


FORM CD-450 (REV. 10/18)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	X GRANT	COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARD		FEDERAL AWARD ID NUMBER	
		53-40-MM408	
RECIPIENT NAME WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY		PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028	
STREET ADDRESS 14888 STATE ROUTE 525		FEDERAL SHARE OF COST \$11,782,208.20	
CITY, STATE ZIP LANGLEY, WA 98260-9708		RECIPIENT SHARE OF COST \$5,049,517.80	
AUTHORITY 47 U.S.C. Sec. 1741		TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$16,831,726.00	
CFDA NO. AND NAME 11.033 Middle Mile (Broadband) Grant Program			
PROJECT TITLE: Point Roberts Middle Mile Infrastructure Project			
<p>This Award Document (Form CD-450) signed by the Grants Officer constitutes an obligation of Federal funding. By signing this Form CD-450, the Recipient agrees to comply with the Award provisions checked below and attached. Upon acceptance by the Recipient, the Form CD-450 must be signed by an authorized representative of the Recipient and returned to the Grants Officer. If not signed and returned without modifications by the Recipient within 30 days of receipt, the Grants Officer may unilaterally withdraw this Award offer and de-obligate the funds.</p> <p>X DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS</p> <p>R & D AWARD</p> <p>FEDERAL-WIDE RESEARCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AS ADOPTED BY THE DEPT. OF COMMERCE</p> <p>X SPECIFIC AWARD CONDITIONS</p> <p>X LINE ITEM BUDGET</p> <p>X 2 CFR PART 200, UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO 2 CFR § 1327.101</p> <p>X 48 CFR PART 31, CONTRACT COST PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES</p> <p>MULTI-YEAR AWARD. PLEASE SEE THE MULTI-YEAR SPECIFIC AWARD CONDITION.</p> <p>X OTHER(S): GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS for the NTIA MIDDLE MILE GRANT PROGRAM, April 2023</p>			
SIGNATURE OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE GRANTS OFFICER		DATE	
Andrew Rittgers		06/15/2023	
PRINTED NAME, PRINTED TITLE, AND SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED RECIPIENT OFFICIAL		DATE	
ANDREW RITTGERS  Digitally signed by ANDREW RITTGERS Date: 2023.06.15 12:03:30 -06'00'			

Donna E. Hilty

COO

DocuSigned by:

Donna E. Hilty

6C38823042F8455

7/31/2023

Award Number: 53-40-MM408, Amendment Number 0

Federal Program Officer: Jordan Weinstock

Requisition Number: MM408

Employer Identification Number: 910471290

UEI Number: FKPTJRRJNJ62

Recipient ID:

Requestor ID:

Award ACCS Information

Bureau	FCFY	Project-Task	Organization	Object Class	Obligation Amount
61	2023	4720001-000	06-00-0000-00-00-00-00	41-19-00-00	\$11,782,208.20

Award Contact Information

Contact Type	Contact Name	Email	Phone
Administrative	Moanalei McManus	lei.mcmanus@whidbeytel.com	3603210068

NIST Grants Officer:

Andrew Rittgers
100 Bureau Drive, MS 1650
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1650

NIST Grants Specialist:

Damion Hart
100 Bureau Drive, MS 1650
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1650
(301) 975-3766

NIST Financial Assistance Award Number: 53-40-MM408

Amendment: NEW

Recipient: Whidbey Telephone Company

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY
MIDDLE MILE GRANT PROGRAM
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
SPECIFIC AWARD CONDITIONS**

1. Introduction:

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), servicing for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), hereby enters into this Grant number 53-40-MM408 with Whidbey Telephone Company to support the work described in the proposal entitled “Point Roberts Middle Mile Infrastructure Project” dated 9/29/2022 and all revised budget narrative(s) and/or technical proposal(s) received during application review, which are hereby incorporated into this award by reference. Where the terms of this award and the proposal differ, the terms of this award shall prevail.

2. Recipient Contact Information:

Administrative:

Moanalei McManus
Revenue Requirement Coordinator
Whidbey Telephone Company
14888 State Route 525
Langley, Washington 98260-9708
Telephone: 360-321-0068
Email: lei.mcmanus@whidbeytel.com

3. NTIA Contact Information:

Federal Program Officer

Jordan Weinstock
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
US Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW, Ste. 4881
Washington, DC 20230
Telephone: 202-834-3782
Email: jweinstock@ntia.doc.gov

4. NIST Contact Information:

Grants Officer:

Andrew Rittgers
National Institute of Standards and Technology
325 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80305
Telephone: 303-497-7307
Email: andrew.rittgers@nist.gov

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Amendment: NEW

Recipient: Whidbey Telephone Company

Grants Specialist:

Damion Hart

National Institute of Standards and Technology

100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 1650

Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1650

Telephone: 301-975-3766

Email: Damion.Hart@nist.gov

5. Award Payments:

This award is hereby funded through advanced payments using the Department of Treasury’s Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system. Payments will be issued in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.305 and the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, B.02, dated November 12, 2020.

Payments for allowable costs may be drawn down as needed by the Recipient enrolled in ASAP. Funds may be requested through ASAP by the authorized *Payment Requestor* who is the individual designated by the Recipient to access Federal funds.

This award has the following control or withdrawal limits set in ASAP:

- None
- Agency Review required for all withdrawals (see explanation below)
- Agency Review required for all withdrawal requests over \$_____ (see explanation below)
- Maximum Draw Amount controls (see explanation below)
 - \$_____ each month
 - \$_____ each quarter
 - \$ 0.00 Max drawdown amount

Explanation:

Environmental Assessment & National Historic Preservation Act Compliance Requirements restriction

The total amount of Federal funding is hereby withheld until the requirements identified in the National Institute of Standards and Technology General Terms and Conditions for the NTIA Middle Mile Grant Program, Term #11 – Environmental Assessment and #12 – National Historic Preservation Act (Six-Month Expenditure Plan), are satisfied.

6. Period of Performance and Funding Limitations:

The period of performance and budget incorporated into this award cover a 5-year period of performance and provide for a maximum total amount of \$ **11,782,208.20** in Federal funding. This award is being fully funded via this award action.

The maximum amount of NTIA funding in support of this award will not exceed the amount specified in the award documents, unless otherwise amended in writing by the NIST Grants Officer. The Department of Commerce is not liable for any obligations, expenditures, or commitments which involve any amount in excess of the Federal funds being made available pursuant to this award.

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7. Federal and Non-Federal Cost Sharing:

As directed by Section 60401(f) of the Infrastructure Act, each recipient must commit to a non-federal cost share of no less than 30 percent of the total project cost, unless exempted through a partial or complete waiver for Tribal governments and Native entities.

Pursuant to this award, NIST hereby approves the committed non-federal cost share in the amount of \$5,049,517.80 per the proposal's budget on the part of the recipient and becomes a binding requirement under subject award (*see* 2 CFR §200). The cost sharing ratio for this award is **70%** Federal share and **30%** Non-Federal share. See 2 CFR §200.306 and Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, Section B.03 for the treatment of cost sharing.

8. Letter of Credit and Opinion Letter

Pursuant to the NOFO, the recipient must submit an irrevocable standby letter of credit in a value of no less than 25% of the award amount. The recipient also must provide with its letter of credit an opinion letter from its legal counsel clearly stating, subject only to customary assumptions, limitations, and qualifications, that in a proceeding under Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.* (the "Bankruptcy Code"), the bankruptcy court would not treat the letter of credit or proceeds of the letter of credit as property of the winning bidder's bankruptcy estate under Section 541 of the Bankruptcy Code.

The recipient may obtain a new letter of credit or renew its existing letter of credit to reduce its value in accordance with the following limitations:

- Upon demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Assistant Secretary that it has completed the buildout of 40 percent of project miles, an eligible entity may obtain a new letter of credit or renew its existing letter of credit so that it is valued at no less than 20 percent of the award amount.
- Upon demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Assistant Secretary that it has completed the buildout of 60 percent of project miles, an eligible entity may obtain a new letter of credit or renew its existing letter of credit so that it is valued at no less than 15 percent of the award amount.
- Upon demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Assistant Secretary that it has completed the buildout of 80 percent of project miles, an eligible entity may obtain a new letter of credit or renew its existing letter of credit so that it is valued at no less than 10 percent of the award amount.

9. Notice of Funding Opportunity – Middle Mile Grant Program

The Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications Information Administration Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) No. NTIA-MMG-2-2022, Middle Mile Grant Program, dated May 13, 2022, is incorporated by reference into this award. It is accessible at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=340300>. Select "Closed" or "Archived" Opportunity Status to view the NOFO.

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10. Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements:

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements as published in the Federal Register on December 30, 2014 (79 FR 78390) is incorporated by reference into this award. It is accessible at:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-30/pdf/2014-30297.pdf>.

11. Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions:

As indicated on the Form CD-450 for this award, the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions (ST&C) issued November 12, 2020 are incorporated by reference into this award. The Department's ST&C, as well as a link to 2 CFR Part 200, are accessible at: <https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy>

12. Bi-annual Performance and Financial Reporting Requirements

The Recipient must submit a Federal Financial Report (SF-425), and Performance Progress Report on a semi-annual basis for the periods ending March 31 and September 30, or any portion thereof.

Reports are due no later than 30 calendar days following the end of each reporting period. A final SF-425 and Performance Progress Report (Closeout) must be submitted within 120 days after the expiration of the period of performance. Subrecipients are required to submit their final performance report to the pass-through entity within 90 calendar days unless an extension has been granted.

All SF-425 and Performance Progress Reports must, at minimum, comply with the reporting requirements and contain all information and certifications specified in the NOFO.

All SF-425 and Performance Progress Reports must be submitted to the NTIA Grants Portal at <https://grants.ntia.gov/>, with copy to the Federal Program Officer, within the prescribed timeframes identified in the terms and conditions of the award.

The Recipient organization name, NIST award number, and reporting period must be included in the submission. The Recipient contact information should be included in the body of the message. To the greatest extent possible, SF-425 and Performance Progress Reports should be submitted together in the same submission.

SF-425 and Performance Progress Reports must not be sent directly to NIST/NTIA personnel, other than when copying the Federal Program Officer on submissions to the <https://grants.ntia.gov/> Portal.

Any SF-425 or Performance Progress Reports sent directly to NIST/NTIA personnel will be returned to the sender with instructions on how to submit through the <https://grants.ntia.gov/> Portal.

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No other correspondence may be sent through this Portal; timely responses to any other inquiries received in this mailbox are not guaranteed. The Portal will not be used for any other purpose except for purposes identified above.

Eligible entities that receive an award shall comply with any other reasonable reporting requirements determined necessary by the NTIA Assistant Secretary.

**13. Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions
Section B.06 Indirect or Facilities and Administrative Costs:**

NIST will reimburse the Recipient for indirect or F&A costs in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.414 and Section B.06. of the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Condition, dated November 12, 2020.

If an indirect cost rate has not been established, and NIST is identified as the cognizant agency for indirect costs in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.1, “Cognizant agency for indirect costs,” within 90 calendar days of the award start date, the Recipient must electronically submit to gmdaudit@nist.gov the documentation (indirect cost rate proposal, cost allocation plan, etc.) necessary to allow NIST to perform an indirect cost rate proposal review. Organizations that have previously established indirect cost rates with NIST must submit a new indirect cost rate proposal for indirect costs within six months after the end of the organization’s fiscal year.

If your submission includes Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or Business Identifiable Information (BII), please send an email to gmdaudit@nist.gov to request a secure link.

The requirements for determining the relevant cognizant agency and for developing and submitting indirect (F&A) cost rate proposals and cost allocation plans are contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.414 and in Appendices III-VII to 2 C.F.R. Part 200. For additional guidance on preparing indirect cost proposals, please review the Department of Labor’s Guide for Indirect Cost Determination at: <https://www.dol.gov/oasam/boc/dcd/np-comm-guide.htm>. Section I.B and I.C lists the various types of indirect cost rates and the circumstances under which such rates would apply. The guide also addresses common indirect cost problems and contains useful FAQs.

14. Unfunded Grant Actions Mailbox (UGAM):

Requests for unfunded award actions, which include, but are not limited to, requests for no-cost extension, change in key personnel, change in scope of work, budget revisions, award transfer, and novation, must be submitted to: UGAM@nist.gov, within the prescribed timeframes identified in the terms and conditions of the award.

Unfunded award action requests and related correspondence, including justification to support the request, sent to the mailbox must contain the following information in the email subject line: (1) Recipient name; (2) NIST award number; (3) Principal

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Investigator/Project Director; and (4) Action being requested (e.g. no cost extension, change in key personnel, etc.).

Unfunded award action requests must not be sent directly to NIST personnel (e.g. Grants Specialist, Grants Officer, Administrative Assistant, GMD Division Chief, Federal Program Officer, etc.).

Any requests sent directly to NIST personnel will be returned to the sender with instructions on how to submit through the UGAM@nist.gov mailbox.

No other correspondence may be sent through this mailbox; timely responses to any other inquiries received in this mailbox are not guaranteed. The mailbox will not be used for any other purpose *except* for purposes identified above.

Requests that are processed will be authorized via a Form CD-451 Amendment to the Financial Assistance Award or a Non-Funded Administrative Change Letter.

15. **Climate Resilience**

Because retrofitted and new infrastructure for broadband might be expected to have a lifetime of 20 years or more, the Recipient must account not only for current risks but also for how the frequency, severity, and nature of these extreme events may plausibly evolve as our climate continues to change over the coming decades.

Accordingly, the recipient must develop a plan for regularly assessing the changing weather and climate risks that could impact the network. Such a plan must demonstrate that the risks are understood and characterized to account for and respond to these areas for the 20 years following deployment, utilizing at least one resource or tool at <https://toolkit.climate.gov/content/understanding-climate-risk-resources-ntia-applicants>. The plan should also detail how the weather and climate risks identified are addressed through avoidance and/or mitigation for the network. The plan should articulate how this process of evaluating the updated climate and weather risk and incorporating that information into the network design, maintenance, upgrades, or similar will be performed at least once during the period of performance and periodically over the life of the project.

The recipient is to report on its climate risk reanalysis in the biannual performance reports.

16. **No Duplication of Federal Funding**

No federal funds may be used to duplicate costs, services, connections, facilities, or equipment that have been authorized through another federal program. To the extent that a Middle Mile Program project is later deemed to include duplicate funding from another federal program, the NIST Grants Office and NTIA reserve the right to disallow the costs associated with the duplication of federal funds or service and/or to reallocate the funds to allowable activities within the project.

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18. Signage and Public Acknowledgements:

The Recipient is required to post project signage and to include public acknowledgments in published and other collateral materials (e.g., press releases, marketing materials, webpages, plaques) satisfactory in form and substance to NIST, that identifies the nature of the project and indicates that “the project is funded by Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Recipient employing project signage is required to use the official Investing in America emblem in accordance with the Official Investing in America Emblem Style Guide: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Investing-in-America-Brand-Guide.pdf>. Costs associated with signage and public acknowledgments must be reasonable and limited. Signs or public acknowledgments should not be produced, displayed or published if doing so results in unreasonable cost, expense, or recipient burden. The Recipient is encouraged to use recycled or recovered materials when procuring signs. Any construction site signage should be displayed throughout the construction phase of the project in an easily visible location directly linked to the work taking place. The Recipient is responsible to maintain the signage in good condition throughout the construction period.

19. Pre-Award Costs:

Pre-award costs in the amount of **\$50,000** are acceptable only to the extent of reimbursing reasonable pre-application expenses, which include expenses related to preparing an application that are incurred after the publication date of the subject NOFO and prior to the date of issuance of this grant award, except the lobbying costs and contingency fees are not reimbursable. The approved pre-award costs are a portion of, **not in addition to**, the approved total budget.

Pre-award costs are approved for the period 05/13/2022 through 7/1/2023.

20. Equipment:

A. Estimated Useful Life and Compliance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.313. For purposes of this award, the estimated useful life of the equipment to be acquired by the recipient varies from the date that such equipment is placed into service on the project. Additional useful life guidance will be forthcoming. During the estimated useful life of the equipment, the recipient must adhere to the requirements contained in the terms and conditions of the award, including adherence to the use, management, and disposition requirements set forth in 2 C.F.R. § 200.313.

B. UCC-1 Filing & Attorney’s Certification. Pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.316, within 30 calendar days of acquiring all or any portion of the equipment under this award, the recipient shall properly file a UCC-1 with the appropriate State office where the equipment will be located in accordance with the State’s Uniform Commercial Code (UCC). The UCC filing(s) must include the below or substantively similar language providing public notice of the Federal Interest in the equipment acquired with NTIA

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Middle Mile funding. Also, a clear and accurate inventory of the subject equipment must be attached to and filed with the UCC-1.

The Equipment set forth at Attachment A hereto was acquired with funding under a financial assistance award (Award Number 53-40-MM408) issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce. As such, the U.S. Department of Commerce retains an undivided equitable reversionary interest (Federal Interest) in the Equipment for the estimated useful life thereof, from when the equipment is placed into service on the project.

In addition, within 15 calendar days following the required UCC filing(s), the recipient must be ready if requested by the Grants Officer to provide the Grants Officer with complete and certified copies of the filed UCC forms and attachments for the equipment acquired with NTIA Middle Mile funding, along with a certification from legal counsel, licensed by the State within which the filings were made (Attorney's Certification), that the UCC filing was properly executed and filed in accordance with applicable state law. The Attorney's Certification must include the below or substantively similar language:

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Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I hereby certify as follows:

I am legal counsel at _____.

I am licensed to practice law in the State of _____ having been a license holder of said state and in good standing since _____.

Attached hereto is a certified copy of UCC-1 form(s) reflecting that this document was filed in the _____ on _____, 202x, bearing the following filing information [insert filing data, e.g., instrument number, etc.] and consists of _____ recorded pages as certified by the Secretary of State of _____.

I certify that this UCC-1 form(s) has/have been validly executed and properly recorded as noted above.

I certify under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on this ____ day of _____.

(Attorney name and title)

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(Address and phone number)

In addition, during the estimated useful life of the equipment, the recipient is hereby authorized and directed by the Grants Officer to timely file any necessary UCC-3 continuation statements (or other filings) for the subject equipment consistent with the requirements set forth in this specific award condition. If requested by the Grants Officer, copies of all filed UCC continuation statements, together with an Attorney's Certification, must be submitted to the Grants Officer within 15 calendar days following each such filing. The UCC filing(s) and the accompanying Attorney's Certification(s) must be acceptable in form and in substance to the NIST Grants Officer. If the Grants Officer does not request the UCC filing(s) and Attorney's Certification, the recipient must continue to maintain records of the filing(s) and Attorney's Certification in compliance with 2 CFR § 200.334 Retention requirements for records.

21. Publication Disclaimers:

Pursuant to Section G.05.k of the DOC Standard Terms and Conditions, the recipient is required to submit a copy(ies) to the funding agency and when releasing information related to a funded project include a statement that the project or effort undertaken was or is sponsored by DOC. The recipient is also responsible for assuring that every publication of material (including Internet sites) based on or developed under an award, except scientific articles or papers appearing in scientific, technical or professional journals, contains the following disclaimer:

This [report/video/etc.] was prepared by [recipient name] using funds under award [number] from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC). The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NTIA or DOC

This also applies to videos produced under DOC financial assistance awards.

End of Specific Award Conditions

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS
for the
NTIA MIDDLE MILE GRANT PROGRAM**

April 2023

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1. Project Management Conference

Shortly after approval of the award, NIST (on behalf of NTIA) may contact the Recipient to arrange a project management conference. The purpose of the project management conference is to explain to the Recipient its post-approval responsibilities for administration of the award, including its responsibilities with respect to the Terms and Conditions of the award and applicable Federal requirements. The Recipient's authorized representative, architect/engineer, financial representative, and possibly the Recipient's legal counsel should attend.

2. Property Trust Relationship and Public Notice Filings for Grant-Acquired Property

In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.316 (Property trust relationship), real property, equipment, and intangible property, that are acquired or improved with a Federal award must be held in trust by the non-Federal entity (*i.e.*, Recipient or Subrecipient) as trustee for the beneficiaries of the project or program under which the property was acquired or improved. This trust relationship exists throughout the duration of the property's estimated useful life, as determined by the Grants Officer in consultation with the Program Office, during which time the Federal Government retains an undivided, equitable reversionary interest in the property (Federal Interest). The non-Federal entity must comply with all use and disposition requirements and restrictions as set forth in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.310 (Insurance coverage) through 200.316 (Property trust relationship), as applicable, and in the terms and conditions of the Federal award.

The Grants Officer may require a non-Federal entity (*i.e.*, a Recipient or Subrecipient) to execute and to record (as applicable) a statement of interest, financing statement (Form UCC-1), lien, mortgage or other public notice of record to indicate that real or personal property acquired or improved in whole or in part pursuant to a Middle Mile Grant Program award is subject to the Federal Interest, and that certain use and disposition requirements apply to the property. The statement of interest, financing statement (Form UCC-1), lien, mortgage or other public notice must be acceptable in form and substance to NTIA and to the NIST Grants Officer and must be placed on record in accordance with applicable State and local law, with continuances re-filed as appropriate. In such cases, the NIST Grants Officer may further require the non-Federal entity to provide NTIA and the NIST Grants Officer with a written statement from a licensed attorney in the jurisdiction where the property is located, certifying that the Federal Interest has been protected, as required under the award and in accordance with applicable State and local law. The attorney's statement, along with a copy of the instrument reflecting the recordation of the Federal Interest, must be promptly returned to the Grants Officer. The non-Federal entity may use model documentation made available by NTIA.

Without releasing or excusing the non-Federal entity from these obligations, the non-Federal entity, by execution of the financial assistance award or by expending Federal financial assistance funds (in the case of a subrecipient), authorizes NTIA and/or the NIST Grants Officer to file such notices and continuations as it determines to be necessary or convenient to disclose and protect the Federal Interest in the property. The NIST Grants Officer may elect not to release any or a portion of the Federal award funds until the non-Federal entity has complied with this provision and any other applicable award terms or conditions, unless other arrangements satisfactory to the NIST Grants Officer are made.

3. **Land, Easements, and Rights of Way**

The Recipient must disclose all encumbrances to NIST. NIST will not accept any encumbrance that interferes with the construction, intended use, operation, or maintenance of the project during its estimated useful life.

4. **Project Sign**

The Recipient is responsible for constructing, erecting, and maintaining in good condition throughout the construction phase of the project a sign(s) satisfactory to NIST that identifies the project and indicates that the project is Federally funded. The sign shall:

- Be designed in accordance with the guidelines and design specifications found in the Building A Better America Brand Guide found here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Building-A-Better-America-Brand-Guide.pdf>
- Be placed in an easily visible location that can be directly linked to the work taking place; and,
- Identify the project as a “project funded by President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.”

The recipient should use best effort to use recycled or recovered materials when procuring signs. The recipient shall also ensure costs associated with signage are reasonable and limited,

NIST also may require that the Recipient maintain a permanent plaque or sign at the project site with the same or similar information.

5. **Eminent Domain**

In accordance with Executive Order 13406, “*Protecting the Property Rights of the American People*” (June 28, 2006), the Recipient agrees:

- (a) Not to use any power of eminent domain available to the Recipient (including the commencement of eminent domain proceedings) for use in connection with the Project for the purpose of advancing the economic interests of private parties;
- (b) Not to accept title to land, easements, or other interest in land acquired by the use of any power of eminent domain for use in connection with the Project for such purposes; and
- (c) Any use of the power of eminent domain to acquire land, easements or interests in land, whether by the Recipient or any other entity that has the power of eminent domain, in connection with the Project without prior written consent of NIST constitutes an unauthorized activity and/or use of funds under the award, and subjects the recipient to appropriate enforcement action by the Grants Officer, including but not limited to the disallowance of award costs and the termination of an award.

