

# Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

## Idaho Broadband Fund Grant Applications

### Follow-up Questions

Applicant	Page #
Ada County/City of Boise	1
Anthem Broadband	2-3
ATC Communications	4
Blackfoot Communications	5-6
Cambridge Telephone Company	7
Charter Communications/Spectrum	8-9
City of St. Anthony/Entry Points Network	10-11
Coeur d'Alene Tribe	12
Cox Communications	13-14
Custer Telephone Cooperative	15
DIGB2	16-17
Direct Communications	18-42
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company	43-44
Fatbeam	45-48
Fybercom	49-51
Idaho Falls Fiber	52
Intermax Networks	53-56
IRON	57-58
Madison County/City of Rexburg	59-60
Mud Lake Telephone Cooperative	61-62
Oregon Idaho Utilities	63
PMT	64
Port of Lewiston	65-67
Rally Networks	68
Rural Telephone Company	69
Silver Star Communications	70-72
Syringa Networks	73-75
White Cloud Communications, Inc.	76-78
Ziply Fiber	79-83

**From:** Adam Reno <areno@cityofboise.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 11:49 AM

**To:** Ramon Hobdey-Sanchez <ramon.hobdeysanchez@commerce.idaho.gov>

**Cc:** Patti Campbell <pcampbell@ctcnet.us>; Heather Mills <hmills@ctcnet.us>; Caroline Mueller <cmueller@ctcnet.us>; Alex Winkler <awinkler@cityofboise.org>

**Subject:** RE: [External] Idaho Broadband Fund Grant Application Follow-up

Ramon, please find the **Ada County/City of Boise's** clarifying information below:

- 1) How much of the project's match is cash?
  - a. **98.6% of that match is cash, with the remaining 1.4% being "in-kind" matches. As a reminder this project has a 51% match overall.**
- 2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.
  - a. **Project could start in the spring of 2023 and would take approximately 2-3 years to complete.**
- 3) Please see the below definition of "middle-mile infrastructure." Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile?
  - a. **YES**

"Middle mile infrastructure"

(A) means any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including an anchor institution\*; and

(B) includes—

(i) leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, and other similar services; and

(ii) wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless broadband network, such as towers, fiber, and microwave links. (see page 6 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#))

\*See "anchor institution" definition on page 5 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#).

- 4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA ([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IIJA ([BEAD Program](#))?
  - a. **No**

If an applicant chooses to provide clarifying information to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board, please submit the information via email to [broadband@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:broadband@commerce.idaho.gov) by 12:00P.M. (MST) on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.



1) How much of the project’s match is cash?  
 \$229,907.30

2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.

Anthem Broadband and its contractor has access to materials and labor necessary to complete the project. With an award announcement in February this would give enough time to get engineering and permitting started and construction crews scheduled to start by May 1, 2023.

Project name		Project Duration	Project Start Date	Project End Date
Marsing to Grandview Middle Mile		279	1-Feb-23	7-Nov-23

Task ID	Task Description	Task Duration	Start Date	End Date
1	Engineering	30	Feb 01, 2023	Mar 15, 2023
2	Permitting	120	Feb 06, 2023	Jul 24, 2023
3	Materials Procurement	90	Feb 20, 2023	Jun 26, 2023
4	Construction	90	May 01, 2023	Sep 04, 2023
5	Customer Drop Installation	45	Jul 01, 2023	Sep 01, 2023
6	First Customer Oline	1	Jul 01, 2023	Jul 03, 2023
7	Final documentation	15	Sep 04, 2023	Sep 25, 2023
8	Final Grant Paperwork	30	Sep 26, 2023	Nov 07, 2023

3) Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.” Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.

Yes. All end-user and anchor institution connections are accounted for outside of the requested grant funding with in-kind or cash matching.

4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA ([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IIJA ([BEAD Program](#))?

The BEAD Program is primarily focused on a last-mile investment in broadband infrastructure and requires a 25% match to qualify (without a waiver)

ARPA funds are also primarily focused on last-mile investments with a heavy push towards government, non-profit or co-operatives.

While this project could be adapted for either program it would change the scope and delay the start of the project. This would dovetail very well with expanding last-mile builds by leveraging the Capital Projects Fund or the BEAD Program.



1.208.677.8000

www.anthembroadband.com

906 S. Oneida St, Suite 8  
 Rupert, ID 83350



To Whom It May Concern:

Pending award of the Marsing Idaho to Grandview Idaho project to Anthem Broadband. SCI A Congruex Company will have the available resources to begin this project on May 1, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Bowles', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jerome Bowles VP of Construction, Great Basin Area

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board  
 c/o Ramón S. Hobdey-Sánchez, J.D.  
 State Broadband Program Manager  
 Idaho Department of Commerce  
 700 W. State St., Boise, ID 83702

Re: Idaho Broadband Fund Grant Application Follow-up

Please see ATC Communication’s answers to the four questions below:

1. **100% of our proposed match is cash.**

2. The project timeline submitted in the application is still valid. It is referenced below:

This project was specifically chosen to meet the Board’s definition of ‘shovel ready’. With minimal planning, engineering, or permitting left to do ATC is positioned to start the dirt-work in a few short months and immediately place the required construction materials in the ground. Very few projects in the state could truly be considered shovel ready like this project is. With an award in January/February of 2023, **most of the project’s dirt work would be completed by year’s end. Turnup and testing may trickle into 2024.**

**Project Schedule – Shovel Ready**

Schedule	Action Item
MONTH 1	Finalize Design and Engineering, Order Materials
MONTH 1-3	Permitting
MONTH 3-12	Fiber Construction
MONTH 13-14	Provisioning and Turnup
MONTH 15	Project Close-Out

3. **Yes, 100% of the project is middle mile.** The application mentions last-mile only to demonstrate the ‘potential’ customers that could be served by the new middle mile. All grant dollars will be spent on middle-mile infrastructure only.

4. Given the project’s scope (100% middle mile) and location, the **proposed project does not qualify for BEAD or CPF funding.**



Filed by E-mail

January 18, 2023

Idaho Department of Commerce  
Attn: Idaho Broadband Advisory Board  
700 W. State St., Boise, ID 83702  
[broadband@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:broadband@commerce.idaho.gov)

RE: IBAB Grant Follow-up Responses

Dear Idaho Broadband Advisory Board,

Blackfoot Communications ("Blackfoot") would like to thank the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board and the State Broadband Program for the opportunity to provide clarification on its Island Park Project. Following are Blackfoot's responses.

1. *"How much of the project's match is cash?"*

Blackfoot is proposing to match fifty percent (50%) of the project cost with its own cash.

2. *"Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date."*

Blackfoot has already designed and engineered the middle and last mile fiber construction contemplated by this project. Blackfoot already has or soon will have in inventory all the fiber and other materials necessary to complete this project. Blackfoot also has a third-party construction contractor ready to deploy personnel and equipment to begin the project as soon as the snow melts and ground thaws. **If Blackfoot receives this grant, it is prepared to complete 54 of the 64 miles of middle-mile in 2023** with the remaining miles to be completed in 2024 and 2025. In addition, **Blackfoot plans to connect last-mile connectivity to 300 of the 500 locations in 2023**, with the remaining 10 miles of middle mile fiber and last mile locations to be completed in 2024 and 2025. If Blackfoot does not receive this grant, it may take several years for Blackfoot to acquire the necessary capital to build the fiber network contemplated by this grant application.

3. *“Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile?”*

Yes. Blackfoot’s proposed project will add more than 64-miles of middle-mile fiber that will facilitate the ability to connect more than 500 locations to fiber-based Internet. Importantly, Blackfoot provides wholesale and carrier-grade services to mobile wireless cell towers as well as fixed-wireless providers that use Blackfoot’s fiber-infrastructure to provide retail broadband services. This middle-mile infrastructure will support mobile wireless tower connectivity as well as fixed wireless providers offering service in Island Park today.

4. *“Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA (Capital Projects Fund) or IJJA (BEAD Program)?”*

Blackfoot has not received, nor has it applied for any ARPA or BEAD related funds for this project. Without knowing the specific and final broadband grant program guidelines for ARPA and BEAD, Blackfoot can neither confirm nor deny that this project would be eligible under one of those programs

Best regards,



Jason Williams  
Chief Executive Officer

## Response to IBAB Idaho Broadband Fund Grants

Below are responses to IBAB’s request for clarifying information related to **Cambridge Telephone Co.** Inc.’s (CTC) proposal submitted on December 23, 2022.

- 1) How much of the project’s match is cash?
  - a. CTC has proposed a 50% match of the proposed project costs. Of that match, 90% would be cash and 10% would be in-kind.
- 2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.
  - a. Weather permitting, CTC would be able to start portions of the project within thirty (30) days of award. The project would be completed by the end of 2023 if funds are awarded and available prior to April 2023.
- 3) Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.” Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.
  - a. Yes

“Middle mile infrastructure”

(A) means any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including an anchor institution\*; and

(B) includes—

(i) leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, and other similar services; and

(ii) wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless broadband network, such as towers, fiber, and microwave links. (see page 6 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#))

\*See “anchor institution” definition on page 5 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#).

- 4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA ([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IIJA ([BEAD Program](#))?
  - a. While the project might qualify under ARPA or IIJA, the criteria is not defined enough to definitively say at this time if the project is eligible. Another area of concern would be how well such a project would score given that it is for Middle Mile and CTC is a for-profit company. ARPA guidelines encourage states to prioritize not-for-profits and government entities. So while a project may qualify, it may not be awarded based on criteria and scoring that is yet to be determined.



January 18, 2023

**Via E-Mail: [broadband@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:broadband@commerce.idaho.gov)**

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board  
Attn: Ramón S. Hobdey-Sánchez, J.D.  
State Broadband Program Manager  
Idaho Department of Commerce  
700 W. State Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702

**Re:** Spectrum's Response to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board's Request for Clarification

Dear Mr. Hobdey-Sánchez:

Spectrum Pacific West, LLC ("Spectrum") submits this letter in response to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board's ("Board") request for clarification, if necessary, regarding specific broadband grant application information. The Board's request appears to have been provided to all applicants. Spectrum believes its original application responds to all the required information, but submits this supplemental information to assist the Board in its determination of our application. We look forward to continuing to work with the Board throughout this process and are available to answer additional questions if necessary.

1) How much of the project's match is cash?

- a. Charter is requesting \$24,360,972 from the State of Idaho through this grant application. The total project cost will be \$38,599,972, resulting in a project match from Charter of \$14,239,000 equal to 37% of the project cost.

Charter Communications, Inc., the company behind the customer-facing brand of Spectrum, is a Fortune 70 company. All portions of the project to be funded by Charter will be funded from the company's general construction budget. Full copies of Charter's most recent 3 years of audited financial statements can be accessed here: <https://ir.charter.com/financial-information/quarterly-results>.

Charter funds construction projects using a centralized holding company planning model. For the proposed Project, Charter will aggregate needs and accumulate funds at the holding company level using a mix of available funding pools, including ongoing business free cash flow, existing credit lines, and new bond issuances, which could include high yield or investment grade bonds similar to those in our debt structure today. Our goal is to mix these resources as efficiently as possible. We continually evaluate our collective funding need and utilize funding mechanisms based on what is currently most advantageous for Charter. Our centralized funding entities will then disperse funds to the Charter affiliate participating in the Project to fund the Project on an as needed basis.

Collectively, our free cash flow, revolving credit capacity, and access to capital markets reflect more than sufficient resources to fund the proposed Project. Plus, as noted above, we have invested more than \$40 billion into our network and facilities over the last five years – a demonstrated, sustained track record of Charter’s ability and commitment to investing the required resources to build and sustain broadband networks.

- 2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.
  - a. If awarded grant funds, Spectrum anticipates beginning the project promptly with completion within three years from the effective date of a grant agreement, subject to timing of grant awards, pole attachment make-ready work required to install facilities, permitting delays, ability to access relevant locations, or other delays outside Spectrum’s reasonable control, including pandemic-related or raw materials shortages.
  
- 3) Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.” Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.
  - a. No.
  
- 4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA ([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IIJA ([BEAD Program](#))?
  - a. States have flexibility in determining grant rules and criteria under both ARPA and BEAD grant programs, and Idaho has not yet adopted programmatic rules designed to implement BEAD funding. Moreover, a lengthy timetable exists to complete the distribution of BEAD funding and that will take several years. Spectrum’s participation in future grant programs will be dependent on state’s specific grant rules for each grant program. Spectrum’s proposed application has the potential to bring much needed broadband service to more than 4,100 locations within 3 years (as set forth in the application and the response to clarification question number 2 above), and irrespective of any future potential grant opportunities, the Board has an opportunity to move forward now to expeditiously consider and grant this application in an effort to speed broadband deployment to Idaho’s unserved communities.

Respectfully submitted,



Stafford G. Strong

Senior Manager, State Government Affairs – Washington and Idaho



*City of St. Anthony  
420 N Bridge, Suite A  
St. Anthony, ID 83445*

---

208-624-3494

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Idaho Department of Commerce  
Attn: Idaho Broadband Advisory Board  
700 W. State St., Boise, ID 83702  
[broadband@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:broadband@commerce.idaho.gov)

RE: St Anthony Project Clarifying Comments

Dear Idaho Broadband Advisory Board,

The City of St Anthony appreciates the opportunity to provide additional comments to assist the board in analyzing the merit our application. While this information is included in the application, we hope that these direct answers help to clarify some specifics.

1. How much of the project's match is cash?  
\$300,000
2. Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.  
Start Date: 3/1/23 – procurement processes started  
Construction Start: 5/1/2023 – procurement complete, construction commences  
Outside Plant Construction Complete: 10/1/2023 – network equipment installation and provisioning commence  
Network Testing: 11/1/2023 – plant review, network testing  
Project Complete and Accepted by the City: 12/15/2023
3. Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.” Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.  
YES. The municipal anchor institution properties listed in the project are used to house network locations for fiber or network access. The infrastructure constructed using grant funds will NOT terminate any retail or final service. Such termination will require a service provider to install drops and premise equipment. NO COST FOR THE DROPS OR PREMISE EQUIPMENT ARE INCLUDED

IN THE PROJECT OR BUDGET AS PRESENTED. For this reason, this infrastructure does NOT directly connect to an end-user, even though the city will use the listed city properties to house middle mile network locations. Costs to connect to end user locations will be borne by the City or any other provider desiring to use this middle mile infrastructure outside of this grant project. As a result, this project DOES meet the strict definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.”

4. Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA ([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IJA ([BEAD Program](#))?

The project does qualify for funding under the ARPA (Capital Projects Fund) and aligns well with the funding guidelines for the Corona Virus Capital Projects Fund as set forth by the Treasury Department.

The project does NOT qualify for funding under the BEAD program.

We hope that this information is helpful and demonstrates the merit of the St Anthony application. We would be pleased to provide any additional information that would be helpful to the board in awarding our application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald Powell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'P'.

Mayor Donald Powell



# COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE

111 8th STREET  
P.O. BOX 408  
PLUMMER, IDAHO 83851  
Main Line: (208) 686-1800

January 18, 2023

## Grant Application Follow-Up

1) How much of the project's match is cash?

There is not a cash match at this time. The match we can provide now is the value of the fiber and conduit we will use in each project.

2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.

Projected timeline:

Activity	Responsible Party	Month
Permitting Process	Field Engineer	April, May 2023
OSP Construction	OSP Contractor	June through October 2023 and 2024
Field Engineering and Inspection	Field Engineer	Ongoing during construction
Fiber Splicing, Testing, and Turn Up	Splicing Contractor	October, November 2023 and 2024
Red Line Drawings as needed	Field Engineer	November 2023 and 2024
Final Inspection / Walkthrough	Tribe / Field Engineer	November 2023 and 2024
Final Inventory / GPS of OSP	Tribe	November 2023 and 2024
Final As-Built Map	Tribe GIS	December and January 2023 and 2024

3) Please see the below definition of "middle-mile infrastructure." Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? No.

4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA (Capital Projects Fund) or IIJA (BEAD Program)?

Yes, Capital Projects Fund.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Valerie Fast Horse, IT Director  
Coeur d'Alene Tribe  
(208) 686-5059

# Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

Cox Communications

## Idaho Broadband Fund Grants

December 22, 2022 – January 2, 2023

---

On January 11, 2023, the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board made a motion to organize project submissions based on the 4 elements identified below. Applicants now have the opportunity to clarify this information within their proposal if it is not already clearly stated. Information is being requested based on the Board’s motion to better understand and clarify project proposals. Participation in this opportunity to clarify is not required for a previously submitted proposal to be considered for funding.

The Idaho Department of Commerce has included questions and guidance below to assist applicants in this clarification process.

- 1) How much of the project’s match is cash?
  - a. Cox Communications is proud to serve the residents of Idaho with reliable and high-speed internet. Cox Communications cash investment would be \$136K in this high-cost area of the state that typically would not receive private investment without public funding assistance. The proposal cost is directly tied to construction build and labor, in which Cox will absorb all indirect and ongoing operational cost.
- 2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.
  - a. The proposed timeline would be approximately 24 months from contract executions
- 3) Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.” Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.
  - a. The proposal is for last mile connections and would not meet the definition as Middle-Mile infrastructure.

“Middle mile infrastructure”

(A) means any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including an anchor institution\*; and

(B) includes—

- (i) leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, and other similar services; and
- (ii) wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless broadband network, such as towers, fiber, and microwave links. (see page 6 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#))

\*See “anchor institution” definition on page 5 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#).

- 4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA ([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IIJA ([BEAD Program](#))?

# Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

## Idaho Broadband Fund Grants

December 22, 2022 – January 2, 2023

---

- a. **The project would meet requirements under Capital Project Funds.**
- If an applicant chooses to provide clarifying information to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board, please submit the information via email to [broadband@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:broadband@commerce.idaho.gov) by 12:00P.M. (MST) on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Please use the following description in the subject line of the email: “RE: (Applicant Name) (Project Name and/or Location).”

- For questions, please contact:

**Ramón S. Hobdey-Sánchez, J.D.**  
State Broadband Program Manager  
Idaho Department of Commerce  
700 W. State St., Boise, Idaho  
83702 Office: 208.287.3153  
Cell: 208.860.6513  
[ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov)

## Clarification Questions

How much of the project's match is cash.

- **With an overall project cost of \$4,600,000, CusterTel is committed to fund 50% of the cost. Cash match is expected to be \$2,300,000.**

Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.

- **This project is engineered, permitted and material procurement is well underway. Our contractor is scheduled to begin construction in the March/April 2023 and be complete by fall 2024.**

Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.

