

Idaho Broadband Fund: CARES Act Broadband Grant

Applicant	Sharon Kropf
Applicant ID	APP-004790
Company Name	Weston
Recipient Address	Weston PO Box 68 Weston, ID 83286
Phone	(208) 747-3265
Email	westoncity68@yahoo.com
Amount Requested	\$1,505,700.00
Status	Submitted
Funded	<input type="checkbox"/>

Application Title: Weston Household Broadband Project

Applicant Information

NOTICE: Grant applications, challenges, and responses to challenges will be posted to the Idaho Department of Commerce website

1. Program Description

The Idaho Broadband Advisory Board is soliciting projects that meet the CARES Act funding criteria for the \$10 million appropriated to the Idaho Department of Commerce from the Federal COVID Relief Fund. These funds may only be expended to provide financial assistance in broadband infrastructure consistent with CARES Act criteria. The Idaho Broadband Advisory Board seeks to fund broadband projects across the state that are necessary for the COVID-19 public health emergency, and may include assisting with or improving distance learning, telehealth, telework, and public safety. This Idaho Broadband Fund: CARES Act Broadband Grant (the "Broadband Grant") is designed to meet the CARES Act criteria, helping Idaho rebound from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Question: Applicant's contact information: a. Name b. Title/Position c. Mailing Address d. Email Address e. Phone Number

- a. Sharon Kropf
- b. Weston City Clerk
- c. P.O. Box 68, Weston, ID 83286
- d. westoncity68@yahoo.com
- e. 208-747-3265

Question: List the cities/communities in the census blocks where the project(s) will take place.

This project will take place in and around the City of Weston.

Question: Grant Administrator a. Provide the name and title of the designated grant administrator. b. Provide the email address of the designated grant administrator. c. Provide the phone number of the designated grant administrator.

- a. Amanda Collins, Community Development Specialist
- b. amanda@sicog.org
- c. 208-233-4535 Ext. 4

Project Requirements

2. Eligible Projects

A. To be eligible for funding under the Broadband Grant, projects must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Projects must satisfy the CARES Act criteria, which is designed to address key areas of public health and safety by improving opportunities to telework, improving access to telehealth services, facilitating distance learning, and improving public safety (CARES Act Federal Register Guidance can be found here. Frequently asked questions can be referenced here.)
- Projects must be necessary due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Projects must expand rural broadband capacity to assist with telework, telehealth, distance learning, and public safety. Projects that would not be expected to increase capacity to a significant extent until the need for telework, telehealth, distance learning, and public safety have passed due to this public health emergency would not be necessary due to the public health emergency and therefore would not be eligible uses of Broadband Grant funds. Projects must provide broadband service within the proposed project areas.
- Projects must be completed and operable and verified no later than December 31, 2021. **Projects that are not completed, operable, and verified by December 31, 2021 will not be reimbursed.**
- Include broadband infrastructure and equipment costs meeting CARES Act criteria. Satellite service is not eligible for grant award.

Eligible applicants may apply for multiple grants. County governments may apply for grants on behalf of unincorporated communities.

Question: Does your project meet the CARES Act criteria?

Yes

No

Question: I understand that the State of Idaho will provide no funding and have no obligations for CARES funded projects that fail to be completed by December 31, 2021.

Yes

No

Scored Criteria

Scored Criteria

1. Provide an overview of the project, including why the project is important and how it will address the broadband needs of the community. Include a scope of work description, along with a list of ISPs that can provide: the broadband service being sought, the required technologies and equipment, and the installation and operation of the new broadband service. (30 Points)
 - a. Scope of Work: outlines the detailed plans of the infrastructure build. This may include, but is not limited to, the following: project area, type of infrastructure installed, locations of underserved households, known existing infrastructure, known existing anchor institutions (schools, hospitals, public facilities, etc.), potential middle-mile infrastructure that will be utilized, and locations of existing infrastructure.
2. Explain how the project will promote equal access in economic development, public safety, telehealth, education, including why current infrastructure is inadequate or negatively impacts the community? (25 Points)
3. Explain how your project meets Cares Act Criteria, is necessary for the public health emergency, and mitigates similar disruptions in the future? (20 Points).
4. Will this project deliver broadband infrastructure to a rural Idaho population (less than 25,000) (Y/N) (15 Points).
5. Explain how your project delivers a cost-effective broadband infrastructure solution to the community (10 Points).

Question: Provide an overview of the project, including why the project is important and how it will address the broadband needs of the community. Include a scope of work description, along with a list of ISPs that can provide the proposed service.

With just over 550 citizens, Weston is a remote, rural community with little access to reliable broadband services. This project will bring fiber broadband capabilities directly to the homes in the city of Weston; making telehealth, remote working and distance learning a reality for the people of Weston. Direct Communications is the only ISP in the area with the backbone infrastructure. They serve the cities of Oxford, Clifton, Dayton and Preston. Other ISPs are available through satellite service, but not with the capacity or reliability of fiber. Direct Communications intends to run over 81,000 feet of fiber, which they have contributed to the project, and bring the service to 154 homes in Weston.

Question: Explain how the project will promote equal access in economic development, public safety, telehealth, education, including why current infrastructure is inadequate or negatively impacts the community?

Weston doesn't have reliable internet service to facilitate remote learning, working from home or even telehealth capabilities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it was impossible for families with multiple remote learners to adequately access school work for their children; let alone access needed service to work from home at the same time. Weston is an aged community. Individuals on a fixed income cannot afford the exorbitant cost of premium service in their homes to facilitate telehealth visits, allowing them to safely see their medical providers. This project will bring a reliable, cost effective broadband option to their front door. Current infrastructure is a

large factor in economic development for the area. The cost for a small business to provide e-commerce on a reliable system is too high, excluding Weston as an option for small, local businesses that rely on internet service for success.

Question: Explain how your project meets Cares Act Criteria, is necessary for the public health emergency, and mitigates similar disruptions in the future?

The COVID-19 pandemic sent kids home from school, people home from work and kept vulnerable populations isolated from family, friends and without access to needed interactions. Without reliable internet services, children cannot learn, people cannot work from home and large populations of Weston were without the capability to access telehealth for safe interactions with their providers. Access to high speed, affordable fiber will allow for remote learning, telework and facilitate telehealth for the people of Weston. It will also allow vulnerable populations to access services to keep them safely involved in the lives of their friends and families; making isolation a little more tolerable and keeping seniors safe.

Question: Will this project deliver broadband infrastructure to a rural Idaho population (less than 25,000)?

Yes

No

Question: Explain how your project delivers a cost-effective broadband infrastructure solution to the community?

This project is a fiber to fiber to the premises build that will bring fiber directly to consumer and negating the need to pay for the infrastructure as an individual. It will also provide reliable services to the community for a third of the current estimates from satellite providers. This will allow the community of Weston to access 50mbps symmetrical, which is Direct Communications basic package for \$59.95 a month, in comparison to other companies that offer 12 mbps X 3 mbps for \$149.99 a month.

Additional Requested Information (if applicable)

Question: Please detail any project match included to complete this project.

Direct Communications will match 81,000 feet of Fiber for a total cost of \$162,000.

Question: Estimated total project cost?

1667700.00

Question: Number of households that will be connected to broadband service under the scope of the grant if applicable? If not applicable please answer N/A.

Question: What is the average cost per household of new broadband service based on this project cost if applicable? If not applicable please answer N/A.

The cost per service is \$8,478.53

Question: What is the maximum broadband speed that will be provided by the project?

This project will provide 1GB symmetrical service to each home.

Question: Are permits, permissions, and zoning requirements all obtainable in order for the project to be completed and paid for by December 31, 2021 if it is a CARES funded project? Please provide details.

The vendor has an existing relationship with the City and County that will streamline the process of permitting and easement access. They also have a very cooperative relationship with the State of Idaho.

Question: Please describe who will be providing the broadband service and ownership of the broadband infrastructure..

Direct Communications will own the fiber in the conduit but the fiber only; which is necessary in order for them to tie the new fiber back to their existing network. In the interest of equal access, Direct Communications will make available circuits and carrier services to competitive providers at a fair market rate. Upon funding, the City of Weston and Direct Communications will have a MOU that outlines equal access and choices for the citizens within the impact zone.

Question: Describe how the project will be administered and audited for completion, and how the accounting will be performed.

The City of Weston has hired the Southeast Idaho Council of Governments (SICOG) via Resolution 2021-2 to administer the Idaho Broadband Grant.

