects', Item A, Subcategory v requires that all service be from "only for-profit companies", Optix/Direct responded to this RFP, thus showing interest and support for the City of Rexburg's Grant Application.

In conclusion, the City of Rexburg feels that this Grant will allow the City to meet the requirements of the CARES Act by allowing citizens of Rexburg to access the Internet at public facilities, while practicing physical distancing.

The City of Rexburg supports Governor Brad Little's "Idaho Broadband Task Force's" recommendations to improve broadband access for Idaho. Awarding Rexburg's Grant Application will further the Task Force's recommendations.

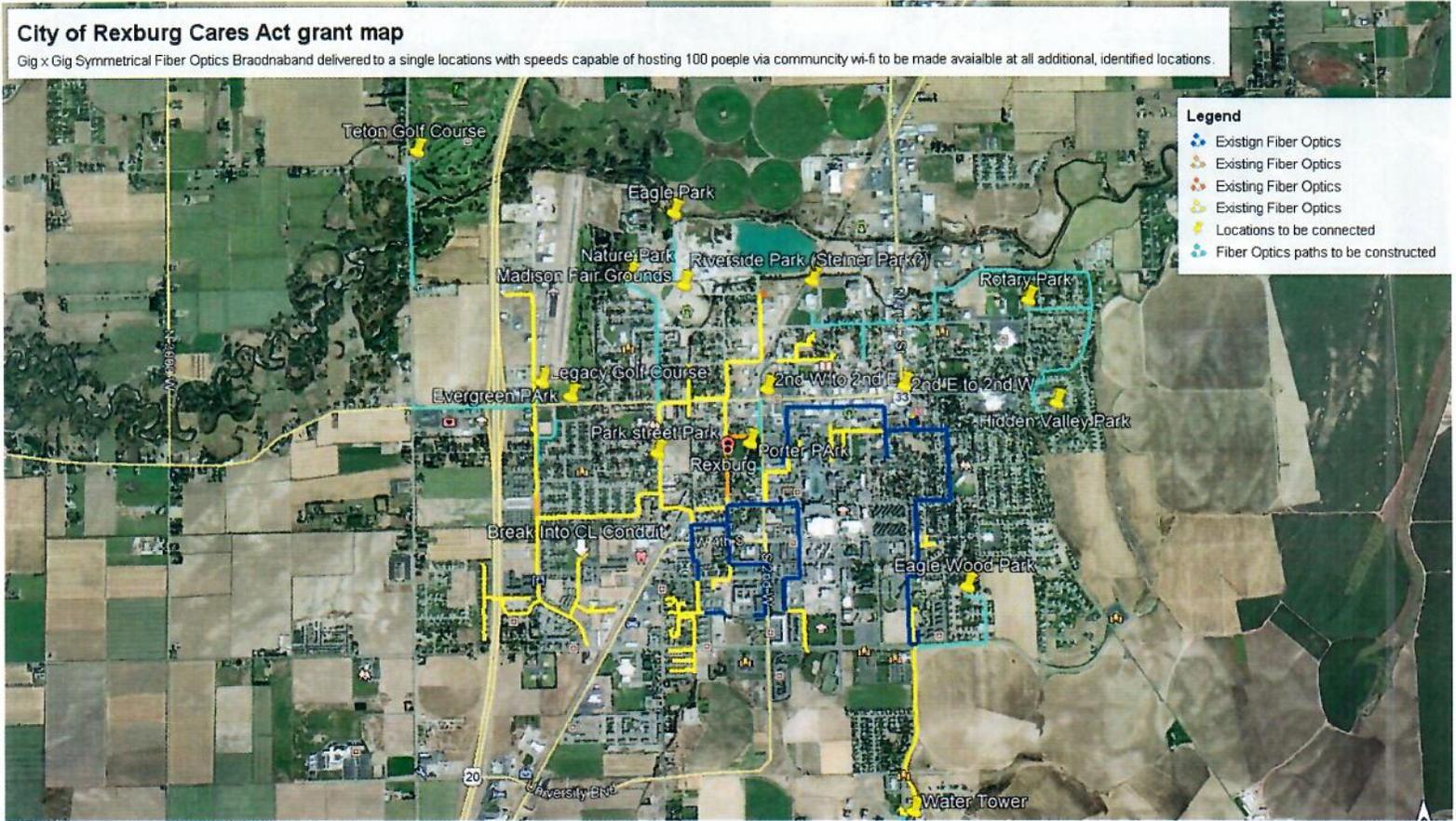
Sincerely,



Mary Flanary
Grant Writer,
City of Rexburg

City of Rexburg Cares Act grant map

Gig x Gig Symmetrical Fiber Optics Broadband delivered to a single locations with speeds capable of hosting 100 people via community wi-fi to be made available at all additional, identified locations.



State of Idaho Broadband Grant – Households

Application:

REBUTTAL TO CHALLENGE BY Fybercom

Applicant Information

1. Contact information of applicant
 - Robert (B.J.) Berlin
 - a. Mayor
 - b. P.O. Box 242
 - c. Roberts, Idaho 83444
 - d. robertsmayorbj@yahoo.com
 - e. 208-228-3220
2. Grant Administrator
 - a. Robert (B.J.) Berlin
 - b. robertsmayorbj@yahoo.com
 - c. 208-313-9382

BROADBANDNOW.COM AND 477 REPORTS

According to Broadbandnow.com a website database that receives all their records from Form 477 reports, “the average download speed in Roberts is 21.61 Mbps. (See attached graph below) This is 52.4% slower than the average in Idaho and 233.8% slower than the national average.”

According to Broadbandnow.com records, Fybercom reports that they can provide up to 25Mbps in Roberts. While few residents subscribe to Fybercom’s service in the area, their reasoning is described as that while Fybercom says they can provide 40Mbps, this is an “up-to” speed. Which means that they are averaging much slower speeds.

ESTABLISHED TREES OBSTRUCT SERVICE