- **YES - This project meets the definition of Middle Mile connectivity. It will pass by 470 unserved locations including 1 community anchor institution, 6 businesses, and multiple agricultural operations in Lemhi County.**

Does the project described in the proposal qualify under either the ARPA -Capital Projects Fund or ILJA – BEAD Program

- **ARPA -Capital Projects Fund – It is our understanding the focus of the CPF program is to provide “Last Mile” connections. We are not proposing Last Mile connections in this funding request.**
- **ILJA – BEAD Program – It is our understanding the focus of the BEAD program is to expand high speed internet access. Since the exact details and dates of the grant program are not yet fully defined it is hard to say if this project would qualify or not. Depending on the program's final criteria it's very likely that we would submit other projects for consideration.**





## North-Central Idaho- District II Interoperability Governance Board

Idaho Department of Commerce  
Attn: Ramón S. Hobdey-Sánchez, J.D.  
State Broadband Program Manager  
Idaho Department of Commerce  
700 W. State Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702

January 20, 2023

Dear Idaho Department of Commerce:

re: DIGB2 Middle Mile Network Segment Plan

DIGB2 Responses are in Red text below.

**The Idaho Department of Commerce has included questions and guidance below to assist applicants in this clarification process.**

- 1) How much of the project’s match is cash?  
**100%**
- 2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.  
**Start 2/1/2023 with RFP, break ground 9/1/2023 – Estimated end date of 9/30/2024.**
- 3) Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.” Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.  
**YES**

“Middle mile infrastructure”

(A) means any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including an anchor institution\*; and

(B) includes—

(i) leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, and other similar services; and

(ii) wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave

capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless broadband network, such as towers, fiber, and microwave links. (see page 6 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#))

\*See “anchor institution” definition on page 5 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#).

- 4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA ([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IIJA ([BEAD Program](#))?  
**NO**

Sincerely,

Jerry Zumalt  
District II Interoperability Governance Board, Chair  
([jzumalt@idahocounty.org](mailto:jzumalt@idahocounty.org))

\*\*\*\*\*

For more information, contact Dave Taylor, 911 Coordinator, Nez Perce County, [davet@npc911.org](mailto:davet@npc911.org).

Voting members: Clearwater County: Don Gardner; Mitch Jared. Idaho County: Jerry Zumalt; Terry Cochran. Latah County: Tim Besst; Roger Lanier; Mike Neelon. Lewis County: Jason Davis; Bob West. Nez Perce County: Bill Reynolds; Brian Birdsell and Clark Filip. Nez Perce Tribe: Leotis McCormack; John Wheaton.



**From:** Daniel Parrish <danielp@directcom.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 11:14 AM  
**To:** Ramon Hobdey-Sanchez <ramon.hobdeysanchez@commerce.idaho.gov>  
**Subject:** clarifying concerns

The IBAB has asked us to provide information on four clarifying points. The following are some of our concerns and questions regarding your request:

1) How much of the projects match is cash? What exactly does the board consider cash? Literally everything comes back to cash. Cash to pay contractors, cash to purchase materials, cash to pay in-house engineers, cash to acquire permits, etc. It seems all of these expenses and many others should count as cash match? Without clarity you are not going to receive fair and equal responses from applicants.

2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including start date and completion date. -- This should be fairly easy to provide (we already have). However, it is important that these provided dates aren't used as absolutes. Until contracts are signed with the state exact timelines are impossible to commit to.

3) Please see the below definition of "middle-mile infrastructure". Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? Yes or No -- We have HUGE concerns with this. You are imposing a definition of middle-mile on these projects after the fact. Many applications, including ours, may have been designed differently had this, arbitrary, definition been provided at the beginning. Additionally using this definition means that the IBAB will spend 35 million to connect exactly ZERO un or underserved! ZERO rooftops connected!

4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for either ARPA or IIJA? This is a rather difficult question to answer as the rules for IIJA (BEAD Program) are not finalized yet. Additionally and perhaps more importantly if a project does not qualify for either of these programs then it probably should not be funded. You/the IBAB are going to be forced to fund bad projects.

--

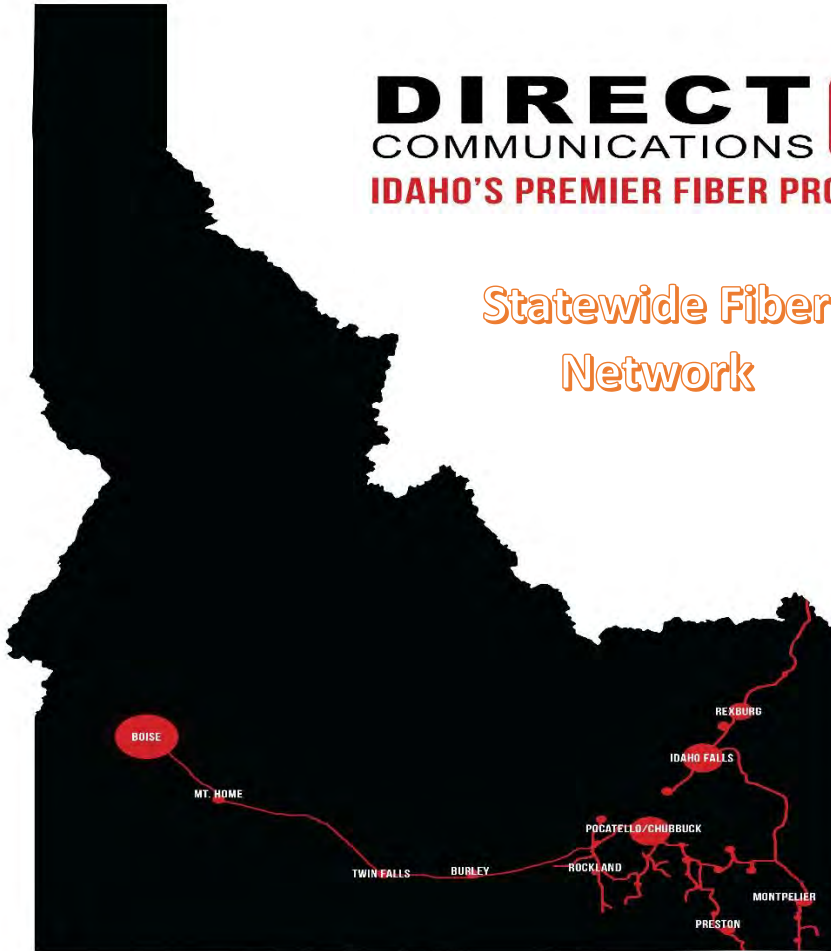
Thank you,

Daniel J. Parrish  
Community Development Officer/  
Legislative Liaison  
[danielp@directcom.com](mailto:danielp@directcom.com)  
(208)406-3503

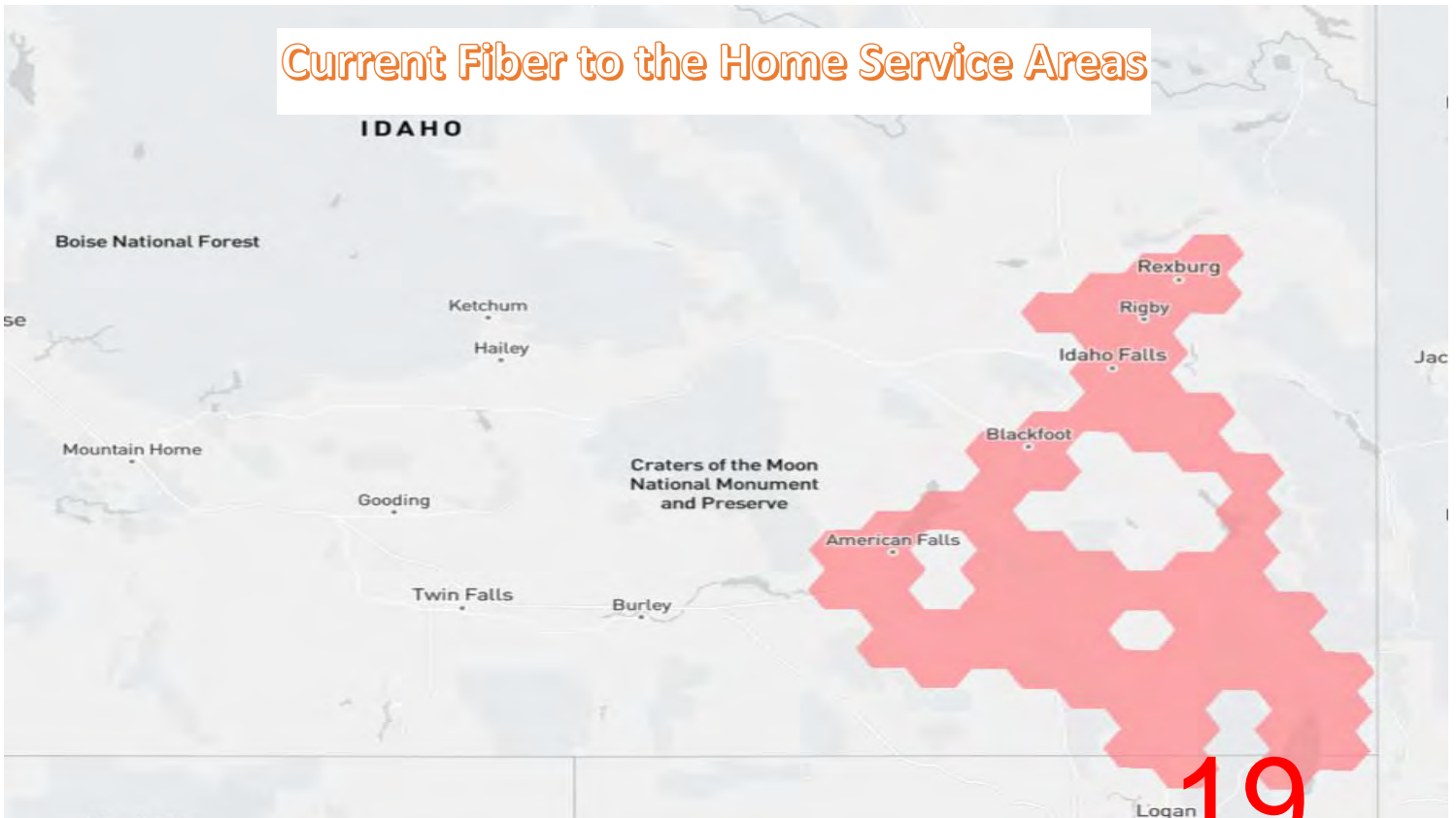


**DIRECT** COMMUNICATIONS   
**IDAHO'S PREMIER FIBER PROVIDER**

Statewide Fiber  
Network



Current Fiber to the Home Service Areas



Idaho Broadband Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your RFP seeking Idaho Broadband Grant Applications.

At Direct Communications we have worked hard to establish ourselves as a nationally and locally recognized leader in delivering high-speed Fiber Optic, Broadband Internet to rural America. We have been in a leader in bridging the digital divide across America's rural landscape. We would like to highlight just a few of the projects we have been involved with here in Idaho.

Hopefully, you know how serious we are about expanding service to the unserved and underserved residents of Idaho. Since 2020 we have teamed up with local communities to apply for grants and funding to bring fiber to more than 1,000 residents in Arimo, Lewisville, Dingle, Ovid, Bern, Liberty, Clifton, Oxford, Dayton, East of Grace, and Thatcher.

In 2021 we worked with the City of American Falls to utilize their award of \$915,000 to build public wifi through their city parks. In 2021 We received funding through the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Idaho Broadband Grant to build more fiber to reach an additional 300 residents in Weston and Roberts.

No one type of project works for every community; however, we are committed to adapting and coming to the table to discuss projects and funding that works for all parties involved.

-Early on we developed a relationship with the City of Chubbuck to connect their facilities. We are now using that network to build out fiber to the home to the City of Chubbuck.

-We are within a few weeks of starting construction on the East side of Bear Lake, which is included in the funding we received through the USDA's ReConnect 2nd Grant. This project will connect 2,064 residences, 118 farms, 30 businesses, a post office, and a fire station.

-Currently, we are halfway done with a Private/Public Partnership with American Falls that utilized their ARPA funds and allowed us to match those funds to build out FTTH to 1,400 residences. We have also just signed a contract with the City of Iona that will utilize ARPA funds as well as a match from us that will build out FTTH to an additional 1,000 residences.

We understand the value of working with communities and counties and we are no strangers to this process. With a network that spans the east side of the State of Idaho, we are eager to expand to everything our network touches as well as those underserved areas adjacent.

## **Fiber Construction Quality and Techniques**

The infrastructure and network design will fall in line with and exceed industry standard methods. Engineering practices are based on service redundancy in case of network outage or cable damage.

All fiber optic cable is installed in the ground to local depth specs in conduit, as well as stored in concrete vaults covered with traffic rated lids. If cable does have to be opened for splicing or repair purposes, it is placed back in the vault inside of an airtight case once work is complete. All of our fiber cable is fusion spliced and tested before turnup.

Our fiber crews are equipped with enclosed splicing trailers where they can bring the fiber into a clean environment to splice and or troubleshoot. They are capable of fusion splicing both loose tube and ribbon fiber. Troubleshooting tools would include OTDR meters, Power Meters, Red Lights, and Fiber Identifiers.

Service demarcation point is typically at the side of the customer home using a temperature hardened ONT that is stored in a NEMA 3 enclosure with redundant power sources. Each ONT is capable of providing up to 4 1GIG Ethernet services and 4 phone lines.

All ONT's are deployed to the house over a Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON or XGS PON) and are aggregated at a carrier grade switch at the local remote cabinet or DLC. It is then sent over 2 redundant fiber optic 10G routes back to our Data Center using ERPS technology. Once data is aggregated at our Central Office it is then sent to the internet over our Cisco routers and DWDM fiber carrier equipment.

All data traffic is monitored around the clock using systems such as Calix CMS, Calix Cloud Services and PRTG. These systems will notify in real time if there are any events or alarms within the network and classify them based on the severity of the alarm (Major/Minor/Critical). All alarms are immediately reported to our Network Operations Center where we have construction, splicing, and technical crews on call 24/7.

### **Does Direct have the ability to deliver on the proposed project within established timelines and within budget?**

Direct Communications (parent company) have been providing telecommunications services in the intermountain west for 70 years. Today our core business is building, operating, and managing top of the line Broadband networks. We were the first company in Idaho to provide gig services to the home.

We provide fiber to the home for the fastest growing city in America, Eagle Mountain, Utah. That market adds 100 new locations every month.

Over the last 24 months we have completed a dozen projects similar to the one being proposed. These projects have constructed nearly 200 miles of residential fiber and provided broadband service to roughly 2000 roof tops that previously had no access to broadband. We are currently constructing fiber to the home for 1400 homes in American Falls and a thousand homes in Iona.

### **Direct Communications network availability and reliability standards used in the design of our current network and the proposed projects?**

Direct Communications operates all networks on the rule of 5 - 9's. We will operate at carrier grade quality standards. The proposed network will be designed to deliver uptime of 99.999% across our network. All fiber optic cables are installed in the ground to local depth specs in conduit, as well as stored in concrete vaults

covered with traffic rated lids. If cable does have to be opened for splicing or repair purposes, it is placed back in the vault inside of an airtight case. All of our fiber is fusion spliced and tested before turnup.

Our fiber crews are equipped with enclosed splicing trailers where they can bring the fiber into a clean environment to splice and or troubleshoot. They are capable of fusion splicing both loose tube and ribbon fiber. Troubleshooting tools would include OTDR meters, Power Meters, Red Lights, and Fiber Identifiers.

Service demarcation point is typically at the side of the customer home using a temperature hardened ONT that is stored in a NEMA 3 enclosure with redundant power sources. Each ONT is capable of providing up to 4 1GIG Ethernet services and 4 phone lines.

All ONT's are deployed to the house over a Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) and are aggregated at a carrier grade switch at the local remote cabinet or DLC. It is then sent over 2 redundant fiber optic 10G routes back to our Data Center using ERPS technology.

### **Shovel Ready Projects**

As a national leader in bridging the digital divide in America Direct Communications has built and extensive network of suppliers and Contractors. In addition to stocking hundreds of thousands of feet of materials we have access to significant additional resources. Direct Communications employees three full construction crews in Idaho and we have standing relationships we dozens of additional contractors. We worked with and completed projects in all different regions of Southern and Eastern Idaho. We have significant experience obtaining local, state, and federal permits. All projects listed below would be accomplished in 24 moths or less.

### **Affordability**

At Direct we understand that a major factor in bridging the Digital Divide is providing broadband services at an affordable rate. Direct was an early adopter of the federal ACP program. This program provides a \$30 a month credit to qualifying homes. To match this, we offer high-speed 100 meg symmetrical services for as low as \$39.99 a month.

### **Funding**

Direct Communications has internal funding available as well as multiple lines of credit. Direct has funding lined up and available applied for projects. Proof of funding available on request.