6. Construction Contract Security Bond

Pursuant to 2 CFR § 200.326, for construction or facility improvement contracts or subcontracts exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (currently \$250,000), the Recipient may submit its bonding policy and requirements to the Grants Officer for a determination whether the Federal Government's interest is adequately protected. If such a determination has not been made, the minimum bonding requirements of 2 CFR § 200.326 (Bonding requirements) shall apply.

7. Inspection And Testing of Materials

The Recipient shall ensure that all materials and equipment used in the completion of the work shall be subject to adequate inspection and testing in accordance with accepted standards. Materials of construction, particularly those upon which the strength and durability of any structure may depend, shall be subject to inspection and testing to establish conformance with specifications and suitability for intended uses. The Recipient shall ensure that documentation of same is cataloged and retained.

8. Energy Efficiency

The Recipient shall apply, where feasible, sustainable, and energy efficient, design principles for the purpose of reducing pollution and energy costs and optimizing lifecycle costs associated with the construction.

9. Requirements During Construction

During construction, the Recipient is responsible for:

- (a) Ensuring project completion in accordance with approved plans and specifications;
- (b) Monitoring project progress and reporting progress to NTIA and NIST;
- (c) Providing for required construction permits and adequate construction inspection;
- (d) Promptly paying costs incurred for the project purposes;
- (e) Monitoring contractors' compliance with Federal, State, and local requirements; and
- (f) Constructing and maintaining in good condition throughout the construction period, of a sign or signs, at the project site in a conspicuous place indicating that the Federal Government is participating in the project.

10. Recipient and Contractor Compliance with Applicable Requirements

The Recipient shall comply, and must require each subrecipient or contractor, including lower tier subrecipients or subcontractors, to comply with all applicable Federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The Recipient is responsible for ensuring that all contracts necessary for design and construction of the Project facilities are implemented in compliance with the Terms and Conditions of this Award.

11. Environmental Assessment

The Recipient must comply with all environmental standards and identify to NTIA any impact a proposed infrastructure project may have on the environment. The Recipient may not expend

any federal infrastructure funds other than for engineering design, permitting and work related to environmental, historical and cultural reviews, and limited, preliminary procurement funds, as described below, prior to the following:

- The completion of environmental review and issuance of a Categorical Exclusion (Cat Ex) Decision Memo, Record of Consideration (REC), Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or Record of Decision (ROD) (hereinafter “decision documents”) that meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*);
- The completion of any required consultations, to include consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the appropriate federally recognized Native American tribes, under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470, *et seq.*) (NHPA), and/or consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*), and/or consultations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251, *et seq.*); and/or
- Demonstration of compliance with all other applicable federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations.

Project implementation (site preparation, demolition, construction, ground disturbance, or any other project implementation activities) may not begin prior to the completion of the above activities. The completion of a draft environmental assessment (EA) or equivalent document, and completion of any required consultations under Section 106 of the NHPA, must be completed no later than six months after the award date unless a formal request for extension is submitted and approved by the Grants Officer. The Recipient must comply with all conditions placed on the project as the result of consultation processes.

Subject to the Grants Officer’s approval of the Recipient’s 6-month expenditure plan (described below), the allowable use of award funds prior to beginning project implementation includes, but is not limited to, activities necessary for the completion of the following:

- Pre-construction project planning, including collecting environmentally-related information;
- Applications for environmental permits;
- Studies such as an Environmental Assessment (EA), and any wetland delineations, biological assessments, archaeological surveys, or other required analyses;
- Administrative costs;
- Pre-award application costs; and/or
- Required consultation activities.

The allowable use of funds for limited, preliminary procurements prior to beginning project implementation includes, but is not limited to, the initiation of activities necessary to meet the project completion requirements as specified in the award, including the following:

- Purchase or lease of equipment, or entering into binding contracts to do so;

- Purchase of applicable or conditional insurance; and/or
- Funds used to secure land or building leases, including right-of-way easements.

The allowable use of preliminary procurement funds is limited; must not result in an irrevocable commitment of resources; and is only allowed after inclusion in and approval of an initial 6-month expenditure plan. The initial 6-month expenditure plan is due in advance of any infrastructure funds draw down from ASAP and will be reviewed by the Federal Program Officer, who will make recommendations to the Grants Officer (who has final approval authority) to ensure all proposed procurement funds are reasonable and necessary to ensure that the project completion deadline requirements are met. All contracts must contain early termination clauses with termination costs clearly specified. All equipment purchased or leased in advance of project implementation and before issuance of the decision documents and completion of applicable consultations must be stored in locations other than the proposed project site and where there will be no impact to the environment, human health, or cultural resources (in most cases, this means equipment must be stored in existing warehouses). Under no circumstances will grant funds be drawn down for clearing or excavating land, or demolition or construction of buildings or towers, before all environmental SACs are completed and cleared. This limited, preliminary allowable use of funds for purchases and leases is designed for recipient flexibility and to streamline preparation for project implementation simultaneously during environmental review and conducting of consultations; the clause, and all applicable restrictions, is lifted once the decision document and applicable consultations are complete and approved.

While this SAC is in effect, the Recipient shall submit, in advance of any drawdowns of funds from ASAP, an initial 6-month expenditure plan that presents the proposed planning and design activities and limited, preliminary procurement activities and costs. The initial 6-month expenditure plan will be submitted via email to the Federal Program Officer, who will review it and provide recommendations to the Grants Officer for final approval to ensure that the proposed activities and expenditures are reasonable and necessary in the context of environmental compliance. The Federal Program Officer must review and recommend, and the Grants Officer must approve the initial 6-month expenditure plan prior to fund drawdowns through ASAP.

The completion of a draft EA will be submitted via email to the Environmental Federal Program Officer and Federal Program Officer. Once the environmental review has been completed, NTIA will review all documentation and determine whether the review sufficiently addresses all resource areas and whether the project may qualify for approval decision. Projects found to have significant impacts to environmental or historic resources may face de-obligation of funding if impacts cannot be mitigated. The Recipient is required to provide any information requested by NTIA to ensure both initial and ongoing compliance with environmental and historic preservation laws, regulations, and best practices. The Recipient shall notify NTIA within 24 hours upon receipt of any notices of foreclosure; notices for continuing consultation received from the SHPO, Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), USFWS, or other consulting party; or notices of noncompliance received from consulting authorities or regulatory agencies.

Any change to the approved project scope that has the potential for altering the nature or extent of environmental or cultural resources impacts must be brought to the attention of NTIA and will be re-evaluated for compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.

For all ground disturbing activities that occur during project implementation in the vicinity of known archaeological sites or suspected or known burials, the Recipient must ensure that an archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards monitors ground disturbance, and if any potential archeological resources or buried human remains are discovered, then the Recipient must immediately cease construction in that area and notify NTIA and the interested SHPO, THPO, and tribes. Such construction activities may then only continue with the written approval of NTIA.

A revised 6-month expenditure plan is due within 30 days of submitting a FONSI to NTIA. The revised 6-month expenditure plan must outline how the Recipient plans on expending the remaining budget costs related to construction-type activities. This plan should be submitted via email to the Federal Program Officer who will review it and provide recommendations to the Grants Officer for final approval to ensure that the proposed activities and expenditures are reasonable and necessary. The Federal Program Officer must review and recommend, and the Grants Officer must approve, the revised 6-month expenditure plan prior to fund drawdowns through ASAP.

12. National Historic Preservation Act

The Recipient may not expend any federal infrastructure funds other than for engineering design, permitting and work related to environmental, historical and cultural reviews, and limited, preliminary procurement funds prior to the following:

- The completion of any required consultations, to include consultations with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the appropriate federally recognized Native American tribes, under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470, *et seq.*) (NHPA); and/or
- Demonstration of compliance with all other applicable Federal, State, and local environmental laws and regulations.

Project implementation (site preparation, demolition, construction, ground disturbance, or any other project implementation activities) may not begin prior to the completion of the above activities. The completion of any required consultations under Section 106 of the NHPA must be completed no later than six months after the award date unless a formal request for extension is submitted and approved by the Grants Officer. The Recipient must comply with all conditions placed on the project as the result of consultation processes.

Subject to the Grants Officer's approval of the Recipient's 6-month expenditure plan (described below), the allowable use of funds for planning and design activities prior to beginning project implementation includes, but is not limited to, activities necessary for the completion of the following:

- Pre-construction project planning, including collecting culturally-related information;

- Applications for cultural resource approvals and/or permits;
- Studies and any archaeological, architectural history, or traditional cultural property surveys, or other required analyses;
- Administrative costs;
- Pre-award application costs; and/or
- Required consultation activities.

The allowable use of funds for limited, preliminary procurements prior to beginning project implementation includes, but is not limited to, the initiation of activities necessary to meet the project completion requirements as specified in the award, including the following:

- Purchase or lease of equipment, or entering into binding contracts to do so;
- Purchase of applicable or conditional insurance; and/or;
- Funds used to secure land or building leases, including right-of-way easements.

While this SAC is in effect, the Recipient shall submit, in advance of any drawdowns of funds from ASAP, an initial 6-month expenditure plan that presents the proposed planning and design activities and limited, preliminary procurement activities and costs. The initial 6-month expenditure plan will be submitted via email to the Federal Program Officer, who will review it and provide recommendations to the Grants Officer for final approval to ensure that the proposed activities and expenditures are reasonable and necessary in the context of environmental compliance. The Federal Program Officer must review and recommend, and the Grants Officer must approve the initial 6-month expenditure plan prior to fund drawdowns through ASAP.

The allowable use of preliminary procurement funds is limited; must not result in an irrevocable commitment of resources; and is only allowed after inclusion in and approval of an initial 6-month expenditure plan. The initial 6-month expenditure plan is due in advance of any infrastructure funds draw down from ASAP and will be reviewed by the Federal Program Officer, who will make recommendations to the Grants Officer (who has final approval authority) to ensure all proposed procurement funds are reasonable and necessary to ensure that the project completion deadline requirements are met. All contracts must contain early termination clauses with termination costs clearly specified. All equipment purchased or leased in advance of project implementation and before completion of applicable consultations must be stored in locations other than the proposed project site and where there will be no impact to the environment, human health, or cultural resources (in most cases, this means equipment must be stored in existing warehouses). Under no circumstances will grant funds be drawn down for clearing or excavating land, or demolition or construction, before all environmental SACs are completed and cleared. This limited, preliminary allowable use of funds for purchases and leases is designed for recipient flexibility and to streamline preparation for project implementation simultaneously during consultations; the clause, and all applicable restrictions, is lifted once the applicable consultations are complete, and decision document is issued.

Consultation documentation will be submitted via email to the Environmental Federal Program Officer and Federal Program Officer. Once the consultation activities have been completed, NTIA will review all documentation and determine whether the consultation activities sufficiently address historical and/or cultural resource impacts. Projects found to have

significant impacts to environmental or historic resources may face de-obligation of funding if impacts cannot be mitigated. The Recipient is required to provide any information requested by NTIA to ensure both initial and ongoing compliance with environmental and historic preservation laws, regulations, and best practices. The Recipient shall notify NTIA within 24 hours upon receipt of any notices of foreclosure; notices for continuing consultation received from the SHPO, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), or other consulting party; or notices of noncompliance received from consulting authorities or regulatory agencies.

For all ground disturbing activities that occur during project implementation in the vicinity of known archaeological sites or suspected or known burials, the Recipient must ensure that an archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards monitors ground disturbance, and if any potential archeological resources or buried human remains are discovered, then the Recipient must immediately cease construction in that area and notify NTIA and the interested SHPO, THPO, and tribes. Such construction activities may then only continue with the written approval of NTIA.

Any change to the approved project scope that has the potential for altering the nature or extent of cultural resources impacts must be brought to the attention of NTIA and will be re-evaluated for compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.

A revised 6-month expenditure plan is due within 30 days of submitting a FONSI to NTIA. The revised 6-month expenditure plan must outline how the Recipient plans on expending the remaining budget costs related to construction-type activities. This plan should be submitted via email to the Federal Program Officer who will review it and provide recommendations to the Grants Officer for final approval to ensure that the proposed activities and expenditures are reasonable and necessary. The Federal Program Officer must review and recommend, and the Grants Officer must approve, the revised 6-month expenditure plan prior to fund drawdowns through ASAP.

13. Tribal Employment Rights Ordinances

In accordance with Departmental policy, NIST must recognize Tribal Employment Rights Ordinances (TEROs), which may provide for preferences in contracting and employment, in connection with its financial assistance awards. Tribal ordinances requiring preference in contracting, hiring, and firing and the payment of a TERO fee are allowable provisions under Federal awards and is incorporated by NTIA into Middle Mile Grant Program grants with Native American/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian entities. The payment of the TERO fee, which supports the tribal employment rights office to administer the preferences, should generally be allowable as an expense that is "necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient performance and administration" of an award, as provided under as provided under 2 CFR § 200.403.

14. Scheduling Inspection for Final Acceptance

The Recipient will schedule its final inspection when all construction has been completed, the architect/engineer has conducted its own final inspection, and any deficiencies have been corrected. Representatives of the Recipient, the architect/engineer, and the contractor(s) will make the Recipient's final inspection. NTIA must be given advance notice of the final inspection so that a representative of NTIA may participate.

15. Build America, Buy America – Required Use of Domestic Fiber Optic Glass and Fiber Optic Cable

A. Applicability & Scope: Pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 (Nov. 15, 2021) (IIJA) including the Build America, Buy America Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52 (BABA), as well as guidance provided by Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, Initial Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure, Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget (April 18, 2022) (OMB M-22-11), recipients of a federal financial assistance award from the U.S. Department of Commerce (DoC) are hereby notified that none of the funds provided under this award may be used for a Middle Mile (MM) infrastructure project unless all of the fiber optic glass and fiber optic cable used in the project is produced in the United States. The Buy America domestic content procurement preference only applies to fiber optic glass and to fiber optic cable that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to a MM infrastructure project. As applicable, the requirements of this subsection must be included in all subawards and contracts, including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products pursuant to this program.

B. Waivers: When necessary, recipients may apply for, and DoC may grant, a waiver from the Buy America domestic content procurement preference applicable to MM awards. When DoC has made a determination that one of the following exceptions applies, the awarding official may waive the application of the Buy America domestic content procurement preference in any case in which DoC determines that:

- 1) applying the Buy America domestic content procurement preference to the fiber optic glass and/or fiber optic cable needed for the MM project would be inconsistent with the public interest;
- 2) the fiber optic glass and/or fiber optic cable needed for the MM project are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or
- 3) the inclusion of fiber optic glass and/or fiber optic cable needed for the MM project and produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

A request to waive the application of the Buy America domestic content procurement preference must be submitted in writing. The NTIA Federal Program Officer will provide instructions on the format, contents, and supporting materials required for any waiver request. Waiver requests are subject to public comment periods of no less than 15 days and must be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget Made in America Office. There may be instances where an award qualifies, in whole or in part, for an existing waiver accessible at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/management/made-in-america/build-america-buy-america-act-federal-financial-assistance/>.

Please note that NTIA has waived the Buy America domestic content procurement preference requirement for all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction

materials used in MM infrastructure projects, with the exceptions of fiber optic glass and fiber optic cable. See *Limited Applicability Nonavailability Waiver of the Buy America Domestic Content Procurement Preference as Applied to Recipients of Middle Mile Grant Program Awards*, which was issued by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information on April 18, 2023 and is accessible at:

<https://www.commerce.gov/oam/build-america-buy-america>.

Notwithstanding the NTIA waiver and excepting fiber optic glass and fiber optic cable used in a MM project, the Recipient should, as appropriate and consistent with law and to the greatest extent practicable, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including, but not limited to, iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products). As applicable, the requirements of this subsection must be included in all subawards, including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products pursuant to this program. See 2 CFR § 200.322, *Domestic preference for procurements*.

C. Definitions:

“Construction materials” includes an article, material, or supply—other than an item of primarily iron or steel; a manufactured product; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives¹—that is or consists primarily of:

- non-ferrous metals;
- plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables);
- glass (including optic glass);
- lumber; or
- drywall.

In the case of construction materials, all manufacturing processes for the construction material must have occurred in the United States.²

“Domestic content procurement preference” means all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States; the manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States; or the construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.

“Infrastructure” includes, at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for, in the United States, roads, highways, and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure;

¹ IJA, § 70917(c)(1).

² *Id.* at § 70912(6)(C).

and buildings and real property. Infrastructure includes facilities that generate, transport, and distribute energy.

“Project” means the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States.

D. **Recordkeeping and Reporting:** In accord with 2 C.F.R. § 200.334, *Retention requirements for records*, the recipient is required to maintain detailed records pertinent to a MM award, including financial records, procurement records, and real property/equipment records. In this connection, the recipient is required to maintain detailed records concerning the acquisition of all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in MM projects. For fiber optic glass and fiber optic cable used in a MM project, this includes but is not limited to the: acquisition date; acquisition price; verification of domestic sourcing (unless DoC issues a waiver); how it was used in the project; and current location. Additionally, the recipient is required to maintain detailed records concerning the acquisition of iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials from foreign sources that are used in a MM project, including but not limited to: acquisition date; acquisition price; efforts to source domestically; foreign source(s); how it was used in the project; and current location. NTIA may require the recipient to report such information to the Agency at a time and in the format specified by the NTIA Federal Program Officer.

E. **Questions:** Questions concerning the Buy America domestic content procurement preference requirements applicable to MM awards should be addressed to the NTIA Federal Program Officer.

16. Contracting with Small and Minority Businesses, Women’s Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area Firms

Pursuant to 2 CFR § 200.321, the Recipient and its subrecipients must take all necessary affirmative steps (as described in 2 CFR § 200.321) to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.

17. Open Network Requirements

The Recipient must comply with NTIA’s open network requirements, which allows all other broadband service providers to interconnect with networks and other broadband infrastructure deployed using funds from this grant program on fair and non-discriminatory terms and conditions. The requirement to interconnect will apply to Recipients that deploy middle mile networks or submarine cable landing stations and not last mile networks.

- **Interconnection:** Recipients shall allow interconnection in perpetuity to grant-funded facilities at any technically feasible point along the network (without exceeding current or reasonably anticipated capacity limitations). This duty includes, at a minimum, the physical interconnection of the Recipient’s facilities to a requesting party’s facilities for the exchange of traffic. In addition, Recipients shall connect to the public Internet directly or indirectly and provide requesting parties with an ability to connect to the

Internet. Rates and terms for interconnection shall be reasonable and nondiscriminatory.

- **Negotiate in Good Faith:** Recipients shall negotiate in good faith with all requesting parties (*i.e.*, public, private, non-profit, or other parties) making a bona fide request for interconnection or wholesale services.
- **Wholesale Broadband Service:** NTIA encourages Recipients to offer wholesale broadband services at rates and terms that are reasonable and nondiscriminatory

18. Prohibition on Use for Covered Communications Equipment or Services

A Recipient or subrecipient may not use grant funds received under the Middle Mile Grant Program to purchase or support any covered communications equipment or service (as defined in section 9 of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1608)). *See also* 2 C.F.R. 200.216 (Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment), which also applies to this award.

19. Prevention of Waste, Fraud, and Abuse

Consistent with the principles in 2 CFR part 200, at any time(s) during the grant period of performance, NTIA may direct a Recipient's key personnel to take a Government-provided training on preventing waste, fraud and abuse. Key personnel include those responsible for managing the Recipient's finances and overseeing any contractors, sub-contractors or sub-recipients (for financial matters and/or general oversight related to the grant). NTIA will provide instructions on when and how to take such training(s), and costs incurred by a Recipient relative to the training (*e.g.*, staff time) are eligible for reimbursement pursuant to the NTIA award.

Further, recipients must monitor award activities for common fraud schemes, including but not limited to:

- false claims for materials and labor;
- bribes related to the acquisition of materials and labor;
- product substitution;
- mismarking or mislabeling on products and materials; and
- time and materials overcharging.

Should a Recipient detect any fraud schemes or any other suspicious activity, the grant recipient must contact its assigned NTIA Federal Program Officer and the Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General Hotline, as indicated at <https://www.oig.doc.gov/Pages/Contact-Us.aspx>, as soon as possible. Additionally, in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.113, an applicant or recipient must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that have received a Federal award are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM.gov. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in Section 200.339. (*See also* 2 CFR Part 180, 31 U.S.C. § 3321, and 41 U.S.C. § 2313.)

20. Protection of Whistleblowers

The Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions are incorporated into every NTIA grant award. Section F.05 of these Terms and Conditions states that each award is subject to the whistleblower protections afforded by 41 U.S.C. § 4712 (Enhancement of contractor protection from reprisal for disclosure of certain information).

Generally, this law provides that an employee or contractor (including subcontractors and personal services contractors) of a non-Federal entity may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing to a person or body information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of gross mismanagement of a Federal award, subaward, or a contract under a Federal award or subaward, a gross waste of Federal funds, an abuse of authority relating to a Federal award or subaward or contract under a Federal award or subaward, a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or a violation of law, rule, or regulation related to a Federal award, subaward, or contract under a Federal award or subaward.

Non-Federal entities and contractors under Federal awards and subawards must inform their employees in writing of the rights and remedies provided under 41 U.S.C. § 4712, in the predominant native language of the workforce.

A person that believes they have been the subject of retaliation for protected whistleblowing can contact the Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General Hotline, as indicated at <https://www.oig.doc.gov/Pages/Hotline.aspx>, or the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, toll free at 1-800-872-9855.

BUDGET INFORMATION - Construction Programs

NOTE: Certain Federal assistance programs require additional computations to arrive at the Federal share of project costs eligible for participation. If such is the case, you will be notified.

COST CLASSIFICATION	a. Total Cost	b. Costs Not Allowable for Participation	c. Total Allowable Costs (Columns a-b)
1. Administrative and legal expenses	\$671,844.67	\$	\$671,844.67
2. Land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc.	\$382,540.20	\$	\$382,540.20
3. Relocation expenses and payments	\$	\$	\$0
4. Architectural and engineering fees	\$929,208.96	\$	\$929,208.96
5. Other architectural and engineering fees	\$756,945.45	\$	\$756,945.45
6. Project inspection fees	\$551,199.47	\$	\$551,199.47
7. Site work	\$	\$	\$0
8. Demolition and removal	\$0	\$	\$0
9. Construction	\$13,239,987.25	\$	\$13,239,987.25
10. Equipment	\$300,000	\$	\$300,000
11. Miscellaneous	\$	\$	\$0
12. SUBTOTAL (sum of lines 1-11)	\$16,831,726	\$0	\$16,831,726
13. Contingencies	\$0	\$	\$0
14. SUBTOTAL	\$16,831,726	\$0	\$16,831,726
15. Project (program) income	\$0	\$	\$0
16. TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (subtract #15 from #14)	\$16,831,726	\$0	\$16,831,726

FEDERAL FUNDING

17. Federal assistance requested, calculate as follows: (Consult Federal agency for Federal percentage share.) Enter the resulting Federal share.	70	Enter eligible costs from line 16c Multiply X _____%	\$11,782,208.2
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BUDGET INFORMATION - Construction Programs

NOTE: Certain Federal assistance programs require additional computations to arrive at the Federal share of project costs eligible for participation. If such is the case, you will be notified.

