

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board  
Idaho Department of Commerce  
700 W. State Street  
Boise, ID 83702

November 30, 2022

Dear Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Members –

We write to you today in our official capacity as county and municipal leaders in the Ada County region to ask for your support on our broadband grant proposal in response to your request for broadband projects and planning proposals from your November 10, 2022 meeting.

Over the last year we have been gathering as a loose coalition in service of our residents to enhance digital access county-wide. Over the course of the pandemic, it laid bare the critical need to improve our region's broadband infrastructure, ensuring that residents across all income fields had access to affordable and reliable internet service. Whether for work, for school, or for leisure – it's clear that our world operates online and in order to ensure greater connectivity, there remains a need to invest in a more reliable system of broadband networks across Ada County and our neighboring regions.

To accomplish this joint goal, we seek your support to help build a Greater Treasure Valley Network. The first phase of this proposed project would lay a 140-mile connected conduit/fiber ring through each of our towns, connecting to the colocation centers at the center of our county, and up north to Gem County. This countywide municipal middle mile open access network will be designed to make it more economically viable for broadband providers to serve the county's un and underserved residents, as well as addressing the needs of both public and private partners. In later phases, we would expand to connect to other rural communities, like those in Canyon, Boise, and Elmore Counties, by adding mileage or connecting to other middle mile open access networks projects. We advocate the state requires middle mile be designed to connect to each other, to create the needed resilience we need for internet in Idaho.

Our broadband coalition submitted an Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Middle Mile grant application to fund the first phase of the Greater Treasure Valley Network. We estimate its cost at \$40 million total: \$20 million from private partners (Involta, Zayo, and FatBeam) and \$20 million from requested federal funding. In March we will find out whether the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) approved our grant request. If we do not receive funding from NTIA, we plan to request \$20 million from the state to fund this initial phase. We also plan to ask for planning dollars to expand connections to outlying rural communities and other middle mile projects.

Throughout this planning process, we have also worked to build a strong private/public partnership among government entities and local broadband providers to build a future-proofed network. This helps ultimately serve residents and their affordability needs, while also

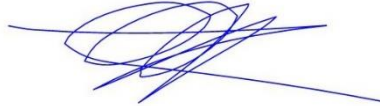
allowing for collaboration and competition among and with private entities. We plan to continue to do so in support of the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board's vision and long-term plans.

More information about the project specifics can be found in our full application materials. In the interim, we look forward to working closely with you as members of the Board to reach our mutual goal of all Idahoans having access to affordable and reliable broadband infrastructure.

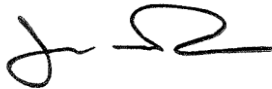
Respectfully,



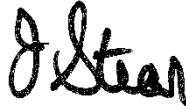
Commissioner Rod Beck  
Ada County Commission



Mayor Trevor Chadwick  
City of Star



Mayor Jason Pierce  
City of Eagle



Mayor Joe Stear  
City of Kuna



Mayor Robert Simison  
City of Meridian



Mayor John Evans  
City of Garden City



Mayor Lauren McLean  
City of Boise

September 9, 2022

Alan Davidson

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information

Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB)

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Davidson:

I write to you on behalf of Google Fiber regarding the City of Boise and Ada County's application for funding to build a middle-mile broadband network. Google Fiber designs, builds, and operates high-speed fiber-to-the-home networks ("FTTH") across the United States. Although we are not currently building or operating a fiber network in the Boise metro, we are in active conversations to expand to the state of Idaho, including to Boise and Ada County. Our decision to expand to Boise is subject to many considerations, including approval of our methods of construction and access to the public right-of-way. As an example, we would require approval of the shallow trenching techniques we have deployed successfully in the other metros where we currently operate.

The City of Boise and Ada County's proposed middle-mile project would be an additional factor that could encourage us and other providers to deploy fiber-enabled services in the City of Boise and Ada County.