### **References**

Available on request

**In the following pages please see mulitple Grant Applications  
and associated areas:**

**22**

## Blackfoot to Aberdeen

### Middle Mile Fiber Optic Expansion

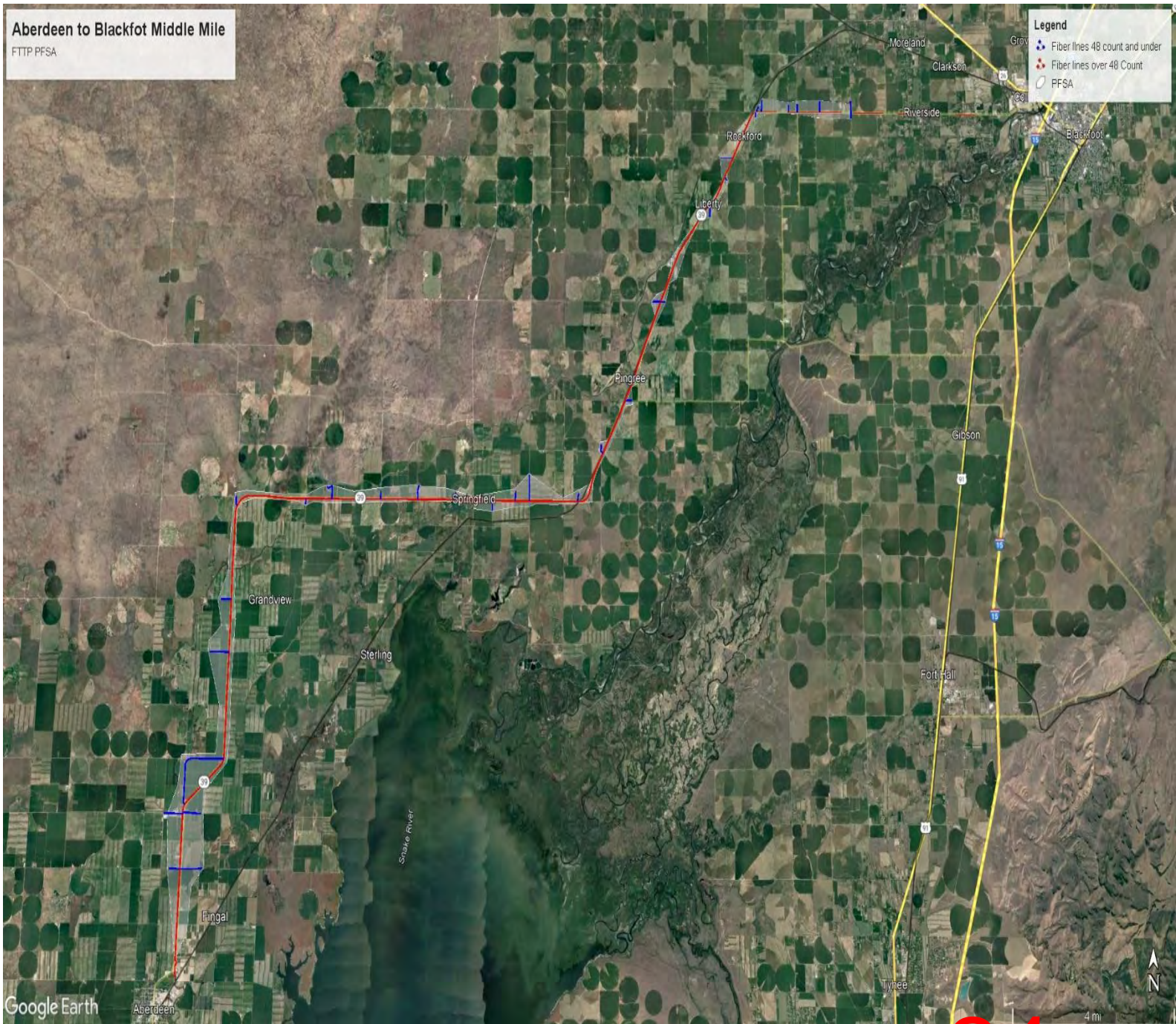
- Service Status: Zero Broadband providers. Limited cellular or Wireless providers.
- Rooftops: 200 Residential locations, 36 Commercial Locations, 3 Elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 1 high school
- Fiber Miles: 45 Miles of Fiber Optic Network Construction.
- Cost Estimate: \$4,600,000
- Applicant Match: \$1,400,000 – 30%
- Grant Request: \$3,200,000 – 70%
- Proposed Service: 1 gig symmetrical
- Low-Cost Proposal: ACP participation, 100 Meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99 a month.
- This Middle Mile Project will connect 9 un or underserved communities: Fingal, Grandview, Springfield, Pingree, Sterling, Liberty, Rockford, Thomas, and Riverside. There are currently 1200 underserved locations in these rural areas. This project proposes to immediately serve 236 of these locations. However, this Middle mile project will allow Broadband service to be made available to a thousand additional locations.
- This Project will connect Fiber Lines in Aberdeen Idaho and Blackfoot Idaho. This project will provide an important connection between Eastern and Southern Idaho and extended onto Western Idaho. Currently all major carriers in the state have Points of Presence (POP) located at a CO near American Falls. Currently much of this traffic is forced to travel Southwest to Soda Springs, north from there to Bone, and then on to Idaho Falls. There is currently limited access from Pocatello to Idaho Falls. This proposed project would connect existing fiber lines in Aberdeen and Blackfoot to provide an important and necessary redundant route. His route would allow providers to access fiber circuits to carry increased data, shorten route distances, and provided needed redundancy between Everything West of American Falls and regions North of Idaho Falls.
- This project provides important, needed middle mile Fiber while also providing Future Proof Fiber Optic Broadband to one of the fastest growing, underserved areas of the state.
- Community Support from Bingham County Commissioners, Great Rift Business Development (Please see Attachments for support letters)
- Shovel ready: All materials needed to complete this project are in stock and on hand in Idaho. Contractors have been identified to complete this project in a timely manner.

Month One	Engineer staking sheets for installation of new duct to correlate with existing functional duct.	Direct Communications
Month Two	Apply for all necessary permits	Direct Communications
Month Four	Begin trenching process and installation of mainline duct and place Hand Holes.	Contractor
Month Six	Begin installation of Fiber Optic cable, drop cable, and cross-connect boxes.	Contractor
Month Eight	Begin splicing of mainline fiber optic cable and drop cable.	Contractor
Month Fourteen	Inspection and sign off. Mainline Construction complete	Contractor
Month Fifteen	Review test results for all cable installed and spliced.	Direct Communications
Month Sixteen	Installation and provisioning of electronic equipment.	Direct Communications
Month Twenty	System test and turnup	Direct Communications
Month Twenty-Four	Project complete - ready for installation at customers request	Direct Communications



# Blackfoot to Aberdeen

## Middle Mile Fiber Optic Expansion



## Pocatello to McCammon

### Middle Mile Fiber Optic Expansion

- Service Status: Zero Broadband providers. Limited cellular or Wireless providers.
- Rooftops: 275 Residential locations, 12 Commercial Locations
- Fiber Miles: 29 Miles of Fiber Optic Network Construction.
- Cost Estimate: \$3,300,000
- Applicant Match: \$900,000
- Grant Request: \$2,400,000
- Proposed Service: 1 gig symmetrical
- Low-Cost Proposal: ACP participation, 100 Meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99 a month.
- There are upwards of 650 un or underserved locations that will eventually be serviced by this Middle Mile project. This project proposes to immediately serve 275 of these locations. However, this Middle mile project will allow Broadband service to be made available to hundreds of additional locations. This Project will also allow for future expansions in Inkom and McCammon.
- This Project will connect Fiber Lines in Pocatello, Inkom, and McCammon Idaho. This project will provide an important connection between Eastern and Southern Idaho and extended onto Western Idaho. Currently all major carriers in the state have Points of Presence (POP) located at a CO near American Falls. Currently much of this traffic is forced to travel Southwest to Soda Springs, north from there to Bone, and then on to Idaho Falls. There is currently limited access from Pocatello to Idaho Falls. This proposed project would provide important redundancy, network relief, and increased circuit availability to current routes. This route will allow providers to access fiber circuits to carry increased data and provide needed redundancy between everything West of American Falls and regions South of McCammon and North of Idaho Falls.
- This project provides important, needed middle mile Fiber while also providing Future Proof Fiber Optic Broadband to one of the fastest growing, underserved areas of the state.
- Community Support Form Pocatello, Inkom, and Bannock County Commissioners. (Please see attachments for support letters)
- Shovel Ready: All materials needed to complete this project are on hand and in stock in Idaho. Contractors have been identified to complete these projects in a timely manner.

Month One	Engineer staking sheets for installation of new duct to correlate with existing functional duct.	Direct Communications
Month Two	Apply for all necessary permits	Direct Communications
Month Four	Begin trenching process and installation of mainline duct and place Hand Holes.	Contractor
Month Six	Begin installation of Fiber Optic cable, drop cable, and cross-connect boxes.	Contractor
Month Eight	Begin splicing of mainline fiber optic cable and drop cable.	Contractor
Month Fourteen	Inspection and sign off. Mainline Construction complete	Contractor
Month Fifteen	Review test results for all cable installed and spliced.	Direct Communications
Month Sixteen	Installation and provisioning of electronic equipment.	Direct Communications
Month Twenty	System test and turnup	Direct Communications
Month Twenty-Four	Project complete - ready for installation at customers request	Direct Communications

# Pocatello to McCammon Middle Mile Fiber Optic Expansion



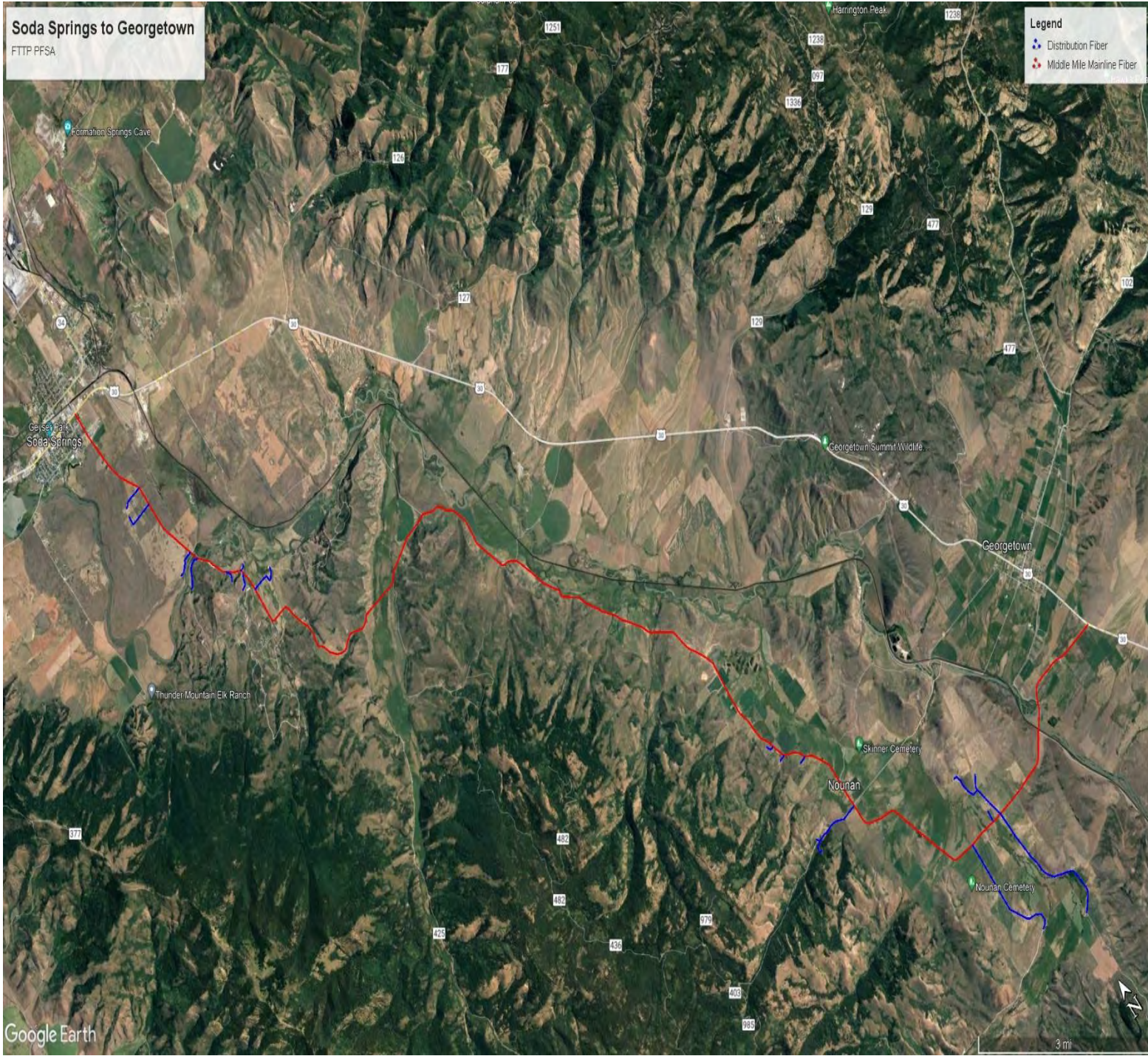
## Soda Springs to Georgetown

### Middle Mile Fiber Optic Expansion

- Service Status: Zero Broadband providers. Zero cellular and limited wireless service.
- Rooftops: 110 Residential locations, 10 Commercial Locations
- Fiber Miles: 34 Miles of Fiber Optic Network Construction.
- Cost Estimate: \$3,200,000
- Applicant Match: \$400,000
- Grant Request: \$2,800,000
- Proposed Service: 1 gig symmetrical
- Low-Cost Proposal: ACP participation, 100 Meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99 a month.
- There are upwards of 250 un or underserved locations that will eventually be serviced by this Middle Mile project. This project proposes to immediately serve 120 of these locations. This Middle mile project will also allow Broadband service to be made available to hundreds of additional locations in the Bailey Creek & Eight Mile Creek regions. This Project will also allow for future expansion in Georgetown.
- This Project will connect Fiber Lines in Soda Springs, and south of Georgetown, Idaho. This project will provide an important connection between Eastern and Southern Idaho and extended onto Western Idaho. Currently the only data path between Soda Springs and Montpelier is along Hwy 30. Multiple times the southeast corner of the state has experienced large-scale outages because these lines along Hwy. 30 have been cut or damaged. This Middle Mile route will allow providers to access fiber circuits to carry increased data and provide necessary redundancy between points north and west of Soda Springs and regions South and East of Georgetown.
- This project provides important, needed middle mile Fiber while also providing Future Proof Fiber Optic Broadband to one of the fastest growing, underserved areas of the state.
- Community Support from Bear Lake and Caribou Counties, Soda Springs and Montpelier. (Please See Attachments for letters of support)
- Shovel Ready: All materials needed to complete this project are on hand and in stock in Idaho. Contractors have been identified to complete these projects in a timely manner.

Month One	Engineer staking sheets for installation of new duct to correlate with existing functional duct.	Direct Communications
Month Two	Apply for all necessary permits	Direct Communications
Month Four	Begin trenching process and installation of mainline duct and place Hand Holes.	Contractor
Month Six	Begin installation of Fiber Optic cable, drop cable, and cross-connect boxes.	Contractor
Month Seven	Begin splicing of mainline fiber optic cable and drop cable.	Contractor
Month Nine	Inspection and sign off. Mainline Construction complete	Contractor
Month Ten	Review test results for all cable installed and spliced.	Direct Communications
Month Eleven	Installation and provisioning of electronic equipment.	Direct Communications
Month Twelve	System test and turnup	Direct Communications
Month Twelve	Project complete - ready for installation at customers request	Direct Communications

# Soda Springs to Georgetown Middle Mile Fiber Optic Expansion



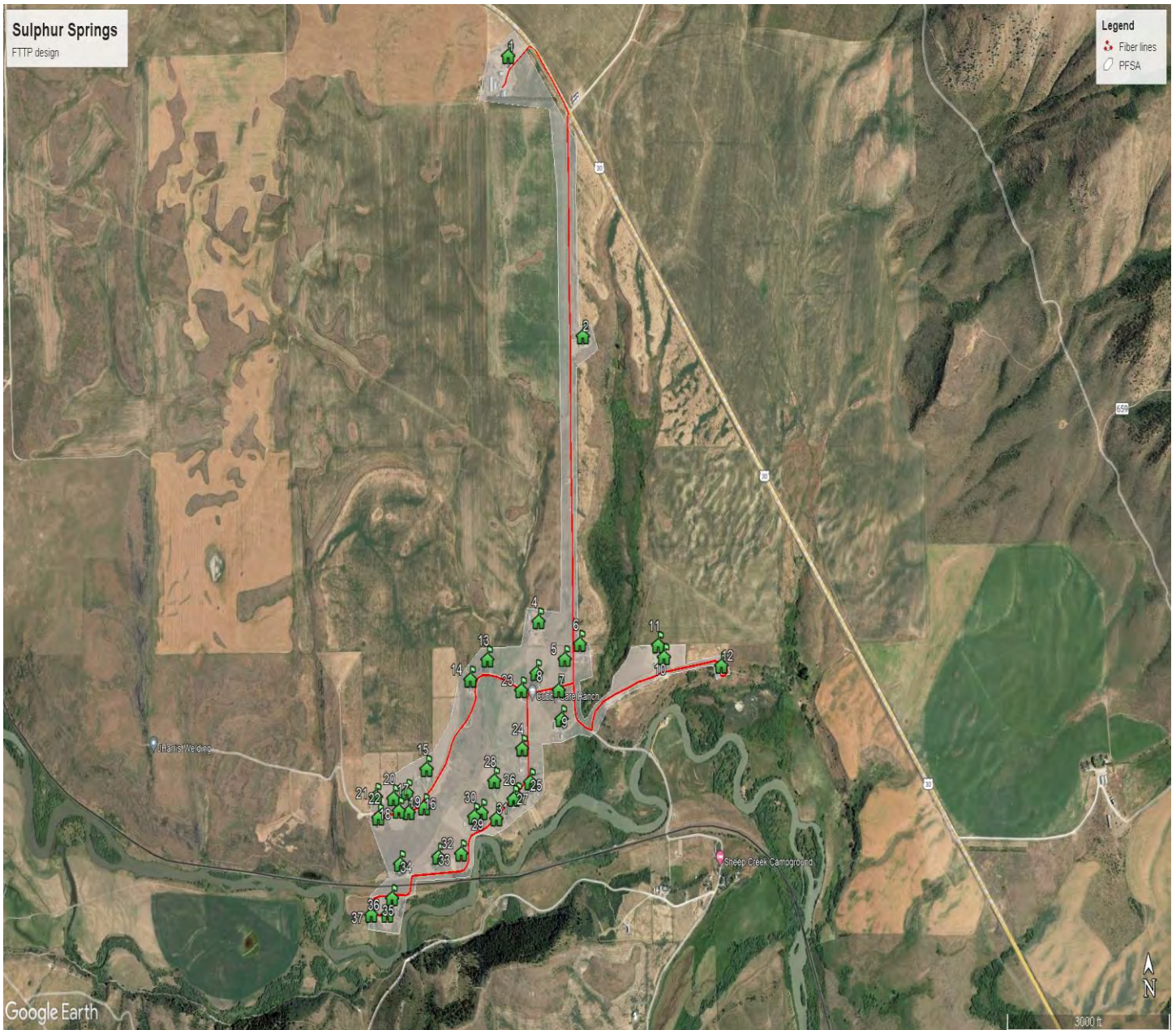
# The Reserve

- Service Status: Unserved, Zero broadband providers. DSL service offered at speeds below Broadband speeds Limited cellular service no wireless coverage
- Residential Roof tops: 305 unserved residential locations
- Commercial Services: 10 unserved commercial locations
- Fiber Miles: 12 Miles of underground fiber Optic construction
- Cost Estimate: \$1,900,000
- Applicant Match: \$600,000
- Grant Request: \$1,300,000
- Proposed service: 1gig symmetrical
- Low-cost proposal: ACP participation, 100 meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99
- Community support: County support and signed MOU, HOA support & signed MOU



