

**Request for Public Comment – Request for Proposed
Projects**

June 11th, 2021



**IDAHO MILITARY DIVISION
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH
700 SOUTH STRATFORD DRIVE, BUILDING 6
MERIDIAN, ID 83642-6202**

June 6, 2021

The Idaho Military Division Public Safety Communications and IT branch provides services to State of Idaho agencies that have the potential to impact every Idaho citizen and visitor. As a result of the COVID pandemic many of those agencies have initiated changes to provide additional, or expand existing technological options to provide access to their services.

The mission of Public Safety Communications (PSC) is to assist State agencies with the implementation of new technology, and provide and maintain the network infrastructure it operates on. The PSC network infrastructure consists of an interconnected system of microwave radio sites that span the State of Idaho. This network carries voice and data traffic for many agency customers including the National Guard armories, the Idaho State Police, Emergency Medical Services, Idaho Fish and Game, the Idaho Transportation Department, and the Idaho State Courts system. This network is maintained and managed by PSC employees whose offices are located in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Meridian, Twin Falls, Rupert, Pocatello, and Rigby. The IT group located at Gowen Field in Boise manages the data traffic carried by the microwave network on a managed ethernet.

A second important network of systems that PSC maintains and operates are the multiple Land Mobile Radio systems used by State of Idaho agencies. PSC maintains more than 130 remote radio repeater sites, many base stations, and hundreds of mobile and portable radios.

As State agencies implemented technology changes in response to COVID, additional requirements have been identified for the infrastructure that supports their new systems. Law enforcement and EMS have been approved for funding of new mountain top radio repeaters that are capable of ethernet communications. Many of our communication sites do not have network equipment capable of supporting ethernet. These new systems will increase site power requirements, backup power capacity needs, and add new sources of heat to sites that already require environmental controls year-round.

To support the changes implemented by multiple State agencies the following investment category has been identified as a top priority. PSC is prepared to address it with shovel ready projects to increase the available bandwidth and extend the PSC network to support the new agency equipment:

Network Equipment and Infrastructure. Microwave radio, routing, and switching network equipment needs to be replaced to accommodate new agency equipment requirements and allow adequate bandwidth for operation. The maintenance equipment used to monitor, test, and repair the networks needs updated to match the capabilities of the new systems. Physical security of the sites needs evaluated, updated and improved to properly protect the critical assets of the State

PSC has identified the following priority projects that could be implemented in the current calendar year:

Network equipment upgrade	\$ 4.5 Million
Network site infrastructure upgrades	\$ 1.5 Million

PSC is a direct funded branch of the Idaho Military Division, and receives no appropriated funds directly from the State of Idaho. All funds available to PSC originate from a charge for service model, Department of Public Works Permanent Building Fund Advisory Council projects, and occasional grant funding opportunities. PSC has the ability to generate funds adequate for maintenance and operation of the various networks it supports. It is difficult for PSC to generate the funds required for large network update projects and PSC relies on grant funding or cooperative projects with other state agencies to complete them.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our need, and potentially enhance the capabilities of PSC to provide service to state agencies that have direct contact with Idaho citizens and visitors.

Vincent Ben Call
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Chief Public Safety Communications and IT Services.
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4 June 2021

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board
Idaho Department of Commerce, Broadband Office
700 W State St
Boise, ID 83720-0093

Dear Idaho Broadband Advisory Board,

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) appreciates the opportunity to propose a project for your consideration to effectively and efficiently use a portion of your \$10 million in CARES Act funding designated for broadband projects to serve Idahoans.

In 2020, the ICfL applied for and received two \$1 million Idaho Broadband Grants for Public Safety and Local Government titled “Rural Libraries Connecting Idahoans via Wi-Fi Hotspots.” These grants provided state-of-the-art network equipment capable of symmetrical gigabit speeds, including indoor and outdoor wireless access points, in 49 public library buildings serving communities of less than 10,000 people. All 49 installations were completed over a month prior to the original CARES Act deadline by an Idaho-based technology solutions vendor that further committed to provide six years of technical network support, advanced cybersecurity protection, and content filtering at all participating locations.