Question: Has your project area received or been awarded any federal funds (CAFII/RDOF/USDA Reconnect) in the past two years, or will it receive federal funding over the next two years? If so, explain why additional funding was/is necessary in the project area?

No.

Question: Has your project area received state funds (Cares Act Broadband Grants, E-Rate, etc.) in the past two years? If so, please explain what state funds were received and why the additional state funding was necessary in the project area.

No.

Question: Include any other relevant information as to why your project should be considered for funding.

The City of Weston is consistently making efforts to better their community. They do not have the broadband infrastructure to support at home learning, working from home, or telehealth for rural patients. Their lack of connectivity is a burden on their community. It will drive economic

growth, keep people in Weston and provide a much needed service to rural Idaho. If, like the City Motto indicates, "happiness starts here", then happiness needs to come in the form of adequate broadband services for the citizens of Weston.

Question: Submit 10 or more, recent, fixed location Speed Tests. Applicants can choose which speedtest application to use across the proposed project area (if applicable).

[10.jpg](#) (7/15/2021 9:34 AM)
[9.jpg](#) (7/15/2021 9:34 AM)
[8.jpg](#) (7/15/2021 9:34 AM)
[7.jpg](#) (7/15/2021 9:33 AM)
[6.jpg](#) (7/15/2021 9:33 AM)
[5.jpg](#) (7/15/2021 9:33 AM)
[4.jpg](#) (7/15/2021 9:32 AM)
[3.jpg](#) (7/15/2021 9:32 AM)
[2.jpg](#) (7/15/2021 9:32 AM)
[1.jpg](#) (7/15/2021 9:32 AM)

Attachments & Additional Supporting Documents

Upload Required Attachments & Additional Supporting Documents

Project Attachment Templates:

[CARES Act Certification](#)

[Grant Budget Template](#)

[Project Schedule Form](#)

[Letters of Support/Community match template](#)

Question: Project Area Identification Documentation: Applicant must upload supporting documents identifying the scope of work for the proposed project(s). Applicant must include 1Pdf & 1Shape/Kmz map clearly showing the location and details of the proposed project.

[Weston, Idaho Grant KMZ.kmz](#) (7/16/2021 11:52 AM)
[Weston Grant area With rooftops.pdf](#) (7/16/2021 11:52 AM)
[Weston Grant area Without locations.pdf](#) (7/16/2021 11:52 AM)

Question: Grant Budget Template: Complete, upload, and attach to the application a completed Grant Budget Template for the project that outlines each of the various costs.

[WestonBudget.pdf](#) (7/16/2021 11:53 AM)

Question: Project Schedule Form: Complete, upload, and attach to the application the Project Schedule Form.

[WestonSchedule.pdf](#) (7/15/2021 9:35 AM)

Question: CARES Act Certification: Upload and attach to the application a notarized CARES Act Certification that this project meets the CARES Act criteria.

[CaresActCertification.pdf](#) (7/15/2021 9:35 AM)

Question: Letters of Support: Upload and attach to the application any Letters of Support or Community Match documentation. (if applicable)

[Certified Match.pdf](#) (7/16/2021 11:55 AM)

[Letter3.pdf](#) (7/15/2021 9:36 AM)

[Letter2.pdf](#) (7/14/2021 2:08 PM)

[Letter.pdf](#) (7/14/2021 2:08 PM)

Question: Letters of Commitments from Anchor Institutions: Upload and attach to application letters of commitments from community anchor institutions or public safety networks which will utilize your service if the project is funded. (if applicable)

No Attachments

Question: Community Broadband Plan: Upload and attach a copy of your Community Broadband Plan (if applicable).

No Attachments

Question: Any applicable Site Plans, studies, or photographs.

[Copy of Weston Idaho Estimate Final version.xlsx](#) (7/16/2021 11:53 AM)

Signature

Your identity has been authenticated through the login process with a unique email address and password available only to you. You agree that by typing your name, title and date below, you are electronically signing the application. By electronically signing the application, you acknowledge and represent that you understand and accept all the terms and conditions stated within the application and declare that the information provided is true and that the documents you are submitting in support of your application are genuine and have not been altered in any way.

Question: Type your name.

Sharon Kropf

Question: Type your title.

Weston City Clerk

Question: Type the submission date.

07/16/21 @ 12:27 p.m.



RESULTS



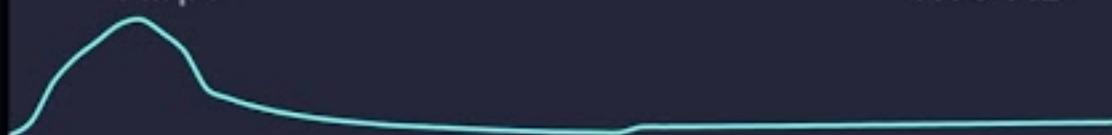
07/14/21, 7:59 PM



DOWNLOAD

6.55

Mbps

Data used
7.88 MB

UPLOAD

0.20

Mbps

Data used
0.32 MB

PING

26

ms

JITTER

8

ms

PACKET LOSS

—

%

LTE

Verizon Wireless

Verizon
Salt Lake City, UTConnections
MultiUser Location
Lat: 42.033 Lon: -111.978



RESULTS



07/14/21, 8:03 PM



DOWNLOAD

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Mbps

Data used
3.96 MB

UPLOAD

0.89

Mbps

Data used
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PING

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PACKET LOSS

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LTE

Verizon Wireless

Verizon
Salt Lake City, UTConnections
MultiUser Location
Lat: 42.033 Lon: -111.978



RESULTS



07/14/21, 7:58 PM



DOWNLOAD

4.75

Mbps

Data used
5.51 MB

UPLOAD

1.02

Mbps

Data used
1.49 MB

PING

34

ms

JITTER

26

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PACKET LOSS

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Verizon Wireless

Verizon
Salt Lake City, UTConnections
MultiUser Location
Lat: 42.036 Lon: -111.979



RESULTS



07/14/21, 7:56 PM

 DOWNLOAD

3.23

Mbps

Data used
5.42 MB UPLOAD

1.14

Mbps

Data used
1.82 MB PING

39

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13

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Verizon Wireless

Verizon
Salt Lake City, UTConnections
MultiUser Location
Lat: 42.036 Lon: -111.979



RESULTS



07/14/21, 6:44 PM



DOWNLOAD

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Mbps

Data used
3.18 MB

UPLOAD

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Mbps

Data used
3.81 MB

PING

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ms

JITTER

83

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PACKET LOSS

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LTE

Verizon Wireless

Verizon
Salt Lake City, UTConnections
MultiUser Location
Lat: 42.037 Lon: -111.979



RESULTS



07/14/21, 6:28 PM



↓ DOWNLOAD

4.49

Mbps

Data used
6.75 MB

↑ UPLOAD

0.56

Mbps

Data used
0.97 MB

⇄ PING

33

ms

⊖ JITTER

5

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ⓘ PACKET LOSS

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LTE

Verizon Wireless



Verizon
Salt Lake City, UT



Connections
Multi



User Location
Lat: 42.042 Lon: -112.019





RESULTS



07/14/21, 6:08 PM



DOWNLOAD

3.41

Mbps

Data used
3.92 MB

UPLOAD

0.90

Mbps

Data used
1.30 MB

PING

37

ms

JITTER

78

ms

PACKET LOSS

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%



Verizon Wireless

Verizon
Salt Lake City, UTConnections
MultiUser Location
Lat: 42.037 Lon: -111.976



RESULTS



07/14/21, 6:07 PM



DOWNLOAD

0.64

Mbps

Data used
0.85 MB

UPLOAD

0.86

Mbps

Data used
1.41 MB

PING

36

ms

JITTER

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PACKET LOSS

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LTE

Verizon Wireless

Verizon
Salt Lake City, UTConnections
MultiUser Location
Lat: 42.037 Lon: -111.976



RESULTS



07/14/21, 6:02 PM



DOWNLOAD

1.44

Mbps

Data used
2.02 MB

UPLOAD

0.25

Mbps

Data used
0.39 MB

PING

47

ms

JITTER

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PACKET LOSS

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LTE

Verizon Wireless

Verizon
Salt Lake City, UTConnections
MultiUser Location
Lat: 42.039 Lon: -111.988



RESULTS



07/14/21, 5:58 PM



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Mbps

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UPLOAD

3.93

Mbps

Data used
6.59 MB

PING

38

ms

JITTER

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PACKET LOSS

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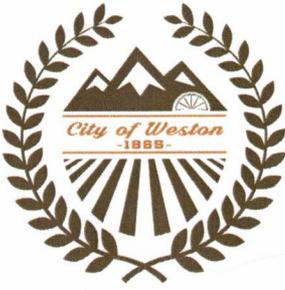
LTE

Verizon Wireless

Verizon
Salt Lake City, UTConnections
MultiUser Location
Lat: 42.046 Lon: -111.988

Idaho CARES Act Broadband Grant Budget

Line Item	Grant Dollars				Total
Grant Administration					
Totals					



State of Idaho Broadband Grant
CARES Act Certification

STATE OF IDAHO
COUNTY OF FRANKLIN

The undersigned, Greg Garner, representing the City of Weston, 18 South Center, Idaho, hereby swear (affirm) that:

1. I am Mayor of Weston City and thereby authorized to make these statements.
2. I have personal knowledge of the facts herein, and can testify completely thereto.
3. The purpose of this statement is to assure the Idaho Department of Commerce that the project will meet the CARES Act Criteria. Further guidance can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
 - i. Expenses to facilitate distance learning, including technological improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions.
 - ii. Expenses to improve telework capabilities for public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.