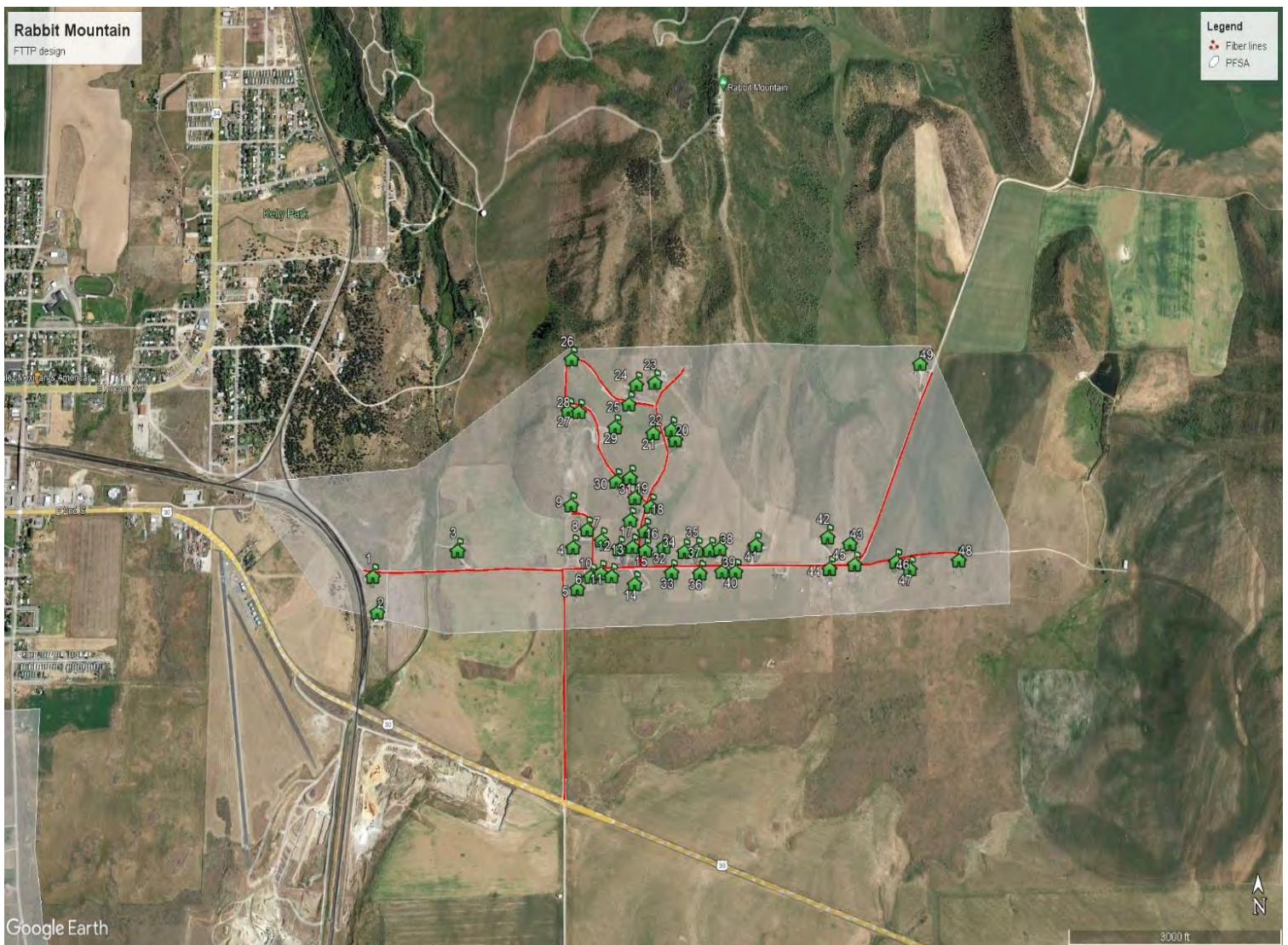
# Sulphur Canyon

- Service Status: No Broadband or DSL. Limited Wireless
- Roof tops: 37
- Fiber Miles: 4.5
- Cost Estimate: \$530,000
- Applicant Match: \$100,000
- Grant Request: \$430,000
- Proposed service: 1gig symmetrical
- Low-cost proposal: ACP participation, 100 meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99
- Community Support: Caribou County & Soda Springs (see attachments)



## Rabbit Mountain

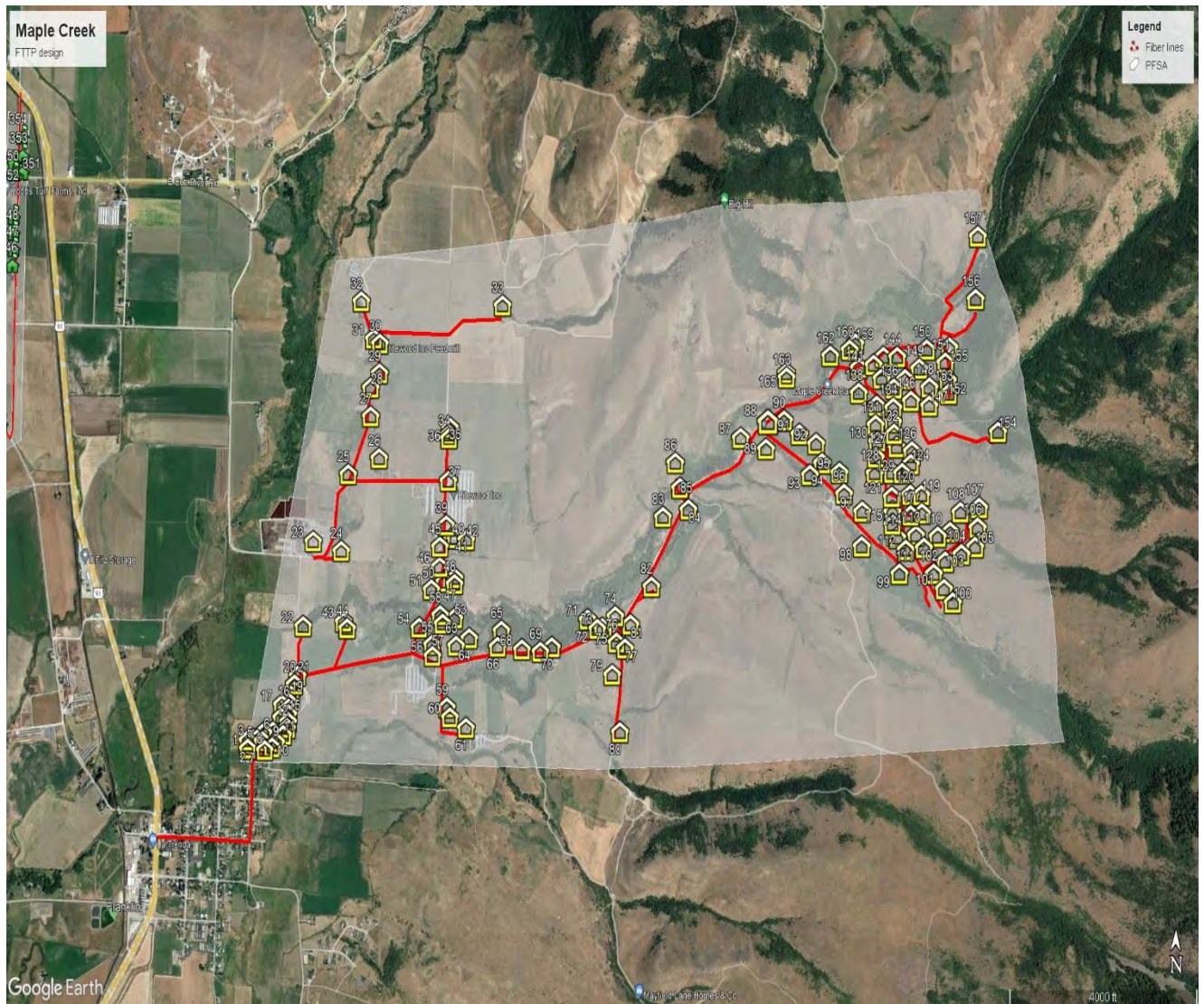
- Service Status: No Broadband or DSL, Wireless Service Available
- Roof tops: 49
- Fiber Miles: 4.1
- Cost Estimate: \$525,000
- Applicant Match: \$100,000
- Grant Request: \$425,000
- Proposed service: 1gig symmetrical
- Low-cost proposal: ACP participation, 100 meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99
- Community Support: Caribou County & Soda Springs (see attachments)





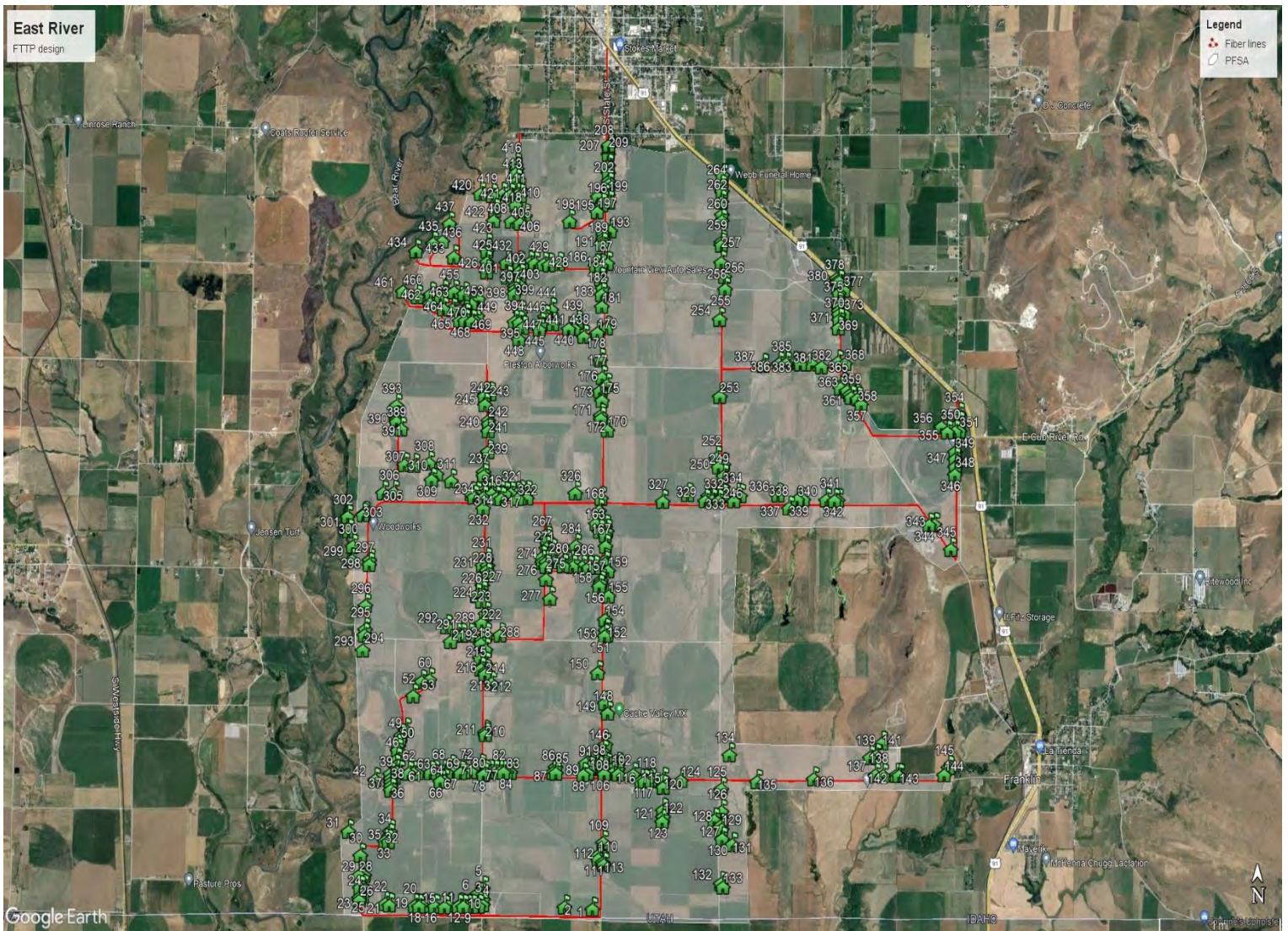
## Maple Creek

- Service Status: No Service. Area still under construction
- Roof tops: 165
- Fiber Miles: 12.75
- Cost Estimate: \$1,600,000
- Applicant Match: \$300,000
- Grant Request: \$1,300,000
- Proposed service: 1gig symmetrical
- Low-cost proposal: ACP participation, 100 meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99
- Community Support: Franklin County Commissioners & Preston City (See Attachments)



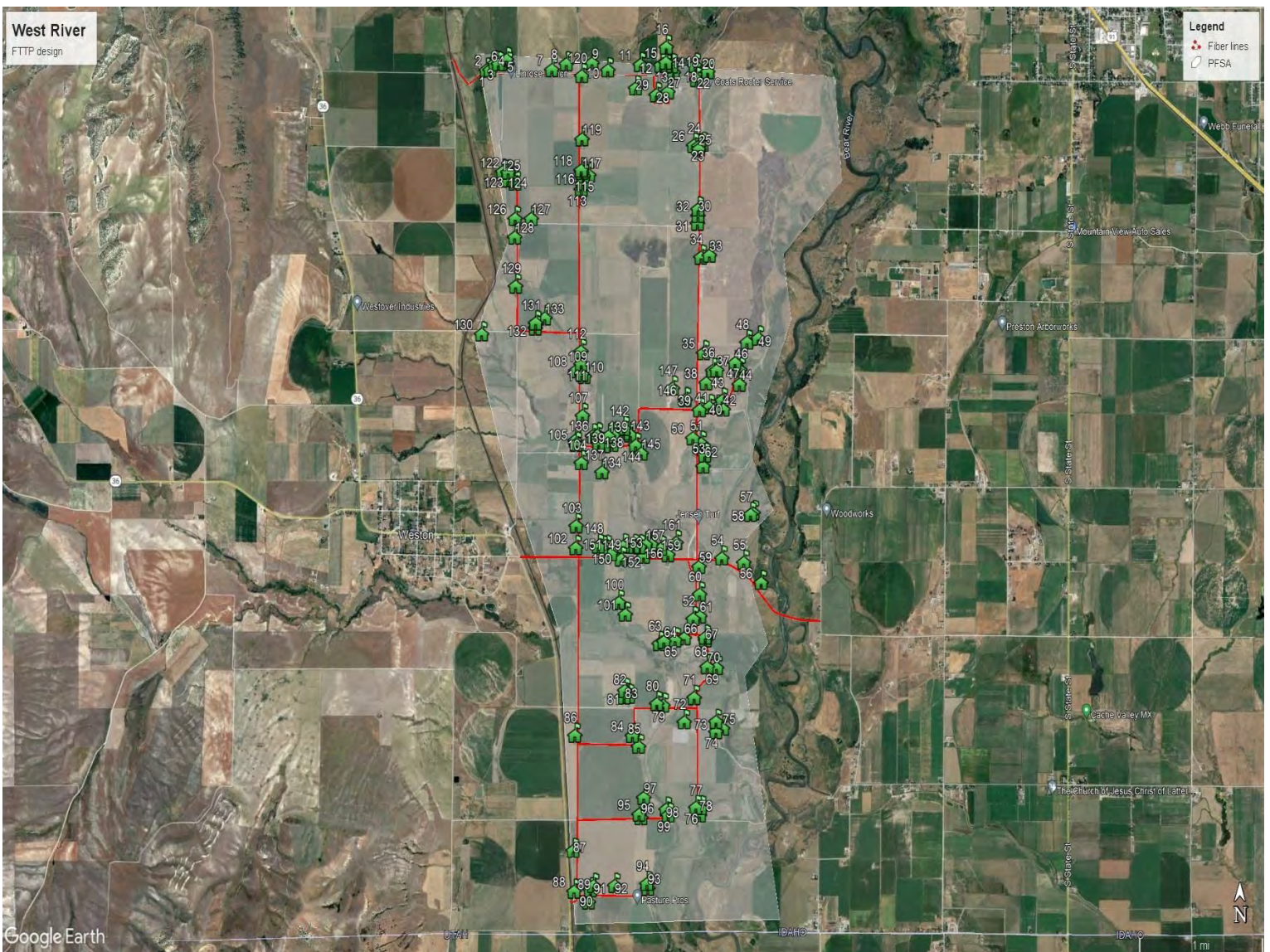
## Franklin County – East River

- Service Status: No Broadband, Wireless Service available
- Roof tops: 470
- Fiber Miles: 41.74
- Cost Estimate: \$4,500,000
- Applicant Match: \$1,000,000
- Grant Request: \$3,500,000
- Proposed service: 1gig symmetrical
- Low-cost proposal: ACP participation, 100 meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99
- Community Support: Franklin County Commissioner & Preston City (See Attachments)



## Franklin County – West River

- Service Status: No Broadband, Wireless only
- Roof tops: 161
- Fiber Miles: 22.42
- Cost Estimate: \$2,420,000
- Applicant Match: \$350,000
- Grant Request: \$2,070,000
- Proposed service: 1gig symmetrical
- Low-cost proposal: ACP participation, 100 meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99
- Community Support: Franklin County Commissioner & Preston City (See Attachments)