COST CLASSIFICATION	a. Total Cost	b. Costs Not Allowable for Participation	c. Total Allowable Costs (Columns a-b)
1. Administrative and legal expenses	\$ 671,844.67	\$	\$ 671,844.67
2. Land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc.	\$ 382,540.2	\$	\$ 382,540.2
3. Relocation expenses and payments	\$	\$	\$ 0
4. Architectural and engineering fees	\$ 929,208.96	\$	\$ 929,208.96
5. Other architectural and engineering fees	\$ 756,945.45	\$	\$ 756,945.45
6. Project inspection fees	\$ 551,199.47	\$	\$ 551,199.47
7. Site work	\$	\$	\$ 0
8. Demolition and removal	\$ 0	\$	\$ 0
9. Construction	\$ 13,239,987.25	\$	\$ 13,239,987.25
10. Equipment	\$ 300,000	\$	\$ 300,000
11. Miscellaneous	\$	\$	\$ 0
12. SUBTOTAL (sum of lines 1-11)	\$ 16,831,726	\$ 0	\$ 16,831,726
13. Contingencies	\$ 0	\$	\$ 0
14. SUBTOTAL	\$ 16,831,726	\$ 0	\$ 16,831,726
15. Project (program) income	\$ 0	\$	\$ 0
16. TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (subtract #15 from #14)	\$ 16,831,726	\$ 0	\$ 16,831,726
FEDERAL FUNDING			
17. Federal assistance requested, calculate as follows: (Consult Federal agency for Federal percentage share.) Enter the resulting Federal share.	Enter eligible costs from line 16c Multiply X <u>70</u> %		\$ 11,782,208.2

Total Federal Funding for MMG Project

Applicant Name: Whidbey Telephone Company

Applicant Type: For-profit telecommunications company

Proposed Period of Performance: 04/03/2023 – 04/02/2026

Total Project Costs: \$16,831,726.00

Total Federal Grant Request: \$11,782,208.20

Total Matching Funds (Cash): \$3,777,887.12

Total Matching Funds (In-Kind): \$1,271,630.68

Total Matching Funds (Cash + In-Kind): \$5,049,517.80

Total Matching Funds (Cash + In-Kind) as Percentage of Total Project Costs: 30%

Statement of Statutory Purpose: Costs for the proposed project are reasonable, which will allow revenues to maintain the infrastructure long-term. They will abide by the first statutory purpose, as outlined as reasonable, necessary, allocable, and allowable. Previous experience in managing middle mile networks has allowed Whidbey Telephone Company to develop fiscally sustainable strategies which have seen the long-term success of maintaining this infrastructure.

1. Administrative and Legal expenses – \$671,844.67 (federal ask: \$68,179.99, in-kind: \$574,444.68, cash match: \$29,220.00)

Activity	Type	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Cost
Project Management	Hour	\$91.49 per hour	1480	\$135,399.47
Financial Reporting	Hour	\$96.72 per hour	540	\$52,226.81
Plans, Specifications, Estimate and Contract Management	Hour	\$90.82 per hour	140	\$12,715.47
Financial Consultant	Hour	\$125.00 per hour	240	\$30,000.00
Construction Management	Hour	\$88.78 per hour	3200	\$284,102.94
Legal Fees	Hour	\$500.00 per hour	20	\$10,000.00

PreApp - Biological survey	Hour	\$125.00 per hour	40	\$5,000.00
PreApp - Base Cost Estimate	Hour	\$105.00 per hour	9.52	\$1,000.00
PreApp - Financial Consultation	Hour	\$125.00 per hour	188	\$23,500.00
PreApp - Administrative	Hour	\$80.00 per hour	100	\$8,000.00
PreApp – Legal	Hour	\$500.00 per hour	10	\$5,000.00
PreApp – Desktop Study	Hour	\$7,500.00	1	\$7,500.00
Biological Survey – Mitigation	Item	\$85,000.00	1	\$85,000.00
Biological Survey - Hearings	Item	\$4,133.33	3	\$12,399.99

Detail information for items above:

Project Management Activities (\$135,399.47) – Staff time estimated 1,480 @ \$91.49 per hour. This position will be responsible for ensuring the project is completed on time and within budget.

[REDACTED] This position will be in-kind funded.

Financial Reporting Activities (\$52,226.81) – Staff time estimated 540 @ \$96.72 per hour to complete mandatory grant management activities such as completing reports, responding to audit requirements, conducting budgetary activities, and other activities as required by the grantor. These activities are necessary to meet the reporting and compliance requirements of the grant program.

[REDACTED] his position will be an in-kind funded.

Plans, Specifications, Estimate and Contract Management (\$12,715.47) – Staff time estimated 140 @ \$90.82 per hour to review all contracts with contractors for compliance with grant requirements.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This position will be an in-kind funded.

Financial Consultant (\$30,000.00) – Consultant time estimated to 240 @ 125.00 per hour to manage all financial aspects of the project. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] his position will be an in-kind funded.

Construction Management (\$284,102.94) – Staff time estimated 3,200 @ \$88.78 per hour (exact staff TBD) to ensure construction staffing, contractors, equipment, and material are available for this project and provide the necessary supervision. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] These positions will be an in-kind funded.

Legal Fees (\$10,000.00) – estimated 20 hours @ \$500.00 per hour to develop agreements and MOUs between the various organizations involved in the grant. Also, will conduct legal reviews for all contracts. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] These costs will be in-kind funded.

Pre-Application Expenses – Biological Survey (\$5,000.00) – This cost includes initial biological surveys and determination of the permits required. This was provided from a quote of 40 hours at \$125.00 per hour [REDACTED]

These costs will be in-kind funded.

Pre-Application Expenses – Base Cost Estimate (\$1,000.00) – This cost is for cost calculations to determine project costs. This work was done at \$105.00 per hour for 9.52 hours. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This cost is in-kind funded.

Pre-Application Expenses – Financial Consultant (\$23,500.00) – This cost is for a financial consultant to review application expenses and contribute to proformas and financial documents required by the grant. This work is done for 188 hours at \$125.00 per hour. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This cost is in-kind funded.

Pre-Application Expenses – Administrative (\$8,000.00) – This cost is for the administrative tasks required for grant application preparation. This work is done for 100 hours at \$80.00 per hour. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This cost is in-kind funded.

Pre-Application Expenses – Legal (\$5,000.00) – This cost is for legal insight, advice, and application review for the grant. This work is done at \$500.00 per hour for 10 hours. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This cost is in-kind funded.

Pre-Application Expenses – Additional Desktop Study (\$7,500.00) – This cost is for an additional desktop study for the submarine cable landing spots. This pricing is from a quote. This

work is a flat fee per study of \$7,500.00. [REDACTED] This cost is in-kind funded.

Biological Survey Mitigation (\$85,000.00) – This is to cover the cost if mitigation is required for any of the biological survey findings. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Biological Survey Hearings (\$12,399.99) – This is to cover the cost of county hearings if exemptions are not granted for any environmental/biological details of the project. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

2. Land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc. - \$382,540.20 (federal ask: \$267,778.14, cash match: \$114,762.06)

Description	Unit Basis	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Cost
WA DOT permit	Each	\$5,425.00	3	\$16,275.00
Island County permit	Each	\$217.00	16	\$3,472.00
San Juan County permit	Each	\$1,627.50	1	\$1,627.50
WA DNR Easement	Each	\$21,700.25	4	\$86,801.00
Whatcom County permit	Each	\$3,818.30	9	\$34,364.70
Landing Site Building Costs	Each	\$60,000.00	4	\$240,000.00

Detail information for items above:

WA DOT Permit (\$16,275.00) – This is the cost for 3 permits from the Washington Department of Transportation. The known cost per permit is currently \$5,000.00. Anticipating future costs and the timeline, this grant includes an inflation rate of 8.5% per permit, totaling \$5,425.00 per permit. These permits are needed for the build.

Island County Permit (\$3,472.00) – This is the cost for 16 Island County permits for the build. Whidbey Telephone Company has determined the road permits that will be needed. The current known cost per permit is \$200.00. Anticipating future costs and the timeline, this grant includes an inflation rate of 8.5% per permit, totaling \$217.00 per permit.

San Juan County Permit (\$1,627.50) – This is the cost for 1 permit from San Juan County based on the project build area. The known costs for this permit is \$1,500.00 each. Anticipating future costs and the timeline, this grant includes an inflation rate of 8.5% per permit, totaling \$1,627.50 per permit.

WA DNR (\$86,801.00) – This cost is for 4 easements needed for the project build. The cost per easement is \$20,000.00. Anticipating future costs and the timeline, this grant includes an inflation rate of 8.5% per permit, totaling \$21,700.25 per easement.

Whatcom County Permit (\$34,364.70) – There will be 9 Whatcom County permits required for different roads. Each road has a different cost associated with it. The average total per permit total for Whatcom County permits is \$3,519.17. Anticipating future costs and the timeline, this grant includes an inflation rate of 8.5% per permit, totaling \$3,818.30 per permit.

Landing Site Building Costs (\$240,000.00) – This is to cover the cost of placing a utility hut to operate the network. These anticipated costs include application fees/right-of-way path, easement of land etc. This is based on 4 landing sites at a cost of \$60,000.00 per site. This is an estimate as the precise placement of the landing site is a current best guess and will depend upon the environmental studies completed. The costs are based on previous knowledge of such costs.

3. Relocation expenses and payments

No budgeted costs for this section.

4. Architectural and engineering fees - \$929,208.96 (federal ask: \$650,446.27, match: \$278,762.69)

Description	Unit Basis	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Cost
Engineering - Land Cable and Installation	Item	\$ 437,858.96	1.00	\$ 437,858.96
Undersea Desktop Study	Item	\$ 60,000.00	1.00	\$ 60,000.00
Biological Survey - Initial research and discovery of 5 potential sites (review files, permits, county critical areas of concern)	Hour	\$ 125.00	140.00	\$ 17,500.00
Biological Survey - Review and process bathymetry	Hour	\$ 125.00	76.00	\$ 9,500.00

provided to Jen-Jay by Whidbey Tel				
Biological Survey - Regular review of progress with Whidbey Tel	Hour	\$ 125.00	105.00	\$ 13,125.00
Biological Survey - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Surveys (x5) at prevailing wage	Item	\$ 12,000.00	5.00	\$ 60,000.00
Biological Survey - Review design with Whidbey Tel if changes are required for permitting	Hour	\$ 125.00	179.00	\$ 22,375.00
Biological Survey - Pre-application consultation with all relevant agencies	Hour	\$ 150.00	110.00	\$ 16,500.00
Biological Survey - Finalize Army Corps compliant drawings with Whidbey Tel	Hour	\$ 150.00	154.00	\$ 23,100.00
Biological Survey - Critical Areas Assessments for counties (x3)	Hour	\$ 125.00	157.00	\$ 19,625.00
Biological Survey - Biological Assessment for Army Corps of Engineers	Hour	\$ 125.00	147.00	\$ 18,375.00
Biological Survey - Additional biological report	Hour	\$ 125.00	181.00	\$ 22,625.00
Biological Survey - Input data into Mitigation Calculator, if required	Hour	\$ 150.00	110.00	\$ 16,500.00

Biological Survey - Submit applications to Island, San Juan, and Whatcom Counties	Hour	\$ 125.00	132.00	\$ 16,500.00
Biological Survey - Submit application to WDFW and WDNR	Hour	\$ 125.00	111.00	\$ 13,875.00
Biological Survey - Submit applications to Army Corps of Engineers (as lead federal agency)	Hour	\$ 125.00	120.00	\$ 15,000.00
Biological Survey - Review and respond to biological questions from National Marine Fisheries and US Fish & Wildlife Service	Hour	\$ 125.00	128.00	\$ 16,000.00
Biological Survey - Review and respond to biological questions from Tribes	Hour	\$ 125.00	111.00	\$ 13,875.00
Biological Survey - Administrative Support	Item	\$ 95.00	45.00	\$ 4,275.00
Biological Survey - Nearshore bathymetry and upland tidelines	Item	\$ 4,500.00	5.00	\$ 22,500.00
Biological Survey - Archaeology Report	Item	\$ 3,510.00	5.00	\$ 17,550.00
Biological Survey - Geotechnical Reports	Item	\$ 3,520.00	5.00	\$ 17,600.00

Biological Survey - Forage Fish Surveys	Item	\$ 3,112.50	4.00	\$ 12,450.00
Biological Survey - Archaeology monitoring	Item	\$ 5,500.00	5.00	\$ 27,500.00
Archeological Monitoring	Item	\$ 7,500.00	2.00	\$ 15,000.00

Detail information for items above:

Engineering – Land Cable and Installation (\$437,858.96) – These costs for engineering is calculated as a flat fee. The amount was calculated by taking 7% of the construction total (land cable and installation work) and 0.25% of remaining construction works (electronics, landing site and building costs). This is a standard industry practice in determining engineering costs. These costs will be a combination of federal and cash match funds.

Undersea Desk Study (\$60,000.00) – These costs are to determine the final locations for our submarine cable landing spots. This amount is based upon a quote received. These costs will be a combination of federal and cash match funds.

Biological Studies:

Initial research and discovery of 5 potential sites (\$17,500.00) – This cost is to review files, permits, county critical areas of concern. This is based on 140 hours of work at \$125.00 per hour. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Review bathymetry (\$9,500.00) – This cost is to review and process bathymetry in the project area. This work will take 76 hours at a rate of \$125.00 per hour. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Regular review of progress (\$13,125.00) – This is the cost for regular reviews between Jen-Jay and Whidbey Telephone Company. This work will take 105 hours at \$125.00 per hour. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Surveys (5) at prevailing wage (\$60,000.00) – This is the cost for 5 submerged aquatic vegetation surveys in the project area. These will cost \$12,000 per survey. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Review design with Whidbey Telephone Company (Whidbey Telecom) if there is a change of course (\$22,375.00) – This is the cost for design reviews and new courses of action from Whidbey Telecom. This work is performed at \$125.00 per hour with an estimated 179 hours. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Pre-application consultation with all relevant agencies (\$16,500.00) – This is the cost for Jen-Jay to consult with the relevant agencies who will be involved with environmental studies and

approvals. This work will be done at \$150.00 per hour for 110 hours. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Finalize Army Corps compliant drawings with Whidbey Telcom (\$23,100.00) – This is the cost for creating and finalizing the drawings required by the Army Corps of Engineers. This work will be charged at \$150.00 per hour and take 154 hours. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Critical Areas Assessments for counties (\$19,625.00) – This is the cost for performing a critical area assessment for Island County, Whatcom County, and San Juan County. This work will be charged at \$125.00 per hour and take 157 hours. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Biological Assessment for Army Corps of Engineers (\$18,375.00) – This is the cost for the completion of the biological assessment that will be provided to the Army Corps of Engineers. This work will be done at \$125.00 per hour and take 147 hours. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Additional biological reports (\$22,625.00) – This is the cost to perform anticipated (though specifics unknown) additional biological reports for the project. It is estimated that this will take 181 hours and will be charged at a rate of \$125.00 per hour. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Input data into Mitigation Calculator, if required (\$16,500.00) – This covers the cost of inputting the vast amount of biological data into the mitigation calculator. This is an anticipated, though not confirmed cost. It will be performed at a rate of \$150.00 per hour and would take an estimated 110 hours. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Submit applications to Island, San Juan, and Whatcom Counties (\$16,500.00) – This is the cost to prepare, analyze, and submit the environmental applications to Island, San Juan, and Whatcom Counties. This work will be charged at a rate of \$125.00 per hour and take an estimated 132 hours for the three counties. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Submit application to WDFW and WDNR (\$13,875.00) – This is the cost to prepare, analyze, and submit the applications to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington Department of Natural Resources. This work will be charged at a rate of \$125.00 per hour and take an estimated 111 hours. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Submit applications to Army Corps of Engineers (\$15,000.00) – This is the cost to prepare, analyze, and submit federal environmental permits. These will be submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers, who is the lead federal agency. They will pass these along to the National Marine

Fisheries Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of Ecology, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and certain Tribes. This work will take an estimated 120 hours at a rate of \$125.00 per hour. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Review and respond to biological questions from National Marine Fisheries and US Fish & Wildlife Service (\$16,000.00) – This is the cost for Jen-Jay and Whidbey to respond to the queries from the federal agencies. This work will take an estimated 128 hours and be charged at a rate of \$125.00 per hour. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Review and respond to biological questions from certain Tribes (\$13,875.00) – This is the cost to respond to the queries from certain Tribes e.g. Lummi regarding the biological surveys. This work is charged at \$125.00 per hour and will take an estimated 111 hours. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Administrative Support (\$4,275.00) – Jen-Jay has included the cost of administrative support to assist in the above biological survey tasks. This is for 45 hours of work at a rate of \$95.00 per hour. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Nearshore bathymetry and upland tidelines (\$22,500.00) – This is the cost for additional surveys if necessary for nearshore bathymetry and tidelines. This is a per survey cost of \$4,500 conducted on 5 sites. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Archaeology Report (\$17,550.00) - This is the cost for additional archaeology reports, if necessary, in the project area. This is a per survey cost of \$3,510 conducted on 5 sites. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Geotechnical Reports (\$17,600.00) - This is the cost for additional work if necessary to complete geotechnical reports. This is a per report cost of \$3,520 conducted on 5 sites. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Forage Fish Surveys (\$12,450.00) - This is the cost for additional surveys if necessary for reports on forage fish in the habitat area. This is a per survey cost of \$3,112.50 conducted on 4 sites. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Archaeological Monitoring (\$27,500.00) – This cost is to cover archaeological monitoring to be conducted during construction if it is required at any landing site. This is a per survey cost of \$5,500.00 conducted on 5 sites. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

Archeological Monitoring (\$15,000.00) – This cost is to cover archeological monitoring if the project runs into unknown archaeological sites during building our terrestrial construction. This was provided by a quote from the environment firm Jen-Jay, Inc.

These costs will be a combination of federal and cash match funds.

5. Other architectural and engineering fees - \$756,945.45 (federal ask: \$529,861.82, cash match: \$227,083.64)

Description	Unit Basis	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Cost
On-Site Marine Route Survey	Per mile	\$12,000.00	63.08	\$756,945.45

On-Site Marine Route Survey (\$756,945.45) - These costs are to determine the exact location of the 63.08 miles of submarine cable. This will reflect the biological assessments. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

These costs will be a combination of federal and cash match funds.

6. Project Inspection fees - \$551,199.47 (federal ask: \$385,839.63, match: \$165,359.84)

Description	Unit Basis	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Cost
Contract Admin & Inspect, Test, As-built	Other	\$551,199.47	1	\$551,199.47

Inspect, test and develop as-built drawings (\$551,199.47) – The costs for inspections, testing, and as-built is based on 4% of construction, equipment, and landing site building costs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

These costs will be a combination of federal and cash match funds.

7. Site work

No budgeted costs for this section.

8. Demolition and removal

No budgeted costs for this section.

9. Construction – \$13,239,987.26 (federal ask: \$9,670,102.35, cash match: \$2,872,698.90, in-kind match \$697,186.00)

Description	Unit Basis	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Cost
Land Cable and Installation – Materials (conduit and fiber)	Mile	\$ 30,258.47	47.63	\$ 1,441,105.60
Land Cable and Installation – Materials (manholes)	Item	\$ 16,275.00	4	\$ 65,100.00
Land Cable and Installation – Materials (handholes)	Item	\$ 652.21	251	\$ 163,704.71
Land Cable and Installation - Labor	Mile	\$ 90,422.70	47.63	\$ 4,306,518.16
Undersea Optical Fiber Cable (Labor)	Mile	\$ 70,000.00	63.08	\$ 4,415,515.15
Undersea Optical Fiber Cable (Materials)	Mile	\$ 30,000.00	63.08	\$ 1,892,363.64
Near-Shore Cable Protection (Labor)	Item	\$ 54,000.00	4.00	\$ 216,000.00
Near-Shore Cable Protection (Materials)	Item	\$ 6,000.00	4.00	\$ 24,000.00
Landing Site Cable work (Labor)	Item	\$ 58,500.00	4.00	\$ 234,000.00
Landing Site Cable work (Materials)	Item	\$ 6,500.00	4.00	\$ 26,000.00
Cable Interconnections (Labor)	Item	\$ 36,000.00	4.00	\$144,000.00
Cable Interconnections (Materials)	Item	\$ 4,000.00	4.00	\$ 16,000.00
Undersea Boring (Labor)	Mile	\$ 475,200.00	0.56	\$ 266,112.00
Undersea Boring (Materials)	Mile	\$ 52,800.00	0.56	\$ 29,568.00

Detail information for items above:

Land Cable and Installation – Materials – Conduit & Fiber (\$1,441,105.60) – This is the cost for the fiber and conduit needed lay the buried terrestrial cable. This cost is calculated on a per-mile basis as is standard in the telecom construction industry (per mile or per foot) for 47.63 miles. This amount is based on the actuals of materials purchased for previous work completed between 2020 and 2022 and includes 8.5% increase for inflation. There is a federal ask and a cash match provided in the line item.

Land Cable and Installation – Materials – Manholes (\$65,100.00) – This is the cost for the manholes which will be used in the build to allow access to the buried fiber. The project will require 4 manholes. This amount is based on materials bought for previous work of a similar scope completed between 2020 and 2022 and includes 8.5% increase for inflation. There is a federal ask and a match provided in the line item.

Land Cable and Installation – Materials - Handholes (\$163,704.71) – This is the cost for the handholes which will be used to access the in-ground fiber once deployed. There will be 251 handholes used in this project along the 47.63 miles of fiber. This will allow for the placement of a handhole about every 1,000 feet. This amount is based on materials bought for previous work of a similar scope completed between 2020 and 2022 and includes 8.5% increase for inflation. There is a federal ask and a match provided in the line item.

Land Cable and Installation – Labor (\$4,306,518.16) – This is the cost of labor to install the terrestrial fiber. The labor for this includes pulling the fiber, trenching, boring, splicing, and testing. This labor cost is calculated on a per-mile basis, as is standard in the telecom construction industry for 47.63 miles. This rate ensures labor can be paid at a competitive rate with benefits. This amount is based on previous work completed between 2020 and 2022 and includes 8.5% increase for inflation. Whidbey Telephone Company will be covering a portion of the labor that will be performed by internal staff members which will amount to \$697,186—this is an in-kind match. Whidbey will provide a cash match of \$309,551.89 which will be used to hire contractors to perform work.

Undersea Optical Fiber Cable Labor (\$4,415,515.15) – This is the cost for laying undersea fiber. This is a per mile rate of \$70,000 for 63.08 miles. Calculating labor on a per mile rate is standard in telecom. The cost of labor was determined by looking at other undersea contracts, as undersea laying is more expensive than terrestrial. The rate ensures labor can be paid at a competitive rate. There is a federal ask and a match provided in this line item.

Undersea Optical Fiber Cable Materials (\$1,892,363.64) – This is the cost for undersea fiberoptic cable. This a cost calculated on a per mile basis for 63.08 miles. The cost of the fiber was calculated based on similar contracts for undersea fiber. There is a federal ask and a match provided in this line item.

Near-Shore Cable Protection Labor (\$216,000.00) – This covers the work done in laying material/doing work for deeper waters (not landing site) as the project approaches the shore. This

will be performed in a method acceptable to the environmental jurisdictions that are determined by the marine survey.

There is a federal ask and a cash match provided for this line item.

Near-Shore Cable Protection Materials (\$24,000.00) – The materials for near-shore will be determined by the final marine survey, and at this time are anticipated to be heavy cable sleeves such as a split concrete pipe. This price was determined based on similar projects but Whidbey’s engineering partner. There is a federal ask and a cash match provided for this line item.

Landing Site Cable Work Labor (\$234,000.00) – This is the cost for the labor that will be performed to connect the undersea cable to the landing site. This is a rate determined on a per site basis with 4 sites. The labor rate is based on contracts for similar work that our team was able to assess. The labor will be at a competitive rate. There is a federal ask and a match provided in this line item.

Landing Site Cable Work Materials (\$26,000.00) – This is the cost for the materials that will connect the undersea cable to the 4 landing sites. The cost of the materials is based on contracts for similar materials that our team was able to assess. There is a federal ask and a match provided in this line item.

Cable Interconnections Labor (\$144,000.00) – This labor includes running optical fiber and cable from the beach anchor point through a serious, weather-resistant patch panel or splice case, connecting to a local distribution cable. This is a separate item just because the change from an undersea cable to a land cable has some serious considerations. The undersea cable has a lot of protection that needs to be terminated and arranged so any stress on the big cable won’t damage the land cable.

here is a federal ask and a match provided in this line item.