Roberts, Idaho was established in 1864. Residents of Roberts take great pride in their history, as well as the beauty in the established trees in the area. This poses a tremendous amount of difficulty for wireless providers in the area. While Roberts supports a population of approximately 1,000 residents Fybercom provides service to an extremely low amount of the residents. It could be inferred that while wireless service could reach the residents, service would not be adequate because of line-of-sight and the existence of mature trees in the area.

Fybercom uses the presence of a tower in town to further their assertion that this grant request should not be valid. It is true that the presence of this tower gives them better service potential than other wireless providers in the area. However, it is also true that the effectiveness of this tower is greatly limited by location and height. The water tower it is placed on was designed to create gravitational

water flow. It did not take in to account the tree line nor line of sight. As a result, the location of Fyrbercom's tower does very little to ease the limited service and availability issues created by mature tree coverage.









SERVICE AREA & COVERAGE DISCREPANCIES

There are also some discrepancies in the numbers that Fibercom has provided. Fibercom claims to cover 90% of the proposed grant area with 100x10Mbps service. They also claim to currently serve 63% of the businesses and residences in the proposed area with its 40x10Mbps product. However, their own service maps claim only 35 accounts. In a community of 202 rooftops. That is only 17% of the proposed area being serviced.

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

Direct Communications has received a number of pre-registrations for fiber in the area as they saw fiber being laid to Roberts Elementary. Some of the requests include the following:

“we definitely want in. Look forward to hearing from you.”

“There’s no good service out here because of how far away we are from the towers. Please help”

“I would like faster internet local providers suck and are way over priced.”

“We currently have centurylink with 5mb download in a good day! You can imagine how well that’s worked with 3 kids online school and my husband trying to work from home. We haven’t had another service because there isn’t an option that works any better out here. So having fiber optics would be wonderful especially if school doesn’t happen again.”