Should we proceed to deploy in Ada County, to the extent the proposed middle-mile network coincides with our designed network, we would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on joint trenching to reduce the cost of construction for all parties. In addition, or in the alternative, to the extent the proposed middle-mile network is completed prior to our own deployment, we would welcome the opportunity to lease conduit or fiber.

Again, though our own decision to deploy our network in the Boise metro is still pending, we support the City of Boise and Ada County's proposal to seek funding for a middle-mile broadband network. While it is not the only consideration for us, we do believe it can provide a meaningful incentive to induce providers like Google Fiber to invest in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Strama", written in a cursive style.

**Mark Strama**

General Manager, Expansion



GLOBAL HQ  
1821 30th Street, Unit A  
Boulder, CO 80301 USA

www.zayo.com  
@ZayoGroup

September 22, 2022

Alan Davidson  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information  
Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Davidson:

As one of the nation's leading fiber infrastructure providers, Zayo Group looks forward to supporting the City of Boise and Ada County's application for funding to build and maintain a middle-mile broadband network. Zayo is eager to help and has deep working knowledge in the region.

The expected benefits include a very high-speed, underground, and diverse network. This will enable such things as affordable FTTH and FTTX connectivity to the underserved, disaster recovery, data center connectivity, smart-grid functionality, and highly reliable support.

Zayo's contributions could total up to \$9 million, if commercial and contractual terms are agreed to between Zayo, the City, and the County. Such contributions may include network design, construction, operations, and maintenance. For Zayo, we expect this would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Zayo's in-region operations and create attractive financial longevity through ownership and/or rights-of-use of select fiber assets and related equipment.

I conclude by reiterating Zayo's support for the City of Boise and Ada County's application for middle-mile broadband network funding. Approval of the City's application and completion of the middle-mile broadband build will benefit local residential, governmental, and commercial interests, and by extension, the entire region.

DocuSigned by:  
Best regards,  
  
Michael F. Nold

SVP, Corporate Strategy & Development  
Zayo Group



**BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

August 31, 2022

Alan Davidson  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information  
Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Davidson:

As CIO at Boise State University, I fully support the City of Boise and Ada County's proposal for NTIA funding to build a robust middle mile infrastructure. When completed, the project will have a meaningful and sustainable impact throughout the region and State, which includes communities where many of our students and potential students live and work. Our ability to deliver educational courses and content to Idaho and the area will only be enhanced with building out the fiber infrastructure in Ada County and the City of Boise.

The City of Boise and Ada County's proposal will facilitate connectivity to end-users of the internet by aggregating traffic between networks over this vast region, benefiting individuals, businesses, hospitals, educational institutions, and other entities, directly and indirectly. The potential impacts on local communities are substantial: enhancing economic development, facilitating access to healthcare and education, lowering costs, and increasing job and training access are a few examples.

The City of Boise and Ada County have a well-documented record of leveraging resources and executing projects that enhance the economic viability of the Treasure Valley region. As a community stakeholder Boise State is a partner on many fiber optic and conduit systems throughout the area. The skills, expertise, and experience that the Applicant has used on those successful projects will also be deployed on the middle mile network that it proposes to build.

In sum, the middle mile network that the City of Boise and Ada County propose will be a real step toward the goal of filling the gaps in our nation's middle mile infrastructure and advancing our national goals of increasing connectivity, affordability, and equity.

I fully support the City of Boise and Ada County grant application.

Regards,

Max Davis-Johnson  
CIO/AVP Information Technology



Crown Castle  
8020 Katy Freeway  
Houston, TX 77024

2-Sep-2022

Adam Reno  
IT Infrastructure Svcs Sr Mgr  
City of Boise Information Technology  
150 North Capitol Blvd  
Boise, ID 83702

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the invitation to support Ada County and the City of Boise in pursuing a NTIA Middle Mile Grant to construct 130 miles of conduit and fiber. We are excited to explore a partnership that would serve both the interests of the community and Crown Castle through a competitive, open access network that serves unmet needs and improves resiliency. Crown Castle is supportive of the proposed fiber build as outlined by the City of Boise for their middle mile grant application. As we consider our entry into the Boise market, we may look to leverage competitive, open access fiber as part of our solution.