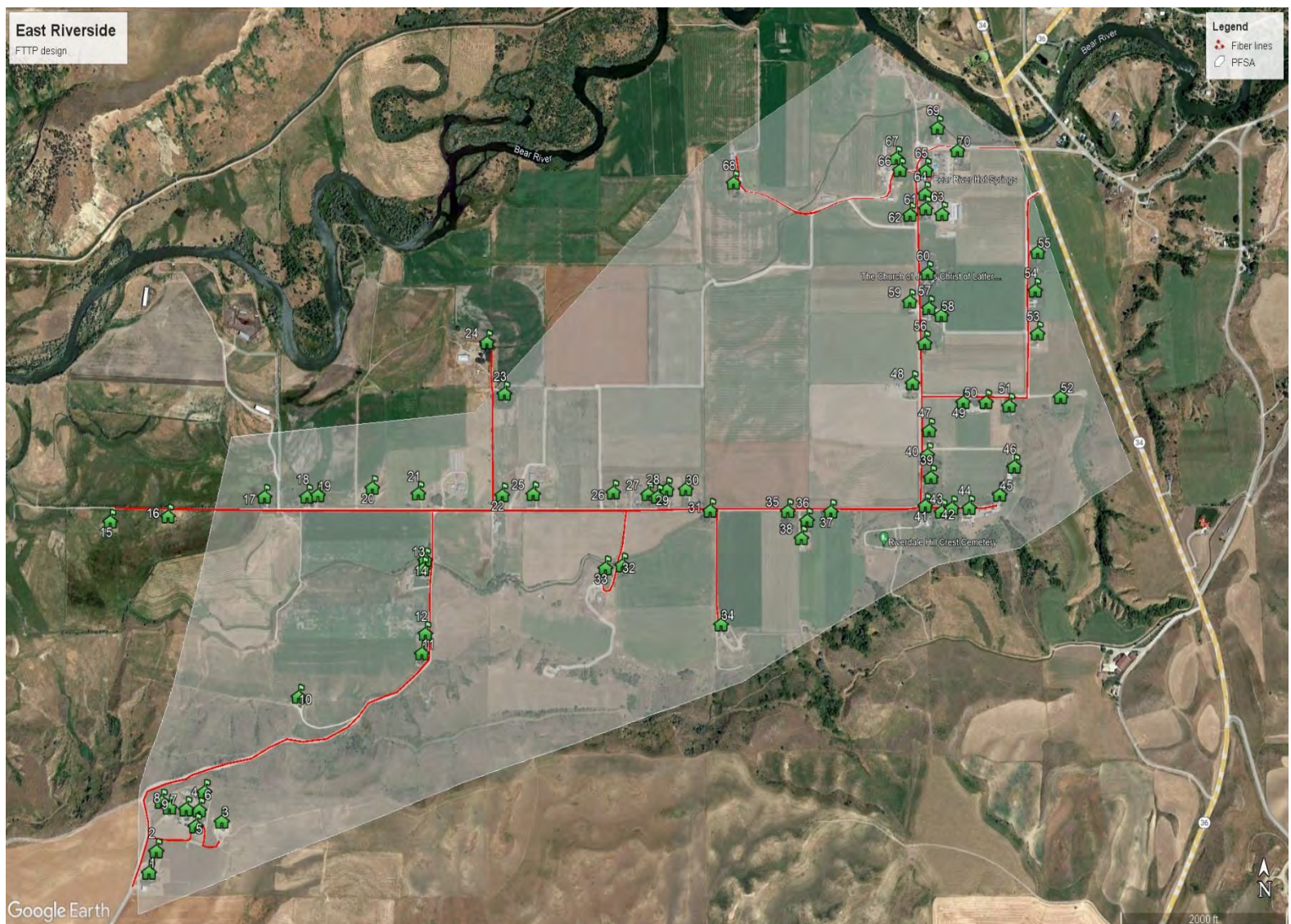
## Bear River Bluffs

- Service Status: Zero Broadband, Limited Wireless
- Roof tops: 12
- Fiber Miles: .8 Miles
- Cost Estimate: \$135,000
- Applicant Match: \$35,000
- Grant Request: \$100,000
- Proposed service: 1gig symmetrical
- Low-cost proposal: ACP participation, 100 meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99
- Community Support: Franklin County Commissioner & Preston City (See Attachments)



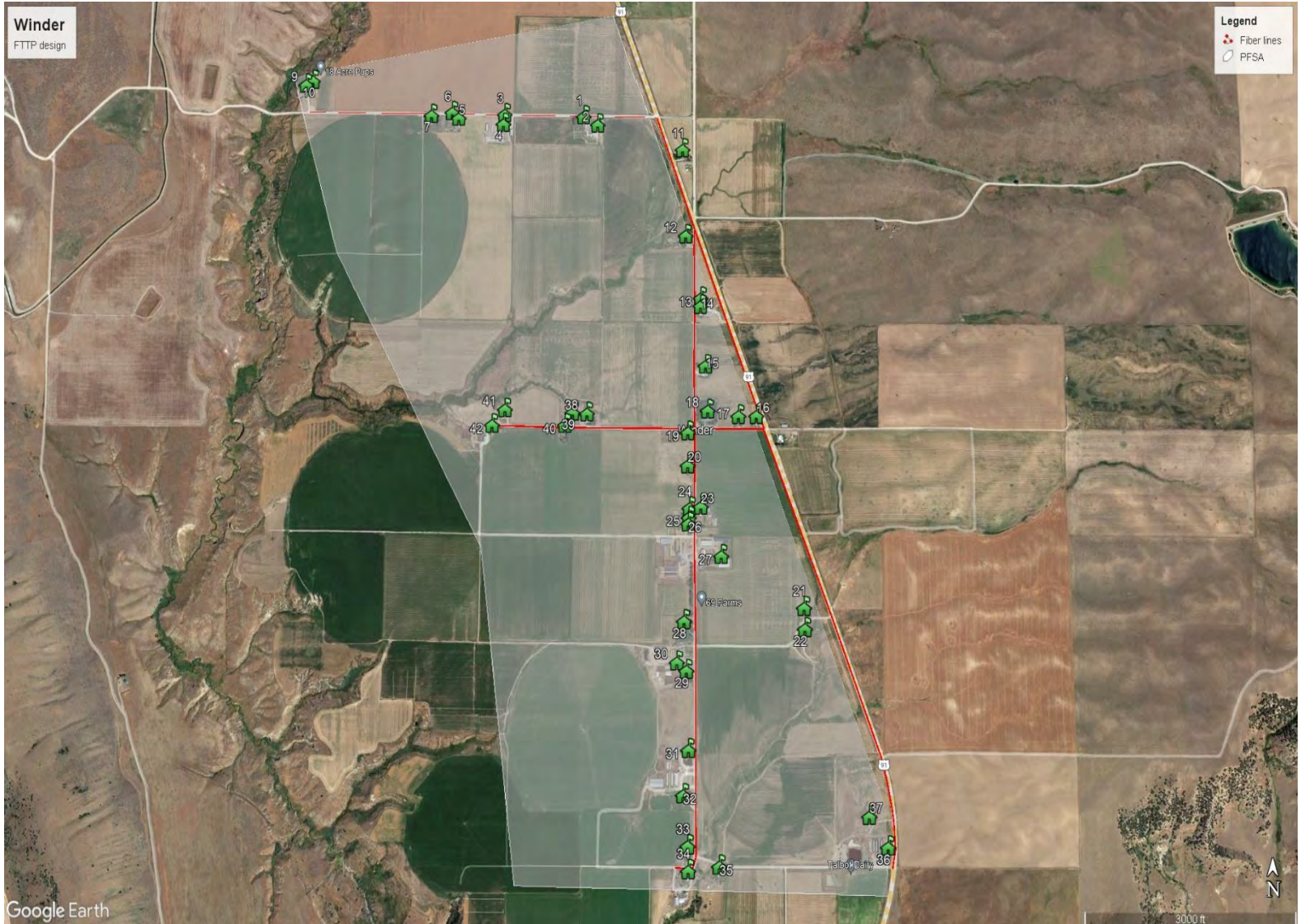
## East Riverside

- Service Status: Zero Broadband, limited wireless
- Roof tops: 70
- Fiber Miles: 6.4
- Cost Estimate: \$830,000
- Applicant Match: \$140,000
- Grant Request: \$690,000
- Proposed service: 1gig symmetrical
- Low-cost proposal: ACP participation, 100 meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99
- Community Support: Franklin County Commissioner & Preston City (See Attachments)



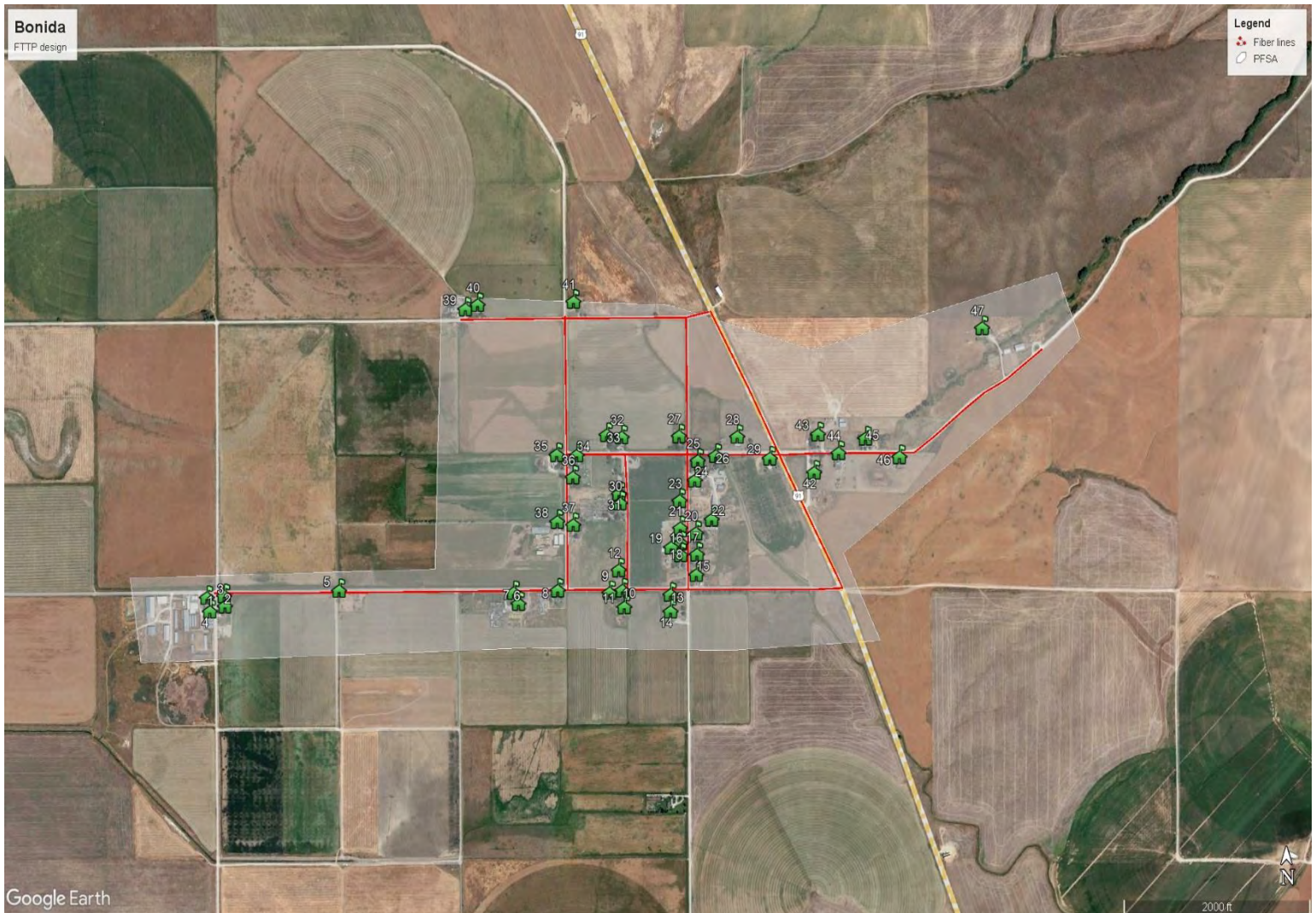
## Winder

- Service Status: No Broadband, Limited Wireless
- Roof tops: 42
- Fiber Miles: 5.1
- Cost Estimate: \$584,000
- Applicant Match: \$100,000
- Grant Request: \$484,000
- Proposed service: 1gig symmetrical
- Low-cost proposal: ACP participation, 100 meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99
- Community Support: Franklin County Commissioner & Preston City (See Attachments)



## Bonida

- Service Status: No Broadband, Limited Wireless
- Roof tops: 47
- Fiber Miles: 5.1
- Cost Estimate: \$560,000
- Applicant Match: \$100,000
- Grant Request: \$460,000
- Proposed service: 1gig symmetrical
- Low-cost proposal: ACP participation, 100 meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99
- Community Support: Franklin County Commissioner & Preston City (See Attachments)



## Swan Lake

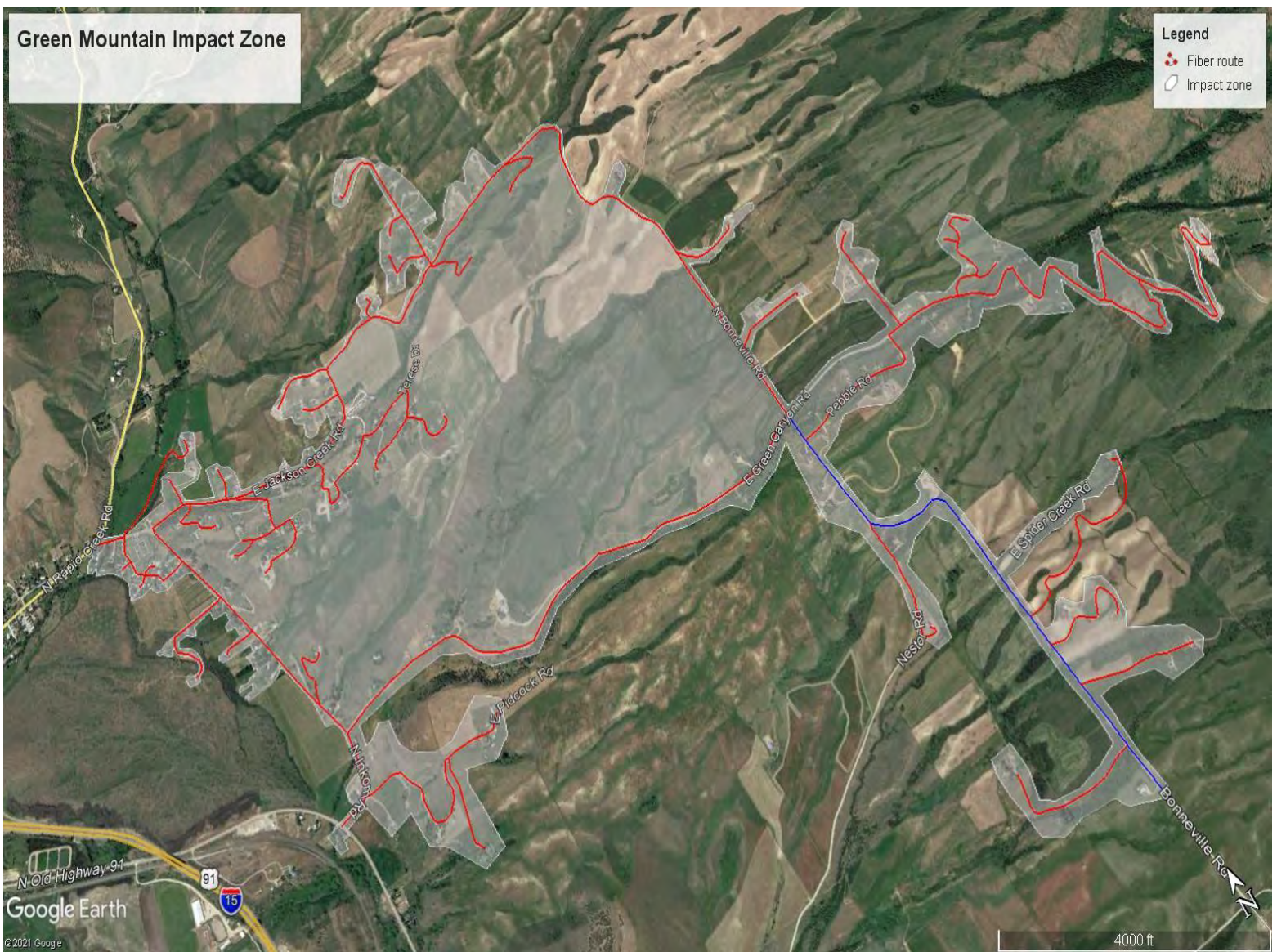
- Service Status: Limited Wireless
- Roof tops: 32
- Fiber Miles: 5.1
- Cost Estimate: \$400,000
- Applicant Match: \$75,000
- Grant Request: \$325,000
- Proposed service: 1gig symmetrical
- Low-cost proposal: ACP participation, 100 meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99
- Community Support: Franklin County Commissioner & Preston City (See Attachments)