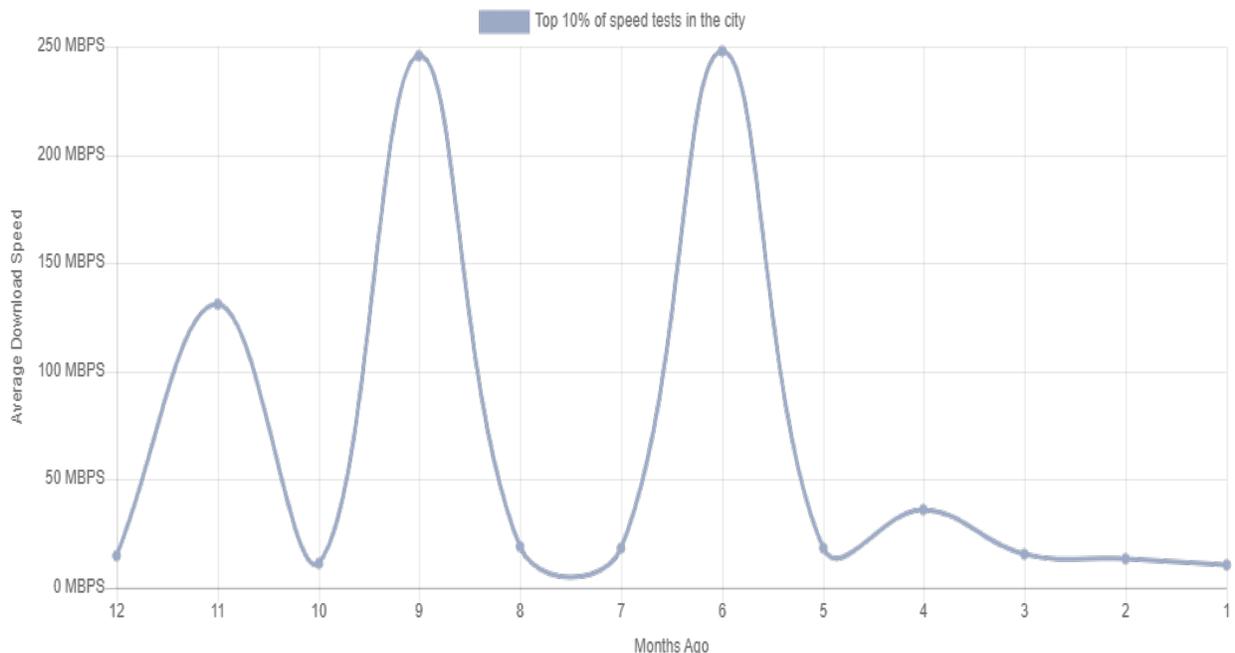
MULTIPLE PROVIDERS

If fixed wireless providers in the area were providing faster speeds to the majority of the city, they would not seek after DSL service from Centurylink at speeds on average of 10Mbps. However, there are a large number of residents in the area who subscribe to Centurylink. So, the question still remains, if Fybercom can in fact provide consistent broadband speeds of 40 Mbps, why would the majority of residents be using a DSL service that is so much slower?

DOES ROBERTS MEEET THE GRANT REQUIREMENTS

The question raised in the challenge from Fybercom is that Roberts does not meet the requirements that “50% of households are currently in an unserved area and 50% of households are in an underserved area.” Fybercom claims to be able to provide 40mb x 10mb. If this is their stated speed it is a best-case scenario. All wireless service has a difficult time, and rarely ever do, meet best case scenarios as evidenced by the average upload speed of well below 25Mbps, as reported by Broadbandnow.com and many of the residents. The significant interference caused by mature tree coverage removes a significant percentage of the community from being able to receive wireless service. Due to these reason and others we believe that it is fair to claim Roberts does meet the grant requirement, and subsequent claim that “50% of households are currently in an unserved area and 50% of households are in an underserved area”.

Average service speeds in the City of Roberts as reported to and tracked by Broadbandnow.