Crown Castle has a proven track record of deploying and operating high-speed network infrastructure over the past 25 years across the United States. With over 40,000 towers, approximately 115,000 small cells on air or under contract and more than 85,000 route miles of fiber, we are the nation's largest provider of shared communications infrastructure. Our shared infrastructure business model is inherently sustainable and aligns with the goals of the NTIA middle mile program. As our business needs in Boise firm up, we will continue to collaborate with the City of Boise and look forward to a long-term partnership.

We look forward to helping ensure the proposed network has long-term financial sustainability and best meets the needs of your residents, anchor institutions, and local businesses.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this level of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Brewer'.

Kelly Brewer  
VP of Operational Strategy



Mayor Robert E. Simison

**City Council Members:**

Treg Bernt  
Joe Borton  
Luke Cavener

Brad Hoaglund  
Jessica Perreault  
Liz Strader

Alan Davidson

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information  
Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Davidson:

As Chief Information Officer at the City of Meridian, I fully support the City of Boise and Ada County's proposal for NTIA funding to build a robust middle mile infrastructure. When completed, the project will have a meaningful and sustainable impact throughout the region, which includes communities where many of my constituents reside and work.

The City of Boise and Ada County's proposal will facilitate connectivity to end-users of the internet by aggregating traffic between networks over this vast region, benefiting individuals, businesses, hospitals, educational institutions, and other entities, directly and indirectly. The potential impacts on local communities are substantial: enhancing economic development, facilitating access to healthcare and education, lowering costs, and increasing job and training access are a few examples.

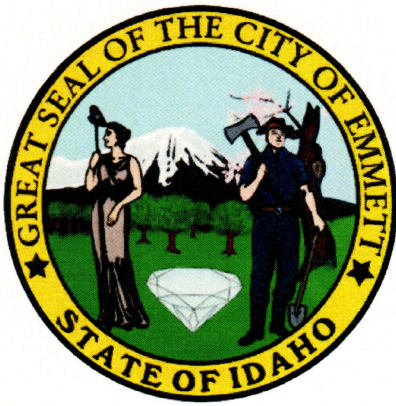
The City of Meridian appreciates having worked well with the City of Boise and Ada as various fiber optic and conduit systems, and cybersecurity projects have been deployed. I believe, the skills, expertise, and experience that the applicant has shown on those successful projects will also be deployed on the middle mile network that it proposes to build.

In sum, the middle mile network that the City of Boise and Ada County propose will be a real step toward the goal of filling the gaps in our nation's middle mile infrastructure and advancing our national goals of increasing connectivity, affordability, and equity.

I fully support the City of Boise and Ada County grant application.

Regards,  
Dave Tiede  
Chief Information Officer  
City of Meridian





## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### CITY OF EMMETT

501 E. MAIN ST.— EMMETT, ID 83617

PHONE (208) 398-2100

[WWW.CITYOFEMMETT.ORG](http://WWW.CITYOFEMMETT.ORG)

*"Driven by innovation"*

August 12, 2020

Alan Davidson

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information

Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB)

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Davidson:

As Information Technology Director, I fully support the City of Boise and Ada County's proposal for NTIA funding to build a robust middle-mile infrastructure. When completed, the project will have a meaningful and sustainable impact throughout the region, which includes communities where many of my constituents reside and work.

The City of Boise and Ada County's proposal will facilitate connectivity to end-users of the internet by aggregating traffic between networks over this vast region, benefiting individuals, businesses, hospitals, educational institutions, and other entities, directly and indirectly. The potential impacts on local communities are substantial: enhancing economic development, facilitating access to healthcare and education, lowering costs, and increasing job and training access are a few examples.

The City of Boise and Ada County have a well-documented record of leveraging resources and executing projects that enhance the economic viability of the Treasure Valley region. They have deployed an array of products and services, such as water renewal systems, geothermal heat, fiber optic and conduit systems, cybersecurity projects, and other projects with a vast array of community stakeholders that have served the valley well. The skills, expertise, and experience that the Applicant has used on those successful projects will also be deployed on the middle mile network that it proposes to build.