The City of Weston project application will ask for funds to cover expenses to facilitate distance learning, telecommuting, and telehealth access to our rural community by bringing reliable high speed broadband access to homes in Weston; enabling compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature

7-14-2021
Date

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN before me on this 14 day of July, 2021



[Handwritten Signature: Sharon Kropp]

Notary Public for STATE
Residing at 35 N 1st W Weston ID
Commission expires July 30, 2024

Idaho Cares Act Broadband Grant

Match

Community: City of Weston

Contributor name (&title): N/A

Agency/Business: Direct Communications

DESCRIPTION OF DONATION:

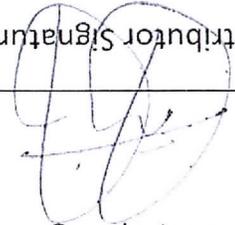
Date: 7/15/2021

Direct Communications will provide all required Fiber for completion of the
Weston Idaho Broadband Grant area, up to and not to exceed 81,000 feet of
fiber.

Total Amount Contributed to Project: up to and not to exceed \$162,000.00

I hereby certify that the above listed contributions have been offered and will be
provided, upon grant awarding, in the amount shown.

Contributor Signature



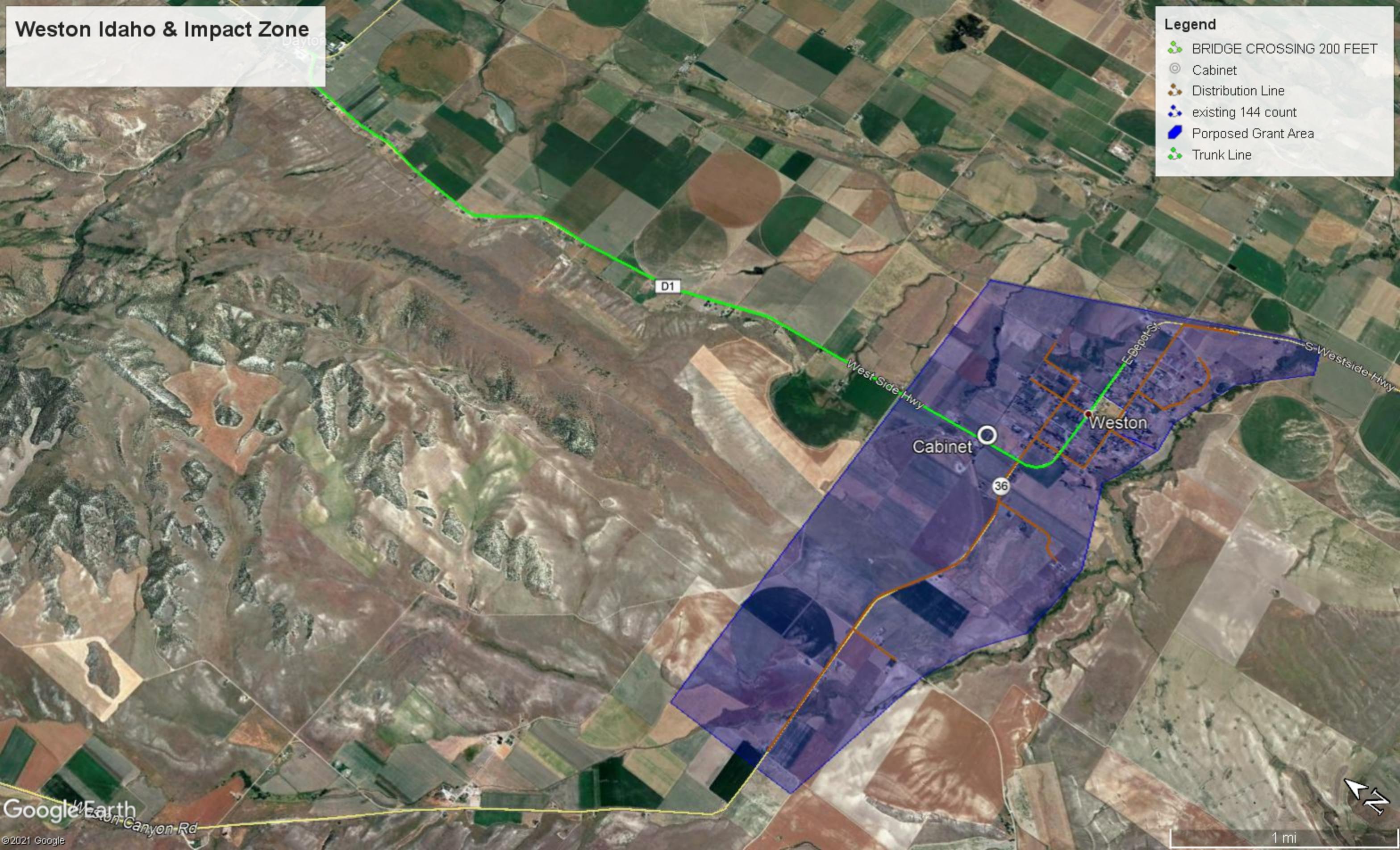
Date

7/16/2021

Weston Idaho & Impact Zone

Legend

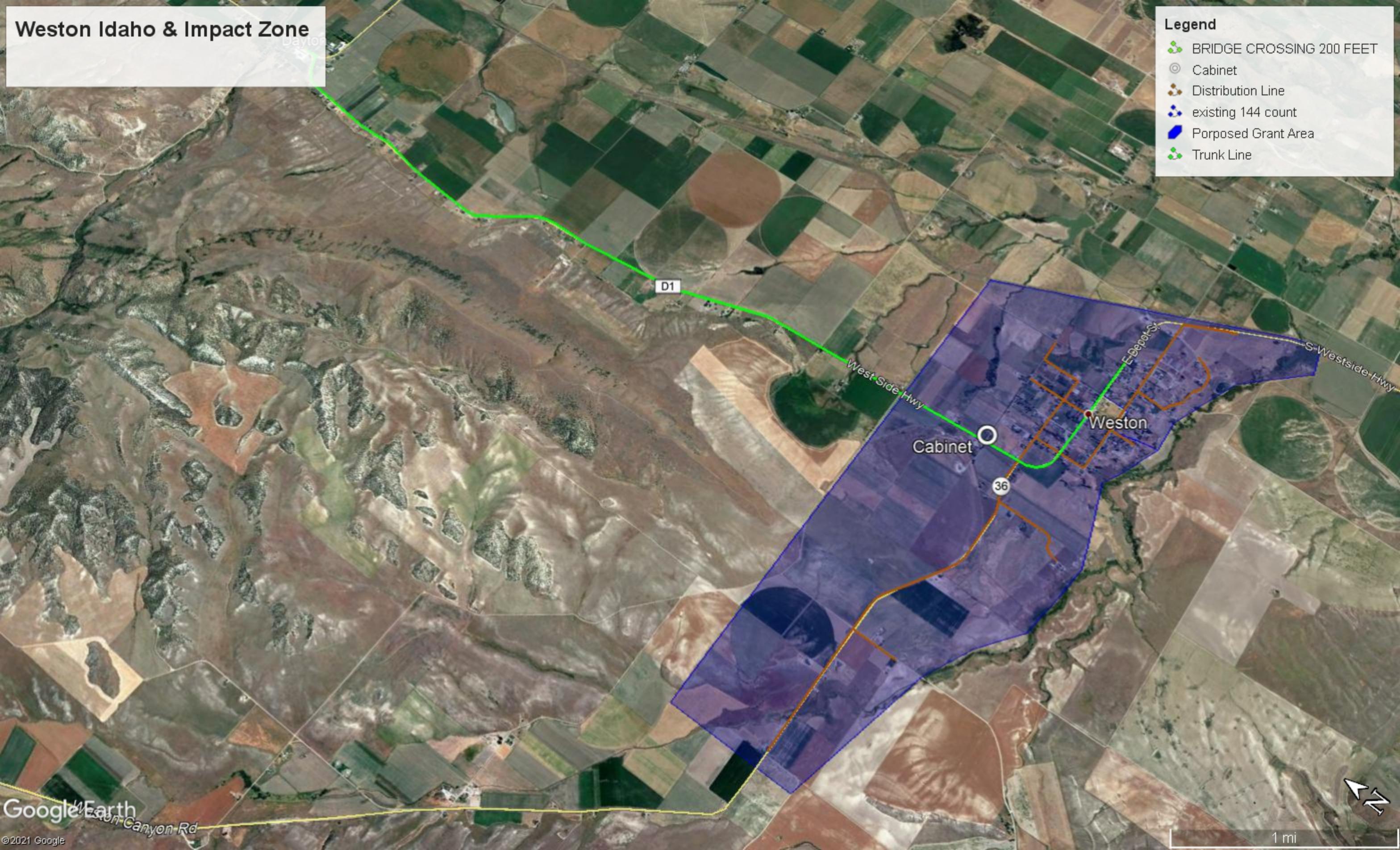
- BRIDGE CROSSING 200 FEET
- Cabinet
- Distribution Line
- existing 144 count
- Proposed Grant Area
- Trunk Line