This graph clearly shows that average broadband speeds are well below the 25x3 Threshold require in for this request to qualify.

Name of Applicant: Lewisville

Application number: 4153

State of Idaho Broadband Grant – Households

Application:

REBUTTAL TO CHALLENGE BY SAFELINK

Applicant Information

1. Contact information of applicant
 - a. Robert (B.J.) Berlin
 - b. Mayor
 - c. P.O. Box 242
 - c. Roberts, Idaho 83444
 - d. robertsmayorbj@yahoo.com
 - e. 208-228-3220
2. Grant Administrator
 - a. Robert (B.J.) Berlin
 - b. robertsmayorbj@yahoo.com
 - c. 208-313-9382

BROADBANDNOW.COM AND 477 REPORTS

According to Broadbandnow.com a website database that receives all their records from Form 477 reports, “the average download speed in Roberts is 21.61 Mbps. This is 52.4% slower than the average in Idaho and 233.8% slower than the national average.”

According to Broadbandnow.com records, Safelink reports that they can provide up to 25Mbps in Roberts. While few residents subscribe to Safelink’s service in the area, their reasoning is described as that while Safelink says they can provide 25Mbps, this is an “up-to” speed. Which means that they are averaging much slower speeds.

ESTABLISHED TREES OBSTRUCT SERVICE

Roberts, Idaho was established in 1864. Residents of Roberts take great pride in their history, as well as the beauty in the established trees in the area. This poses a tremendous amount of difficulty for wireless providers in the area. While Roberts supports a population of approximately 1,000 residents Safelink provides service to an extremely low amount of the residents. It could be inferred that while wireless service could reach the residents, service would not be adequate because of line-of-sight and the existence of mature trees in the area.

Even with a tower within city limits, this does little for those homes that have mature trees close to their residence.









SERVICE MAP DISCREPANCIES

There are also some discrepancies between the map that Safelink provided and the map that is available on their website. The map on their own website shows a large coverage gap in the middle of the City of Roberts. Which does not line up with their claims in the rebuttal.

The screenshot displays the Safelink website interface. At the top, the Safelink logo is on the left, and navigation links for Residential, Business, Farm, Locations, About, Library, and My Account are in the center. A 'REQUEST QUOTE' button is on the right. Below the header is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Please enter an address to search'. The main content area features a map of Roberts, Idaho, which is predominantly green, signifying a lack of service coverage. The map includes labels for various locations such as Roberts Elementary School, Lakeview Family Apartments, and Roberts Community Church. At the bottom of the map, there is a footer with the text 'Covers generated by TowerCoverage.com' and three buttons: 'Get a Quote', 'Search by City', and 'Request Coverage'.

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

Direct Communications has received a number of pre-registrations for fiber in the area as they saw fiber being laid to Roberts Elementary. Some of the requests include the following:

“we definitely want in. Look forward to hearing from you.”

“There’s no good service out here because of how far away we are from the towers. Please help”

“I would like faster internet local providers suck and are way over priced.”

“We currently have centurylink with 5mb download in a good day! You can imagine how well that’s worked with 3 kids online school and my husband trying to work from home. We haven’t had another service because there isn’t an option that works any better out here. So having fiber optics would be wonderful especially if school doesn’t happen again.”

MULTIPLE PROVIDERS

If fixed wireless providers in the area were providing faster speeds to the majority of the city, they would not seek after DSL service from Centurylink at speeds on average of 10Mbps. However, there are a large number of residents in the area who subscribe to Centurylink. So, the question still remains, if Safelink can in fact provide speeds of 25Mbps, why would the majority of residents be using a DSL service that is so much slower?