Cable Interconnections Material (\$16,000.00) – This line item is for anchor and stress relief, terminations for the cable jacket and protective layers, typical splicing materials and other materials as needed. The materials costs are calculated as a percentage of what the known labor and requirements are. There is a federal ask and a match provided in this line item.

Undersea Boring Labor (\$266,112.00) – This is the cost for boring 0.56 miles for the underground cable. The labor rate is based on contracts for similar work that our team was able to assess. This boring cost is higher than terrestrial due to the difficulty and requirements of workings to do underwater boring. The labor will be at a competitive rate. There is a federal ask and a match provided in this line item.

Undersea Boring Materials (\$29,568.00) – This is the cost for the materials required to bore underwater. These materials are much the same that are needed on land, but include ‘bore mud’ required for undersea work. This is based on a per mile basis of 0.56 miles. The materials for this boring are more expensive than terrestrial due to difficulty—the pricing is based on contracts for similar work. There is a federal ask and a match provided in this line item.

10. Equipment - \$300,000.00 (federal ask: \$210,000.00, cash match: \$90,000.00)

Description	Unit Basis	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Cost
Ciena 6500 – Packet-Optical Platform, Main Site Labor/Install	Item	\$75,000.00	2	\$150,000.00
Ciena 6500 – Packet-Optical Platform, Main Site Equipment	Item	\$25,000.00	2	\$50,000.00
Ciena 6500 Packet-Optical Platform, small shelf – intermediate site Labor/Install	Item	\$30,000.00	2	\$60,000.00
Ciena 6500 Packet-Optical Platform, small shelf - intermediate site Equipment	Item	\$20,000.00	2	\$40,000.00

Ciena 6500 – Main Site Equipment Labor/Install (\$75,000.00) – This cost will cover the install and labor work.

[REDACTED]

here is a cash match for this line item.

Ciena 6500 – Main Site Equipment (\$25,000.00) -The Ciena 6500 will serve as the optical transport electronics. The pricing is estimated on several competing brands of optical transport equipment (comparing the Ciena 6500 with Infinera 7100 models and Cisco NCS2000 series).

This equipment will perform the local traffic aggregation and formatting at the two major end points. There is a cash match for this item.

Ciena 6500 small shelf – Intermediate Site Labor/Install (\$30,000.00) – This cost will cover the install and labor for the networking equipment.

[REDACTED]

There is a cash match for this line item.

Ciena 6500 small shelf – Intermediate Site Equipment (\$20,000.00) – Two smaller shelves will be placed at intermediate landing sites along the fiber route. The intermediate sites will have smaller amounts of data traffic to ingress, and will thus be equipped with a smaller shelf. The pricing on this was estimated by comparing several competing brands. There is a cash match for this item.

11. Miscellaneous

No budgeted costs for this section.

12. SUBTOTAL (sum of lines 1-11) \$16,831,726.00

13. Contingencies - \$0

14. SUBTOTAL \$16,831,726.00

15. Project (program) income

We are not planning on any project/program income for this project.

16. TOTAL PROJECT COSTS \$16,831,726.00

OMB Control No. 0660-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2022

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, "New Restrictions on Lobbying." The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Commerce determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

LOBBYING

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 15 CFR Part 28, for persons entering into a grant, cooperative agreement or contract over \$100,000 or a loan or loan guarantee over \$150,000 as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Sections 28.105 and 28.110, the applicant certifies that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

In any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

NAME OF APPLICANT	AWARD NUMBER AND/OR PROJECT NAME
Whidbey Telephone Company	NITA Middle Mile Grant
PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
Gary W. Ricketts, Secretary/Treasurer	
SIGNATURE E-SIGNED by Gary Ricketts on 2022-07-29 10:10:02 PDT	DATE July 29, 2022

NTIA MMG Program Table of Funded Project Participants & Unfunc

*entries highlighted in grey are examples

Administrative Role	Organization	Street Address
Applicant	Whidbey Telephone Company	14888 SR 525
Unfunded Collaborators	Lummi Nation (Federally Recognized Tribe)	2665 Kwina Road
Unfunded Collaborators	Orcas Power & Light Cooperative	183 Mount Baker Road
Unfunded Collaborators	US Navy - Whidbey Island	3730 N Charles Porter Ave,
Major Contractors/Suppliers	Mid-State Consultants or Equivalent	1475 N 200 W.

Major Contractors/Suppliers	Marker Offshore, LLC or Equivalent	1929 Baltic Way, Unit 112
Major Contractors/Suppliers	ASM Affiliates or Equivalent	26231 72nd Ave., Suite 201
Major Contractors/Suppliers	Jen Jay, Inc. or Equivalent	22 Ralph Gott Rd.
Major Contractors/Suppliers	TerraSond or Equivalent	1617 South Industrial Way, Suite 3
Applicant		
Applicant		
Applicant		
Applicant		

Applicant		
Applicant		
Applicant		
Applicant		

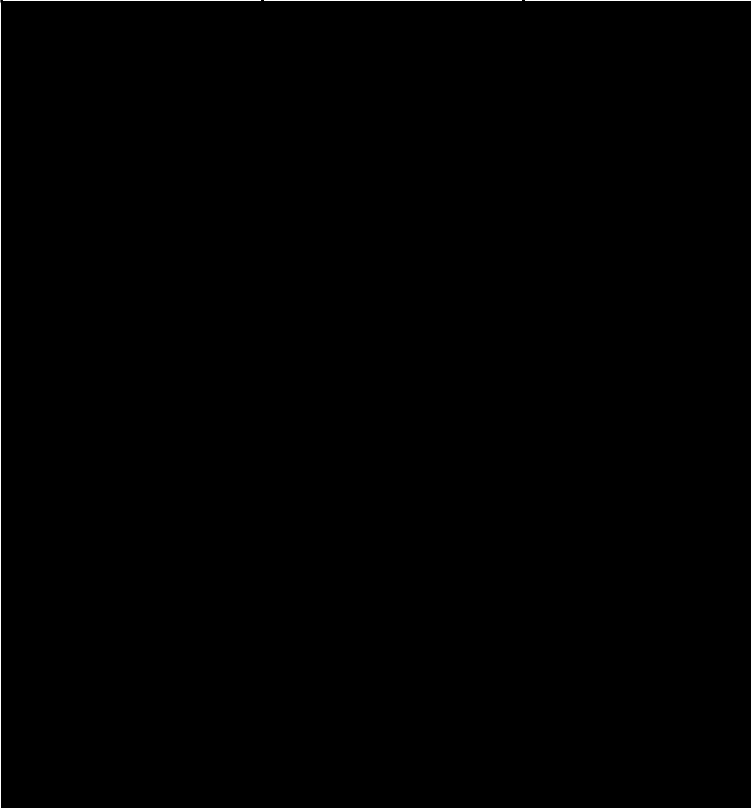
led Collaborators

City	State	Zip Code	Details on Role	Scope of Work Description:	Scope of Work: Total Project Cost
Langley	WA	98260	Applicant	Has overall responsibility for the project	
Bellingham	WA	98226	Will be a significant user of the Network	Provide guidance and knowledge of land. Provide support.	
Eastsound	WA	98245	Will be a significant user of the Network	Provide guidance and knowledge of land. Provide support.	
NAS Whidbey	WA	98278	Will be a significant user of the Network	Provide guidance and knowledge of land. Provide support.	
Nephi	UT	84648	Engineering Consultant Firm	Aid in engineering plan.	

Ferndale	WA	98248	Consultant	HYDROGRAPHIC, OFFSHORE, AND LAND SURVEYING	
Stanwood	WA	96292	Consultant	Archaeological Studies	
Deer Harbor	WA	98243	Environmental Diving Group	Will conduct environmental studies and assessments on submarine cable areas.	
Palmer	AK	99645	Consultant	On-Site Marine Route Survey	

OMB Control No. 0660-0046

Expiration Date: 11/30/2022

Scope of Work: Federal Funding Amount Requested	Applicant's In-Kind Match Valuation	Applicant's Cash match
		

[Redacted]		
[White]	[Light Gray]	[Light Gray]
[White]	[Light Gray]	[Light Gray]
[White]	[Light Gray]	[Light Gray]
[White]	[Light Gray]	[Light Gray]

**Middle Mile Grant Program
Detailed Budget Justification Template**

OMB Control No. 0660-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2022

	Unit Type	Unit Cost	No. of Units	Total Cost	Federal Funds Requested	Cash Match Amount	In Kind Contribution Value	Match Type (Cash/In-Kind/Both)	Match Percentage	Allowable Total	Notes/Comments
1. Administrative and Legal Expenses											
Administrative - Project Management	Hour	\$ 91.49	1480.00	\$ 135,399.47	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135,399.47	In-Kind	100%	\$ 135,399.47	
Administrative - Financial Reporting	Hour	\$ 96.72	540.00	\$ 52,226.81	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,226.81	In-Kind	100%	\$ 52,226.81	
Administrative - Plans, Specifications, Estimate and Contract	Hour	\$ 90.82	140.00	\$ 12,715.47	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,715.47	In-Kind	100%	\$ 12,715.47	
Administrative - Financial Consultant	Hour	\$ 125.00	240.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	In-Kind	100%	\$ 30,000.00	
Administrative - Construction Management	Hour	\$ 88.78	3200.00	\$ 284,102.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 284,102.94	In-Kind	100%	\$ 284,102.94	
Administrative - Legal Fees	Hour	\$ 500.00	20.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	In-Kind	100%	\$ 10,000.00	
Pre Application Expenses - Biological survey	Item	\$ 125.00	40.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	In-Kind	100%	\$ 5,000.00	Per quote
Pre Application Expenses - Base Cost Estimate	Hour	\$ 105.00	9.52	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	In-Kind	100%	\$ 1,000.00	
Pre Application Expenses - Financial Consultant	Hour	\$ 125.00	188.00	\$ 23,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,500.00	In-Kind	100%	\$ 23,500.00	
Pre Application Expenses - Administrative	Hour	\$ 80.00	100.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00	In-Kind	100%	\$ 8,000.00	
Pre Application Expenses - Legal	Hour	\$ 500.00	10.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	In-Kind	100%	\$ 5,000.00	
Pre Application Expenses - Additional Desktop Study	Item	\$ 7,500.00	1.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500.00	In-Kind	100%	\$ 7,500.00	Per quote
Biological Survey - Mitigation	Item	\$ 85,000.00	1.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 59,500.00	\$ 25,500.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 85,000.00	Per quote
Biological Survey - County hearings	Item	\$ 4,133.33	3.00	\$ 12,399.99	\$ 8,679.99	\$ 3,720.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 12,399.99	Per hearing
Total Administrative and Legal Expenses				\$ 671,844.67	\$ 68,179.99	\$ 29,220.00	\$ 574,444.68			\$ 671,844.67	
2. Land, Structures, Rights-of-Way, Appraisals, etc.											
Rights-of-Way - WA DOT	Item	\$ 5,425.00	3.00	\$ 16,275.00	\$ 11,392.50	\$ 4,882.50	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 16,275.00	
Rights-of-Way - Island County	Item	\$ 217.00	16.00	\$ 3,472.00	\$ 2,430.40	\$ 1,041.60	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 3,472.00	
Rights-of-Way - San Juan County	Item	\$ 1,627.50	1.00	\$ 1,627.50	\$ 1,139.25	\$ 488.25	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 1,627.50	
Rights-of-Way - WA DNR Easement	Item	\$ 21,700.25	4.00	\$ 86,801.00	\$ 60,760.70	\$ 26,040.30	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 86,801.00	
Rights-of-Way - Whatcom County	Item	\$ 3,818.30	9.00	\$ 34,364.70	\$ 24,055.29	\$ 10,309.41	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 34,364.70	
Landing Site Building costs	Item	\$ 60,000.00	4.00	\$ 240,000.00	\$ 168,000.00	\$ 72,000.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 240,000.00	1 per site
Total Land, Structures, Rights-of Way, Appraisals, etc.				\$ 382,540.20	\$ 267,778.14	\$ 114,762.06	\$ -			\$ 382,540.20	
3. Relocation Expenses and Payments											
N/A											
Total Relocation Expenses and Payments				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	
4. Architectural and Engineering Fees											
Engineering - Land Cable and Installation	Item	\$ 437,858.96	1.00	\$ 437,858.96	\$ 306,501.27	\$ 131,357.69	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 437,858.96	7% of Construction - Land Cable and Installation work & 0.25% of remaining construction works, electronics, & landing site building costs
Undersea Desktop Study	Item	\$ 60,000.00	1.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 60,000.00	Per quote
Biological Survey - Initial research and discovery of 5 potential sites (review files, permits, county critical areas of concern)	Hour	\$ 125.00	140.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 12,250.00	\$ 5,250.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 17,500.00	
Biological Survey - Review and process bathymetry provided to Jen-Jay by Whidbey Tel	Hour	\$ 125.00	76.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 6,650.00	\$ 2,850.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 9,500.00	
Biological Survey - Regular review of progress with Whidbey Tel	Hour	\$ 125.00	105.00	\$ 13,125.00	\$ 9,187.50	\$ 3,937.50	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 13,125.00	
Biological Survey - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Surveys (x5) at prevailing wage	Item	\$ 12,000.00	5.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 60,000.00	Per survey
Biological Survey - Review design with Whidbey Tel if changes are required for permitting	Hour	\$ 125.00	179.00	\$ 22,375.00	\$ 15,662.50	\$ 6,712.50	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 22,375.00	
Biological Survey - Pre-application consultation with all relevant agencies	Hour	\$ 150.00	110.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 11,550.00	\$ 4,950.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 16,500.00	
Biological Survey - Finalize Army Corps compliant drawings with Whidbey Tel	Hour	\$ 150.00	154.00	\$ 23,100.00	\$ 16,170.00	\$ 6,930.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 23,100.00	
Biological Survey - Critical Areas Assessments for counties (x3)	Hour	\$ 125.00	157.00	\$ 19,625.00	\$ 13,737.50	\$ 5,887.50	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 19,625.00	
Biological Survey - Biological Assessment for Army Corps of Engineers	Hour	\$ 125.00	147.00	\$ 18,375.00	\$ 12,862.50	\$ 5,512.50	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 18,375.00	
Biological Survey - Additional biological report	Hour	\$ 125.00	181.00	\$ 22,625.00	\$ 15,837.50	\$ 6,787.50	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 22,625.00	
Biological Survey - Input data into Mitigation Calculator, if required	Hour	\$ 150.00	110.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 11,550.00	\$ 4,950.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 16,500.00	
Biological Survey - Submit applications to Island, San Juan, and Whatcom Counties	Hour	\$ 125.00	132.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 11,550.00	\$ 4,950.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 16,500.00	

Biological Survey - Submit application to WDFW and WDNR	Hour	\$ 125.00	111.00	\$ 13,875.00	\$ 9,712.50	\$ 4,162.50	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 13,875.00	
Biological Survey - Submit applications to Army Corps of Engineers (as lead federal agency)	Hour	\$ 125.00	120.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 15,000.00	
Biological Survey - Review and respond to biological questions from National Marine Fisheries and US Fish & Wildlife Service	Hour	\$ 125.00	128.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 11,200.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 16,000.00	
Biological Survey - Review and respond to biological questions from Tribes	Hour	\$ 125.00	111.00	\$ 13,875.00	\$ 9,712.50	\$ 4,162.50	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 13,875.00	
Biological Survey - Administrative Support	Item	\$ 95.00	45.00	\$ 4,275.00	\$ 2,992.50	\$ 1,282.50	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 4,275.00	
Biological Survey - Nearshore bathymetry and upland tidelines	Item	\$ 4,500.00	5.00	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 15,750.00	\$ 6,750.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 22,500.00	Per survey
Biological Survey - Archaeology Report	Item	\$ 3,510.00	5.00	\$ 17,550.00	\$ 12,285.00	\$ 5,265.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 17,550.00	Per survey
Biological Survey - Geotechnical Reports	Item	\$ 3,520.00	5.00	\$ 17,600.00	\$ 12,320.00	\$ 5,280.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 17,600.00	Per survey
Biological Survey - Forage Fish Surveys	Item	\$ 3,112.50	4.00	\$ 12,450.00	\$ 8,715.00	\$ 3,735.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 12,450.00	Per survey
Biological Survey - Archaeology monitoring	Item	\$ 5,500.00	5.00	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 19,250.00	\$ 8,250.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 27,500.00	Per site
Archeological Monitoring	Item	\$ 7,500.00	2.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 15,000.00	Per quote
Total Architectural and Engineering Fees				\$ 929,208.96	\$ 650,446.27	\$ 278,762.69	\$ -			\$ 929,208.96	
5. Other Architectural and Engineering Fees											
On-Site Marine Route Survey	Mile	\$ 12,000.00	63.08	\$ 756,945.45	\$ 529,861.82	\$ 227,083.64	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 756,945.45	
Total Other Architectural and Engineering Fees				\$ 756,945.45	\$ 529,861.82	\$ 227,083.64	\$ -			\$ 756,945.45	
6. Project Inspection Fees											
Contract Admin & Inspect, Test, As-built	Other	\$ 551,199.47	1.00	\$ 551,199.47	\$ 385,839.63	\$ 165,359.84	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 551,199.47	4% of construction, equipment, and landing site building costs
Total Project Inspection Fees				\$ 551,199.47	\$ 385,839.63	\$ 165,359.84	\$ -			\$ 551,199.47	
7. Site Work											
N/A											
Total Site Work				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	
8. Demolition and Removal											
N/A											
Total Demolition and Removal				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	
9. Construction											
Land Cable and Installation - Materials (Conduit & Fiber)	Mile	\$ 30,258.47	47.63	\$ 1,441,105.60	\$ 1,109,651.31	\$ 331,454.29	\$ -	Cash	23%	\$ 1,441,105.60	
Land Cable and Installation - Materials (Manholes)	Item	\$ 16,275.00	4.00	\$ 65,100.00	\$ 50,127.00	\$ 14,973.00	\$ -	Cash	23%	\$ 65,100.00	
Land Cable and Installation - Materials (Handholes)	Item	\$ 652.21	251	\$ 163,704.71	\$ 126,052.63	\$ 37,652.08	\$ -	Cash	23%	\$ 163,704.71	
Land Cable and Installation - Labor	Mile	\$ 90,422.70	47.63	\$ 4,306,518.16	\$ 3,299,780.26	\$ 309,551.89	\$ 697,186.00	Cash & In-Kind	23%	\$ 4,306,518.20	
Undersea Optical Fiber Cable (Labor)	Mile	\$ 70,000.00	63.08	\$ 4,415,515.15	\$ 3,090,860.61	\$ 1,324,654.55	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 4,415,515.15	
Undersea Optical Fiber Cable (Materials)	Mile	\$ 30,000.00	63.08	\$ 1,892,363.64	\$ 1,324,654.55	\$ 567,709.09	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 1,892,363.64	
Near-Shore Cable Protection (Labor)	Item	\$ 54,000.00	4.00	\$ 216,000.00	\$ 151,200.00	\$ 64,800.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 216,000.00	1 per site
Near-Shore Cable Protection (Materials)	Item	\$ 6,000.00	4.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 16,800.00	\$ 7,200.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 24,000.00	1 per site
Landing Site Cable work (Labor)	Item	\$ 58,500.00	4.00	\$ 234,000.00	\$ 163,800.00	\$ 70,200.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 234,000.00	1 per site
Landing Site Cable work (Materials)	Item	\$ 6,500.00	4.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 18,200.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 26,000.00	1 per site
Cable Interconnections (Labor)	Item	\$ 36,000.00	4.00	\$ 144,000.00	\$ 100,800.00	\$ 43,200.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 144,000.00	1 per site
Cable Interconnections (Materials)	Item	\$ 4,000.00	4.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 11,200.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 16,000.00	1 per site
Undersea Boring (Labor)	Mile	\$ 475,200.00	0.56	\$ 266,112.00	\$ 186,278.40	\$ 79,833.60	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 266,112.00	
Undersea Boring (Materials)	Mile	\$ 52,800.00	0.56	\$ 29,568.00	\$ 20,697.60	\$ 8,870.40	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 29,568.00	
Total Construction				\$ 13,239,987.26	\$ 9,670,102.35	\$ 2,872,698.90	\$ 697,186.00			\$ 13,239,987.30	
10. Equipment											
Ciena 6500 - Main site (Labor)	Item	\$ 75,000.00	2.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 150,000.00	1 per site
Ciena 6500 - Main site (Materials)	Item	\$ 25,000.00	2.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 50,000.00	1 per site
Ciena 6500 small shelf - Interim site (Labor)	Item	\$ 30,000.00	2.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 60,000.00	1 per site
Ciena 6500 small shelf - Interim site (Materials)	Item	\$ 20,000.00	2.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	Cash	30%	\$ 40,000.00	1 per site

Total Equipment				\$ 300,000.00	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ -		\$ 300,000.00
11. Miscellaneous									
N/A									
Total Miscellaneous									
12. SUBTOTAL				\$ 16,831,726.00	\$ 11,782,208.20	\$ 3,777,887.12	\$ 1,271,630.68		\$ 16,831,726.04
13. Contingencies									
N/A									
Total Contingencies				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
14. SUBTOTAL				\$ 16,831,726.00	\$ 11,782,208.20	\$ 3,777,887.12	\$ 1,271,630.68		\$ 16,831,726.04
15. Project (program) income									
N/A									
Total Project (program) income				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
16. PROJECT TOTAL				\$ 16,831,726	\$ 11,782,208.20	\$ 3,777,887.12	\$ 1,271,630.68		\$ 16,831,726

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 1. Type of Submission:**

- Preapplication
- Application
- Changed/Corrected Application

*** 2. Type of Application:**

- New
- Continuation
- Revision

* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

* Other (Specify):

* 3. Date Received:

09-29-2022

4. Applicant Identifier:

8HCE3

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name:

WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):

91-0471290

* c. UEI:

FKPTJRRJNJ62

d. Address:

* Street1:

14888 STATE ROUTE 525

Street2:

* City:

LANGLEY

County/Parish:

* State:

Washington

Province:

* Country:

USA: UNITED STATES

* Zip / Postal Code:

98260-9708

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Division Name:

Whidbey Telephone Company

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

* First Name:

Moanalei

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

McManus

Suffix:

Title: Revenue Requirement Coordinator

Organizational Affiliation:

* Telephone Number:

3603210068

Fax Number:

* Email:

lei.mcmanus@whidbeytel.com

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

Q: For-Profit Organization (Other than Small Business)

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

US Department of Commerce (DOC)

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

11.033

CFDA Title:

Middle Mile Grant Program

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

NTIA-MMG-2022

* Title:

Middle Mile Grant Program

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Whatcom County, WA

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Point Roberts Middle Mile Infrastructure Project

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant **WA-02**

* b. Program/Project **WA-02**

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: **03-01-2023**

* b. End Date: **03-01-2028**

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	11,782,208.2
* b. Applicant	5,049,517.8
* c. State	0
* d. Local	0
* e. Other	0
* f. Program Income	0
* g. TOTAL	16,831,726

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .
- b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

Yes No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)

**** I AGREE**

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name: **Moanalei**
Middle Name:
* Last Name: **McManus**
Suffix:

* Title: **Revenue Requirement Coordinator**

* Telephone Number: **3603210068** Fax Number:

* Email: **lei.mcmanus@whidbeytel.com**

* Signature of Authorized Representative: **Moanalei McManus** * Date Signed: **09-29-2022**



Island County Commissioners

P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

Ph: Whidbey 360-679-7354 | From S Whidbey 360-321-5111 | Camano 360-387-3443

www.islandcountywa.gov

September 20, 2022

Sarah Bleau

Director of Middle Mile

Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

1401 Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20230

I am writing to show my support for Whidbey Telephone Company Middle Mile Grant application. Our community has needed access to faster broadband for many years. The impact from the COVID-19 pandemic has shown how critical internet access is, and with the increase of telework and telehealth, our community has an urgent need for fast and reliable broadband. As Chair of the Island County Broadband Action Team, I have been deeply involved in bringing broadband to the under and unserved areas of our county. What I believed to be true in 2018 when I began to work on the importance of internet access was born out in the pandemic when we saw how critical broadband was to health, economic and educational equity.