Weston Idaho & Impact Zone

Legend

- BRIDGE CROSSING 200 FEET
- Cabinet
- Distribution Line
- existing 144 count
- Proposed Grant Area
- Trunk Line



From: westoncity68@yahoo.com
To: [Amanda Collins](#)
Subject: Fw: Broadband internet
Date: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:11:56 AM

Another email in support of getting broadband.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "bbridge@digis.net" <bbridge@digis.net>
To: "westoncity68@yahoo.com" <westoncity68@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021, 08:56:41 PM MDT
Subject: Broadband internet

To whom it may concern:

We would love to have a faster more reliable internet at a great price. It is frustrating when it is not reliable. Frustrating when updates are made and you are not aware so you have to have a service person come upgrade equipment for you.

Brent and Cindy Corbridge
P O Box 123 Weston, Idaho. 83286
2088511005

From: westoncity68@yahoo.com
To: [Amanda Collins](#)
Subject: Fw: Grant for Broadband Internet
Date: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:11:05 AM

Here's an email for a support letter you could add with the grant.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Brad N <b_radowns@hotmail.com>
To: westoncity68@yahoo.com <westoncity68@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021, 04:36:59 PM MDT
Subject: Grant for Broadband Internet

Hello Sharon,

I'd like to express my interest in supporting the effort to get a grant for broadband internet in Weston, Idaho. The options here are slow, and spotty at best and there is no competition to force them to improve their quality or business. I would very much like for Weston to be able to receive broadband from other companies, not just limiting it to 1 or 2 so they can have a monopoly on the town.

If you need anything else, let me know.

Thank you,

Brad Nelson

From: westoncity68@yahoo.com
To: [Amanda Collins](#)
Subject: Broadband Letter of Support
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:30:35 PM

To whom it may concern:

I would like to add a letter of support for Weston City to receive the State of Idaho Broadband Grant through the CARES Act. As the clerk/treasurer of Weston, I work from home and I rely on the Internet every day to do my job. I use a remote deposit service from our bank to deposit checks, my city phone is an Internet based phone so if my Internet isn't working I also don't have phone service, I am sending and receiving e-mails daily, and since we are in a remote part of Idaho, I often use remote technical support for our water meter reading equipment when I have a problem. When I don't have reliable Internet I am at a stand-still when it comes to doing my job.

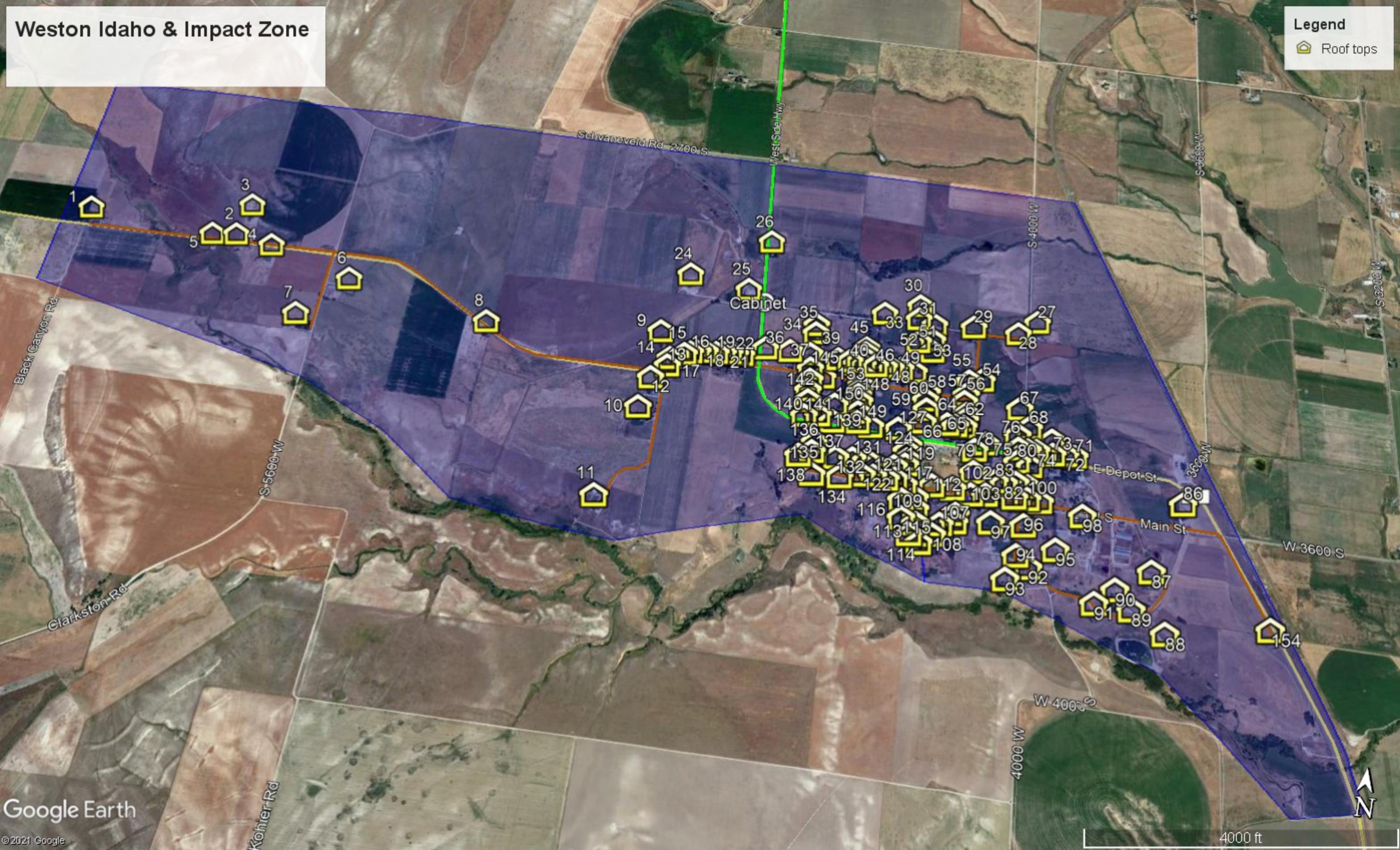
I know personally and professionally I would benefit from having Broadband brought to Weston. Please consider awarding Weston with the grant to bring Broadband here.