DOES ROBERTS MEEET THE GRANT REQUIREMENTS

The question raised in the challenge from Safelink is that Roberts does not meet the requirements that "50% of households are currently in an unserved area and 50% of households are in an underserved area." Safelink claims to be able to provide 25mb x 3mb. If this is their sated speed it is a best-case scenario. All wireless service has a difficult time, and rarely ever do, meet best case scenarios. The significant interference caused by mature tree coverage removes a significant percentage of the community from being able to receive wireless service. Even if they do have decent line of sight Safelinks own website shows significant coverage laps in the middle of town. Due to these reasons and others we believe that it is fair to claim Roberts does meet the grant requirement, and subsequent claim that "50% of households are currently in an unserved area and 50% of households are in an underserved area".

Thank you!

Name of Applicant: Osburn

Application number: 4307

Phone (208)752-0001
Fax (208)753-8585

Response to the Ziplly Fiber Challenge for State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application:
Households - APP-004307

Ziplly Fiber challenge: At present, Ziplly Fiber provides service at speeds as indicated on the attached map. Additionally, Ziplly Fiber is in process of engineering network expansions in Osburn in addition to improving the existing network.

As we understand the purpose of the State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant, it is to provide service in currently underserved and unserved areas of rural Idaho.

In reviewing the Ziplly Fiber map, we are unable to discern what is *current coverage* and what is *probable build*. The claim that Ziplly Fiber currently provides speeds indicated on their map are not realized by their subscribers as stated. Enclosed are screen shots and a spreadsheet of speeds from Ziplly Fiber subscribers at varied times and locations throughout the indicated area on the Ziplly Fiber map. These diminished speeds currently hinder the ability to perform basic tasks and are a barrier to connectivity when more than one device is online at the same time. As subscribers, they look forward to the time when Ziplly Fiber's upgrades will consistently provide the minimum speeds needed. That is not today and is an unknown that creates a barrier to recovery and planning.

We feel that challenging based on "in the process of engineering network expansion" is not valid by definition of the grant guidelines. As a rural community, we have experienced provider's claims to deliver service or exceptionally high speeds that did not come to completion. As a rural community, our population diminishes our value for investment and customer service to large providers. Comments highlighting this fact from our Sewage Plant Operation Office and residential subscribers located in Osburn regarding current service and ability to deliver product are attached. We feel our community cannot move forward based on proposals and promises considering past experience with large providers and respectfully decline Ziplly Fiber's reasoning as a viable disqualification.

Another concern that has been expressed by our community is Ziplly Fiber's (previously Frontier's) refusal to accept new subscribers. As shown on the attached spreadsheet, 13 subscribers of Suddenlink Communications and HughesNet also provided speed test results. Every one of the subscribers stated that they were refused service by Frontier/ Ziplly Fiber due to a customer "cap" in their area. Many subscribers even stated that Frontier/ Ziplly Fiber informed them that their address simply "did not exist". In the last 7 years, 10 new homes have

been built in a new subdivision in Osburn. When contacted by the homeowner's, Frontier stated that they were unable to provide service to that area and the homeowner's had to resort to alternative providers with slower speeds. The subscribers in our city feel that if Ziplly Fiber cannot accommodate any new subscribers, then they must be given an alternative provider that offers better speeds, prices, and customer service than Suddenlink Communications and HughesNet.

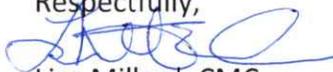
The funding terms from the State of Idaho for this grant, clearly state the project must be completed no later than December 15, 2020. This provides a clear expectation of a deliverable service giving a sense of hope not previously felt. This gives a clear timeline allowing plans to be made for telecommuting, telemedicine, online learning and attract much needed industry and opportunity to Osburn.

Communities in Shoshone County have the positive experience and speed tests with J&R Electronics to know that their subscribers are delivered the speeds as subscribed. We are confident, based on facts and data, that J&R Electronics will deliver the speeds and affordable access to broadband on time and at or above expectations. We also know that J&R Electronics has made a substantial investment into our county and has created local skilled jobs for our residents. This commitment will continue to provide additional jobs and investment into our economy.