Because our county is both rural and a county made up entirely of islands, the challenges of broadband deployment and the importance of mid mile infrastructure that has connection and redundancy to the mainland is critical to the health, safety and well-being of my constituents. Whether we are working to build telehealth opportunities to keep our paramedics and EMT's on island or helping assure our families can work remotely or build successful small businesses or simply the importance of broadband in the safety net (including 911) our Broadband Action Team has been systematically working to improve this infrastructure, both mid mile and fiber-to-premises, across Island County.

I believe having access to faster and more reliable internet is a top priority for Island County. I support the Whidbey Telecom in their efforts to bring fiber HSI internet to all of Whidbey Island and their work on regional infrastructure that will serve our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janet St. Clair".

Janet St. Clair

Island County Commissioner, District 3



LUMMI INDIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

2665 KWINA ROAD • BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98226 • (360) 312-2000

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

Dear Ms. Bleau:

Re: Application of Whidbey Telephone Company for a Grant from NTIA
Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant (MMG) Program,
Funding Opportunity Number NTIA-MMG-2022

This letter is respectfully submitted by the Lummi Indian Business Council, which, pursuant to Article IV of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lummi Tribe of Indians of the Lummi Reservation in the State of Washington (the "Tribe"), is the governing body of the Tribe. We are writing to express the Tribe's strong support for the application of Whidbey Telephone Company ("Whidbey Tel") for a grant from the above-referenced Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant (MMG) Program of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration ("NTIA").

It is the Tribe's understanding that the grant for which Whidbey Tel is applying will, if granted, provide funding for the construction of terrestrial and submarine fiber optic cable facilities to provide open-access, dark-fiber transport for high-speed broadband internet connectivity. It is further the Tribe's understanding that Whidbey Tel's grant proposal includes a submarine cable landing on, or near, the Lummi Reservation, which in turn will be capable of providing middle mile transport for high-speed broadband internet access to residential, business and governmental (including Tribal) locations on and in the vicinity of the Lummi Reservation. Accordingly, the Tribe views Whidbey Tel's proposed fiber optic facility to be an extremely important resource for bringing high-speed broadband internet connectivity to the Lummi Reservation.

In light of the foregoing, the Tribe respectfully urges NTIA to look favorably upon Whidbey Tel's application and to grant Whidbey Tel the funding sought by that application.

Sincerely,

William E. Jones Jr.
Chairman



Satpal Singh Sidhu
Whatcom County Executive



September 20, 2022

National Telecommunications & Information Administration
1401 Constitution Ave.
NW Washington, DC 20230

RE: Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program

I am writing in support of Whidbey Telecom's NTIA Middle Mile Grant application. I believe you will find that their application is well aligned with the aims and objectives of this funding opportunity.

Many areas of our County, including the exclave of Point Roberts, need access to faster broadband. The impacts of the pandemic have highlighted how critical internet access is, particularly in isolated communities. With the increase of telework and telehealth, our rural residents have an urgent need for reliable broadband internet service.

Access to faster, more reliable internet is a top concern and priority, and I support Whidbey Telecom's effort to bring high-speed broadband internet to Point Roberts. The Middle Mile grant program would significantly reduce the cost of connecting one of our most underserved communities and help Whidbey Telecom follow through on its investment commitments.

Sincerely,

Satpal Sidhu
County Executive



09-15-2022

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

Re: Whidbey Telephone Company Middle Mile Grant application

We are writing to show our support for Whidbey Telephone Company Middle Mile Grant application. Our community has needed faster and more resilient broadband access to the mainland for years. The impact from the Covid-19 pandemic has shown how critical internet access is, and with the increase of telework and telehealth, our community has an urgent need for fast and reliable broadband.

San Juan County feels that is vitally important to support our tele-communication partner Rock Island Communications and Whidbey Telephone Company to increase reliability and resiliency in our broadband connectivity to the mainland. Not only for County government to function efficiently, but also for public safety, and for our citizens and visitors to be able to communicate efficiently in our ever-increasing dependence on broadband communications.

Our 911 PSAP relies heavily upon broadband network access, for not only the 911 telephone circuits, but for many other systems located on the mainland. With this additional high-speed connection, we will have greater confidence in our electronic link to the mainland.

We believe having access to faster and more reliable internet is a top priority for Whidbey Island communities as well as San Juan County communities. We support the Whidbey Telecom in their efforts to bring fiber HSI internet to all Whidbey Island and San Juan County.

Sincerely,



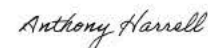
Ronald J Krebs (Sep 15, 2022 16:09 PDT)

Ronald Krebs
Sheriff
San Juan County



Mike Thomas (Sep 16, 2022 09:11 PDT)

Mike Thomas
County Manager
San Juan County



Tony Harrell
IT Director
San Juan County



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September 27, 2022

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

Dear Director Bleau,

This is a letter informing NTIA that the Washington State Broadband Office (WSBO) supports the application submitted by Whidbey Telecom to secure funding from NTIA's Middle Mile Grant Program in NTIA-MMG-2022.

Whidbey Telecom has submitted a grant request to NTIA that would develop eighty-five miles of middle mile infrastructure that would connect specific communities located on two islands in Northwest Washington, the Lummi Tribal Nation and Point Roberts, WA. The project would also add facility-based diversity to the Whidbey Island Naval Station in the northern portion of Whidbey Island. Besides garnering support from the Lummi Nation and the US Navy, The project has secured support from three northwest Washington county councils: Island County, San Juan County and Whatcom County.

The project will require both terrestrial and undersea fiber-based segments which is required given the unique geography of Northwest Washington. It will provide substantial fiber-based capacity to the northern portion of Whidbey Island, Orcas Island, the Lemmi Tribal Nation on the mainland and to Point Roberts which is located across the Strait of Juan de Fuca and sits at the southern tip of a peninsula that extends south from southwestern British Columbia: Thus, Point Roberts is surrounded on three sides by ocean with the only land-based access is through Canada to the north.

The project would connect to other, existing facilities that connect Whidbey Island to Seattle and land-based infrastructure north of the Lemmi Tribal Nation thereby completing a ring architecture that would provide resiliency to the islands, the naval air station and the tribal



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nation. The total project cost is estimated to be \$16.7M: The grant request approximates \$11.7M with the balance of required capital cost, \$50M, being supplied by Whidbey Telecom.

Therefore, given the benefits of extending middle mile infrastructure to remote and difficult to serve areas of Washington, expanding infrastructure to the naval air base and the Lummi Tribal nation, the community support provided plus the added element of a substantial financial match, the WSBO supports this project in its entirety.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Vasconi

Mark Vasconi

Director, Washington State Broadband Office

cc: Gary W. Ricketts, Whidbey Telecom
Dr. Lisa Brown, Director, Washington Department of Commerce
John Flanagan, Senior Policy Advisor, Governor Jay Inslee
Tracey Blackburn, NTIA Washington State Coordinator



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September 28, 2022

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

CORRECTION TO LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM WSBO FOR WHIDBEY TELECOM'S FUNDING REQUEST

Dear Director Bleau,

I want to bring to your attention to a typographic error in the letter of support I issued, the Washington State Broadband Office (WSBO), for Whidbey Telecom's request for funding under NTIA's Middle Mile Grant Program in NTIA-MMG-2022.

In my letter of support, dated September 27, 2022, from the Washington State Broadband Office (WSBO) I indicated the following:

"The total project cost is estimated to be \$16.7M: The grant request approximates \$11.7M with the balance of required capital cost, **\$50M**, being supplied by Whidbey Telecom."

This statement greatly overstates, by a factor of 10, Whidbey Telecom's capital contribution to the project. The statement should read as follows:

"The total project cost is estimated to be \$16.7M: The grant request approximates \$11.7M with the balance of required capital cost, **\$5.0M**, being supplied by Whidbey Telecom."

Please accept this correction to WSBO's Letter of Support for Whidbey Telecom's funding request to NTIA's Middle Mile Grant Program. Please don't hesitate to contact me regarding this correction or WSBO's letter of Support. I can be reached at mark.vasconi@commerce.wa.gov.



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Respectfully,

/s/ Mark Vasconi

Mark Vasconi

Director, Washington State Broadband Office

cc: Gary W. Ricketts, Whidbey Telecom
Dr. Lisa Brown, Director, Washington Department of Commerce
John Flanagan, Senior Policy Advisor, Governor Jay Inslee
Tracey Blackburn, NTIA Washington State Coordinator

MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

September 28, 2022

Alan Davidson
Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Re: NTIA Middle Mile Grant Program Application – Letter of Support

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson,

I am writing in support of Whidbey Telecom's application submitted in response to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Middle Mile Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and its interest in extending middle mile networks to enhance broadband services in unserved and underserved communities in Washington State.

Whidbey Telecom's application, if granted, will support the construction of 110 miles of new middle mile fiber cable infrastructure that will connect to Whidbey's existing middle mile network. The project would support internet services in the Whidbey Island, San Juan County, Lummi Nation, and Point Roberts communities.

The new infrastructure funded by Whidbey Telecom's application will provide faster speeds and redundant connectivity to over 15,000 people living in San Juan County and over 5,000 members of the Lummi Nation. Additionally, the project will support the broadband needs of the U.S. Navy and its servicemembers at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

If awarded, I believe that this grant will support Whidbey Telecom's work to improve Washington State consumers' access to high-speed broadband in areas that continue to be unserved and underserved.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of Whidbey Telecom's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell".

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

19 September 2022

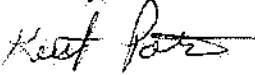
To NTIA

I am writing to show my support for Whidbey Telephone Company Middle Mile Grant application. Our Navy Base has needed access to faster broadband for many years. The impact from the Covid-19 pandemic has shown how critical internet access is, and with the increase of telework and telehealth, our Base has an urgent need for fast and reliable broadband.

There are several points where commercial demarcation points would be made available which would be capable of being extended by the Navy to support subsequent services to our on base military warfighters be it at their barracks or place of duty. These locations for consideration are identified in the Map overlay provided.

I believe having access to faster and more reliable internet is a top priority for our Navy Base. I support the Whidbey Telecom in their efforts to bring fiber HSI internet to all Whidbey Island.

Sincerely,

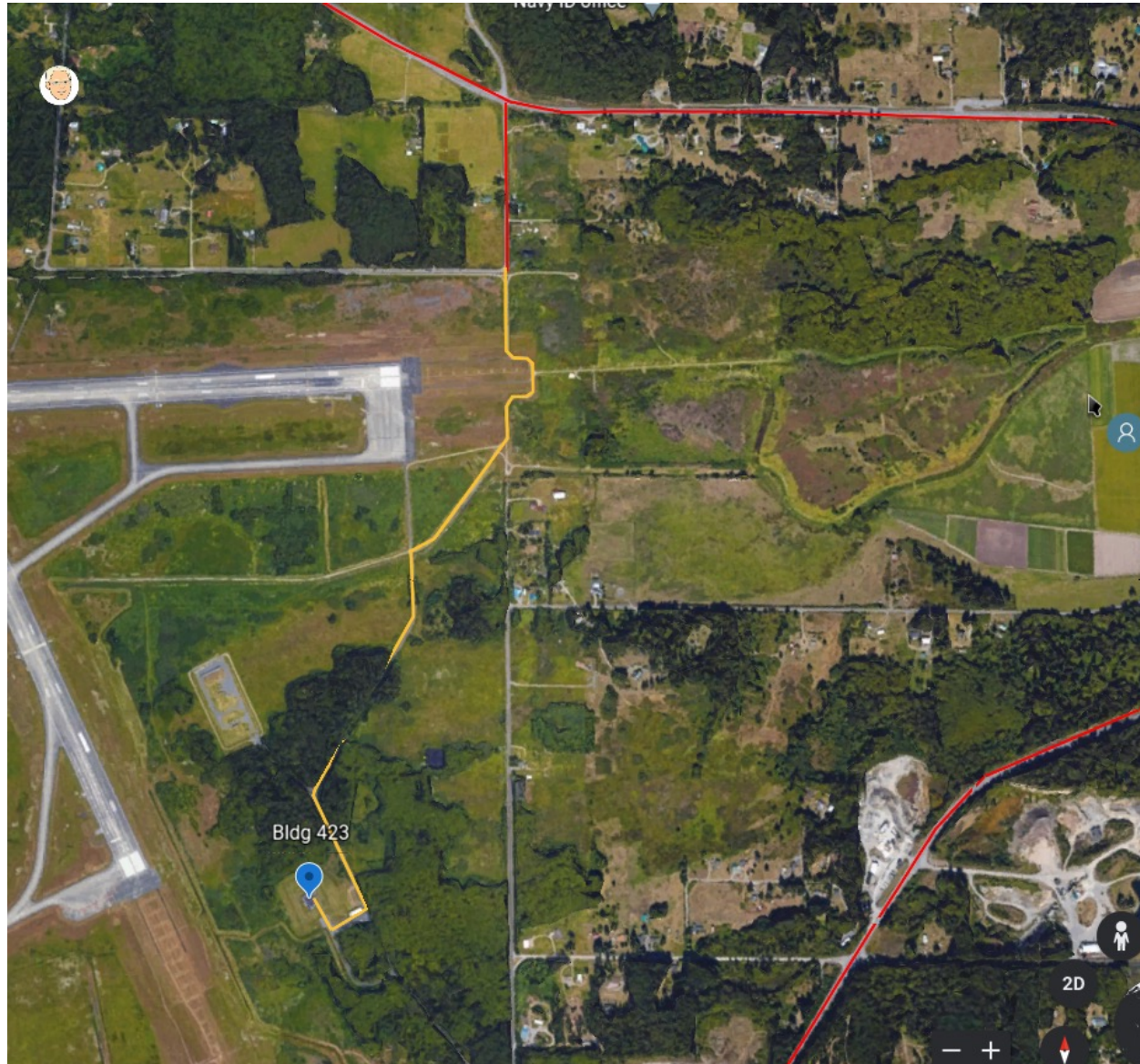


Keith Potter
CNRNW N61 C3P Ashore

Enclosures:

Building 423 depiction
Building 975 depiction
Building 12 depiction
Building 1 depiction
Rocky Point range and Lodge depiction
Building 135 depiction

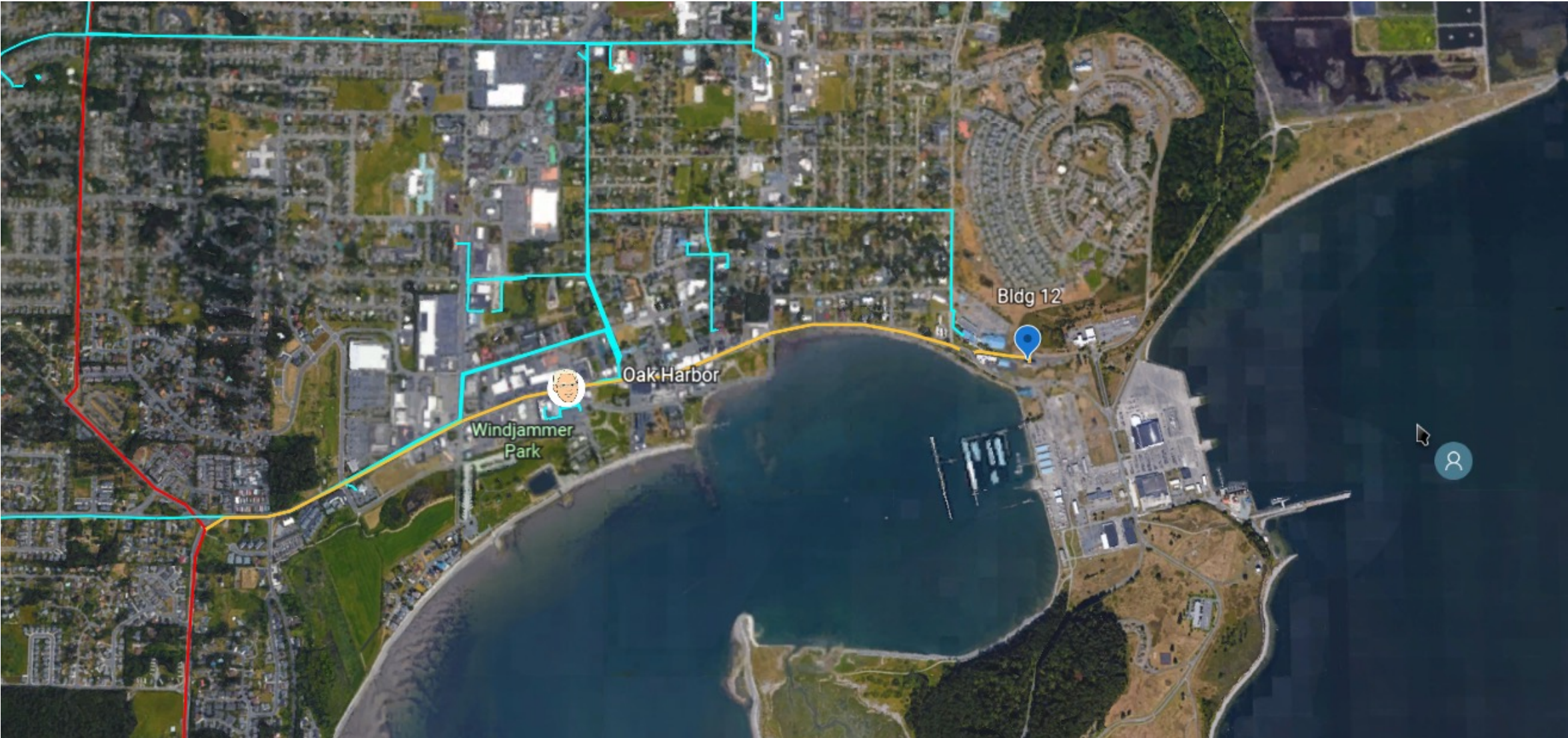
Building 423



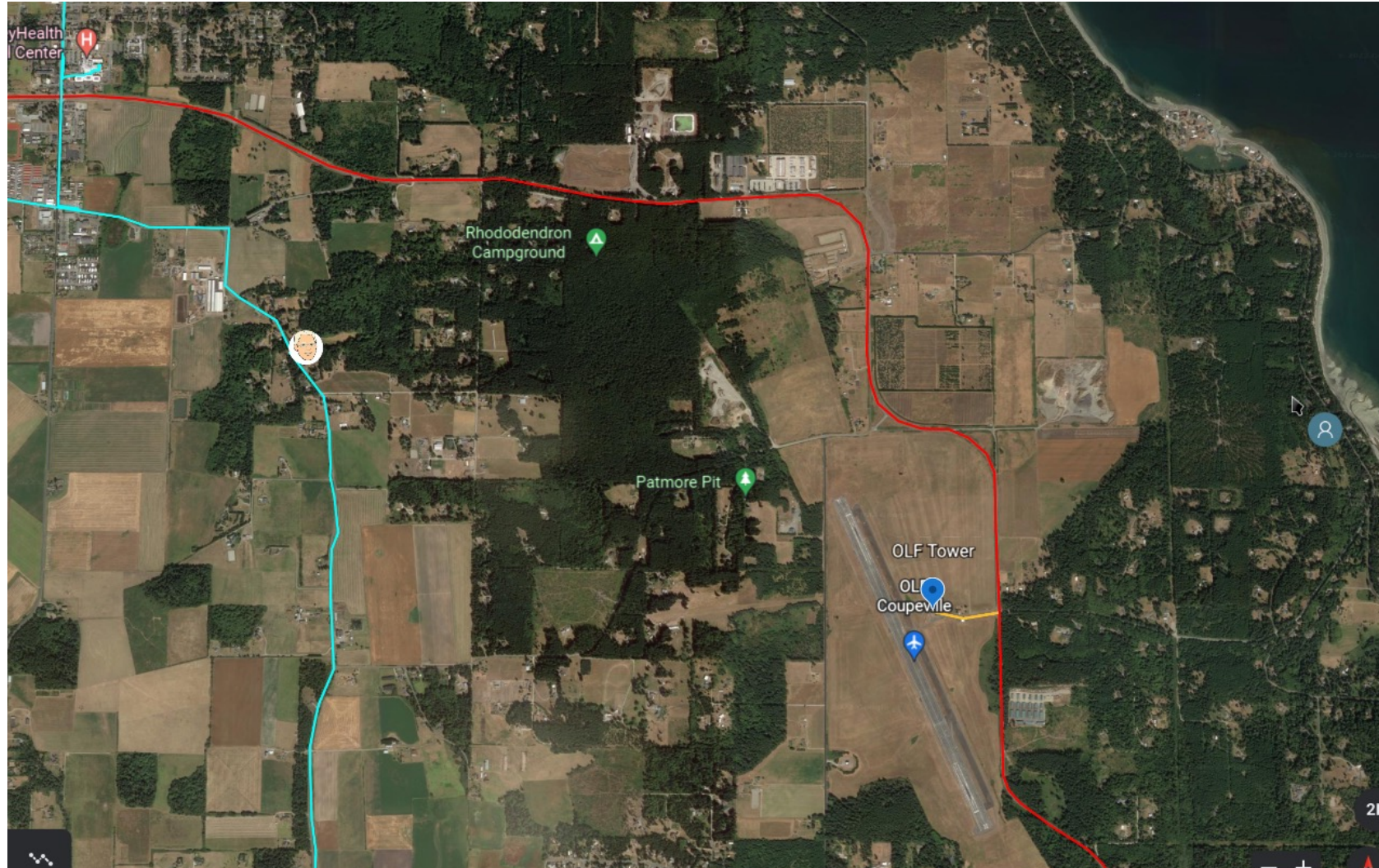
Bldg 975



Sea Plane Base Bldg 12



OLF Tower Bldg 1



Rocky Point Lodge



Bldg 135



**National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
Middle Mile Grant Program
Bi-Annual Performance Report**



Note: Form instructions and definitions will be created to support the report. Instructional guidance and training will be developed. Numbering to be updated based on final approved form.

OMB Control No. **0600-0052**
Expiration Date: **4/30/2026**

RECIPIENT NAME:
Whidbey Telephone Company

Middle Mile Grant Program Bi-Annual Performance Report

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

GENERAL	1a. Recipient Organization:	Whidbey Telephone Company	1h. Award Identification Number:	53-40-MM408		
	1b. Recipient Street Address:	14888 SR 525	1i. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	10/17/2023		
	1c. City, State, and Zip Code:	Langley WA 98260	1j. Final Report:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	1d. Unique Entity Identification (UEI) Number:	FKPTJRRJN162	1k. Report Period Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	7/1/2023		
	1e. Award Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	7/1/2023	1l. Report Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	9/30/2023		
	1f. Award End Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	6/30/2028				
	1g. Name of Person Completing Report:	Moanalei McManus				

B. PROJECT NARRATIVE

Please use the section below to provide a project narrative of the project(s). This section aims to help reviewers better understand what project is being proposed and steps taken to achieve this goal.