Best Regards,

Sharon Kropf
Weston City Clerk/Treasurer

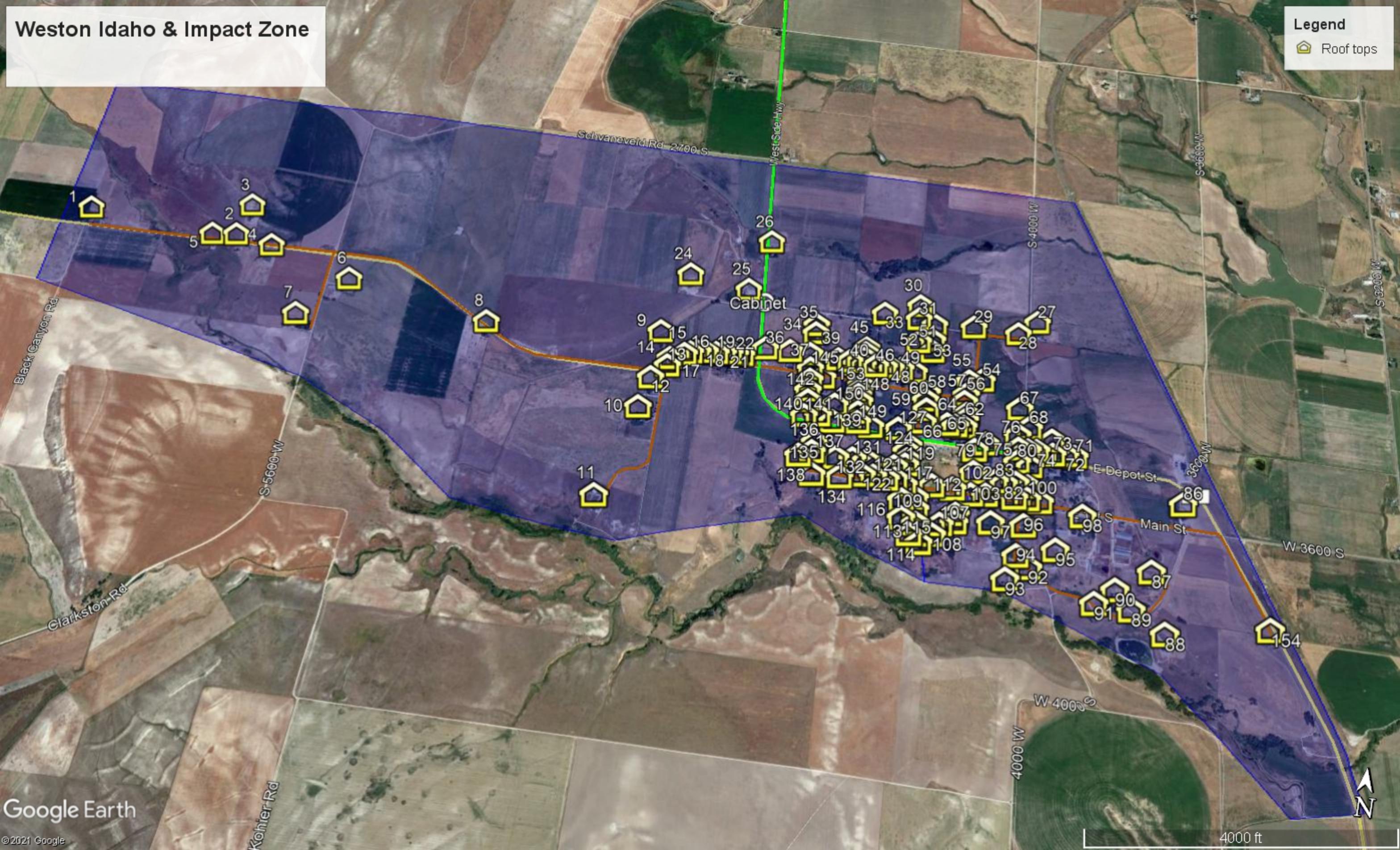
Weston Idaho & Impact Zone

Legend
🏠 Roof tops



Weston Idaho & Impact Zone

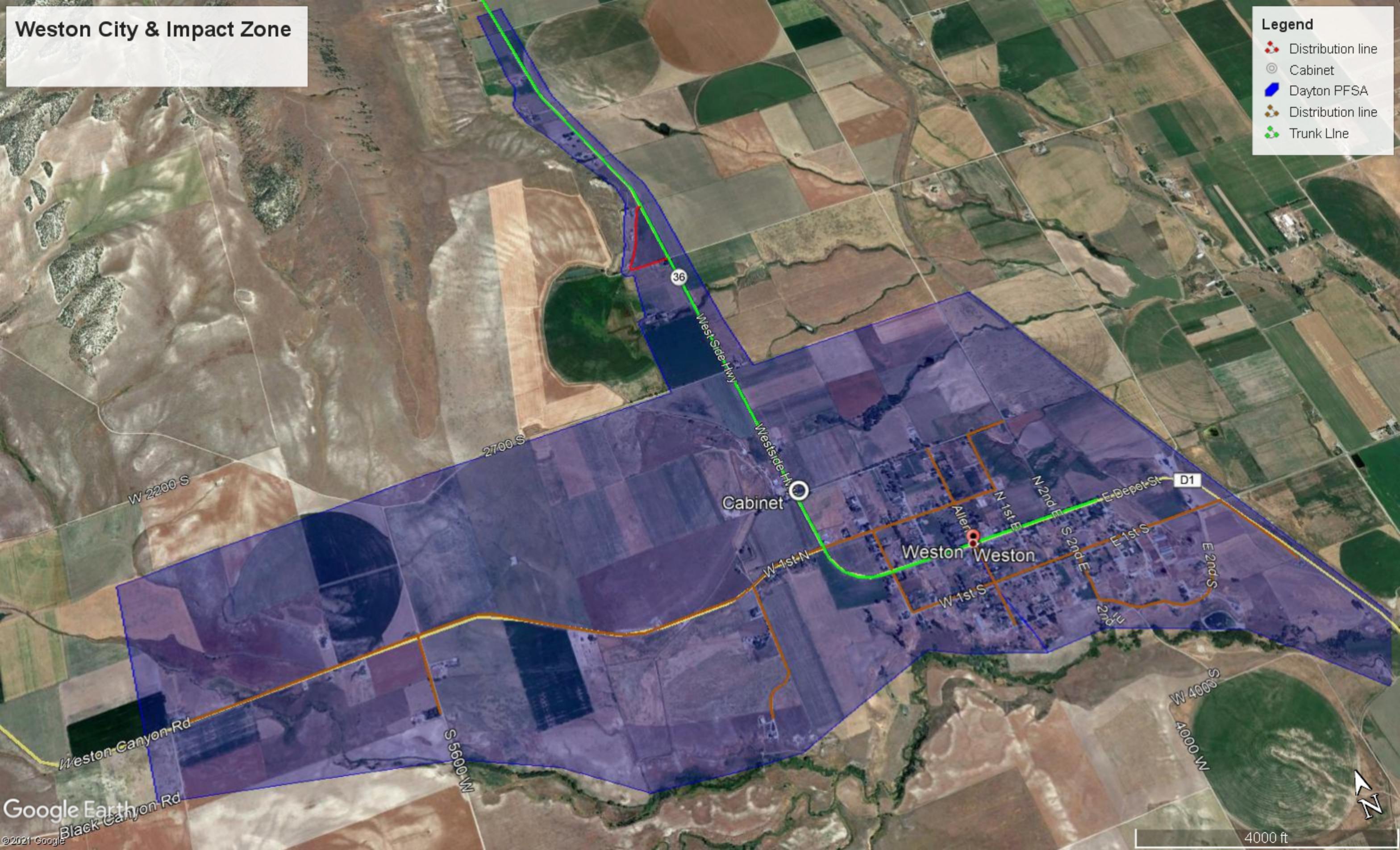
Legend
🏠 Roof tops



Weston City & Impact Zone

Legend

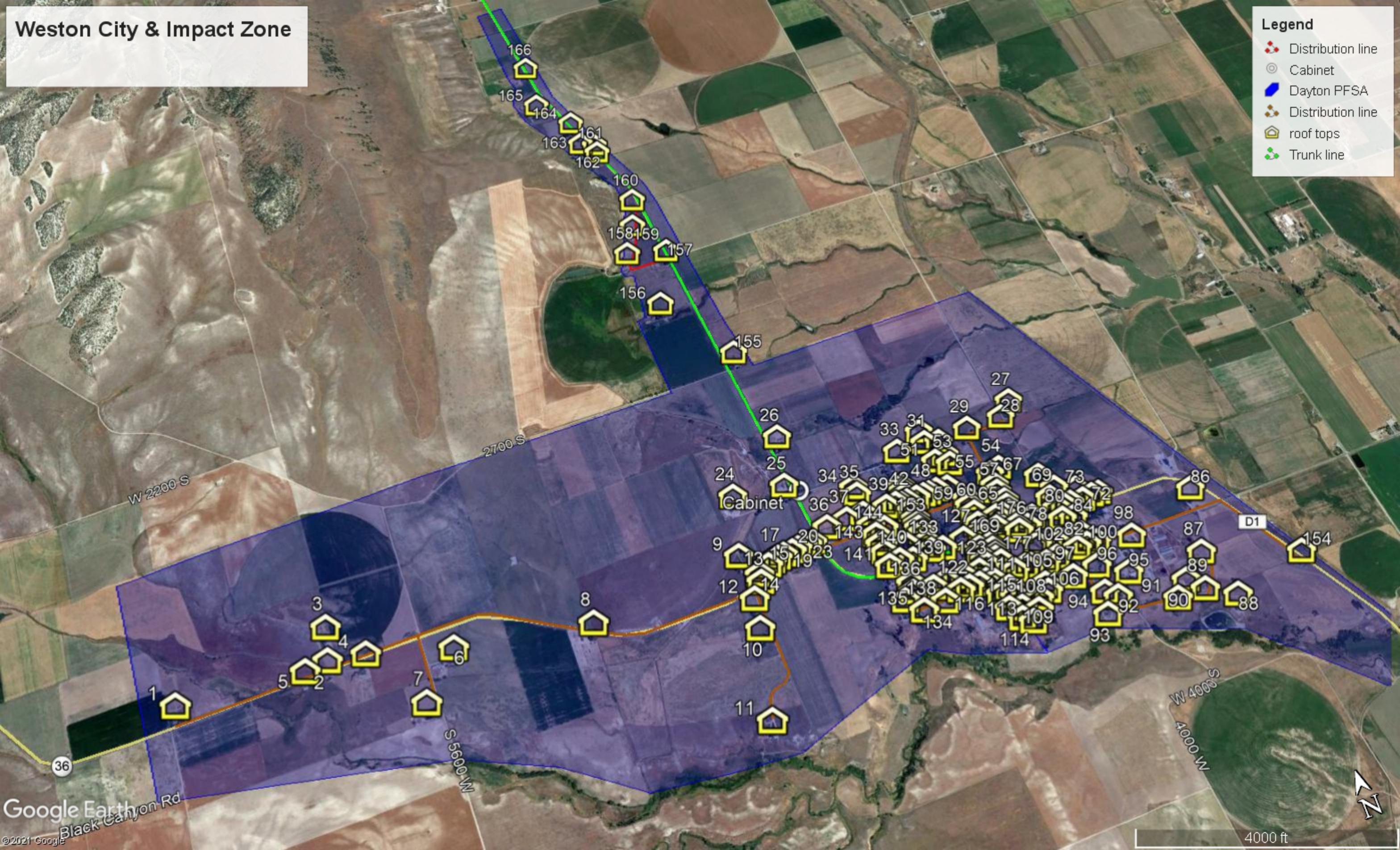
-  Distribution line
-  Cabinet
-  Dayton PFSA
-  Distribution line
-  Trunk Line



Weston City & Impact Zone

Legend

- Distribution line
- Cabinet
- Dayton PFSA
- Distribution line
- roof tops
- Trunk line



Idaho CARES Act Broadband Grant Budget

Line Item	Grant Dollars				Total
Grant Administration					
Totals					

Idaho CARES Act Broadband Grant Budget

Line Item	Grant Dollars				Total
Grant Administration					
Totals					

Idaho CARES Act Broadband Grant Budget

Line Item	Grant Dollars				Total
Grant Administration					
Totals					

Idaho Broadband Fund: CARES Act Broadband Grant

Applicant	Amy Bishop
Applicant ID	APP-004808
Company Name	Bear Lake County
Recipient Address	Bear Lake County 7 E Center Paris, ID 83261
Phone	(208) 945-2212
Email	abishop@bearlakecounty.id.gov
Amount Requested	\$956,000.00
Status	Submitted
Funded	<input type="checkbox"/>

Application Title: Bring Fiber to Nounan

Applicant Information

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Question: Applicant's contact information: a. Name b. Title/Position c. Mailing Address d. Email Address e. Phone Number

- A. Amy Bishop
- B. Chief Deputy Clerk
- C. PO Box 190, Paris, Idaho 83261
- D. abishop@bearlakecounty.id.gov
- E. 208-945-2212 ex 5.

Question: List the cities/communities in the census blocks where the project(s) will take place.

Nounan

Question: Grant Administrator a. Provide the name and title of the designated grant administrator. b. Provide the email address of the designated grant administrator. c. Provide the phone number of the designated grant administrator.

A. Amy Bishop, Chief Deputy Clerk
B. abishop@bearlakecounty.id.gov
C. 208-945-2212 ex 5.

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No

Question: I understand that the State of Idaho will provide no funding and have no obligations for CARES funded projects that fail to be completed by December 31, 2021.

Yes

No

Scored Criteria

Scored Criteria

1. Provide an overview of the project, including why the project is important and how it will address the broadband needs of the community. Include a scope of work description, along with a list of ISPs that can provide: the broadband service being sought, the required technologies and equipment, and the installation and operation of the new broadband service. (30 Points)
 - a. Scope of Work: outlines the detailed plans of the infrastructure build. This may include, but is not limited to, the following: project area, type of infrastructure installed, locations of underserved households, known existing infrastructure, known existing anchor institutions (schools, hospitals, public facilities, etc.), potential middle-mile infrastructure that will be utilized, and locations of existing infrastructure.
2. Explain how the project will promote equal access in economic development, public safety, telehealth, education, including why current infrastructure is inadequate or negatively impacts the community? (25 Points)
3. Explain how your project meets Cares Act Criteria, is necessary for the public health emergency, and mitigates similar disruptions in the future? (20 Points).
4. Will this project deliver broadband infrastructure to a rural Idaho population (less than 25,000) (Y/N) (15 Points).
5. Explain how your project delivers a cost-effective broadband infrastructure solution to the community (10 Points).