The City of Emmett is a rural community just outside the Boise Valley. Several years ago, we began building a robust city-wide fiber optic network that is now starting to expand to homes and businesses. One big challenge that we are working to tackle is the lack of affordable middle-mile fiber optic connectivity that would allow us to connect to larger upstream providers and data centers located in the Boise Valley. This project would truly bridge that gap and provide affordable and high-quality access to upstream bandwidth to fulfill the city's vision of providing the necessary broadband connections that will facilitate economic growth and education opportunities for our citizens. Emmett has a large portion of its population on free and reduced lunch programs and household income levels below the poverty line. This program will allow us to give those households the competitive advantage they need to compete in a technical society and workforce.

In sum, the middle mile network that the City of Boise and Ada County propose will be a real step toward the goal of filling the gaps in our nation's middle mile infrastructure and advancing our national goals of increasing connectivity, affordability, and equity.

I fully support the City of Boise and Ada County grant application.

Regards,

Mike Knittel, Information Technology Director





2065 w. Riverstone drive ste. 202  
Coeur d'Alene, id 83814

o 509 344 1008

f 509 344 1009

Alan Davidson  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information  
Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.20230

Dear Mr. Davidson:

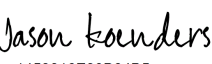
Fatbeam supports and is willing to participate in the City of Boise and Ada County's proposed middle-mile network project based on the benefits that could accrue to Fatbeam, our customers and the future citizens of the southern Idaho region. Fatbeam's support could consist of potential cash contribution, in kind support such as design and construction, maintenance and repair of the network, along with NOC, and overall network management capabilities. Based on the final route design, consumed routes and agreed upon contributions it is anticipated Fatbeam's combined contribution could total up to \$7.5MM.

These potential benefits include possible savings to Fatbeam, which the middle-mile network may enable. Examples of areas in which savings could be realized include data center connectivity, reduced construction cost, diverse network routes, and a greater ability to provide reliable, affordable broadband connectivity to our constituents.

The middle-mile fiber network could help Fatbeam increase its ability to meet existing needs as well as future needs. The middle-mile network's ability to support last-mile broadband service interests could benefit Fatbeam's current operations in the area; it also could support services Fatbeam may consider offering in the future.

I conclude by reiterating Fatbeam's support for the City of Boise and Ada County application for middle-mile broadband network funding. This middle mile network is a long-term benefit to all, local residential, governmental, and commercial parties involved, and by extension, the entire region.

Regards,

DocuSigned by:  
  
1453816E39B84B5...

Jason Koenders  
COO/CTO  
Fatbeam LLC



Alan Davidson  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information  
Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Davidson:

I am Ken Kremer, CTO of Involta, a local data center that provides colocation, cloud, consulting, security and managed services. We also provide Internet and transport services to and from the local data center using fiber in the area. We serve approximately 90 customers in the market. Involta fully supports the City of Boise and Ada County's application for funding to build a middle-mile broadband network.

Involta supports and is willing to participate in the City of Boise and Ada County's proposed middle-mile network project based on the benefits that could accrue to Involta and its customers from the network.

These potential benefits include possible savings to Involta, which the middle-mile network may enable. Examples of areas in which savings could be realized include connectivity to purpose-built data center, access to local regional Internet Exchange Point, bulk purchase of internet access, disaster recovery, offsite backups, access to security services, direct cloud connectivity, smart grid functions, edge computing, call center consolidation, and shared services such as technical support.

Involta would be willing to share the cost of the fiber build for up to \$3.5 million in exchange for pro-rated assets of fiber, conduit and innerduct along selected routes. Involta's data center would be an ideal place for a PoP location for fiber and equipment. Involta could potentially exchange colocation resources for one rack of space and power for \$1000 per month for 20 years, totaling \$240,000.