We appreciate that Ziplly will be improving the existing network at an undetermined date and as yet unknown method. In the best interest of our community's current needs, we respectfully reject the Ziplly Fiber challenge as a valid reason to disqualify the project for which we have applied.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Respectfully,



Lisa Millard, CMC

Clerk/ Treasurer

LM:jga

enc: 10 Customer Complaints/ Statement, Speed Tests 1-45, Osburn Challenge Response- Speed Tests

Name of Applicant: Ida-Lew Economic Development

Application number: 4117



BOARD OF IDAHO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 31, 2020

Tom Keeley, Director
Idaho Department of Commerce
700 W State Street
Boise, ID 83702

RE: Idaho CARES Act Broadband Grant - Challenge Response to Inland Cellular

Dear Director Kealey,

Idaho County likewise applauds the State of Idaho's use of CARES Act funding to support deployment of broadband across rural Idaho, specifically in communities of 3000 or less.

It is no secret that internet capabilities have been lackluster in much of Idaho County for years, and this reality has had a severe impact on Idaho County's economics, educational opportunities, and health care. One of the hardest hit areas has been the White Bird to Riggins corridor, as internet capabilities in this region have historically been limited to a single provider other than satellite.

In response to the Challenge to the *Idaho County Fixed Wireless Broadband Project* application (#APP-004117), please consider the following facts:

- As of July 28, 2020, Inland Cellular does not list broadband service, plans, or pricing for the White Bird area on its website <https://emerge.inlandcellular.com/home-internet/>
- During the preparation of the original application, an exhaustive search of internet providers' websites was conducted to determine if broadband service was being offered in various parts of Idaho County. Tangible evidence that Inland Cellular provides the minimal FCC broadband service (25/3 Mbps) in the White Bird area was not available. Anecdotal evidence from residents in the area confirmed there are limits on reliable service and indicate that Inland Cellular is still in a preliminary phase of launching their service at true broadband speeds without any glitches.
- The original Idaho County application proposes that several sites would be built out between White Bird and Riggins. These sites will be situated far away from Inland Cellular's existing tower. Consequently, these sites will have coverage patterns different from the RF map provided by Inland Cellular in the challenge.
- Inland Cellular admitted that their current tower will not hit all homes and businesses around the White Bird area, which most likely is due to the challenging topography in the White Bird to Riggins corridor.

- Unless Inland Cellular plans on building out additional sites to hit homes and businesses that their current tower is unable to reach, these locations will continue to be cut-off from the benefits of true broadband.
- Assuming Inland Cellular is capable of delivering true broadband services in White Bird as suggested, the original application would still remain valid since all sites built out with grant money in this corridor would be engineered to provide service to numerous customers that the single Inland Cellular tower cannot serve.
- Due to lack of tangible evidence that broadband services meet or exceed the FCC minimum are being provided within and near the city of White Bird by Inland Cellular other than their suggestion that they do - it would follow that the county's application complies with CARES Act funding guidance that grant money be allocated to underbuilt areas that does not overbuild existing broadband services, and furthermore, to include only new broadband service.
- Procedurally it is curious to note that the challenge letter submitted by Inland Cellular is dated Tuesday, July 21, 2020. But the challenge was not submitted to Commerce until Saturday, July 25, 2020, the day after the announced deadline. Why is there this disparity, and why does it make the challenge valid if it was not critical for Inland to meet the deadline?

Therefore, we feel that the evidence weighs in favor of the Department of Commerce approving the Idaho County Fixed Broadband Project application as originally submitted.

However, if the Department of Commerce feels it prudent to modify the original application in order to meet its interpretation of CARES Act requirements, the potential customers within the city limits of White Bird (population 94) and immediate area can be carved out from the project scope without materially affecting the original Idaho County Fixed Broadband Project application. Even with the exclusion of the city limits of White Bird we feel the original application will easily provide coverage to the 2,000 households countywide as originally promised. The project budget will not be affected,

Thank you for your consideration of these additional facts toward the challenge presented.

Sincerely,



R. Skipper Brandt, Chairman