Question: Provide an overview of the project, including why the project is important and how it will address the broadband needs of the community. Include a scope of work description, along with a list of ISPs that can provide the proposed service.

We are seeking to bring fiber to Nounan, located in Bear Lake County. This unincorporated communities currently has no fixed high speed internet. In today's world, broadband access is critical. According to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, "Expanding access to broadband is a high priority for economic developers, especially in rural Idaho. High-speed Internet is a standard part of doing business. A lack of access to the service limits local businesses' ability to expand, find employees, find suppliers, train their workers and market their products."

(<https://idahoatwork.com/2020/01/22/governors-task-force-makes-recommendations-to-improve-ideal>) Additionally, the project helps residents work from home during the pandemic and helps students in their schoolwork.

The project will provide fiber to the home for 36 households, and will pull a fiber drop to every rooftop that gives us property access. Even if they do not sign up for service.

We are seeking Direct Communications as our single source provider, as they have fiber in the neighboring community of Bern and can most feasibly provide the connection. They can provide the broadband service, the required technologies and equipment, and the installation and operation of the new broadband service. Below they have created a construction narrative that, we believe, does a nice job of laying scope of work, construction timelines, phases, and required

work:

“Our construction process begins with preliminary route planning. Our engineering group decides the best route to take to get service from our existing plant, to all desired locations in the new build. During this time, we try to identify and avoid major impediments. These would include land managed by the BLM or BOR, wetlands, lands of anthropological significance, and other such considerations. Additionally, during this phase, we identify the permits we will need to obtain to do the work; railroads, ITD, county, and city jurisdictions. After routes are planned and materials procured, we move into the physical construction phase. Utility locates are called in via the 811 Digline request. Depending on right-of-way makeup (sidewalk, gravel, dirt, etc), the method of installation will vary from directional drilling to vibratory plow. These methods will produce anywhere from 400 to 3500 feet of mainline conduit laid per day. While this conduit is being laid, we set hand holes, or junction boxes at intersections, future service locations, and as needed for storage for future needs (additional services, repairs, etc). Once all of the conduit has been installed, and hand holes are set, we have to proof the duct and prepare it for fiber installation. We are able to install 3500 - 20000 feet of mainline fiber in a day. Next, our splicing group creates a light, or data connection back to our point of origin. Running concurrent with drops and splicing, our installation team will be installing service inside the premise. Once the installation and splice are complete, the premise will have service.”

The project will provide equal access to ultra rural residents, who may never otherwise have high speed broadband options. There is little likelihood that another provider would ever make the investment to provide broadband to this area, as middle-mile infrastructure in Georgetown belongs to Direct Communications. However, in the interest of equal access, we will require an MOU with the service provider that they will own the fiber must make available circuits and carrier services to competitive providers at fair market rates.