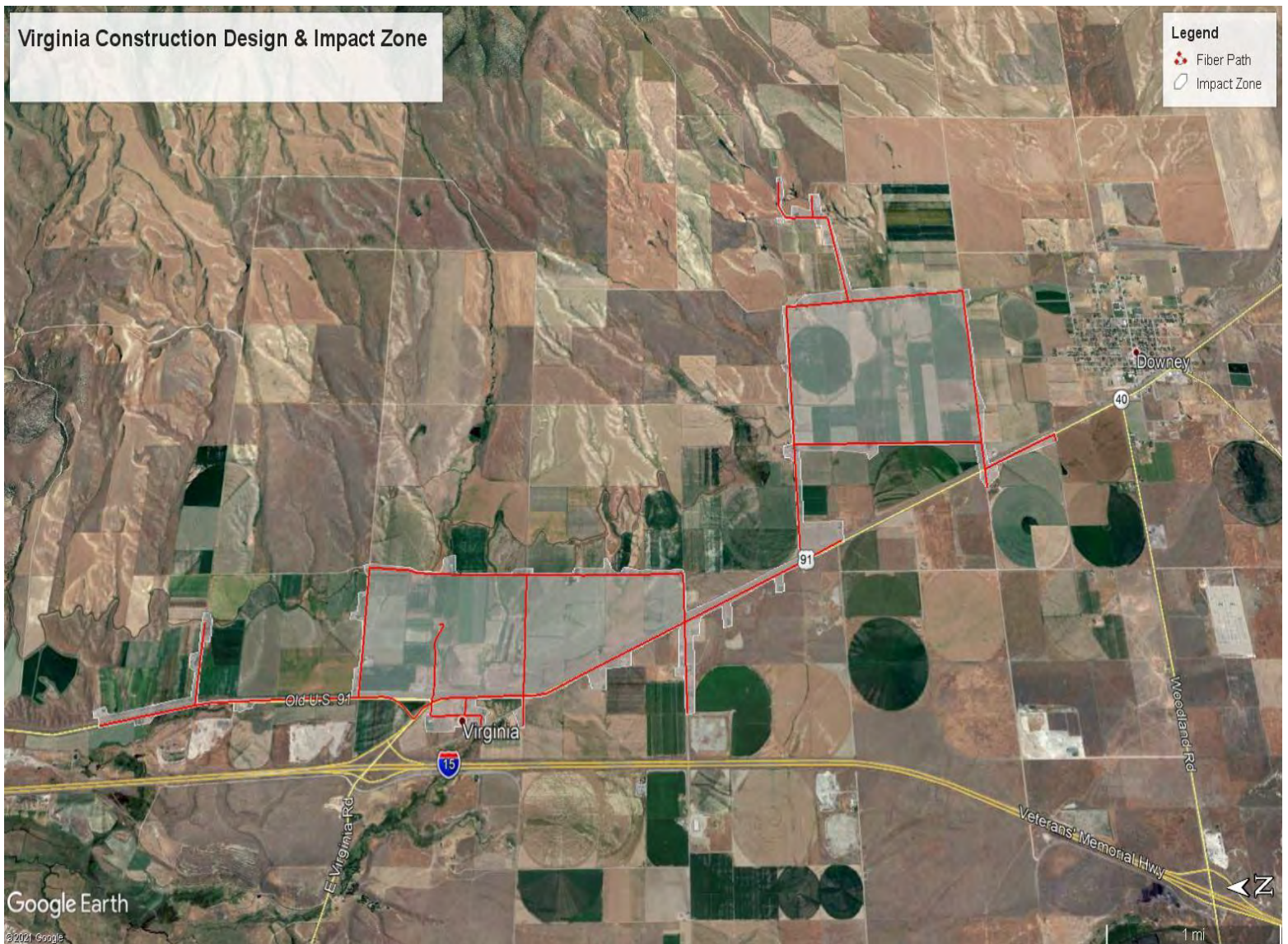
## Green Mountain

- Service Status: Limited Wireless
- Roof tops: 206
- Fiber Miles: 25.2
- Cost Estimate: \$3,000,000
- Applicant Match: \$500,000
- Grant Request: \$2,500,000
- Proposed service: 1gig symmetrical
- Low-cost proposal: ACP participation, 100 meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99
- Community Support: Bannock County Commissioners and Inkom town Support (See Attachments)



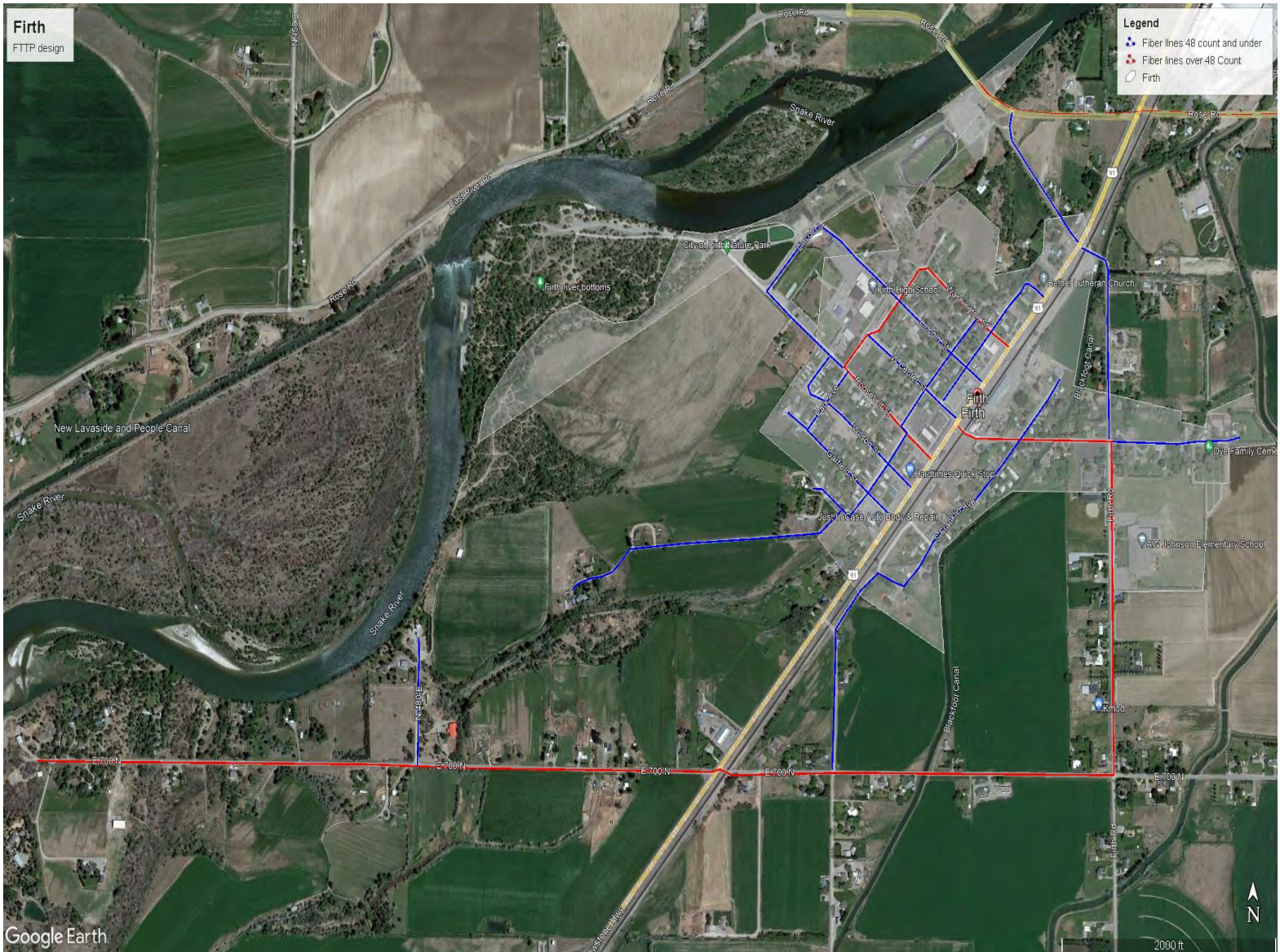
## Virginia

- Service Status: Limited Wireless
- Roof tops: 90
- Fiber Miles: 17.5
- Cost Estimate: \$1,900,000
- Applicant Match: \$200,000
- Grant Request: \$1,700,000
- Proposed service: 1gig symmetrical
- Low-cost proposal: ACP participation, 100 meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99
- Community Support: Bannock County Commissioners Support (See Attachments)



# Firth

- Service Status: No Broadband, Limited Wireless, some cable distribution
- Roof tops: 320
- Fiber Miles: 8
- Cost Estimate: \$1,600,00
- Applicant Match: \$600,000
- Grant Request: \$1,000,000
- Proposed service: 1gig symmetrical
- Low-cost proposal: ACP participation, 100 meg symmetrical speeds for as low as \$39.99
- Community Support: City Council Support (See Attachments)





Ramón S. Hobdey-Sánchez, J.D.  
State Broadband Program Manager  
Idaho Department of Commerce  
700 W. State St., Boise, Idaho 83702

Ramón,

Hello,  
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company submits the clarifying comments for the application that was submitted to the IBAB.

*1) How much of the project's match is cash?*

FMTC will be contributing \$278,600 – 25% -of the total project cost. This commitment by FMTC to contribute 25% of the total project cost with a combination of cash and “on hand” materials show a significant contribution to the project.

16%, or \$178,600 of cash, and the remaining 9%, or \$100,000 of “on hand” fiber optic cable and other materials necessary to complete the project. FMTC will be utilizing existing materials it has sitting in inventory today. FMTC has the “Paid” invoices reflecting the actual material costs and will be able to provide upon request.

*2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.*

Depending on award of funds, the start date is targeted for April of 2023 with a total project completion in December of 2023 – a total of 9 months from start to finish – FMTC has relationships already in place with a contractor and is ready to start the project, thus this is a shovel ready project.

*3) Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.” Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.*

Yes – FMTC’s project is a middle-mile infrastructure project. The main element of the project is the middle-mile transport to provide a dedicated link from the core network to the remote network in Payette with redundancy for broadband and other special access services.



4) *Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA (Capital Projects Fund) or IIJA (BEAD Program)?*

Based on our understanding of the ARPA – Capital Projects Fund – and the IIJA – BEAD Program as proposed, the funding under both of these programs will be prioritizing Unserved areas – lacking 25M/3M.

That being said, the project area that FMTC is proposing to build the middle mile network, is considered Underserved, currently have 25M/3M but is lacking 100M/20M.

For that reason, we feel that this project will not be prioritized with the CPF of BEAD funding.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Rembelski".

Ron Rembelski  
General Manager





## Middle Mile Build New Plymouth to Emmett

1. How much of the project's match is cash.

*Fatbeam committed to contribute 20% in cash matching funds or \$246,675. The original information requested did not indicate that cash was prioritized over in-kind match. If we had known that, we would have proposed a larger percent of cash matching funds.*

2. Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.

*Construction would begin within 15 days of permit(s) being issued; permit applications will be submitted directly upon grant award notification, the project will take 7 months or less to complete. A specific start date would be difficult to identify as the permitting timeline is very unpredictable.*

3. Please see the below definition of "middle-mile infrastructure." Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.

YES

4. Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA (Capital Projects Fund) or IIJA (BEAD Program)?

NO







## ELMORE COUNTY FIBER TO THE HOME

1. How much of the project's match is cash

*Fatbeam will provide a 20% cash matching funds or \$477,434. The original information requested did not indicate that cash was prioritized over in-kind match. If we had known that, we would have proposed a larger percent of cash matching funds.*

2. Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.

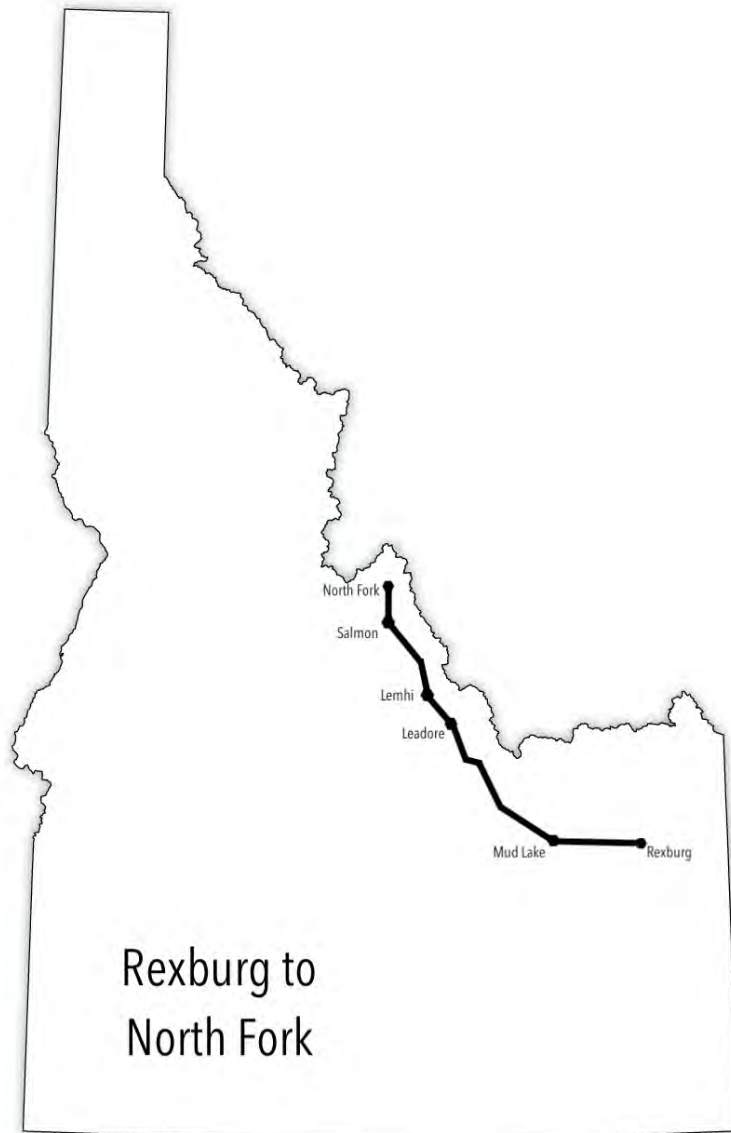
*Construction would begin within 15 days of permit(s) being issued; permit applications will be submitted directly upon grant award notification, the project will take 14 months or less to complete. A specific start date would be difficult to identify as the permitting timeline is very unpredictable.*

3. Please see the below definition of "middle-mile infrastructure." Does the project described in these proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO

*YES, this project is middle-mile infrastructure; the project also has fiber to the home. This is a hybrid project with both middle-mile and last mile, one part not working without the other. Without the middle-mile, the last mile would have nothing to connect to and without the last mile the middle-mile would not be needed.*

4. Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA (Capital Projects Fund) or IIJA (BEAD Program)?

*No, as this is a hybrid project I don't believe it would qualify for funding under either of these two funding programs.*



## 4 Clarification Questions

Prepared for: Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

Prepared by: George Swanson, CHRO, FyberCom LLC

Address: 3780 N Yellowstone Hwy, Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Contact: 208.690.0866

January 17, 2022



How much of the project's match is cash?

FyberCom will provide 25 percent of the project cost with \$3,149,375 in cash.

## Timeline- Start and Completion Dates

Schedule	Action Item
<b>Month 1-6</b>	Finalize build strategy, finalize engineering, supply any required bonds, build fee schedule, and start permit for Rexburg to Mud Lake and all other legs of the build listed below. *FyberCom currently has in stock over 100 miles of fiber and conduit, over 300 hand holes and cases, and other necessary materials that could in part be used for this project. Day one FyberCom will start sourcing the remainder of materials needed.
<b>Month 1-13</b>	Finalize permits for this section. Start and finish Rexburg to Mud Lake, 34.5 Miles
<b>Month 13-25</b>	Finalize permits for this section. Start and finish Mud Lake to Leadore, 76 Miles
<b>Month 25-32</b>	Finalize permits for this section. Start and finish Leadore to Salmon, 46 Miles
<b>Month 32-36</b> <b>All winter months from year 1 to year 3 we will work on the ariel fiber portion of the build.</b>	Finalize permits for this section. Start and finish Salmon to Carmen to North Fork, 21.1 Miles
<b>Month 36</b>	Program equipment, light fiber, final inspection, complete necessary grant paperwork.

Does this project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile?

Yes.



## Qualify for ARPA or BEAD?

No, FyberCom's project proposal does not qualify for either of these funds due to our project not including any last mile. Our project is strictly to bring middle mile to Leadore, Lemhi, Salmon, Carmen, and North Fork, Idaho.

January 18, 2023

RE: Idaho Falls Fiber – Fiber to Home Project

- 1) How much of the project’s match is cash? **\$3.5 million is the dollar amount in cash that would be matched. On top of the \$3.5 in cash we also have \$750,000 in internal labor support with design and construction support/work. We have invested more than \$25,000,000 the prior three years to bring fiber optic broadband with our open access network to every home and business in Idaho Falls. So, 89% match if you take into account the total fiber to the premise build to give access throughout the whole city.**
- 2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date. **The project is currently in year 4 of the 4 year total city build. Construction season preparations are already underway with contractors ready to put shovels in the ground as soon as ground conditions merit in early spring, targeting April 1<sup>st</sup>. Designs are being finalized, material has been purchased and is in stock, contractor is under contract and the anticipated completion for this final phase will be by December 2023.**
- 3) Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.” Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO. **Yes. The planned and design is to install approximately 25 miles of middle-mile fiber that meets the criteria that was provided by the Department of Commerce. The 288 fiber count and 432 count cables are middle-mile, which are fiber counts in our standard network design. These cables are constructed from our backhaul network aggregation huts into the expansion areas of the community. These cables are installed and then spliced to a service drop at a later date when customers request to connect to the network.**

**Our network is an open access network and is carrier-neutral, currently utilizing six local ISPs. Our existing operation would be defined as a “carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities”. This network will also have the capability to provide inter-city private connections between local facilities (hospitals, schools, government agencies, medical imaging facilities, cell towers, etc.).**

- 4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA ([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IIJA ([BEAD Program](#))? **This project would qualify for ARPA funds based on criteria.**

If an applicant chooses to provide clarifying information to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board, please submit the information via email to [broadband@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:broadband@commerce.idaho.gov) by 12:00P.M. (MST) on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Please use the following description in the subject line of the email: “RE: (Applicant Name) (Project Name and/or Location).”

**Idaho Broadband Advisory Board**  
**Idaho Broadband Fund Grants**  
December 22, 2022 – January 2, 2023

---

**Intermax Networks – Bonner County**

**On January 11, 2023, the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board made a motion to organize project submissions based on the 4 elements identified below. Applicants now have the opportunity to clarify this information within their proposal if it is not already clearly stated. Information is being requested based on the Board’s motion to better understand and clarify project proposals. Participation in this opportunity to clarify is not required for a previously submitted proposal to be considered for funding.**

**The Idaho Department of Commerce has included questions and guidance below to assist applicants in this clarification process.**

- 1) How much of the project’s match is cash?
  - a. 100% of Intermax’s match for this project will be in new cash contributed to extend service into rural Idaho.
- 2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.
  - a. Start Date – 2/1/2023.
  - b. End Date – 8/8/2025 – that’s a conservative, worst case scenario – should be sooner.
- 3) Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.” Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.
  - a. Yes this project meets that definition.

“Middle mile infrastructure”

(A) means any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including an anchor institution\*; and

(B) includes—

(i) leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, and other similar services; and

(ii) wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless broadband network, such as towers, fiber, and microwave links. (see page 6 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#))

\*See “anchor institution” definition on page 5 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#).

- 4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA

# Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

## Idaho Broadband Fund Grants

December 22, 2022 – January 2, 2023

---

([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IJA ([BEAD Program](#))?

- a. Though the Board would have discretion to determine eligibility under ARPA once the grant guidelines are approved, this project likely does not, in its entirety, qualify for ARPA as the Interim Final Rule from Treasury strongly encourages last-mile connections, rather than middle-mile projects, unless the middle-mile projects have a potential to achieve last-mile connections. Pursuant to the BEAD NOFO, 80% of unserved areas (defined as lacking 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps) must be served before funding can be applied to underserved areas (defined as lacking 100 Mbps x 20 Mbps). While some of the project area comprises of areas lacking 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps, the majority rests in areas lacking 100 Mbps x 20 Mbps. Accordingly, this project would likely not qualify under BEAD until the vast majority of unserved areas in Idaho received service. Thus, doing infrastructure projects like this now makes the most sense for the Board.
- If an applicant chooses to provide clarifying information to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board, please submit the information via email to [broadband@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:broadband@commerce.idaho.gov) by 12:00P.M. (MST) on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Please use the following description in the subject line of the email: “RE: (Applicant Name) (Project Name and/or Location).”
  