2a. A brief description of the recipient's organization and scope of work/project priorities:	Whidbey Telephone Company is working to provide high quality telecommunications and high speed internet services to South Whidbey Island and Point Roberts, Washington. Whidbey Telephone Company will ensure adherence to buildout timelines and milestones, financial targets, subscription rates and community engagement, as well as environmental safety and adherence to local and state regulations.
2b. An overview of the significant outputs and outcomes to be accomplished in the project:	Whidbey Telephone Company Middle Mile Infrastructure project will provide funding for construction, improvement, and acquisition of middle mile infrastructure for the underserved community of Point Roberts, Washington, and surrounding areas. This will include marine and terrestrial infrastructure.
2c. How would the project meet the recipient's business and/or administrative need(s)?	This project will be progress in the company's goal to bring high speed internet to all within the ILEC areas, as well as helping those underserved areas beyond the ILEC. Partnering and providing open access with other co-ops, tribal lands, and other providers.
2d. Provide an overview of key accomplishments achieved for this reporting period on the MM infrastructure project.	We have not yet started any construction. So far there has been administrative and pre-application work to report.
2e. Provide any roadblock experienced during this reporting period impacting the expansion of the MM infrastructure project (i.e., supply chain, availability of labor).	No roadblocks to report as we are still in the beginning phases of the project
2f. Provide any barriers to improving job quality experienced during this reporting period.	No barriers to report as we are still in the beginning phases of the project

C. INFRASTRUCTURE MILESTONE CATEGORIES AND PROJECT TIMELINE

Please use the chart below to provide the start date and end date of your project.

	PROJECT DURATION	3a. PROJECT START DATE	3b. PROJECT END DATE
OVERALL PROJECT	1826	July 1, 2023	June 30, 2028

Please provide the duration for each milestone category of your project. The duration should be based on the start and end dates of each category. For example, if you expect to complete a particular milestone within two weeks, fill in the total days (14) in the duration field.

Please use the table provided to indicate your EXPECTED percentage of completion on a bi-annual basis for each year of your project. Year 1 begins with your award start date.

The percentage of completion should be based primarily on the expenditure of your project budget and should be reported cumulatively from award inception through the end of each semi-annual reporting period. For example, if you expect to complete a particular milestone within the first three periods of your project, the third period and all subsequent periods should state 100%.

Please write "0" in the duration field if your project does not include an activity. If necessary, please insert additional milestones at the end.

3c. MILESTONE CATEGORIES	ANTICIPATED PROJECT MILESTONES			Year 1 Baseline		Year 2 Baseline		Year 3 Baseline		Year 4 Baseline		Year 5 Baseline	
	3d. DURATION (Days)	3e. START DATE	3f. END DATE	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
	Overall Project	1826	July 1, 2023	June 30, 2028	6%	6%	12%	23%	44%	86%	91%	100%	100%
Environmental Assessment	65	August 21, 2023	November 11, 2023	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Network Design	86	October 6, 2023	February 2, 2024	10%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Rights Of Way													
Construction Permits And Other Approvals													
Site Preparation													
Equipment Procurement	728	March 18, 2024	December 30, 2026	0%	5%	11%	21%	40%	77%	82%	90%	95%	100%
Network Build (all components - owned, leased, indefeasible Rights of Use, etc.)													
Equipment Deployment	2	January 6, 2027	January 8, 2027	0%	0%	10%	20%	40%	80%	90%	100%	100%	100%
Network Testing													
Status of Procurement													
Other (please specify):													

**National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
Middle Mile Grant Program
Bi-Annual Performance Report**

Please use the table provided to indicate your ACTUAL percentage of completion on a bi-annual basis for each year of your project. Year 1 begins with your award start date.

The percentage of completion should be based primarily on the expenditure of your project budget and should be reported cumulatively from award inception through the end of each semi-annual reporting period. For example, if you expect to complete a particular milestone within the first three periods of your project, the third period and all subsequent periods should state 100%.

Please provide a brief description of the primary activities involved in meeting each milestone (a single description should be provided for each milestone, covering all periods in years one through N). Please write "N/A" if your project does not include an activity. If necessary, please insert additional milestones at the bottom of the chart. Please add additional milestones as applicable.

ACTUAL PROJECT MILESTONES		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
		Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
4a. MILESTONE	4b. DESCRIPTION	Actual Milestone Completion (Cumulative)									
Overall Project		6%									
Environmental Assessment	Jen-Jay Inc - Biological Survey, Additional	75%									
Network Design	Whidbey Telecom is currently in the process of collecting Engineering Bids from contracting companies. Currently 9 companies have signed the NDA for the contract. Letters of Intent are pending	10%									
Rights Of Way											
Construction Permits And Other Approvals											
Site Preparation			0%								
Equipment Procurement	Whidbey Telecom is currently putting a construction bid package together. Package will include all construction and network equipment deployment	0%									
Network Build (all components - owned, leased, Infeasible Rights of Use, etc.)		0%									
Equipment Deployment		0%									
Network Testing	Whidbey Telecom will complete the end to end testing following the construction	0%									
Status of Procurement		N/A									
Other (please specify):		N/A									

List of Subrecipient(s) that received a subaward or subcontract from the eligible entity and a description of the specific project for which grant funds were provided.

Associate projects names to any subrecipient or subaward associated with grant, approved grant funds, and expenditures to date.

5a. Project Name	5b. Project Description	5c. Subrecipient	5d. Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)	5e. Women's Business Enterprise (WBE)	5f. Labor Surplus Area Firm	5g. Awarded Funds	5h. Expenditures to Date	5i. Remaining Grant Balance	5j. % of work complete
N/A			Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>				
			Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>				
			Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>				
			Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>				

D. INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET EXECUTION DETAILS

Please provide details below on your total budget and total fund expended to date for each budget element, including detailed disbursements of both matching funds approved and federal funds obligated from project inception through end of this reporting period. Figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the applicable reporting period.

6a. Projected Budget Element	6b. Federal Funds	6c. Non-Federal Funds	6d. Total Project Budget	6e. Total Federal Funds Expended to Date	6f. Total Non-Federal Funds Expended to Date	6g. Total Funds Expended	6h. Percent of Federal Funding Expended to Date (Cumulative)
Administrative and legal expenses	\$ 470,291.27	\$ 201,553.40	\$ 671,844.67	\$ 17,339.17	\$ 7,431.07	\$ 24,770.24	4%
Land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc.	\$ 267,778.14	\$ 114,762.06	\$ 382,540.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Relocation expenses and payments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Architectural and engineering fees	\$ 650,446.27	\$ 278,762.69	\$ 929,208.96	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Other architectural and engineering fees	\$ 529,861.82	\$ 227,083.64	\$ 756,945.46	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Project inspection fees	\$ 385,839.63	\$ 165,359.84	\$ 551,199.47	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Site work	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Demolition and removal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%

**National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
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INFRASTR	Construction	\$ 9,267,991.07	\$ 3,971,996.17	\$ 13,239,987.24	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
	Equipment	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
	Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
	Subtotal	\$ 11,782,208.20	\$ 5,049,517.80	\$ 16,831,726.00	\$ 17,339.17	\$ 7,431.07	\$ 24,770.24	0.15%
	Contingencies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
	Totals	\$ 11,782,208.20	\$ 5,049,517.80	\$ 16,831,726.00	\$ 17,339.17	\$ 7,431.07	\$ 24,770.24	0.15%

E. COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT

As stated in the MM Grant Program NOFO a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) is an agreement signed by community benefit groups and a developer, identifying the community benefits a developer agrees to deliver, in return for community support of the project.

Please use the fields below to state the Community Benefit Group and Developer Name and describe the activities in how this partnership has supported with the Middle Mile Infrastructure project (i.e. wage agreements, targeting hiring of apprentices and disadvantaged groups in labor market, education and training opportunities, sub-contracting to local small business for construction, services, and supply chain needs).

Description of Community Agreement

7a. Community Benefit Group Name: Please provide the name of the Community Benefit Group.
N/A

7b. Developer Name: Please provide the name of the Developer.
N/A

7c. Community Benefit Group and Developer Partnership: Please describe in the space below the nature of the partnership and how the MM grant funds being used are assisting to provide community support for the infrastructure project.
N/A

F. CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Recipients must demonstrate that they have sufficiently accounted for current and future weather and climate related risks to new MM infrastructure projects. At present, weather and climate related risks to broadband networks include wildfires, extreme heat and cold, inland and coastal flooding, and the extreme winds produced by weather events such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and other weather events. Because retrofitted and new infrastructure for broadband might be expected to have a lifetime of 20 years or more, recipients must account not only for current risks but also for how the frequency, severity, and nature of these extreme events may plausibly evolve as our climate continues to change over the coming decades.

Climate Resiliency Risk Mitigation

This purpose of this section is for the recipient to demonstrate that they have sufficiently accounted for current and future weather and climate-related risks to new MM infrastructure projects. In particular, each recipient should demonstrate how they've addressed the known and identifiable risks of current and future projected weather and climate conditions through measures such as (but not limited to) choice of a technology platform suitable to the climate risk of the region, reliance on alternatives siting of facilities (i.e., underground construction where appropriate), retrofitting, or hardening of existing assets, and use of network redundancy to safeguard against threats to infrastructure.

8a. Were any geographic areas identified for this reporting period subject to an initial and/or updated hazard screening for future weather and climate related risk? If so, please provide the date of the screening and provide related documentation as an attachment to this report.

Climate screening in process.

8b. Climate Resilience Category	8c. Date of Most Recent Hazard Screening	8d. Name and Title of Representative Completing Most Recent Hazard Screening	8e. Date of Report Completion?
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

8f. Identified Risk: For your MM project, what are the potential weather and climate hazards that may be most important to be addressed that could impact the resiliency of the middle mile infrastructure deployed (i.e. wildfires, extreme heat and cold, inland and coastal flooding, extreme winds: tornadoes, hurricanes and other weather events)?

According to the State Route Climate Impact Vulnerability Assessment, the impact category for Whatcom County is low. However, as a coastal area prone to earthquakes, tsunami risk is high. Whidbey Telephone Company will ensure every measure is taken to provide sustainable, solid infrastructure and will work diligently with Jen Jay, Inc. during the award period to aid in safeguarding the natural, wildlife, and cultural resources of Point Roberts.

8g. Weather and Climate Hazards: Were any significant climate or weather hazards experienced during this reporting period (i.e., floods, tornados) impacting infrastructure buildout or service? Briefly describe how you monitored for weather and climate caused issues for the reliability of the system. If so, please provide the date of the disaster, location and backup documentation related (i.e., news articles).

No weather or climate risks were experienced during the reporting period.

8h. Risks to Deployment of New Infrastructure: Has the team identified any risks impacting the deployment of new or repaired infrastructure due to current and future weather and climate-related threats during this reporting period?

Route Climate Impact Vulnerability Assessment, the impact category for Whatcom County is low. However, as a coastal area prone to earthquakes, tsunami risk is high.

8i. Risk Mitigation: How will the project avoid and/or mitigate the risk identified? If not applicable, please explain why.

Whidbey Telephone Company will ensure every measure is taken to provide sustainable, solid infrastructure and will work diligently with Jen Jay, Inc. during the award period to aid in safeguarding the natural, wildlife, and cultural resources of Point Roberts.

8j. Additional Information: Is there any additional information you would like to share during this reporting period that the grant team should be aware of regarding the management of sustainable climate resiliency for your MM project?

Climate change, as a sustained global concern, is also a local consideration and will dictate the mapping of specific drilling areas. Considering the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Washington state summary, temperatures in the state have risen almost 2', which in turn, will lead to earlier melting of the snowpack, which plays a critical role in spring and summer water supplies. In light of the stringent and thoughtful environmental and climate factors, Whidbey Telephone Company is dedicated to pursuing the most sustainable options available to preserve cultural, biological, and archaeological remnants. The budget includes appropriations for this effort.

8k. Additional Resources

Has the team utilized the available resources to assist with mitigation and long-term planning efforts for this reporting period? If so, which resources?

2018 National Climate Assessment
NOAA's 2022 State Climate Summaries
NOAA Disaster and Risk Mapping Tool
NOAA's Storms Event Database
NOAA Climate Explorer and Digital Coast
FEMA National Risk Index
Consulted FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans prepared by states in which they propose to build middle mile infrastructure to help identify key risk and hazards

Whidbey Telephone Company has consulted every available federal and state resource available in order to minimize the environmental and climate impact of the Middle Mile project.

G. Workforce

For projects receiving over \$5,000,000 (based on expected total cost), as determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor by subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Davis-Bacon Act"), all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors in the performance of such project are paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing.

Davis-Bacon Act Certification

**National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
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DAVIS/BA CERTIFC	9a. Does the recipient have access to the information requested (all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors in the performance of such project are paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing?)			Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>																			
LOCAL HIRE PRIORITIZATION AND IMPACT	Local Hire Prioritization and Impact																							
	Local hiring is a goal or requirement to hire people who live close to the place of work. This aim is often more specifically structured as a requirement for contractors awarded certain types of publicly funded projects to recruit a certain proportion of the people working on the project from a particular area. Please provide all direct hires and contractors supporting the MM Infrastructure project.																							
	Please use the table below to describe how the project prioritizes local hiring.																							
	Number of Hires																							
	Race/Ethnicity																							
	Hires by Race, Ethnicity and Gender			9b. Hispanic or Latino			9c. Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino																Totals	
							9c-1. Men						9c-2. Women						9c-3. X					
				9b-1. Men	9b-2. Women	9b-3. X	White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races
				0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
			0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
			0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	
			0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
DAVIS-BACON WAGES	Davis-Bacon Act Wages																							
	Please confirm if wages are at least prevailing*																							
	*As stated in the MM NOFO as determined by the U.S. Secretary Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Davis-Bacon Act"), for the corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on projects of a character similar to the contract work in the civil subdivision of the State (or the District of Columbia) in which the work is to be performed.																							
	10a. Are wage rates at least the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage for all laborers?				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	10c. Are wage rates at least the prevailing wage for all mechanics?						Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>										
	10b. Please cite your source of how this information was gathered (for 10a).			Referred to Account Supervisor						10d. Please cite your source of how this information was gathered (for 10c).						N/A - None Hired								
10e. If you answered "No" to either 10a. or 10c., please provide an attachment reporting the wages and benefits of workers on the project by job classification, and whether those wages are less than the prevailing wage.																								
WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS	Workforce Demographic Data																							
	Number of Jobs																							
	Race/Ethnicity																							
	Jobs by Race, Ethnicity and Gender			11-a. Hispanic or Latino			11b. Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino																Totals	
				11b-1. Men						11b-2. Women						11b-3. X								
			11a-1. Men	11a-2. Women	11a-3. X	White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	
			0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
			0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
UNIONIZED WORKFORCE	12-a. Does this project include some workforce elements that are unionized?			Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	12-c. Does your MM project utilize a project labor agreement?						Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>											
	12-b. Are workers provided access to union educators/organizers on employer property or during the work day?			Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	12-d. Did workers receive additional information or training about their workplace rights in addition to already required notice postings?						Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>											
H. Workforce Continuity Plan																								
National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158 (f))																								
As stated in the MM NOFO, if a recipient has not provided a certification that a project either will use a unionized project workforce or included a project labor agreement, meaning a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement consistent with section 8(f) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158 (f)), then the recipient must provide a project workforce continuity plan.																								
Workforce Continuity Plan																								
13a. Please describe the steps taken to ensure the project has ready access to a sufficient supply of appropriately skilled and unskilled labor to ensure construction is completed skillfully throughout the project's life (as required in Section III.B of the MM NOFO). As stated in the MM NOFO, the middle mile grant recipient is capable of carrying out the proposed project in a competent manner, including a plan to attract or retain an appropriate skilled and credentialed workforce.																								
For your MM project, please provide a brief description of efforts made to attract, train or retain a skilled and credentialed workforce.																								
Has the team offered any of the following resources to assist with maintaining a sufficient supply of appropriately skilled labor force for this reporting period? If so, which resources (please provide a brief description of any of the following that apply):																								
Professional Certifications																								
In-House Training																								
Registered Apprenticeships																								
Labor-Management Partnerships																								
Partnerships with entities like unions, community colleges, or community-based groups																								

**National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
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WORKFORCE CONTINUITY PLAN
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT

Whidbey Telecom will work collaboratively with its employees, partners, contractors, and subcontractors to ensure the project workforce is aptly skillful and credentialed according to the federal and state standards for the physical component of the middle mile infrastructure. The physical project workforce will consist of non-unionized Whidbey Telecom employees, utilized for this project on a part-time (PTE) basis during the project timeline.

13b. Please describe below, the steps taken to minimize risks of labor disputes and disruptions that would jeopardize the timeliness and cost-effectiveness of completing the MM project.

Whidbey Telecom has policies and procedures set forth for all employees to mitigate labor disputes and disruptions to ongoing projects. All contractors are also bound to these policies.

13c. Please describe below the steps to ensure a safe and healthy workplace that avoids delays and costs associated with workplace illnesses, injuries, and fatalities.

All Whidbey Telecom employees, partners, contractors, and subcontractors will be trained at the onset of the project on OSHA and Washington State Department of Labor & Industries' safety standards and when appropriate, traffic control, to ensure safety of the project workforce and the community.

13d. For your MM project, please provide a brief description below of efforts made to ensure a safe and healthy workplace.

Has the team offered any of the following resources to assist with maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for this reporting period? If so, which resources (please provide a brief description of any of the following that apply):
 Safety Training
 Certifications and/or Licensure Requirements for all relevant works (e.g., OSHA 10, OSHA 30, confined space, traffic control, or other training required of workers employed by contractors)
 Issues raised by workplace safety committees and their resolutions:

Whidbey Telecom has policies and procedures set forth for all employees to ensure a safe and healthy work environment. Additionally, Whidbey Telecom requires that all contractors must be certified in their respective fields, and comply will all pertinent WACs and OCHA standards.

13e. Please provide the name(s) below of any subcontracted entities performing work on the project, and the total number of workers employed by each entity.

13e-1. Name of Subcontracted Entity Performing Work	13e-2. Total Number of Workers within this Subcontract	13e-3. Job Categories of Workers Supporting Project within this Subcontract
Jen-Jay, Inc.	3	Environmental Surveys

13f. Please describe below the steps taken to ensure that workers on the project receive wages and benefits sufficient to secure an appropriately skilled workforce in the context of the local and regional labor market.

No contracts have yet been awarded.

I. ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

Please provide Anchor Institution (AI) data for the current period only (not cumulative). Please add rows as needed.

14a. Anchor Institution Name	14b. Street Address	14c. City	14d. State	14e. Type of Anchor Institution	14f. Interconnection within 1,000 Feet of AI Enabling Gig Symmetrical Service	14g. Narrative Description of how the Anchor Institution may benefit from the Grant Funded Infrastructure
N/A						

J. BROADBAND ACCESS KEY INDICATOR: SUBSCRIBERS AND SPEED

Please use the following table to provide anticipated key indicators with the projected totals for each beneficiary category, access type and speed category for your infrastructure service or project. Except as indicated, information should be reported cumulatively from award inception through the end of the semi-annual period for Semi-Annual Indicators. Please write "N/A" if your project does not include this indicator.

PROJECTED NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS AND SPEED	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5

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PROJECTED NUMBERS OF SUBSCRIBERS AND SPEED	SUBSCRIBER TYPE	ACCESS TYPE	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
	15a. Anchor Institutions (Als)	15a-1. Total number of Als passed		0	4	4	4	5	7	8	9	9
15a-2. Number of Als within 1,000 feet of the middle mile infrastru			0	4	4	4	5	7	8	9	9	10
15a-3. Total number of Als served			0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
15a-4. Als with new access			0	4	4	4	4	4	5	6	6	7
15a-5. Als with improved access			0	4	4	4	5	7	8	9	9	10
15a-6. Total number of Als served with speeds of at least 1/1Gbps			0	4	4	4	5	7	8	9	9	10
15b. Broadband Wholesalers or Last Mile Providers	15b-1.Total number of broadband wholesalers or last mile providers served		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15b-2. Broadband wholesalers or last mile providers with new access		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15b-3. Broadband wholesalers or last mile providers with improved access		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15b-4. Total number of broadband wholesalers or last mile providers offering speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps		0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	15b-5. Total number of broadband wholesalers or last mile providers offering speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps		0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	15b-6. Total number of broadband wholesalers or last mile providers offering speeds of at least 1/1 Gbps		0	4	4	4	5	7	8	9	9	10

K. BROADBAND ACCESS KEY INDICATOR: NETWORK BUILD PROGRESS

Please use the following table to provide anticipated key indicators and progress of your Infrastructure project. Except as indicated, information should be reported cumulatively from award inception through the end of the semi-annual period. Please write "N/A" if your project does not include this indicator.


NETWORK BUILD PROGRESS	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
16a. Total of new fiber miles (aerial or buried)	0	0	5	20	25	93	99	109	109	109
16b. Total of fiber miles leased	0	0	0	0	0	51	51	51	51	51
16c. Total of existing fiber miles upgraded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16d. Total of new microwave links	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16e. Total of new towers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16f. Total of new interconnection points	0	0	1	3	6	9	10	11	11	11
16g. Total of signed agreements with broadband wholesalers or last mile providers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16h. Total of potential agreements (i.e., agreements currently being negotiated) with broadband wholesalers or last mile providers (This Total should NOT be reported cumulatively)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

L. QUANTIFIABLE METRICS

Quantifiable Metrics - Section designed to assist with reporting and audit purpose to quantify how much progress was made and track the location of where the progress was made.

FIBER OPTIC BASED	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
17a. Fiber Optic Based										
17a-1. Is the fiber a buried/aerial or undersea application?	Buried									
17a-2. Number of strands deployed	0									
17a-3. Number of miles of buried fiber deployed	0									
17a-4. Number of miles of aerial fiber deployed	0									
17a-5. Estimated capacity of fiber (i.e. throughput)	0									
17a-6. Deployment cost per mile of buried fiber optics	0									
17a-7. Deployment cost per mile of aerial fiber optics	0									
17a-8. Total Spent on Buried Fiber Deployment this reporting period	0									
17a-9. Total Spent on Aerial Fiber Deployment this reporting period	0									
17a-10. Total spent on Fiber Deployment this reporting period	0									
17a-11. Please provide any additional information about the Fiber Optic deployment (200 words or less)										
17a-12. Please provide the digital mappings (e.g., CAD, Revit, KML, KMZ) for the microwave nodes created during this reporting period.										