The County is especially concerned to make sure that students have internet access at home. Bear Lake County Schools have a 1 to 1 student to device plan, and nearly all middle and high school work is presented completed on the “Summit” online platform. Students do not use text books, or many traditional materials. This is difficult for students who live in remote areas.

Question: Explain how the project will promote equal access in economic development, public safety, telehealth, education, including why current infrastructure is inadequate or negatively impacts the community?

The project will promote equal access in economic development, public safety, telehealth, education. The county is seeing increasing numbers of homes that were originally built as second homes being converted into full time residences due to more people working from home. Additional full time residents help promote local industry beyond the tourism sector. The Nounan area is also heavily agricultural. Improved internet access helps provide farmers opportunities to explore new markets and helps provide access to services otherwise not available, such as public safety location services, telehealth, and education. This helps to retain the agricultural industry that is the backbone of the local economy. Online schooling has been required during COVID school closures and quarantines.

The area is currently only served by satellite internet service, provided off a solar tower, which can be affected by weather and other factors, making service spotty and unreliable.

Question: Explain how your project meets Cares Act Criteria, is necessary for the public health emergency, and mitigates similar disruptions in the future?

This project will meet CARES Act Criteria by addressing key areas of public health and safety by improving opportunities to telework, improving access to telehealth services, facilitating distance

learning, and improving public safety. Providing fiber internet service meets the criteria by allowing the residents of Nounan access to work and complete school activities from home. Additional residents who contract COVID face long distances to see health providers and telehealth increases residents' access to medical care. COVID has prompted periods of online schooling for all students, as well as quarantines for individual students. Bear Lake County's online "Summit" platform has allowed students to complete much of their work from home, but only if they have reliable internet. These concerns make reliable internet services especially critical for our rural students. First responder's ability to locate calls for services is also improved by internet service.

Question: Will this project deliver broadband infrastructure to a rural Idaho population (less than 25,000)?

Yes

No

Question: Explain how your project delivers a cost-effective broadband infrastructure solution to the community?

The cost per household for this project is \$24,083. Fiber provides fast, reliable internet service, with good capacity for future additions to the service. Fiber is less expensive to maintain than traditional copper wires, and service is typically less expensive for the customer than wireless/satellite provides. This community is growing and future growth will also contribute to the cost effectiveness of the project.

Additional Requested Information (if applicable)

Question: Please detail any project match included to complete this project.

Direct Communications will provide the fiber for this project, a match of \$117,500. A match commitment is attached.

Question: Estimated total project cost?

956000.00

Question: Number of households that will be connected to broadband service under the scope of the grant if applicable? If not applicable please answer N/A.

36

Question: What is the average cost per household of new broadband service based on this project cost if applicable? If not applicable please answer N/A.

\$26,555

Question: What is the maximum broadband speed that will be provided by the project?

1 Gig

Question: Are permits, permissions, and zoning requirements all obtainable in order for the project to be completed and paid for by December 31, 2021 if it is a CARES funded project? Please provide details.

Bear Lake County has a streamlined permitting process, and similar projects were quickly and easily permitted. Steps are taken to avoid areas such as wetlands that would complicate the permitting process. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by early December.

Question: Please describe who will be providing the broadband service and ownership of the broadband infrastructure..

Bear Lake County will own the conduit and Direct Communication will own the fiber. Direct Communication will provide broadband service to customers in the area. Direct Communication will sign an MOU with the county to allow other services use of the fiber at a fair market rate.

Question: Describe how the project will be administered and audited for completion, and how the accounting will be performed.

Bear Lake County will administer the project. Chief Deputy Clerk Amy Bishop, who was formerly certified as an Idaho Department of Commerce Certified Grant Administrator, will administer the grant. Ms. Bishop will coordinate purchasing procedures, grant reporting, and project monitoring. The Bear Lake County Board of Commissioners will review and approve all documents. Mindy Williamson, deputy clerk will perform all accounting, including drawing grant funds and disbursing them to the project contractor upon project completion. Direct Communications has plans in place to fund the project until reimbursement takes place at the end of the project. Project completion is scheduled prior to December 15, 2020. The Bear Lake County Building Inspector Wayne Davidson and Ms. Bishop will work together to audit the project for completion. Mr. Davidson will monitor the physical progress of the project, and Ms. Bishop will work with Direct Communication to verify connectivity.

Question: Has your project area received or been awarded any federal funds (CAFII/RDOF/USDA Reconnect) in the past two years, or will it receive federal funding over the next two years? If so, explain why additional funding was/is necessary in the project area?

No. The Nounan areas has not received any other federal funding in the past two years.

Question: Has your project area received state funds (Cares Act Broadband Grants, E-Rate, etc.) in the past two years? If so, please explain what state funds were received and why the additional state funding was necessary in the project area.

No. The Nounan areas has not received any other federal funding in the past two years.

Question: Include any other relevant information as to why your project should be considered for funding.

Not Answered

Question: Submit 10 or more, recent, fixed location Speed Tests. Applicants can choose which speedtest application to use across the proposed project area (if applicable).

[Nounan Speed Test.pdf](#) (7/16/2021 3:37 PM)

Attachments & Additional Supporting Documents

Upload Required Attachments & Additional Supporting Documents

Project Attachment Templates:

[CARES Act Certification](#)

[Grant Budget Template](#)

[Project Schedule Form](#)

[Letters of Support/Community match template](#)

Question: Project Area Identification Documentation: Applicant must upload supporting documents identifying the scope of work for the proposed project(s). Applicant must include 1Pdf & 1Shape/Kmz map clearly showing the location and details of the proposed project.

[Nounan.kmz](#) (7/16/2021 11:56 AM)

[Trunk & Distribution.pdf](#) (7/16/2021 11:55 AM)

Question: Grant Budget Template: Complete, upload, and attach to the application a completed Grant Budget Template for the project that outlines each of the various costs.

[Idaho CARES Act Broadband Grant Budget Nounan2.pdf](#) (7/16/2021 4:42 PM)

Question: Project Schedule Form: Complete, upload, and attach to the application the Project Schedule Form.

[Nounan-Project-Schedule-Template.pdf](#) (7/16/2021 3:46 PM)

Question: CARES Act Certification: Upload and attach to the application a notarized CARES Act Certification that this project meets the CARES Act criteria.

[Cares Cert - Nounan001.pdf](#) (7/16/2021 4:07 PM)

Question: Letters of Support: Upload and attach to the application any Letters of Support or Community Match documentation. (if applicable)

[Certified Match -- Signed.pdf](#) (7/16/2021 4:02 PM)

Question: Letters of Commitments from Anchor Institutions: Upload and attach to application letters of commitments from community anchor institutions or public safety networks which will utilize your service if the project is funded. (if applicable)

No Attachments

Question: Community Broadband Plan: Upload and attach a copy of your Community

Broadband Plan (if applicable).

No Attachments

Question: Any applicable Site Plans, studies, or photographs.

[Nounan 21 Construction and Fiber Estimate.xlsx](#) (7/16/2021 4:02 PM)

Signature

Your identity has been authenticated through the login process with a unique email address and password available only to you. You agree that by typing your name, title and date below, you are electronically signing the application. By electronically signing the application, you acknowledge and represent that you understand and accept all the terms and conditions stated within the application and declare that the information provided is true and that the documents you are submitting in support of your application are genuine and have not been altered in any way.

Question: Type your name.

Amy Bishop

Question: Type your title.

Chief Deputy Clerk

Question: Type the submission date.

7-16-2021

Office of:
Clerk, Auditor,
Recorder



CINDY GARNER

STATE OF IDAHO COUNTY OF BEAR LAKE The undersigned,
Cindy Garner representing Bear Lake County, 30 N Main, Paris, Idaho, 83261, hereby
swear (affirm) that:

1. I am the Clerk of Bear Lake County and thereby authorized to make these statements.
2. I have personal knowledge of the facts herein, and can testify completely thereto.
3. The purpose of this statement is to assure the Idaho Department of Commerce that the project will meet the CARES Act Criteria. Further guidance can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
 - i. Expenses to facilitate distance learning, including technological improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions.
 - ii. Expenses to improve telework capabilities for public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.

The purpose of this project is to expand broadband access into rural communities for distance learning and telework uses. We will ensure the project is implement as designed to meet these purposes.

Cindy Garner Signature July 15, 2021

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN before me Amy Bishop on this 15th day July, 2021.
Notary Public for State of Idaho, Residing at Montpelier, Idaho, Commission expires 7-8-22.