The middle-mile fiber network could help Involta increase its ability to meet existing needs as well as their future needs. The middle-mile network's ability to support last-mile broadband service interests could benefit Involta's current operations in the area; it also could support services Involta may consider offering in the future.

I conclude by reiterating Involta's support for the City of Boise and Ada County application for middle-mile broadband network funding. It will benefit Involta, as well as local residential, governmental, and commercial interests, and by extension, the entire region.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ken Kremer', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ken Kremer  
Chief Technical Officer – Data Center Strategy

**PO Box 1986 Cedar Rapids, IA 52406 | 855-364-3061**



Alan Davidson  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information  
Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Davidson:

I am the CFO and Co-Founder of Vero Fiber Networks and Vero Broadband (Vero), a fiber infrastructure owner and operator and internet service provider, operating in 22 States and headquartered in Boulder, Colorado. Vero is providing this letter to illustrate its full support of the City of Boise and Ada County's application for funding to build a middle-mile broadband network.

Vero is willing to participate in the City of Boise and Ada County's proposed middle-mile network project based on the benefits that could accrue to Vero and its potential customers. These benefits include, but are not limited to, new retail customer acquisition, datacenter and aggregation point connectivity, 5G and wireless backhaul services, school district site connectivity, and reduced regional backhaul transport expenses.

The middle-mile fiber network would serve as a launch pad for Vero to build fiber-to-the-home networks in unserved or underserved areas. Vero provides internet and telecommunications services to consumers and small businesses in its existing geographies, and has decades of experience in solving critical connectivity needs in markets often overlooked by national carriers and cable operators. Further, we possess deep experience in state and local grant and funding processes that could further finance potential buildouts. Finally, we retain a robust balance sheet, with zero debt, and are confident in our ability to secure funds to finance a successful network implementation.

We are excited by the opportunity to partner with the City of Boise and Ada County to leverage the middle-mile network as a means of dramatically enhancing connectivity options for thousands of homes and small businesses. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information that may be helpful in support of this application.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Friedman".

Greg Friedman  
Chief Financial Officer  
Vero Fiber Networks and Vero Broadband

**THIS LETTER IS INTENDED TO COMMUNICATE VERO'S DESIRE TO SUPPORT THE APPLICATION AND PURSUE A COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP, SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE APPROVED FOR FINANCING. IT DOES NOT REPRESENT A FIRM COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE AND IS A NON-BINDING LETTER OF INTENT ONLY.**



**Brad Little, Governor**  
**Tom Kealey, Director**

August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Sarah Bleau  
Director of Middle Mile  
Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Re: NTIA Middle Mile Grant Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Bleau,

We are writing to express our support for the City of Boise and Ada County's application for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Middle Mile Grant Application.

The Idaho Broadband Advisory Board and the Idaho Office of Broadband support all Idaho-based applications for the NTIA Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program. Idaho is committed to the statewide expansion of high-speed connectivity for education, telehealth, remote work, and improved economic development opportunities for underserved and unserved communities.

As the Chair of the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board, improving rural Idaho's access to high-speed broadband is our highest priority. This project supports the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board's statewide broadband plan for ensuring all Idahoans and communities have access to affordable and reliable connectivity.

We look forward to the success of the application and integrating it into our overall broadband strategy to connect all Idahoans to high-speed broadband by 2027.

Sincerely,

Representative John Vander Woude  
Chairman, Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

Tom Kealey  
Director, Idaho Department of Commerce



BRAD LITTLE  
GOVERNOR

**MILITARY DIVISION, STATE OF IDAHO**

4040 W. GUARD STREET  
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004

MICHAEL J. GARSHAK  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

23 September 2022

Alexandra Winkler  
Chief Information Officer  
Information Technology  
Boise, ID

Dear Ms. Winkler,

I fully support the City of Boise and Ada County's proposal for NTIA funding to build a robust middle mile infrastructure. This project would greatly enhance the capabilities of the Idaho Military Division on Gowen Field allowing us to better accomplish our State and Federal missions.