  - For questions, please contact:

**Ramón S. Hobdey-Sánchez, J.D.**  
State Broadband Program Manager  
Idaho Department of Commerce  
700 W. State St., Boise, Idaho  
83702 Office: 208.287.3153  
Cell: 208.860.6513  
[ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov)

# Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

## Idaho Broadband Fund Grants

December 22, 2022 – January 2, 2023

---

### Intermax Networks –Kootenai County

On January 11, 2023, the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board made a motion to organize project submissions based on the 4 elements identified below. Applicants now have the opportunity to clarify this information within their proposal if it is not already clearly stated. Information is being requested based on the Board’s motion to better understand and clarify project proposals. Participation in this opportunity to clarify is not required for a previously submitted proposal to be considered for funding.

The Idaho Department of Commerce has included questions and guidance below to assist applicants in this clarification process.

- 1) How much of the project’s match is cash?
  - a. 100% of Intermax’s match for this project will be in new cash contributed to extend service into rural Idaho.
- 2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.
  - a. Start Date – 2/1/2023.
  - b. End Date – Submitted completion is 1/30/2026, but we expect this project to be completed in two full construction seasons (by 7/1/2025).
- 3) Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.” Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.
  - a. Yes, this project meets that definition. The benefit to this project is there will be last-mile connections that are available to be built within proximity of the project with private dollars.

“Middle mile infrastructure”

(A) means any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including an anchor institution\*; and

(B) includes—

(i) leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, and other similar services; and

(ii) wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless broadband network, such as towers, fiber, and microwave links. (see page 6 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#))

\*See “anchor institution” definition on page 5 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#).



# Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

## Idaho Broadband Fund Grants

December 22, 2022 – January 2, 2023

---

- 4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA ([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IIJA ([BEAD Program](#))?
- a. Though the Board would have discretion to determine eligibility under ARPA once the grant guidelines are approved, this project likely does not, in its entirety, qualify for ARPA as the majority of the project area is not lacking 100 Mbps x 20 Mbps service. Pursuant to the BEAD NOFO, 80% of unserved areas (defined as lacking 25 Mbps x 3 Mbps) must be served before funding can be applied to underserved areas (defined as lacking 100 Mbps x 20 Mbps). Accordingly, this project would not qualify under BEAD until the vast majority of unserved areas in Idaho received service. Thus, doing infrastructure projects to deliver 100 Mbps x 100 Mbps like this now make the most sense for the Board.
- If an applicant chooses to provide clarifying information to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board, please submit the information via email to [broadband@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:broadband@commerce.idaho.gov) by 12:00P.M. (MST) on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Please use the following description in the subject line of the email: “RE: (Applicant Name) (Project Name and/or Location).”
  - For questions, please contact:

**Ramón S. Hobdey-Sánchez, J.D.**  
State Broadband Program Manager  
Idaho Department of Commerce  
700 W. State St., Boise, Idaho  
83702 Office: 208.287.3153  
Cell: 208.860.6513  
[ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov)

---

## Creating Idaho's North-South Middle Mile Network

*A Fiber Connection between Grangeville and Star*

# Appendix D – Responses BBAB Questions from 01-11-23 Board Meeting

Please add this Exhibit D to our original proposal. This Appendix addresses the questions of the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board (IBAB) that were discussed at the IBAB Meeting on January 11, 2023 and distributed in the January 13, 2023 email from Idaho Broadband Manager Ramon Hobdey-Sanchez.

**1. How much of the project's match is cash?**

Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON) and Intermountain Infrastructure Group (IIG) are committing \$60 million cash match to the construction of a middle mile network between Grangeville and Star, Idaho. This cash includes costs for permitting, contracting, community engagement/design, equipment purchases, construction, and network testing for the 198-mile, 288-strand fiber network.

IRON/IIG match does not include cash that was spent on prior built, related projects or in-kind services consisting of estimated values by 3<sup>rd</sup> party support or the value of prior built IRON/IIG assets.

With total project costs estimated at \$80 million, IRON and IIG are committing 75% of the cash needed to complete the middle mile network.

**2. Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.**

As per our project schedule previously submitted (Appendix C, proposal), IRON and IIG are prepared to start the project as soon as a contract with the State of Idaho is fully executed. From the date of award to the full construction and turn-up of the network (the ability to sell services), we expect the project will take thirty-six months to complete. *For more schedule detail, see Appendix C.*

**3. Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile?**

YES, according to the definition distributed in the January 13, 2023 email from Idaho Broadband Manager Ramon Hobdey-Sanchez, the proposed network is exclusively "middle mile infrastructure."

---

4. Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA ([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IIJA ([BEAD Program](#))?

As proposed, the Idaho North-South Middle Mile Project does not qualify for ARPA (Capital Projects Fund) or IIJA (BEAD Program) funding because it is exclusively a middle mile project.

This project will strategically position the State of Idaho to more successfully compete for last-mile, federally funded projects.

**For More Information:**

Should there be additional questions, please contact IRON President/CEO Brent Stacey at [brent.stacey@ironforidaho.com](mailto:brent.stacey@ironforidaho.com) or 208-520-4617.

On January 11, 2023, the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board made a motion to organize project submissions based on the 4 elements identified below. Applicants now have the opportunity to clarify this information within their proposal if it is not already clearly stated. Information is being requested based on the Board’s motion to better understand and clarify project proposals. Participation in this opportunity to clarify is not required for a previously submitted proposal to be considered for funding.

The Idaho Department of Commerce has included questions and guidance below to assist applicants in this clarification process.

- 1) How much of the project’s match is cash?  
In addition to the \$1,067,073.85 cash already spent on a feasibility study, certified engineering plans, and project cost estimates/bids for each phase, Madison County is willing to pay an additional 20% cash match of up to \$2,668,637.32, for its proposal of funding for up to \$13,343,186.60.
- 2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.  
Madison County is ready to start immediately as soon as funding is available. Estimated time for completion is fifteen months from the start. The funding will be used for the County’s proposed first fiber loop. The proposed loop is located in an area where there is no residential or business access to fiber, benefiting 2,126 residential homes and 45 businesses.
- 3) Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.” Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.  
Yes, 100% of Madison County’s proposed phase one project is considered “middle-mile infrastructure.”

“Middle mile infrastructure”

(A) means any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including an anchor institution\*; and

(B) includes—

(i) leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, and other similar services; and

(ii) wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless broadband network, such as towers, fiber, and microwave links. (see page 6 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#))

\*See “anchor institution” definition on page 5 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#).

- 4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA

# Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

## Idaho Broadband Fund Grants

December 22, 2022 – January 2, 2023

---

([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IJA ([BEAD Program](#))?

Yes, Madison County's proposal qualifies for both Capital Projects Fund and BEAD Program. The hope for funding now will help to quicken and enhance the overall project to benefit the residents of Madison County.

- If an applicant chooses to provide clarifying information to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board, please submit the information via email to [broadband@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:broadband@commerce.idaho.gov) by 12:00P.M. (MST) on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Please use the following description in the subject line of the email: "RE: (Applicant Name) (Project Name and/or Location)."
- For questions, please contact:

**Ramón S. Hobdey-Sánchez, J.D.**  
State Broadband Program Manager  
Idaho Department of Commerce  
700 W. State St., Boise, Idaho  
83702 Office: 208.287.3153  
Cell: 208.860.6513  
[ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov)



January 18, 2023

Ramon S. Hobdey-Sanchez, J.D.  
State Broadband Program Manager  
Idaho Department of Commerce  
700 W. State St.  
Boise, ID 83702  
e-mail [ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov)

Dear Mr. Hobdey-Sanchez,

The following is Mud Lake Telephone Cooperative's response to the additional Application Questions for the Idaho Broadband Fund Grants.

**Q1.** How much of the project's match is cash?

**A1.** 100% of our pledged project match is cash.

**Q2.** Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.

**A2.** The estimated start and completion dates for five initial projects in/with Clark County are as listed below. Please note that weather, ROW permitting, and tribal approvals may delay start and completion dates of projects.

Lone Pine Project: May 2023 – November 2023.

Kilgore/Yale Creek Road Project: June 2023 – May 2024. May be later based on coordination with Clark and Fremont counties, Idaho Department of Transportation for their road project.

USSES Project: April 2023 – November 2023.

Medicine Lodge Project: July 2023 – June 2024.

Spencer to Monida Project: May 2023 – November 2023.

**Q3.** Please see the below definition of "middle-mile infrastructure." Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile?

**A3.** Yes. All projects listed above meet the definition of middle-mile infrastructure as described in the NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO.

**Q4.** Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA (Capital Projects Fund) or IIJA (BEAD Program)?

**A3.** The projects listed above may qualify for funding under those programs. We believe these projects meet the criteria for funding under both of those programs based on the original criteria described in the NOFO's. We did not directly apply for funds under those programs. Rather, we applied/will be applying for planning/project funding from those programs through the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board.

We are sincere in our commitment to provide high quality, cost-effective broadband services to the communities in our Cooperative's service areas, whether that be directly to the consumers or by providing infrastructure to other service providers who provide service packages directly to consumers. We know the funds provided to our community Cooperative through the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board will be put to very good use. We, and the members and communities we serve are thankful for this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Valeri Steigerwald  
General Manager, Mud Lake Telephone Cooperative Association

**Applicant Name: Oregon Idaho Utilities**

Randy Mead  
1023 N Horton Street  
Nampa, Idaho 84651

**Project Name: Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Middle Mile Proposal**

- 1) How much of the project's match is cash?
  - a. 100% of our \$217,500 will be a cash match
  - b. 100% of the additional \$85,000 mentioned in our proposal to extend fiber from the Idaho state line to our Central Office in Ridgeview, Oregon will also be cash
  
- 2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.
  - a. Start date – May 1, 2023, Completion date – November 1, 2023
  - b. Pending timely response to permit requests and material availability
  
- 3) Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.” Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.
  - a. Yes – 100% of OIU's application qualifies under the definition of “Middle Mile”
  
- 4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA ([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IIJA ([BEAD Program](#))?
  - a. Yes – It is OIU's understanding our proposal would qualify under these programs.





**Idaho Broadband Advisory Board**

**January 17, 2023**

C/O: Ramón S. Hobdey-Sánchez, J.D.  
State Broadband Program Manager  
Idaho Department of Commerce  
700 W. State St., Boise, Idaho 83702

PMT is grateful for the opportunity to clarify the recent submission for the evaluation of the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board and the Idaho Department of Commerce. We believe that all submitted PMT projects are “shovel” ready in the essence that the material for these projects is currently contained within PMT inventory. With the recent uptick of broadband projects throughout our great nation, supply chains have been constrained with lead times being exacerbated. To curtail waiting for inventory, PMT has invested in maintaining additional inventory to keep the flow of projects continuous from year to year. A clear business model for continuing to deploy enhanced broadband services to Idaho residents is paramount to PMT’s Co-Op culture and providing the best possible services to PMT members in a timely manner.

PMT is committed to completing the seven listed projects within the 2023 build season. Weather is sometimes interesting for south central Idaho and PMT’s build season is typically March through December. The first three projects utilize some existing infrastructure and can be started prior to weather hampered construction. Other projects will be dependent upon weather, frost levels, and completing a proper construction site restoration.

A 30% cash match is listed for each PMT project. This substantial match will assist with the acquisition of funds for the continued deployment of broadband to rural Idaho residents and allowing additional projects to be completed.

Thank you.

Scott Draper

Director of Engineering/Construction

**RUPERT**

507 G ST.

RUPERT, IDAHO 83350 • 208-436-7151

**BURLEY**

1458 OVERLAND AVE.

BURLEY, IDAHO 83318 • 208.878-7151

**TWIN FALLS**

308 SHOSHONE ST. E.

TWIN FALLS, IDAHO 83301 • 208-933-7151

**64**

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

(800) 322-4074



1626 6th Avenue N. • Lewiston, ID 83501  
(208) 743-5531  
E-mail: portinfo@portoflewiston.com  
**Container Yard**  
(208) 743-3209

**PORT COMMISSIONERS**  
**President**  
Mike Thomason  
**Vice President**  
Jerry Klemm  
**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Joseph Anderson

**ADMINISTRATION**  
**General Manager**  
Scott M. Corbitt  
**Operations Manager**  
Open  
**Traffic Manager**  
Kim Petrie

January 17, 2023

Re: Clarifying Answers Regarding Middle Mile Broadband Grants

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board,

The Port of Lewiston (the Port) respectfully submits the following clarifying answers to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board's (IBAB's) questions as part of its Idaho Middle Mile Broadband Fund Grants program.

**Question 1) How much of the project's match is cash?**

As of August of 2022, the Port received the EDA grant award of \$4,494,346, with a requirement of a 20% match from the Port or \$1,123,586. The combination of the EDA award and the Port's matching contribution totals \$5,617,933. This represents the Port's match that will apply to this request. The Port's match is 89.7% of the amount requested from IBAB. The entire amount of the Port's match is cash that will be applied to the project's completion.

**Question 2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.**

The Port's project is not only shovel ready, but it is already in progress. The Port submitted a comprehensive grant application to the Economic Development Administration in 2020 and was awarded the grant in August of 2022. As part of the application process for that grant, a great deal of the planning work has been completed.

The preparation work previously completed includes all pre-engineering work and the cultural survey of the entire 95-mile route for the build. The results of that survey yielded no major findings and only a couple of minor findings along the route. The early completion of the survey will allow the project to move forward into design and construction immediately.

The Port issued a Request for Proposals for the design and engineering of the project in November of 2022 and has selected an Idaho engineering firm to design and engineer the 95-mile middle mile build. The projected completion of the design and engineering is the Fall of 2023. The project will then be ready for construction.

The complete timeline, as approved by the EDA, is as follows:

10/17/22 – Release RFP for Design/Engineer  
1/15/23 – Execute Design/Engineer Contract  
1/15/23 – Begin Project Design  
9/30/23 – Complete Project Design  
10/1-31/23 – Advertise for Construction Bids  
11/1/23 – Open Bids  
11/30/23 – Award Construction Contract  
4/1/24 – Begin Construction (Phase One)  
11/30/25 – Complete Construction (Phase One)  
3/31/26 – Project Award Closeout  
4/1/25 – Begin Construction (Phase Two)  
11/30/26 – Complete Construction (Phase Two)  
5/31/27 –Project Closeout

The Port's project is already moving forward to completion.

**Question 3) Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure”. Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle mile? YES or NO.**

The answer is yes, the Port's project qualifies as middle mile. The Port will build this network from Moscow to Lewiston and Lewiston to Grangeville without connection to an end-user location. While the beneficiaries of the Port's project will be the communities and the hospitals, schools, and emergency services found there, the Project will not be connecting directly to these end user locations. The project will include all the dark fiber and broadband infrastructure to allow for open access to providers as they bring high-speed connectivity to these rural parts of North Central Idaho at market rates. This middle mile network will be designed mostly below ground to allow for greater resiliency with lower potential for outages.

**4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA (Capital Projects Fund) or IIJA (BEAD Program)?**

No, the Port's project does not qualify for funding under either ARPA or IIJA programs. The Port's middle mile project will not directly enable work, education, or health monitoring, but will require an additional step to build connections to those anchor institutions. As such, the Port's project is not eligible for funding under the ARPA Capital Projects Fund.

The BEAD program looks to fund projects to provide or improve service to an eligible community anchor institution. The Port's middle mile project will not connect to any end user locations and is therefore not eligible for BEAD funding.

The Port of Lewiston respectfully requests the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board to assist in completing the north-south broadband backbone for the State of Idaho. The Port appreciates the opportunity to present this proposal to the Board.

Sincerely,



Scott Corbitt  
General Manager  
Port of Lewiston  
[scott@portoflewiston.com](mailto:scott@portoflewiston.com)  
1(208)743-5531

Idaho's Seaport



In response to questions that the Idaho Broadband Advisory Council posted, Rally Networks would like to respond with the following information.

1) How much of the project's match is cash?

Rally networks has spent over \$8M on materials, contractors, and construction of it's existing network in the area. It would be up to the broadband council to determine if they would like to count this as an in-kind contribution or as a cash contribution in matching funds.

2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.

Rally Networks would start the procurement process from the date of the award from the state. All of the work would be anticipated to complete before December 31 of 2023.

3) Please see the below definition of "middle-mile infrastructure." Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.

"Middle mile infrastructure"

(A) means any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including an anchor institution\*; and

(B) includes—

(i) leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, and other similar services; and(ii) wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless broadband network, such as towers, fiber, and microwave links. (see page 6 of the NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO) \*See "anchor institution" definition on page 5 of the NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO.

Yes, Rally's application does meet these requirements.

4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA (Capital Projects Fund) or IIJA (BEAD Program)?

Yes, Rally Networks proposal does qualify.

**From:** Mark Martell <mark.martell@ruraltel.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 8:52 AM  
**To:** COM Broadband <broadband@commerce.idaho.gov>  
**Cc:** Susan Case <Susan.Case@ruraltel.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Rural Telephone Company Inc. Hammett Fiber Project in Hammett ID

Dear, The Department of Commerce,

Here are the answers to help clarification process on our Application for RTI below;

1. How much of the project's is cash? **\$350,000.00 or 25% of the Project**
2. Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date. **RTI will start this project within 60days of been awarded the grant and the project will be completed in 120days from the start day.**
3. Please see the below definition of "middle-mile infrastructure." Does the project described in the qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO. **YES, our application does connect to directly to end user or anchor institution in our project.**
4. Does the Project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA (Capital Projects Fund) or IIJA (BEAD Program)? **YES, this project would qualify for both ARPA and BEAD.**

Thank you for let us make clarification on our application questions above and please let us know if you need further questions answer for the broadband committee.

Thank you,

Mark Martell  
Rural Telephone Company (RTI)  
Admin. Manager

(208) 366-2614 Ext. 15  
[mark.martell@ruraltel.org](mailto:mark.martell@ruraltel.org)



January 17, 2023

VIA EMAIL: [broadband@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:broadband@commerce.idaho.gov)

Idaho Department of Commerce  
Attn: Ramón S. Hobdey-Sánchez  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0093

Re: Idaho Broadband Fund Grants Program; Response to Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Request for Clarification

To Whom It May Concern:

Silver Star Communications (a dba of both Columbine Telephone Company, Inc. and Millennium Networks, LLC, "Silver Star") submits the following in response to the action taken at the January 11, 2023 Idaho Broadband Advisory Board ("IBAB") meeting, where the IBAB requested additional information for use in its review of IBF project proposals.