Amy Bishop Signature



P.O. Box 190 Paris, ID 83261

208-945-2212 ext. 5

Idaho Cares Act Broadband Grant

Match

Community: unincorporated community of Nounan

Contributor name (&title): N/A

Agency/Business: Direct Communications

DESCRIPTION OF DONATION:

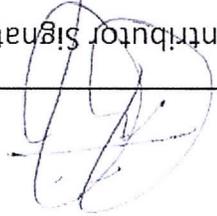
Date: 7/15/2021

Direct Communications will provide all required Fiber for completion of the
Nounan Idaho Broadband Grant area, up to and not to exceed 47,000 feet of
fiber.

Total Amount Contributed to Project: up to and not to exceed \$117,500.00

I hereby certify that the above listed contributions have been offered and will be
provided, upon grant awarding, in the amount shown.

Contributor Signature



Date

7/16/2021

Idaho CARES Act Broadband Grant Budget

Line Item	Grant Dollars				Total
Construction (HH, Bore, Trench, Plow, Duct, Locations)	\$744,500				\$744,500
Fiber (Match provided by Direct Communications)		\$117,500			\$117,500
Administration (Bear Lake County)	\$5000				\$5,000
Totals	\$749,500	\$117,500			\$867,000

Idaho CARES Act Broadband Grant Budget

Line Item	Grant Dollars				Total
Construction (HH, Bore, Trench, Plow, Duct, Locations)	\$833,500				\$833,500
Fiber (Match provided by Direct Communications)		\$117,500			\$117,500
Administration (Bear Lake County)	\$5000				\$5,000
Totals	\$838,500	\$117,500			\$956,000

HH		Per foot
70	\$ 52,500.00	\$ 1.12
Bore		
10000	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 25.00
Trench		
7000	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 20.00
Plow		
30000	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 7.50
Duct		
47000	\$ 94,000.00	\$ 2.00
Fiber		
47000	\$ 117,500.00	\$ 2.50
Locations		
36	\$ 72,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
6690		
Total Feet	47000	
Total Construction	\$ 739,500.00	
Total Cost	\$ 951,000.00	

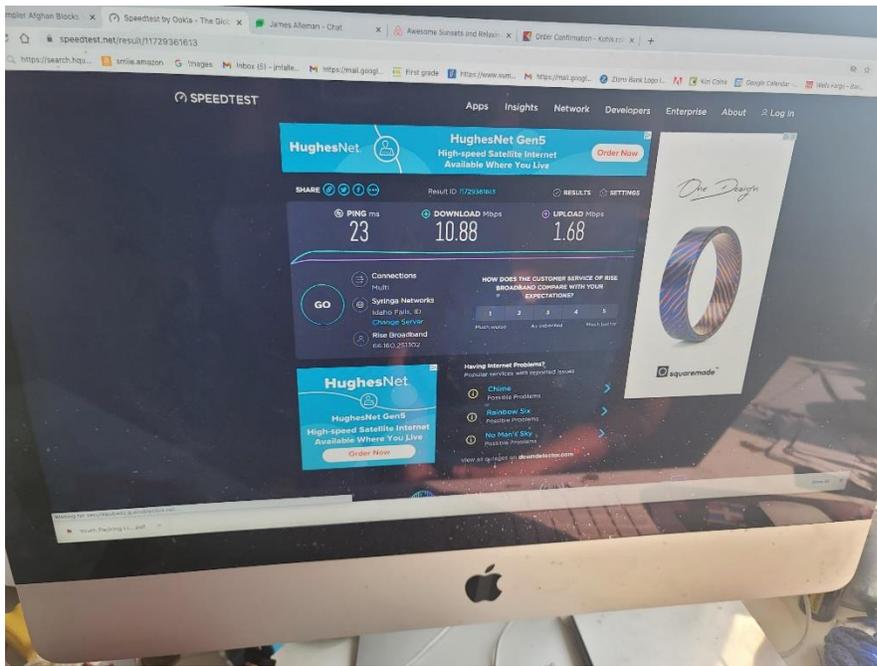
46551

Build out Estimate	\$ 951,000.00
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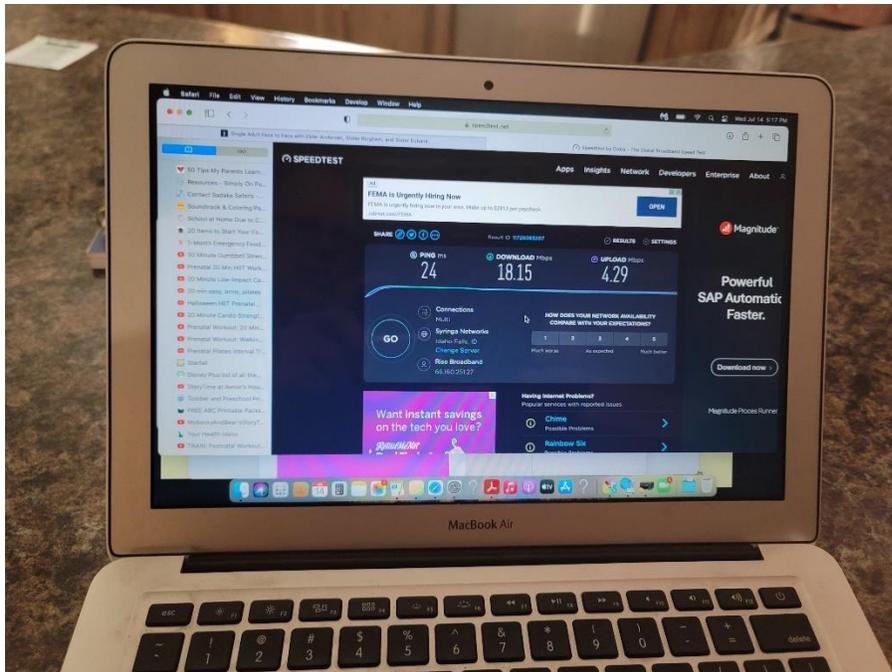
\$

26,416.67

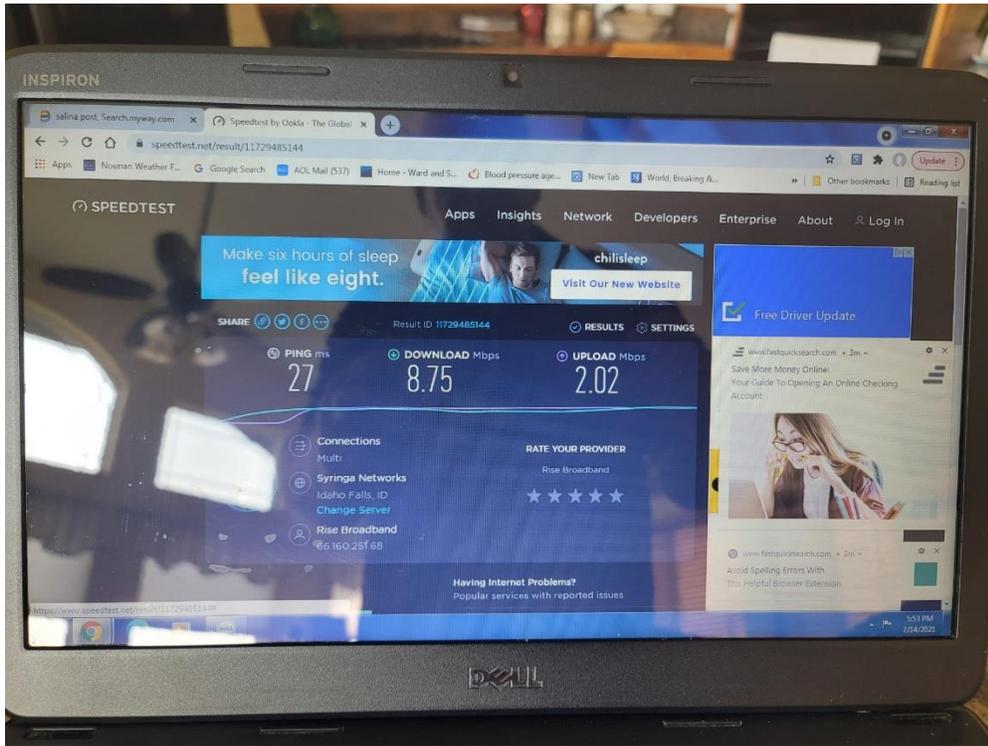
6342 Nounan Road



6481 Nounan Road



5246 Nounan Road



Nounan & Impact Zone

Legend

-  Distribution lines
-  Nounan
-  Service Area