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		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
		Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
MICROWAVE BASED	17b. Microwave Based										
	17b-1. How many microwave nodes have been deployed?	0									
	17b-2. How many microwave nodes are operating for reporting period?	0									
	17b-3. Installation cost per microwavable node	0									
	17b-4. Number of new towers built to support microwave structure	0									
	17b-5. If applicable, what type of tower was constructed (a) Monopole (b) Self-Support, or (c) Guyed during this report	N/A									
	17b-6. Average cost per tower installed	0									
	17b-7. Total spend on Tower deployment this reporting period	0									
	17b-8. Total spend on microwave deployment this reporting period	0									
	17b-9. If you answered "other" to question 5a.6 or if it is a combination of multiple types, please provide a detailed narrative description detailing what type of tower or what combination of towers is used for the project and the their associated costs. (200 words or less).										
17b-10. Please provide the digital mappings (e.g., CAD, Revit, KMZ, KML) for each new aerial fiber and buried fiber equipment installed during this reporting period.											
SATELLITE	17c. Satellite										
	17c-1. What satellite provider is being used?	0									
	17c-2. What is the estimated capacity of the satellite link (i.e. throughput)?	0									
	17c-3. What is the associated cost to use this satellite service?	0									
	17c-4. Please provide any additional information about the Satellite deployment (200 words or less)										
17c-5. Please provide the digital mappings (e.g., CAD, Revit, KMZ, KML) for each new aerial fiber and buried fiber equipment installed during this reporting period.											
CERTIFICATIONS	Certifications										
	18. Please provide certification evidencing compliance with Federal labor and employment laws along with the requirements of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Middle Mile Grant Program, for the bi-annual period for which this report is being filed.										
	Whidbey certifies compliance with Federal labor and employment laws and requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Middle Mile Program for the current reporting period.										
19. Please provide certification evidencing compliance with the Build America, Buy America Act. The Build America, Buy America Act requires that all of the iron, steel, manufactured products (including but not limited to fiber-optic communications facilities), and construction materials used in the project or other eligible activities are produced in the United States unless a waiver is granted.											
Per administrative letter, not subject to BABA.											
MM GRANT PROGRAM BI-ANNUAL REPORT CERTIFICATION	20. I certify to the best of knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purposes set forth in the award documents.										
	20a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official:							20c. Telephone (area code, number and extension):		360-321-0068	
	Moanalei McManus							20d. Email Address:		lei.mcmanus@whidbeytel.com	
	20b. Signature of Certifying Official:							20e. Date:		11/27/2023	
											

(Follow form Instructions)

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted U.S. Department of Commerce - NIST		2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency (To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment) 53+40-MM408	
3. Recipient Organization (Name and complete address including Zip code)			
Recipient Organization Name: Whidbey Telephone Company			
Street1: 14888 State Route 525			
Street2: 			
City: Langley		County: 	
State: WA		Province: 	
Country: 		ZIP / Postal Code: 98260-9708	
4a. UEI FKPTJRRJNJ62	4b. EIN 910471290	5. Recipient Account Number or Identifying Number (To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment) 	
6. Report Type <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Final	7. Basis of Accounting <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Accrual	8. Project/Grant Period From: 7/1/23 To: 6/30/28	9. Reporting Period End Date 9/30/2023
10. Transactions <i>(Use lines a-c for single or multiple grant reporting)</i>			Cumulative
Federal Cash (To report multiple grants, also use FFR attachment):			
a. Cash Receipts			0.00
b. Cash Disbursements			0.00
c. Cash on Hand (line a minus b)			0.00
<i>(Use lines d-o for single grant reporting)</i>			
Federal Expenditures and Unobligated Balance:			
d. Total Federal funds authorized			11,782,208.20
e. Federal share of expenditures			17,339.17
f. Federal share of unliquidated obligations			
g. Total Federal share (sum of lines e and f)			17,339.17
h. Unobligated balance of Federal Funds (line d minus g)			11,764,869.03
Recipient Share:			
i. Total recipient share required			5,049,517.80
j. Recipient share of expenditures			7,431.07
k. Remaining recipient share to be provided (line i minus j)			5,042,086.73
Program Income:			
l. Total Federal program income earned			
m. Program Income expended in accordance with the deduction alternative			
n. Program Income expended in accordance with the addition alternative			
o. Unexpended program income (line l minus line m or line n)			

11. Indirect Expense						
a. Type	b. Rate	c. Period From	Period To	d. Base	e. Amount Charged	f. Federal Share
g. Totals:				0.00	0.00	0.00

12. Remarks: Attach any explanations deemed necessary or information required by Federal sponsoring agency in compliance with governing legislation:

13. Certification: By signing this report, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the report is true, complete, and accurate, and the expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the Federal award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise. (U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1001 and Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-3812).

a. Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official		
Prefix: <input type="text"/>	First Name: <input type="text" value="Gary"/>	Middle Name: <input type="text"/>
Last Name: <input type="text" value="Ricketts"/>	Suffix: <input type="text"/>	
Title: <input type="text" value="Accounting Manager"/>		
b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official		c. Telephone (Area code, number and extension)
E-SIGNED by Gary W. Ricketts on 2023-10-27 12:53:51 PDT		<input type="text" value="360-321-0051"/>
d. Email Address	e. Date Report Submitted	14. Agency use only:
<input type="text" value="gary.ricketts@whidbeytel.com"/>	<input type="text" value="10/24/23"/>	

Grant Request Number	GRN-000408
Funding Program Name	Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program
Funding Request Name	WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY - Middle Mile - GRN-000408
Applying Organization	WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY
Applicant Name	Moanalei McManus

Primary Applicant Type

Identify the primary applicant type:

Single Entity

Primary Entity Type

Type of entity: Primary entity type, (A) a State, political subdivision of a State, Tribal government, technology company, electric utility, utility cooperative, public utility district, telecommunications company, telecommunications cooperative, nonprofit foundation, nonprofit corporation, nonprofit institution, nonprofit association, regional planning council, Native entity, or economic development authority; or (B) a partnership of two (2) or more entities described in (A).

What is the primary applicant's entity type?

Telecommunications Company

Is parent/owner of applicant a foreign entity?

No

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Barrett Remmen; WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY; Field Operations Manager;

barrett.remmen@whidbeytel.com

KeyPersonnel_Resume_Barrett_Remmen

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Dave Grimm; WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY; Outside Plant Engineer and Continuous Improvement Le; dave.grimm@whidbeytel.com

KeyPersonnel_Resume_Dave _Grimm

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Donna Hilty; WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY; Chief Operating Officer; donna.hilty@whidbeytel.com

KeyPersonnel_Resume_Donna _Hilty

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Gary Ricketts; WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY; Accounting Operations Supervisor; gary.ricketts@whidbeytel.com

KeyPersonnel_Resume_Gary_Ricketts

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - John Gevaert; WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY; Financial Consultant; John.gevaert@whidbeytel.com

KeyPersonnel_Resume_John_Gevaert

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Mike Riley; Mid-State Consultants; Vice President of Engineering;

Mike.Riley@jsitel.com

KeyPersonnel_Resume_Mike_Riley

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Wayne Jeffers; WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY; Senior Technology Manager;

Wayne.jeffers@whidbeytel.com

KeyPersonnel_Resume_Wayne_Jeffers

Organizational Charts

Each applicant shall submit any necessary organizational chart(s) detailing all of its parent companies, subsidiaries, and affiliates.

Whidbey Organization Chart-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.pdf

Organizational Details

Each applicant must also provide a narrative describing the applicant's readiness to manage a middle mile broadband network. This narrative should describe the experience and qualifications of key management set to undertake this project, the applicant's experience undertaking projects of similar size and scope, recent and upcoming organizational changes including mergers and acquisitions, relevant organizational policies, and ownership information consistent with 47 CFR § 1.2112.

This narrative shall denote who will own the assets at the end of award period. This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Whidbey Telephone Company has extensive experience in undertaking a project of this scale and size. The initial experience began when Whidbey.NET began to offer DSL services to some customers (within 1 mile of local exchange systems) in 2000. By 2002, all Whidbey Telephone customers received Whidbey.NET DSL on south Whidbey Island and in Point Roberts. In 2005, the newly rebranded Whidbey Telephone Company Internet and Broadband began offering 5.5 Mbps DSL, and set their other speeds at 512kbps, and 2.5 Mbps. In the spring of 2009, Whidbey Telephone Company began upgrading customers, free of charge, from ADSL to ADSL2+ services. This included speed upgrades to 18Mbps, 12Mbps, and 6Mbps. A new 30Mbps bonded ADSL2+ service was also made available at that time. In 2016, Whidbey Telephone Company announced an aggressive campaign to install Fiber to the Home. Known as "The Big Gig", the service offers 1Gbps synchronous service to homes and businesses. The first customers were connected by October 2016.

Over the last two decades, this team has been working tirelessly to provide high quality telecommunications services to the lower end of Whidbey Island. Whidbey Telephone Company's team members have a sincere passion to provide fiber broadband speeds to the residents of Point Roberts, WA. The team assembled for this project will ensure adherence to buildout timelines and milestones, financial targets, subscription rates and community engagement, as well as environmental safety and adherence to local and state regulations.

With the average career duration of 17 years at Whidbey Telephone Company, this team has significant knowledge of existing operations, strategic initiatives, and hands-on experience of growing and maintaining the firm. The team also has experience with federal and state grants. Whidbey Telephone Company's key management team consists of: Donna Hilty, Chief Operating Officer; John Gevaert, Financial Consultant; Barrett Remmen, Field Operations Manager; Wayne Jeffers, Director of Technology; Gary Ricketts, Accounting Manager; Dave Grimm, Outside Plant Engineer/ Point Roberts Operations Manager; and Mike Riley, Vice President of Midstate Consultants. No organizational changes are upcoming.

Mid-State Consultants will work in collaboration on this project, whose singular focus has been to provide the engineering services and support essential to the successful outcome of each project endeavor. For the past 50 years, Mid-State Consultants has been a 100% employee-owned company specializing in providing engineering services to the telecom community.

At present, Whidbey Telephone Company owns and operates 3 existing submarine cables totaling \$6.0 million. In addition, Whidbey Telephone Company owns and operates an extensive copper and fiber network totaling \$54 million. Whidbey currently provides dark fiber service to a substantiated volume of customers and leases dark fiber from various companies to continue efforts for comprehensive broadband implementation. Whidbey Telephone Company will own the assets at the end of the award period.

The following is information on the ownership and trusts. All owners and trusts have a mailing address of: 14888 SR 525 Langley, WA 98260

Current Trusts:

2012 George T. F. Henny Trust 32.33% ownership

2012 Julia F. Henny Trust 32.33% ownership

2012 Mark P. Henny Trust 3.23% ownership

Ian P. Henny Irrevocable Trust 29.10% ownership

Shareholders:

George Henny 1% ownership

Julia Henny 1% ownership

Mark Henny 1% ownership

Form CD-511 (Certification Regarding Lobbying)

The applicant must upload a completed form that certifies that Federal funds have not and will not be used for lobbying in connection with this request for Federal financial assistance. A fillable Form CD-511 can be found in the MMG ZIP folder.

CD-511 Certification Regarding Lobbying-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.pdf, CD511
Lobbying - Final _Whidbey-10-17-2022 05-46-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.pdf

Standard Form-LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities)

Standard Form-LLL must be completed and submitted for those applicants that need to disclose lobbying activities that have been secured to influence the outcome of a Federal action. A fillable Form SF-LLL can be found in the MMG ZIP folder.

SFLL Lobbying Disclosure-09-23-2022 09-24-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.pdf

SAM.gov Registration

Applicants are asked to upload a screenshot of their SAM.gov registration.

SAM Registration-08-17-2022 02-28-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.png

Executive Summary

Please describe how the applicant's proposal will advance the objectives of the MMG Program, as well as the specific objectives of outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO);

An overview of the proposed route or service area(s), including information regarding rurality and socio-economic indicators in the area to be served by the proposed project.

This response is limited to 12000 characters as an open field narrative.

The Whidbey Telephone Company Middle Mile Infrastructure project award will provide funding for the construction, improvement, and acquisition of middle mile infrastructure for the underserved community of Point Roberts, Washington, and surrounding areas. As outlined in NTIA's funding

opportunity notice, the purpose of the grant program is to expand and extend middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting areas that are unserved or underserved to the internet backbone. Whidbey Telephone Company's Total Federal Grant Request is \$11,782,208.

Proposed Project Service Area

The proposed project area is located in the unincorporated community of Point Roberts in Whatcom County, northwestern Washington, U.S., near the Canadian border. It is located at the tip of a small peninsula (also called Point Roberts) that juts southward from British Columbia and is bisected by the international boundary.

Point Roberts currently lacks the infrastructure to develop and provide adequate access to high-speed broadband. The construction of a new middle mile fiber backbone will help address this need. Much of the internet traffic in this proximity is controlled by Canadian companies who have not been responsive in requests to expand services. Routing phone and internet traffic through a foreign country is neither resourceful nor practical. Whidbey Telephone Company has a keen awareness of national security interests, as discussions are in progress to make fiber accessible to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. This poses an instrumental security interest in the event of a worldwide event. Overreliance on Canada is an ever-present factor, as the community of Point Roberts is uniquely situated geographically. Point Roberts is a peninsula bordering only Canada, making it a vulnerable location in accessing essential services such as broadband.

Statement of Need

Upon referencing NTIA's Indicators of Broadband Need Map, the entire project area for this buildout has reported speeds of below 25/3. Presently, a stark 11.2% of the Point Roberts community is without subscription internet. The Ookla Speed test median Mbps is 12.38/2.76. According to the Washington State Department of Commerce, average download speeds are low, at 12.6 Mbps/4.3 Mbps. According to City-Data, 7.46% community members in Whatcom County are living in poverty. The 2019 reported unemployment rate for Point Roberts is 6.7%, an increase from the national average of 6.0%.

Whidbey's proposed Middle Mile project will significantly impact the communities of Point Roberts, the tribal people of the Lummi Nation, and the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. The Lummi Reserve has a population of 5,501 with a 15.1% poverty rate, roughly 1.5 times higher than the Washington state rate. Broadband redundancy is essential for this underrepresented community.

As a key stakeholder in the community's broadband infrastructure, Whidbey Telephone Company understands that the region's interests - economic, resiliency, and quality of life - will be best served when broadband equity is addressed. Whidbey Telephone Company has worked collaboratively with Mid-State Consultants to design a proficient and diverse route to include submarine cable from Whidbey Island to Point Roberts, interconnecting with Lummi Nation, to provide resiliency to their community. The planned fiber route will be built from Point Roberts to Admirals Drive and connecting with existing cable to downtown Seattle. This route will also provide various interconnecting points at Orcas Island and Lummi Nation.

Commitment to Prioritization Areas

Whidbey Telephone Company's project purpose aligns cohesively with that of the Enabling Middle Mile Program to facilitate deployment of high-speed broadband networks to currently unserved or

underserved areas. The infrastructure will also provide interconnection with the ability to connect to the public internet and physical interconnection for the exchange of traffic as outlined in Whidbey Telephone Company's Open Internet Policy and Terms and Conditions of use. Broadband resiliency will be provided at the following anchor institutions within the community: Heller Road Fire Station, Whidbey Health Medical Center, Naval Health Clinic, Coupeville School, Oak Harbor School, Lummi Nation School, Point Roberts Elementary School, Whatcom County FD 5, Point Roberts Clinic, US Customs and Border Patrol, Whatcom County Sheriff Office, and US Post Office in Point Roberts. The proposed infrastructure route is a comprehensive and appropriate technical solution which focuses on Point Roberts' community needs. Its overarching capacity and performance will address the local demand for high speed and reliable internet for households, businesses, and community anchor institutions of Whatcom County, Washington.

Whidbey Telephone Company's project key management has experience in developing and maintaining a broadband framework. At present, Whidbey Telephone Company owns and operates 3 existing submarine cables totaling \$6.0 million. In addition, Whidbey Telephone Company owns and operates an extensive copper and fiber network totaling \$54 million. Whidbey currently provides dark fiber service to a substantiated volume of customers and leases dark fiber from various companies to continue efforts for comprehensive broadband implementation.

The proposed budget is feasible when considering the perpetual outcome of those served at the duration of this project. In light of the stringent and thoughtful environmental and climate factors, Whidbey Telephone Company is dedicated to pursuing the most sustainable options available to preserve cultural, biological, and archaeological remnants. The budget includes appropriations for this effort.

Whidbey Telephone Company implicitly commits to the critical prioritization areas of the Enabling Middle Mile Program and will invariably remain a broadband advocate for the households, businesses, and anchor institutions of Point Roberts. Access to quality, high speed broadband internet service is as vital today as streets, water, and sewer infrastructure – it is a 21st Century Utility and will greatly impact the community of Point Roberts and surrounding interconnection areas.

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Level of Need

A description of the level of need in the proposed service area(s), including but not limited to communities considered unserved and/or underserved in the proposed service area(s), discussion of the competitive landscape in the area, variations among service areas if there are any, or the general economic conditions in the proposed funded service area.

This response is limited to 12000 characters as an open field narrative.

This project will directly impact the community of Point Roberts, Washington. Nestled just south of Vancouver BC's metro area, Point Roberts is exclusively accessed through Canada or by small plane, ferry, and boats. The geographic isolation of this portion of Washington State has led to a significant shift in demographic and economic figures. Point Roberts currently lacks the infrastructure to develop

and provide adequate access to high-speed broadband. The construction of a new middle mile fiber backbone will help address this need for this struggling community. Much of the internet traffic in this proximity is controlled by Canadian companies and they have not been responsive in requests to expand services. Routing phone and internet traffic through a foreign country is neither resourceful nor practical.

Upon referencing NTIA's Indicators of Broadband Need Map, the entire project area for this buildout has reported speeds of below 25/3. The community members of Point Roberts also have many economic, educational, and health care needs that can be addressed by bringing reliable and high-speed internet to the area. To do so, middle mile infrastructure must be built to Point Roberts. The middle mile will allow the county of Whatcom and surrounding areas, including the Lummi Nation, to connect to this backbone. The possibility of connectivity will be realized for those areas that are passed on-shore or when the fiber infrastructure is built on land.

Economic Issues/Needs

Point Roberts is a remarkably rural town with a population of 1,116 in Whatcom County. According to City-Data, 7.46% community members in Whatcom County are living in poverty.

For thousands of years, Whatcom County has been home to people of the Lummi, Nooksack, Samish and Semiahmoo tribal groups. Fur trappers and traders from the Hudson's Bay Company were the first non-native residents of the county. In the 1850s, Whatcom County experienced an economic and population boom propelled initially by coal mining, timber and agriculture. The 20th century brought in more prosperous times with increasing national demand for the abundant timber and salmon. Fish canning operations were a mainstay of the Whatcom County economy.

Present day, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the international border between Canada and the U.S. has been closed to nonessential traffic. Businesses in the region that are dependent on Canadian customers such as retail, the Bellingham airport, and area hotels have lost access to an important part of their market.

Another integral data point is the unemployment rate and its correlation to lack of sufficient broadband. The 2019 reported unemployment rate for Point Roberts is 6.7%, an increase from the national average of 6.0%. With the expansion of remote work, the demand for broadband has increased to sustain employment. 41% of workers are now fully remote; this is a drastic increase from the 17% of U.S. employees that worked from home before the pandemic.

In Whatcom County's 2018 Community Health Assessment, residents shared that they feel there are disparities in employment opportunities based on demographics such as race and ethnicity. However, community members recognize the need for job-ready employees and increased training and professional development opportunities for people at all stages of employment.

How Broadband Access Can Help:

- Allows for the local economy to be diversified by facilitating interaction with the global economy and creating more opportunities for businesses to grow through e-commerce and online business tools.
- Draws businesses and investors to these communities who otherwise would not consider them. It is hard to consider investing in a company in this modern economy that doesn't have reliable internet access.

- Strengthens the economy by attracting new residents and increasing property values.
- Enables residents and those relocating from more urban areas to work remotely from home and encourages the development of local and home-based online businesses.

Education Issues/Needs:

This project will serve students in the Blaine School District which includes 2,164 students, 30% of which are minorities. Based on the 2018 Community Health Assessment, community members also see the correlation between the education and community roots. They see the potential for schools to be the hub of the community, where not only education is provided, but other community programs collaborate with schools to serve student, family, and community needs. One Whatcom County community member expressed it this way: "I want to go back to the idea of the schools as being the hub of a community... to me, it makes such perfect sense because there are already existing buildings... They're owned by the community... and the public funds them. It would increase the perceived value to community members if they were able to use it for purposes beyond education." Without access to the internet, local students are unable to connect with their classmates and teachers after school, get online homework help, do independent research and receive online tutoring support. Not having internet access can also mean missing out on a direct line of contact and communication between parents and teachers and missing out on critical school information.

It is important to note that these were all issues faced by students and families before the pandemic. The pandemic has only exacerbated these problems, completely disconnecting students from being able to learn and complete their schoolwork unless they had some form of internet access. By providing the community with access to high-speed and affordable broadband, it will help enhance the educational opportunities for residents of Point Roberts and communities surrounding interconnection points.

How broadband access can help:

- Utilizes the school as a central hub resource to increase social supports, student wellness, food assistance, and nursing services.
- Enables students to access distance learning platforms and complete/submit homework assignments online without driving miles to connect to network hot spots (especially critical during the COVID-19 pandemic).
- Allows students to keep up with information that might not make it into textbooks or that may be outdated.
- Expands students' educational worldview, giving them access to resources like virtual museum visits, online conferences, and online tutoring.

Healthcare Issues/Needs:

Whatcom County is currently facing a healthcare crisis due to many factors that are not helped by its rurality and limited access to broadband. The Population Health Framework is a holistic adaptation of health factors from the County Health Rankings population health model and is utilized as a resource to benchmark health needs. The health determinants are outlined as socio-economic, physical

environment, health behaviors, and health care. All are directly impacted when access to broadband is limited.

Based on the 2018 Community Health Assessment, Whatcom County's top 10 leading causes of death have had little variation over the last six years. The top three causes of death (cardiovascular disease, cancer, and Alzheimer's disease) have remained first, second, and third for both Whatcom County and Washington State since 2011. All require significant health care treatments and mitigation.

However, death from substance abuse is not far behind. Five-year estimates for 2007-2011 to 2012-2016 show that the Whatcom County alcohol-related death rate increased significantly, by 5.14 deaths per 100,000 people. Based on this data, community members feel more needs to be done in areas of substance abuse treatment, mental health supports, increased opportunities for positive activities, employment skills, and general attention to economic opportunities for Whatcom residents.

How broadband access can help:

- Providing the means for hospitals and healthcare centers to migrate some of their healthcare services to telemedicine platforms. This has endless benefits for the local hospital such as:
 - Decreases the load on the Delta Hospital and Point Roberts Clinic staff allowing patients with less severe conditions to be treated online versus taking up space and staff time at the hospital.
 - Allows for contactless COVID-19 patient appointments, enabling Delta Hospital and Point Roberts Clinic staff to stay safe and have the ability to show up for work to help those in critical need.
 - Enables recruitment of doctors and nurses by creating a highly connected rural region. This in turn means spouses or partners of recruited medical professionals can also engage in remote work.
- Broadband access also provides many health benefits to individuals in the community such as:
 - Allows for online pharmacy prescription services, which in turn, saves time and money they would have spent traveling to the pharmacy.
 - Cuts down on transportation costs and time by utilizing online doctors' appointments.
 - Patients will be able to keep track of their important health records online and have seamless sharing capabilities with their doctors allowing them to have comprehensive analyses on their health. This also allows for doctors and mental health care providers to continuously check in with their patients and help keep them on track, helping solve the issue of not having ongoing care.
 - Access to mental health services in the privacy of their home.
 - Allows for access to affordable (if not free) online exercise programs, healthy cooking classes, and other health resources.
- Broadband access will help with providing access to specialty doctors and mental healthcare providers:
 - Patients will be able to use telemedicine to connect with specialized doctors that aren't located in the area, helping address the lack of specialized services and saving patients the burden and money that comes with traveling long distances for care.
 - Telemedicine will also make it easier for residents to find available primary care doctors online, which will reduce emergency room visits.

Overview of Broadband Need:

Delta, a Canadian cable television provider, removed their services from Point Roberts in 2019, leaving customers scrambling for other service providers that might extend their offerings to the small town. While Whidbey Telephone Company is currently providing internet service to Point Roberts, the technology used is not sufficient to provide greater than 10/1 service to the entire area. Satellite service providers are accessible but present a number of challenges: speeds are bogged down by usage and weather and terrain variables. Data caps often pose as hindrances and the expense is a significant factor.

Presently, a stark 11.2% of the Point Roberts community is without internet subscription. The Ookla Speed test median Mbps is 12.38/2.76. According to the Washington State Department of Commerce, average download speeds are low, at 12.6 Mbps/4.3 Mbps. The Washington Broadband Survey map clearly displays the unserved status of Point Roberts community members. Access to quality broadband internet service is as vital today as streets, water, and sewer infrastructure – it is a 21st century utility. Orca Light and Power, last mile broadband sustainable provider, has expressed interest in connecting with the proposed middle mile infrastructure. The contingency agreement is included in the application. Lummi Nation, whose funding source is NTIA in newly awarded funding has also expressed interest connecting, as well as the Navy Air Station Whidbey Island.

State Collaboration Acknowledgement

NTIA strongly encourages prospective non-state applicants to coordinate and consult with the State Broadband Office or other coordinating body located in the jurisdiction in which the eligible entity proposes to deploy middle mile infrastructure to ensure that the proposal is consistent with the state’s broadband plan and priorities. Please confirm collaboration and consultation.

Do you confirm collaboration and consultation with the appropriate organization?