These 49 rural Idaho communities are now benefiting from robust and reliable public wireless broadband access both inside and surrounding their local public library and will continue to do so for years to come. However, our original grant proposal identified that there are 119 cities and unincorporated communities of less than 10,000 people in every corner of the state with a public library building. This means there are many more Idahoans we could reach with library-provided public wireless broadband access if a follow-up project becomes possible. With another \$1 million, we could significantly improve public access to broadband in 25 additional Idaho communities via their local public libraries. Further, the network equipment utilized in these installations is not experiencing the supply chain delays currently plaguing most of the technology sector, so we are confident we could once again complete a project of this scale well before the December 30, 2021 deadline for these funds.

We appreciate your consideration of this proposal and await any questions or clarifications you require in order to make your decision.

Sincerely,
Dylan Baker
E-Services Program Supervisor
dylan.baker@libraries.idaho.gov
208-639-4167



From: Representative Megan Blanksma <MBlanksma@house.idaho.gov>

Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 5:00 PM

To: Representative John Vander Woude <JVanderWoude@house.idaho.gov>

Cc: Margie Watson <margiew@soobrand.com>; Andy Emerson <andy.emerson@mh-solutions.com>; Senator Carl Crabtree <CCrabtree@senate.idaho.gov>; Mitch Watkins <mwatkins@watkinsdist.com>; Representative Barbara Ehardt <BEhardt@house.idaho.gov>; Senator David Nelson <DNelson@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Doug Ricks <dricks@senate.idaho.gov>; Tom Kealey <Tom.Kealey@commerce.idaho.gov>; Jake Reynolds <Jake.Reynolds@commerce.idaho.gov>

Subject: ITD Conduit Comments

Here are the comments from ITD regarding conduit.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mollie McCarty <Mollie.McCarty@itd.idaho.gov>

Subject: CARES Act funding

Date: June 4, 2021 at 2:32:15 PM MDT

To: "mblanksma@house.idaho.gov"

<mblanksma@house.idaho.gov>

Cc: Scott Stokes <Scott.Stokes@itd.idaho.gov>, Dan McElhinney <Dan.McElhinney@itd.idaho.gov>, Blake Rindlisbacher

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(Tom.Kealey@commerce.idaho.gov)"

<Tom.Kealey@commerce.idaho.gov>, "Eric Forsch

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<Eric.Forsch@commerce.idaho.gov>, Ramon Hobdey-Sanchez <[\[Sanchez@itd.idaho.gov\]\(mailto:Sanchez@itd.idaho.gov\)>, Matthew Moore](mailto:Ramon.Hobdey-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

<Matthew.Moore@itd.idaho.gov>

Hello Rep. Blanksma,

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board's inquiry on how ITD could potentially support the construction and installation of conduits to expand broadband access in Idaho under CARES Act funding. It is the Department's understanding that

any broadband project construction would need to be completed by the end of 2021. Given this timeline, ITD has identified a potential approach for utilization of these funds.

The Interstate highway system provides the easiest constructability for ITD where access is controlled, and potential conflicts with existing utilities are limited. In 2001, under a Shared Resources Agreement between ITD and Syringa Networks, conduits were installed along the I-84 corridor from the Oregon border east to Bliss. Continuation of broadband conduits from Bliss east along I-84 with vaults placed at all interchanges would provide the opportunity for future lateral builds by broadband providers to serve communities along the corridor.

It is also worth noting that broadband conduits have been installed by the Utah Department of Transportation along the I-84 corridor up to the Idaho state line. This is another example of potential installation of broadband conduits into southeast Idaho.

ITD can explore other examples or other areas if desired, but these corridors are mentioned because of the short time available for both contract development and actual construction. This approach also assumes it meets necessary federal requirements, and additional information may be needed to make this determination.

Installation of broadband conduit along the highway right-of-way would not provide broadband access to users, but would provide infrastructure that could be used by broadband providers in the future.

Assuming proper eligibility of CARES Act funding, this approach would require approval by the Idaho Transportation Board which could be requested during a regular monthly meeting.

Please let us know if you would like to discuss this approach, or any others, and let us know how we can further assist the Board.

Mollie McCarty
ITD Governmental Affairs Manager
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208-631-9393 cell