Gowen Field facilitates a large variety of Army and Air Force training missions in support of our national defense. Part of this proposal would augment our current fiber infrastructure, enhancing the speed and access to key information used by both Army and Air flight Operations, Cyber Defense missions, emergency management, and our Garrison Training programs. This commercial internet capability would greatly enhance our ability train our Service Members and the support we provide to the community.

The City of Boise and Ada County middle mile infrastructure proposal would enhance the Idaho National Guard mission, advance our national goals of increasing connectivity, affordability, equity, and support our country's national security interests.

I fully support this City of Boise and Ada County grant application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Garshak".

Michael J. Garshak  
Major General, IDNG  
The Adjutant General/Commander





Alan Davidson  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information  
Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Davidson:

My name is Josh Worrell and I am Sr. Manager of Business Development for [TDS Telecommunications LLC \(TDS®\)](#), the nation's 7<sup>th</sup> largest wireline communications company offering broadband, video and voice to over 1100 communities in 32 states. TDS fully supports the City of Boise and Ada County, Idaho application for funding to build a middle-mile broadband network.

TDS supports and is willing to participate in the City of Boise and Ada County's proposed middle-mile network project based on the benefits that it could accrue to TDS and its customers from the network.

These potential benefits include possible savings to TDS, which the middle-mile network may enable. Examples of areas in which savings could be realized include [data center connectivity, bulk purchase of internet access, disaster recovery, access to video programming, smart grid functions, call center consolidation, and shared services such as technical support].

The middle-mile fiber network could help TDS increase its ability to meet existing needs as well as future needs. The middle-mile network's ability to support last-mile broadband service interests could benefit TDS's current operations in the area; it also could support services TDS may consider offering in the future.

I conclude by reiterating TDS's support for the City of Boise and Ada County application for middle-mile broadband network funding. It will benefit TDS, as well as local residential, governmental, and commercial interests, and by extension, the entire region.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Joshua Worrell*

Joshua Worrell  
Sr. Manager Business Development  
(608) 664-9530  
Josh.Worrell@tdstelecom.com



201 Spear Street  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA  
94105

Rudolph M. Reyes, Jr.  
West Region Vice President and Deputy General Counsel  
Public Policy & Legal Affairs  
Phone: 415-370-2557  
rudy.reyes@verizon.com

September 9, 2022

Alan Davidson  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information  
Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

**Re: Letter of Support for City of Boise and Ada County's Middle Mile Network Grant Application**

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Verizon is delighted to provide a letter of strong support for the City of Boise and Ada County's application for funding to build a middle-mile broadband network. Verizon recognizes the value and collaborative partnership of the City of Boise and Ada County and its commitment to digital equity and connectivity for its constituents.

Broadband networks are critical to our daily lives. They allow us to work remotely and learn virtually. We turn to the internet to find jobs, connect with loved ones, and learn new things. And with more Americans staying at home amid the COVID-19 pandemic, much of our lives are focused online. Broadband connectivity has become a vital tool for engaging with the world. But today, millions of Americans still lack access to broadband.

The public health crisis has underscored not only how important broadband connectivity is but also how lack of access can reinforce and widen educational and economic disparities. Low-income communities, rural populations, and working families who lack broadband risk falling further behind. As learning has shifted online, students without internet access at home may struggle to keep up. Adults in communities without internet access may not be able to search and apply for jobs; work remotely; start businesses; or access educational, social, and other resources needed to thrive in the digital economy.

Verizon is providing a letter of support on behalf of the City of Boise and Ada County's grant request because we believe in the potential benefits the middle-mile network may enable. Examples of the potential benefits realized include data center connectivity, disaster recovery, access to video programming, smart grid functions, and shared services such as technical support. The middle-mile fiber network will help to increase the City and County's ability to meet existing needs as well as future needs.

Alan Davidson  
September 9, 2022  
Page 2 of 2

Therefore, Verizon is proud to support the City of Boise and Ada County's application and believes it will significantly improve the quality of life for the community.  
Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RM Reyes'.

Rudolph M. Reyes, Jr.  
West Region Vice President and Deputy General Counsel