### Clarification Questions

#### 1) How much of the project's match is cash?

Under Silver Star's proposal, middle and last mile fiber optic connectivity would be constructed in the Teton Valley, Idaho and Swan Valley/Irwin, Idaho communities.

Silver Star will provide \$33,354,000 in cash match to complete the middle mile portion of the Teton Valley build. Silver Star will also contribute \$642,934 for in-kind services and is requesting IBF funding in the amount of \$15,673,351 for the last mile portion.

Silver Star will provide \$9,160,982 in cash match to complete the middle mile portion of the Swan Valley/Irwin build. Silver Star will also contribute \$94,500 for in-kind services and is requesting IBF funding in the amount of \$1,962,509 for the last mile portion.

Total cash match: \$42,514,983; Total requested IBF award: \$17,635,860

Silver Star's approach to its proposed project, is to propose both middle mile AND last mile investment in order to provide an end-to-end solution which will connect unserved and underserved Idahoans, as indicated by the IBAB RFP: *The Idaho Broadband Advisory Board is committed to improving access to broadband infrastructure for Idahoans ... is requesting*

*proposals ... for broadband projects in Idaho, including middle mile, last mile ... for unserved and underserved locations<sup>1</sup> (emphasis added).*

Silver Star is excited to propose this project and to bring it to a successful close. Silver Star is committed to serving rural communities and closing the digital divide that so often is a huge obstacle for rural communities to overcome.

- 2) **Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.**

Silver Star’s timelines to complete the proposed project activities were included in its January 2, 2023 Application for funding, and are restated below for the Board’s convenience.

**IBF GRANT PROJECT SCHEDULE\***  
 Teton Valley Middle and Last Mile Fiber Optic Expansion

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Project Engineering/Design, Permitting, Construction Oversight/Inspection	Silver Star	02/01/2023	06/01/2023
Facilities Construction (upon grant award) Equipment/materials procurement	Silver Star (construction contractor)	06/01/2023	11/30/2026
Facilities/Equipment Turn-up	Silver Star	10/01/2023	02/01/2027
Grant Closeout	Silver Star	02/01/2027	05/31/2027

\*Design/Build Project; Start/End Dates estimated and may vary depending on grant funds award date, weather, materials availability, etc.

**IBF GRANT PROJECT SCHEDULE\***  
 Swan Valley and Irwin Middle and Last Mile Fiber Optic Expansion

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Project Engineering/Design, Permitting, Construction Oversight/Inspection	Silver Star	02/01/2023	06/01/2023
Facilities Construction (upon grant award) Equipment/materials procurement	Silver Star (construction contractor)	06/01/2023	11/30/2026
Facilities/Equipment Turn-up	Silver Star	10/01/2023	02/01/2027
Grant Closeout	Silver Star	02/01/2027	05/31/2027

\*Design/Build Project; Start/End Dates estimated and may vary depending on grant funds award date, weather, materials availability, etc.

<sup>1</sup> *Idaho Broadband Advisory Board: Request for Proposals for Broadband Projects & Planning Grants*, issued October 19 2022, page 1.



- 3) Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.” Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.

Yes, both proposed project areas qualify as middle mile.

- 4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA ([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IIJA ([BEAD Program](#))?

No. Silver Star believes neither project described in its proposal qualifies for funding under either ARPA (Capital Projects Fund) or IIJA (Bead Program).

In closing, Silver Star believes that providing State funds to only middle mile projects will not solve the digital divide issue – middle mile facilities construction is not a complete solution. Investments in last mile infrastructure is a key element to providing connectivity to the unserved and underserved Idaho communities. Silver Star’s proposal incorporates middle and last mile investment for a complete end-to-end solution.

In addition, Silver Star agrees with the comments made at the IBAB January 11, 2023 meeting that network redundancy is a good thing. Incorporating redundancy is a key design element in all of Silver Star’s middle mile network. Silver Star feels that using State funds to overbuild existing, redundant middle mile networks is not a fiduciary approach and funding should be directed to areas where the most impact can be made for the good of unserved and underserved communities.

Silver Star urges the careful consideration of its application for grant funds to build broadband services in the proposed project areas and invites the Board to contact it with any further questions concerning its application.

Sincerely,



Paul Petersen  
Chief Operating Officer



## Syringa Networks Middle Mile Proposal in Southwestern Idaho

Question for Proposal clarification; provided January 13, 2023

1) How much of the project’s match is cash?

Syringa Networks is pleased to **match 40.0% in cash, readily available, upon award.**

<b>Cash:</b>	<b>\$4,301,532</b>	<b>(40.0%)</b>
In-Kind:	\$232,749	( 2.2%)
Grant:	\$6,209,732	(57.8%)
<hr/>		
Total Project Cost:	\$10,744,013	

2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.

Syringa Networks has prepared the proposed 76-mile middle mile project into 5 “route sections”. This will result in city-to-city middle mile sections being permitted, constructed, and operationally available sooner while the remaining route sections are under construction.

**OSP Engineering Drawings – To begin within 2-weeks of Award Notification**

Syringa Networks will create OSP (outside plant) engineering drawings, required for right-of-way permitting, within 2-weeks of award notification. In coordination with Syringa Networks’ construction contractors, permit applications will be sent to right-of-way, waterway, railroad, and other agencies as required for each route section.



### **Ground Excavation – To begin within 90-days of Award Notification**

For a company to claim to be “shovel ready” means it must have materials on-hand to start construction. Syringa Networks currently has the required materials on-hand to begin construction. With factoring in standard permitting timeframes of 30-45 days, Syringa Networks is confident excavation will begin within 90-days of receiving award notification.

### **On-Hand Material Inventory**



### **99% Route Completion – Within 18-months of Award Notification**

Syringa Networks intends to have 99% of the fiber route constructed and fully operational within 18-months of receiving award notification.

### **100% Route Completion – Within 24-months of Award Notification**

The remaining 1% of the route is subject to long lead-time permitting with the Bureau of Land Management in a small (2.15-mile) area south of Marsing. Awaiting the BLM’s approval will not hinder or slow the construction and operational function of the remaining 73.85-miles.



3) Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? **YES** or NO.

**Yes, Syringa Networks' proposal qualifies as middle mile** as it “does not connect directly to an end-user location, including an anchor institution.” The proposed 76-mile fiber route will connect to Syringa Networks' existing fiber network in Caldwell, Marsing, and Kuna to provide a symmetrical, low latency 100Gbps **ringed middle mile network**.

4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) (Capital Projects Fund) or IIJA (BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment) Program)?

**ARPA Eligibility**

Syringa Networks' middle mile proposal does not connect directly to end-user locations. All pure middle mile projects submitted for Capital Project funding would receive **lower priority and preference** as the *Guidance for the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund* states, “Treasury encourages Recipients to **focus on projects that will achieve last-mile connections.**”

**BEAD Eligibility**

Syringa Networks' middle mile proposal does not provide last-mile broadband, nor does it provide fiber connectivity to end users or subscribers, and thereby **would not qualify** as an eligible BEAD project given the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity criteria:

“With respect to the **deployment of last-mile broadband** infrastructure, the Program prioritizes projects **designed to provide fiber connectivity directly to the end user.**” It also requires all projects to **provide a low-cost option to eligible subscribers** and requires all states to have plans to address middle-class affordability.

**Idaho Broadband Advisory Board  
Idaho Broadband Fund Grants**

December 22, 2022 – January 2, 2023

---

**On January 11, 2023, the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board made a motion to organize project submissions based on the 4 elements identified below. Applicants now have the opportunity to clarify this information within their proposal if it is not already clearly stated. Information is being requested based on the Board’s motion to better understand and clarify project proposals. Participation in this opportunity to clarify is not required for a previously submitted proposal to be considered for funding.**

**The Idaho Department of Commerce has included questions and guidance below to assist applicants in this clarification process.**

- 1) How much of the project’s match is cash?

100% of this project’s match is cash.

- 2) Please provide a timeline for the project described in the proposal, including the start date and completion date.

If awarded the start date on our project will be the day after the project is awarded. On day one the equipment and towers needed for this project will be ordered. We believe White Cloud was the only grant respondent that included letters from contractors and equipment providers to show both the equipment and labor is readily available by certain dates to corroborate our timeline. We believe we can move up the timelines in our grant to project a completion date of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

- 3) Please see the below definition of “middle-mile infrastructure.” Does the project described in the proposal qualify as middle-mile? YES or NO.

YES

The fiber from Givens Hot Springs to Murphy in our project qualifies as middle-mile. The fiber does NOT connect directly to an end-user location AND includes backhaul. The endpoint of the fiber will be at the Murphy tower which is NOT an end-user location.

The towers and microwave equipment in our grant also qualify for middle-mile as they do NOT directly connect to an end-user location AND will be used for backhaul.

Our grant includes last-mile infrastructure to the household as well.

“Middle mile infrastructure”

(A) means any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including an anchor institution\*; and

# Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

## Idaho Broadband Fund Grants

December 22, 2022 – January 2, 2023

---

(B) includes—

(i) leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, and other similar services; and

(ii) wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless broadband network, such as towers, fiber, and microwave links. (see page 6 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#))

\*See “anchor institution” definition on page 5 of the [NTIA Middle-Mile NOFO](#).

- 4) Does the project described in the proposal qualify for funding under either ARPA ([Capital Projects Fund](#)) or IJA ([BEAD Program](#))?

As this project is designed it would NOT qualify for ARPA or IJA funding. The proposed network uses a point-to-multipoint fixed wireless technology that is leading edge and optimized for the service area. The BEAD and ARPA funds are for projects that achieve 100/100 or achieve 100/20 and are scalable to 100/100 speeds to all households. Because of the limitations of spectrum, technology, and the challenging topography of the land involved, it is not possible that 100 Mbps could be provided in the upstream direction to all the proposed households in a consistent, sustained way. Furthermore, in the interest of maximizing the number of households that will be served, this project as proposed will bring 27 households internet at a predicted speed of greater than 25/3 but less than 100/20 which is completely outside of the threshold of both ARPA and BEAD funding.

We feel this design is best for the remote rural nature of Owyhee County, which is the second largest county in Idaho. This project if funded will cover a huge swath of territory and provide wonderful, affordable broadband access to many Idahoans who have no current access to reliable service. It would still be possible to design a project in rural Owyhee County to qualify for ARPA or BEAD, but the number of households that would be included would drop substantially and the costs would go up significantly.

- If an applicant chooses to provide clarifying information to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board, please submit the information via email to [broadband@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:broadband@commerce.idaho.gov) by 12:00P.M. (MST) on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Please use the following description in the subject line of the email: “RE: (Applicant Name) (Project Name and/or Location).”

- For questions, please contact:

**Ramón S. Hobdey-Sánchez, J.D.**  
State Broadband Program Manager

# Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Idaho Broadband Fund Grants

December 22, 2022 – January 2, 2023

---

Idaho Department of Commerce  
700 W. State St., Boise, Idaho  
83702 Office: 208.287.3153  
Cell: 208.860.6513  
[ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov)

ZiPLY Fiber  
135 Lake Street South, #155, Kirkland, WA 98033  
Jessica Epley  
503-431-0458  
[jessica.epley@ziPLY.com](mailto:jessica.epley@ziPLY.com)



January 18, 2023

Submitted via email: [broadband@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:broadband@commerce.idaho.gov)

Ramon Hobby-Sanchez  
Broadband Program Manager  
Idaho Department of Commerce  
700 W State St.  
Boise, ID 83702

RE: Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Clarifying Questions

Dear Ramon,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide clarifying points to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board (IBAB) regarding the projects submitted in the November 2022 Request for Information and Request for Proposals. We have prepared a detailed response to each of the IBAB's additional questions for each of our submissions. A summary of our detailed responses is below.

Project	Cash Match %	In kind Match %	Completion	Is project Middle Mile	Is project eligible for ARPA-CPF or IJA-BEAD?
RFI Submission	74%	26%	2026	No	Yes
Connecting Idaho - Phase 1	0%	24%	2023	Yes	No
Connecting Idaho - Phase 2	1%	3%	2027	Yes	No

We look forward to working with the IBAB and your office in enhancing broadband connectivity in Idaho. Feel free to reach out to myself or Chris St Germaine, Local Partnerships Manager, [chris.stgermaine@ziPLY.com](mailto:chris.stgermaine@ziPLY.com) or 208-400-0602 if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Jessica Epley  
VP Regulatory & External Affairs





**A. Proposal submitted 11/23/2022 in response to the IBAB Request for Information**

**1. How much of the project match is cash?**

Overall Ziplly Fiber pledges to match each project with cash and in-kind. Our cash pledge ranges from 87% to 12%, with an overall average pledge of 74% cash match and in-kind match 26%.

County	Project TOTAL	Ziplly Fiber Match Total	Ziplly Fiber % Cash	Ziplly Fiber % In Kind
Benewah	\$11,761,496	\$2,481,074	18%	3%
Bingham	\$5,961,780	\$1,193,746	17%	3%
Boise	\$2,581,610	\$510,703	8%	12%
Bonner	\$32,296,463	\$6,713,616	15%	5%
Boundary	\$2,530,580	\$482,896	15%	4%
Camas	\$2,820,313	\$639,363	15%	8%
Clearwater	\$6,622,442	\$1,333,711	16%	4%
Idaho	\$2,059,852	\$373,663	18%	0%
Kootenai	\$9,226,995	\$1,932,049	13%	8%
Latah	\$6,676,244	\$1,371,761	21%	0%
Nez Perce	\$929,892	\$186,274	6%	14%
Owyhee	\$769,587	\$148,596	2%	17%
Shoshone	\$6,624,550	\$1,314,738	20%	0%
Valley	\$8,351,532	\$1,610,283	5%	14%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$99,213,336</b>	<b>\$20,292,473</b>		

**2. Timeline start – completion**

Project activity will initiate March 2023 and construction complete October 2026.

**3. Does the project qualify as ‘middle mile infrastructure’? No**

Although, several of the projects proposed in Bonner, Clearwater, and Kootenai Counties require a significant middle mile component to enable delivery of last mile services.

County	Units	Project TOTAL	Middle Mile Cost	Middle Mile %
Benewah	1,531	\$11,761,496	\$1,242,385	11%
Bingham	989	\$5,961,780	\$238,781	4%
Bonner	4,535	\$32,296,463	\$13,486,566	42%
Camas	430	\$2,820,313	\$457,531	16%
Clearwater	1,073	\$6,622,442	\$3,292,055	50%
Kootenai	1,249	\$9,226,995	\$3,773,456	41%
Nez Perce	154	\$929,892	\$75,000	8%
Owyhee	146	\$769,587	\$132,948	17%
Valley	1,592	\$8,351,532	\$1,403,438	17%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,207</b>	<b>\$99,213,336</b>	<b>\$24,102,160</b>	

**4. Does the project qualify for funding under either ARPA Capital Projects Fund or IIJA BEAD program?**

Yes, these projects are allowable under ARPA Capital Project Funds.

The ARPA Capital Projects Fund guidance does allow recipient to fund middle mile projects; however, Treasury “encourages recipient to focus on projects that will achieve last0mile connections and those considering funding middle-mile projects are encourages to have commitments in place to support new and/or improved last mile service.”

Yes, these projects are allowable under IIJA BEAD program. The BEAD Notice of funding Opportunity notes projects “...can potentially include deployment of Middle Mile Infrastructure where the Middle Mile Infrastructure is in or through an area required to reach interconnection points or otherwise ensure the technical feasibility and financial sustainability of an Unserved Service Project or an Underserved Service Project.”

**B. Proposal submitted 1/2/2023 in response to the IBAB RFP- Connecting Idaho Phase 1**

**1. How much of the project match is cash?**

Ziply Fiber has purchased network equipment in bulk to support our overall core network upgrades and growth. The equipment purchased with cash and readily available for project implementation is pledged as In-Kind match.

Total Project Cost	ID Fund Contribution	Ziply Fiber In-Kind Contribution
\$ 3,027,843	\$ 2,300,790	\$ 727,053

**2. Timeline start – completion**

Activity	Start Date	Complete Date
Engineering	NA	Nov 2022
Permitting	Promptly upon award	60 Days
Construction	April 2023	October 2023

**3. Does the project qualify as ‘middle mile infrastructure’?** Yes

**4. Does the project qualify for funding under either ARPA Capital Projects Fund or IIJA BEAD program?**



Not as a standalone project. The proposed middle mile upgrade is necessary to enable the delivery of last mile connectivity in Central Idaho communities. Without the investment in the proposed infrastructure, broadband services to unserved and underserved end users will not be technically feasible or financially sustainable.

The ARPA Capital Projects Fund guidance does allow recipient to fund middle mile projects; however, Treasury “encourages recipient to focus on projects that will achieve last mile connections and those considering funding middle-mile projects are encouraged to have commitments in place to support new and/or improved last mile service.”.

The BEAD Notice of funding Opportunity notes projects “...can potentially include deployment of Middle Mile Infrastructure where the Middle Mile Infrastructure is in or through an area required to reach interconnection points or otherwise ensure the technical feasibility and financial sustainability of an Unserved Service Project or an Underserved Service Project.”.

**C. Proposal submitted 1/2/2023 in response to IBAB RFP – Connecting Idaho Phase 2**

**1. How much of the project match is cash?**

ZiPLY Fiber has purchased network equipment in bulk to support our overall core network upgrades and growth. The equipment purchased with cash and readily available for project implementation is pledged as In-Kind match.

<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>ID Fund Contribution</b>	<b>ZiPLY Fiber Cash Contribution</b>	<b>ZiPLY Fiber In-Kind Contribution</b>
\$ 34,417,659	\$ 33,932,977	\$ 344,177	\$ 987,720

**2. Timeline start – completion**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Completion</b>
Site Walk & Detailed Engineering	March 2023	March 2024
Permitting & Pole Attachment	April 2024	September 2024
Construction	March 2024	October 2027

**3. Does the project qualify as ‘middle mile infrastructure’?** Yes

**4. Does the project qualify for funding under either ARPA Capital Projects Fund or IIJA BEAD program?**

No, the proposed project is strictly a middle mile project.