Yes

State and Local Collaboration Narrative

Please provide information on the applicant’s coordination with applicable State, Territory, Tribal, and local governments, including their awareness of the proposed project and any potential impact to respective service areas; and

Information regarding the applicant’s involvement and coordination with community organizations or other relevant partners in the proposed service area.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Whidbey Telephone Company seeks and continues to develop coordination with state, territory, tribal, and local governments of the Point Roberts community. Their commitment to community engagement

is evident in various platforms on their website, such as their Giving Back campaign, Artist Gallery and Point Robert's Events Calendar.

Whidbey Telephone Company recognizes the importance of bringing regional Indigenous voices to the table. They have included the Lhaq'temish, the Lummi People, in conversations on the middle mile infrastructure plan. As the original inhabitants of Puget Sound, the Lummi Nation has significant influence on decisions that are made. Their desire to advance self-determination, improve economic health and prosperity, and empower tribal members is a driving force towards the forward movement of broadband. Whidbey Telephone Company's middle mile infrastructure proposal has their full support, which is likely to cascade to the other tribes within the region. Their viewpoints matter and help to govern the direction of the proposed project.

Local command at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island have been briefed on the proposed project service area and its potential impact for the service members that work and reside there. Whidbey Telephone Company recognizes the significance of government partnership as an integral community broadband stakeholder.

Collaboration with the Washington Statewide Broadband Office has been essential in improving access, by ensuring transparency of underserved and unserved areas, state funding availability, and appropriate accountability is captured to mitigate service overlap. Included in the portal is their letter of support.

Whidbey Telephone Company recently presented the proposed middle mile route to the Island County Broadband Action Team, which consisted of the Island County Commissioner, Island County Economic Development Council official, City of Oak Harbor official, local engineers, and internet service providers. The route proposal was well-received, and the Island County Commissioner is enthusiastic about the plan and its value to the Point Roberts and the surrounding areas.

Whidbey Telephone Company continues to cultivate critical relationships and make coordination with appropriate government and community entities. This ongoing effort aims to educate and empower the residents of Point Roberts on the proposed middle mile infrastructure and its significance to this rural community.

Will the project connect middle mile infrastructure to last mile networks that provide or plan to provide broadband service to households in unserved areas?

Yes

Is the project connecting non-contiguous trust lands?

No

Please describe:

pdf

Do you commit to offering wholesale broadband service at reasonable rates on a carrier-neutral basis?

Yes

The eligible entity adopts fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies. This strategy should be described in the Budget Narrative.

Do you attest to this?

Yes

The eligible entity commits to offering non-discriminatory interconnect to terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers and any other party making a bona fide request. This policy will be described in the Interconnect Policy.

Do you attest to this?

Yes

The eligible entity identifies specific terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers that have(i) expressed written interest in interconnecting with middle mile infrastructure planned to be deployed by the eligible entity; and ii) demonstrated sustainable business plans or adequate funding sources with respect to such interconnection. This may be demonstrated in the Level of Need narrative of the Exec Summary.

Do you attest to this?

Yes

The eligible entity has identified supplemental investments or in-kind support (such as waived franchise or permitting fees) that will accelerate the completion of the planned project. Such acceleration may be described in the Project Timeline narrative.

Do you attest to this?

No

The eligible entity has demonstrated that the middle mile infrastructure will benefit national security interests of the United States and the Department of Defense. The benefits may be explained in the Benefitting National Security Interests Narrative.

Do you attest to this?

Yes

Please describe:

The proposed middle mile infrastructure will provide reinforcement and redundancy to the existing framework of Point Roberts (PR). Whidbey Telephone Company has a keen awareness of national security interests, as discussions are in progress to make fiber accessible to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. This poses an instrumental security interest in the event of a worldwide event. The potential broadband support for the 8,415 military personnel is a strategic and fortitude-building effort. Overreliance on Canada is an ever-present factor, as the community of PR is uniquely situated geographically. Point Roberts is a peninsula bordering only Canada, making it a vulnerable location in accessing essential services such as broadband. Much of the internet traffic in the proximity is controlled by Canadian companies and efforts to collaborate in providing additional services to residents have not been successful. Border security will improve when Point Roberts no longer depends on Canada for broadband access.

Project

Duration

Number of Years

3

Project Timeline Narrative

The narrative requires the Applicant to describe a project with critical path, including key milestones for implementation of the project, preparations, and risk factors; and a capital investment schedule evidencing that the applicant will complete build-out and the initiation of service within five years of the date on which the entity receives the grant and will meet interim buildout requirements set forth herein and in any other binding document.

If the project is able to be accelerated with supplemental investments or in-kind support to meet a statutory purpose, this should be explained.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Whidbey Telephone Company has included a GANTT chart to outline the proposed project timeline components. Whidbey’s Project Manager, Michelle Pardee, has itemized relevant schedule factors, to include the critical path, project landmarks for implementation, preparations, as well as risk factors. The key project milestones will include the following:

- Upon award, a contract review will be conducted according to the contracting guidelines outlined in Title 2, Subtitle A, Chapter 2, part 200.317-320 & Title 39 RCW, utilizing the more restrictive of the two processes.
- A complete description of Whidbey Telephone Company's contracting processes is outlined in the Fair Labor Narrative.
- Contract review will tentatively start April 3, 2023, and end May 1, 2023. This timeline is presuming the contract is forwarded immediately after the award is granted. Actual timeline for contract review may be up to 3-6 months based on historical precedents.

Following finalization of contract, engineering and staking will commence on May 2, 2023, and conclude on October 16, 2023. Mid-State Consultants or equivalent consultant will work with the Whidbey Telephone Company staff and others to accurately map the area, collect the demographic details, and define the desired service needs. Consultants will then define the needed infrastructure, equipment, and software investment, in coordination with existing infrastructure to be included in the overall resulting network. Next, they will lay out formal designs and proceed to assemble construction specifications and contracts. This will also include Environmental and Archaeological / Historical surveys and identification of any sensitive areas. They will assist with contract bidding procedures, selection of contractors, and contract administration. This may include inspection of ongoing implementation, final testing and tune up, and as-built records of the delivered network. Jen[KT1] Jay Environmental Consulting or equivalent consultant will lead mandated environmental studies, archaeological studies, and oceanographic studies. Eelgrass and macroalgae mapping and monitoring surveys will be performed in the project areas of submarine cable landfall. Samplings shall be taken during periods when above-ground material is present in sufficient quantities to be readily observable, during the months of June 1 through October 1, 2023.

Once design engineering/staking and pertinent studies are completed, the submarine permit application process will begin. The permitting process will have the most extensive timeframe. Federal Communications Commission issues licenses to own and operate submarine cables and associated cable landing stations located in the United States. It also authorizes modifications, and transfers of assignments of existing cable landing licenses. Commission review of applications seeks to assure fulfillment of the requirements of the Cable Landing License Act of 1921. The Commission also seeks to ensure that where an applicant controls one of the necessary inputs of a submarine cable system (the wet link, cable landing station, or back haul facilities), the applicant cannot engage in anti-competitive conduct to the detriment of competing communications providers. All permitting applications (submarine, terrestrial, and manholes) will be submitted on June 12, 2023.

Materials will be ordered according to the budget justification once engineering and staking have been completed and a material list can be created based on the information gathered. Receipt of material will have a significant timeline, with considerations made according to the supply and demand of materials. The current timeframe projects the material receipt will be from October 31, 2023 – October 28, 2024.

In-kind contribution is outlined in the budget justification and will comprise of in-kind value of \$697,186 for land cable and installation.

The construction phase for the Terrestrial Route (251,468 ft.) will begin on June 12, 2023, and conclude

on March 7, 2025. Construction phase start date is dependent on materials such as hand holes, vaults, and conduit. If arrival date is sooner than expected and the construction team is in place, construction can begin sooner than the specified date. Construction completion date is calculated at 1000 feet of construction completed per day, plus an additional 10% for weather stoppages, staffing interruptions, and equipment problems.

Middle Mile line infrastructure (239,779 ft.) will be dispersed according to the specific areas: Admirals Cove (April 9, 2024 – May 16, 2024), Whidbey Island (May 17, 2024 – December 11, 2024), Birch Bay to Lummi Nation (December 12, 2024 – March 7, 2025), and Point Roberts (December 12, 2024 – January 14, 2025).

The Navy Leg 1 route (11,689 ft.) will commence on January 15, 2025, with a tentative end date of January 29, 2025. Navy Leg 2 route will have a shorter timeframe of just 2 days, starting on January 30, 2025, and ending on January 31, 2025. This will satisfy the requirement of 40% of total project mileage will be completed within the first two years.

Once all lines have been laid, all manholes will be built consecutively, each with a construction duration of 15 days. The following manholes will be built with a start date of May 17, 2024, and end date of March 14, 2025: Fort Casey, Alt Field, SR 20/Monkey Hill, Morans Beach County Park/Boring, Orcas Island/Boring, Birch Bay State Park/Boring, and Lighthouse Park/Boring. Additional manholes will be built at Monkey Hill/Sullivan and Crosby/Transmitter, beginning February 3, 2025, with a completion date of March 14, 2025.

The submarine fiber route from Whidbey Island to Point Roberts, along with its respective connecting points outlined on the attached GANNT chart will wrap up the construction phase. It will begin on January 5, 2026, and conclude on April 1, 2026. Validation of network will occur on April 2, 2026.

Project Timeline File

Applicants are asked to upload a timeline which will denote key milestones for implementation of the project, including but not limited to field survey, network design, equipment/material procurement, environmental assessment, permitting, construction, network testing, network activation and completion.

GANNT Chart-09-23-2022 09-34-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.pdf

Is an extension being requested?

No

Special Rules for Tribal Governments and Native Entities

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act permits the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with Tribal governments and Native entities, to waive, or specify alternative requirements, in connection with most directives governing the MMG Program if the Assistant Secretary finds that waiver or

modification of the requirement is necessary for (a) the effective delivery and administration of middle mile grants to Tribal governments or (b) the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure on trust land.

Is a waiver or alternative requirements requested?

No

Fair Labor Practices

Applicants must have a demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws as described in III.H in the NOFO. This will help ensure that projects are carried out in accordance with the law, assist NTIA in ensuring that a prospective awardee is capable of carrying out activities funded by an award in a competent manner in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws; and promote the effective and efficient completion of high-quality middle mile broadband infrastructure projects by ensuring a reliable supply of skilled workers and minimizing disruptive and costly delays.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Whidbey Telephone Company has no occurrences of violating employment or labor laws within the past three years, nor do any of the previously contracted parties, to the best of Whidbey Telephone Company's knowledge. Whidbey Telephone Company will include clauses in contracts with contractors/subcontractors that ensure wages reflect local scale applicable to broadband infrastructure. Whidbey Telephone Company's contracting process will follow the contracting guidelines outlined in Title 2, Subtitle A, Chapter 2, part 200.317-320 & Title 39 RCW, utilizing the more restrictive of the two processes. When hiring with federal grant awards, the Davis Bacon Act will be implemented unless exempt through the grant agreement. At a minimum, Washington State Prevailing Wages are required, along with all other federally mandated documentation which represents compliance with the wage laws. The review process for hiring contractors is as required by Title 39 RCW. The contractor to be hired must be determined to have submitted the lowest responsive bid as stated in RCW 39.04.010. In addition, the contractor must meet the mandatory responsible bidder criteria identified in RCW 39.04.350. In the case of federal grant contract agreements, obligations to permanently retain the contractor verification information is upheld, in addition to all other contract documentation. Whidbey Telephone Company selects contractor bid candidates who are competent, reputable, & who agree to abide by all state & federal laws.

As outlined in the State of Washington Department of Enterprise Services, Whidbey Telephone Company's contracts will meet state requirements for competitive bidding & other procurement laws, reducing risk & streamlining the purchasing process. Whidbey Telephone Company will comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act & Washington Minimum Wage Act regarding overtime, fees, & related infrastructure labor.

As an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission employer, Whidbey Telephone Company does not discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, transgender status, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information.

Whidbey Telephone Company will ensure employees, contractors, & subcontractors have adequate safety training in accordance with the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) as outlined in the Whidbey Telephone Company Employee Handbook (attached to this grant application). Whidbey Telephone Company implements an Incident Prevention Program that is to be reviewed & adhered to by any labor party association. It is the basic safety policy that no task is so important that an employee must violate a safety rule or put him or herself at risk of injury or illness to get it done. Whidbey Telephone Company's objective is to minimize the number of injuries & illnesses, not merely in keeping with, but surpassing, the best experience of other telecommunications companies. To be successful, all employees, contractors, & subcontractors are encouraged to actively participate in identifying ways to make Whidbey Telephone Company a safer place to work.

Officer Certification

In order for NTIA to evaluate an applicant's demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws, each applicant must provide examples of items described in III.H in the NOFO. Applicants are asked to upload a Certification from an Officer/Director-level employee (or equivalent) of the applicant evidencing consistent past compliance with federal labor and employment laws by the applicant, as well as contractors and subcontractors.

Fair Labor Certification-09-23-2022 09-37-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.pdf

Highly Skilled Workforce

To ensure that applicants have the technical and operational capacity to carry out the project, applicants must submit a plan for ensuring that the project workforce will be an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce (including by the applicant and each of its contractors and subcontractors). The plan for a highly skilled workforce should include the information described in III.I in the NOFO.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Whidbey Telecom will work collaboratively with its employees, partners, contractors, and subcontractors to ensure the project workforce is aptly skillful and credentialed according to the federal and state standards for the physical component of the middle mile infrastructure. The physical project workforce will consist of non-unionized Whidbey Telecom employees, utilized for this project on a part-time (PTE) basis during the project timeline. The following direct workforce will be employed

for the proposed project.

The Fiber Optic Technician minimum qualifications include two years of fiber optic splicing experience. Primary duties include providing fusion splicing, testing, maintenance, and troubleshooting of fiber optic backbone and distribution cabling, fiber optic drops, splitters, premise cabling, and closures.

The Fiber Splicing Supervisor minimum qualifications include two years of fiber optic splicing experience, working knowledge of best practices for Fiber Cable, and experience in a lead role. Primary duties include leading continuous improvement and total quality control initiatives and efforts, supervising the installation and splicing of fiber closures, splitters, and the routing of cable within pedestals and vaults, and leading for Emergency Outage and Repair. This supervisory role will also aid in on-the-job training.

The GIS Technician II minimum qualifications include proficiency in ESRI ArcGIS, NISC MapWise and SIS. A two-year degree in CAD or GIS systems is also required. Primary duties include maintaining base maps and outside plant facility records in MapWise and ABS and creating work prints, work order estimates, and reports. The GIS Technician II will also train co-workers in SIS cable records and MapWise processes.

The OSP Foreman & OSP Supervisor minimum qualifications include a Flagging Card, along with expert level knowledge in work zone safety requirements. Primary duties include maintaining all appropriate safety regulations of the crew and construction site, overseeing the quality of the work performed, maintaining the timely completion of work, high quality work practices, and needs of the crew, as well as providing direction to the crew for the completion of jobs.

The Telecom Construction Worker must be able to lift 70 lbs. and work effectively and safely to support the project team. The Telecom Install & Repair Technician minimum qualifications include two years experience as in related experience. Primary duties include installation of optical fiber and copper twisted pair drop cables, test access points, network interface devices, and initial wiring or rewiring of optical fiber-based and copper twisted pair-based subscriber systems.

All Whidbey Telecom employees, partners, contractors, and subcontractors will be trained at the onset of the project on OSHA and Washington State Department of Labor & Industries' safety standards and when appropriate, traffic control, to ensure safety of the project workforce and the community.

Advancing Workforce Development

A skilled workforce is critical to meeting infrastructure buildout timelines under the Infrastructure Act and connecting households across the country to reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband. A well-trained workforce will also allow for the safe deployment of sustainable networks. To meet the workforce needs of the MMG Program, applicants must make appropriate investments to develop a skilled, diverse workforce. Each applicant must provide as part of its application examples of items described in III.H in the NOFO.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Whidbey Telephone Company is actively building a partnership with Tacoma Community College and Fiber Broadband Association to provide an OpTIC™ Path Fiber Technician Certification Course. This course will help train a future workforce for local service providers in Point Roberts and surrounding communities. According to Deborah Kish, Vice President of Research and Workforce Development at Fiber Broadband Association, “Research tells us that the recent federal funding for broadband infrastructure means that there will be more fiber deployed in the next five years than all the fiber deployed to-date. However, there is a current shortage of skilled workers in the fiber industry, and that will lead to stalled or failed projects and increasing costs.” This course covers the fundamental principles of how to properly install, test and maintain FTTX networks. The class will consist of 144 hours of classroom instruction and hands-on skills training. Upon satisfactory course completion, graduates will be eligible for the Fiber Broadband Association OpTIC Path 3-year certification. Certification programs such as these work to create a targeted outreach to populations that have traditionally been underrepresented (those with disabilities, LGBTQI+ people, detached youth, such as persons with disabilities, LGBTQI+ people, disconnected youth, individuals with substance use disorders or past criminal records, reentry participants, as well as those enrolled in SNAP, TANF, and WIC programs, and military veterans and spouses). Whidbey Telephone Company is also partnering with Jefferson County Public Utility District to assist them with future training needs and share knowledge on best engineering, construction, and installation practices for FTTH networks. Whidbey Telephone Company’s Middle Mile Infrastructure Project will advance job security and readiness for the community of Point Roberts and the surrounding areas, as local workers and contractors/subcontractors will be recruited for the bidding of the project. Whidbey Telephone Company provides competitive benefits packages for its employees, to include the following: group insurance, medical/dental/vision insurance, 401k plan, group term life insurance, and workers’ compensation insurance. In addition to paid-time off accrual on a part or full-time basis, employees who enter the state or federal uniformed services for an extended tour of duty are eligible for an extended military leave of absence, which may continue up to five (5) years, unless otherwise provided under federal law. Furthermore, employees who work an average of 20 or more hours per week are entitled to take up to 15 days of unpaid leave while their spouse or registered domestic partner is on leave from deployment, or before and up to deployment, during times of military conflict. Whidbey Telephone Company strives for a diverse workplace in an inclusive environment that provides equal rights and opportunities for all workers, regardless of gender, color, age, ethnicity, physical ability, sexual orientation, and religious beliefs.

Climate Resiliency

Please demonstrate that the applicant has sufficiently accounted for current and future weather- and climate-related risks to new MMG Program infrastructure projects. In particular, each applicant should clearly demonstrate how it is conducting the items listed in III.I in the NOFO.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Whidbey Telephone Company will work collaboratively with Jen Jay, Inc., a reputable marine environmental consulting and permit specialist company in the San Juan Islands, Washington. This capable diving group will work to appropriately ensure the project mitigates climate and weather-related risks.

Jen Jay Environmental Consulting will implement surveys as dictated by federal regulatory agencies, Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, as well as state regulatory agencies, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and Washington State Department of Ecology. During the award period, the following environmental studies will be conducted to ensure current ecosystems remain healthy. Eelgrass and macroalgae mapping and monitoring surveys will be performed in the project areas of submarine cable landfall. Samplings shall be taken during periods when above-ground material is present in sufficient quantities to be readily observable, during the months of June 1 through October 1, 2023. Survey results will be valid for a period of 1 year.

Feasibility studies or alternative analysis will be initiated if federal and/or state justification needs to be made on the length of the cable and its landfall. Unnecessary impact to the marine habitat will be avoided.

Presently, the Lummi Nation salmon hatchery programs are major producers of chinook and coho salmon in Puget Sound. These prized fish play an important role in the lives of the Lummi people; ceremonial practices, subsistence, and economic well-being of tribal members are major factors to promote and protect salmon populations of the Lummi Nation. If landfalls do not include horizontal directional drilling, forage fish surveys will be conducted, and results made available to the tribal leaders and community members of Point Roberts. Cultural resources of the landfall project area will also be preserved by initiating archaeology studies.

Quality project design in directional drilling will minimize impact the submarine cable has to the environment and present or future climate environments. Climate change, as a sustained global concern, is also a local consideration and will dictate the mapping of specific drilling areas. Considering the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Washington state summary, temperatures in the state have risen almost 2°, which in turn, will lead to earlier melting of the snowpack, which plays a critical role in spring and summer water supplies. According to the State Route Climate Impact Vulnerability Assessment, the impact category for Whatcom County is low. However, as a coastal area prone to earthquakes, tsunami risk is high. Whidbey Telephone Company will ensure every measure is taken to provide sustainable, solid infrastructure and will work diligently with Jen Jay, Inc. during the award period to aid in safeguarding the natural, wildlife, and cultural resources of Point Roberts.

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Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance

Prior to distributing any MMG Program funding to a prospective awardee, NTIA will require the prospective awardee to agree, by contract or other binding commitment, to abide by the non-discrimination requirements set forth in III.J in the NOFO.

Do you agree to abide by the non-discrimination requirements?

Yes

Certification of Technical Capability

Each applicant must supply a certification attesting that it is technically qualified to complete and operate the proposed project.

Technical Capability Certificate-09-23-2022 09-39-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.pdf,
Capital Investment Schedule-09-28-2022 10-44-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.

Interconnect Policy

The Applicant must describe in detail the nondiscrimination, interconnection, and network management practices that would be adopted for the project facilities. The Applicant should describe how it will comply with nondiscrimination and interconnection obligations, particularly with connectivity to the public Internet and physical interconnection for the exchange of traffic. In addition to describing network management practices, the Applicant should disclose any practices in place to block access to illegal or harmful content.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Whidbey Telephone Company currently adopts an Open Internet Policy to promote the Internet as an open platform enabling customer choice, freedom of expression, end-user control, competition, and the freedom to innovate without permission. Whidbey Telephone Company also acknowledges that the middle mile infrastructure built with the awarded funds will follow the interconnect policies below and offered in perpetuity. Whidbey Telephone Company does not unreasonably discriminate in transmitting lawful network traffic over a customer's broadband Internet access service, subject to reasonable network management. In no case will Whidbey Telephone Company discriminate among customers on the basis of the type of content, applications, services or devices which the customer uses.

Whidbey Telephone Company's permanent Open Internet Policy can be found at:

(<https://www.whidbeytel.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/open-internet-policy-redline-060118.pdf>)

Whidbey Telcom's network management of broadband aims to provide high quality service to customers by working to resolve potential congestion issues and addressing customer technical needs. Customers are cautioned to purchase their own spam filtering, ransomware and antivirus software from commercial vendors to meet their needs. However, a customer that is subject to spam, virus, and denial of service attack or similar malicious, unlawful or unwarranted activities is urged to contact Whidbey Telephone Company as soon as possible. Whidbey Telephone Company will work with the

customer on how the customer can take appropriate and economically reasonable efforts to address the matter.

Customer is solely responsible for any transmission of personal identifiable information over the Internet as a public exchange. It shall be the Customer's sole responsibility to determine if a website and the method of transmission utilized by a website or other software, program or application, to transmit personal information such as credit card and/or bank account numbers and personal identifiable information, is secure and is the party they intended to transmit the information to. Customer is solely responsible for any transmission of personal identifiable information that is included as any part or portion of, but not limited to, an email, social media site, file transfer, newsgroup, blog, and instant message transmission. Customer agrees that the customer is solely responsible to protect the customer's personal identifiable information from identity theft.

Whidbey Telephone Company services may not be utilized for unlawful purposes in any capacity. Viruses and executable attachments may be blocked from Whidbey Telephone Company's email servers at Whidbey Telephone Company's sole discretion. Whidbey Telephone Company will take steps regarding an application-specific behavior by a customer if there is a reasonable belief that the application will cause harm to Whidbey Telephone Company's network or is unlawful, including, but not limited to, violating intellectual property rights.

Whidbey Telephone Company's full, interminable Terms and Conditions can be found at:
<https://www.whidbeytel.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/IB-Terms-and-Conditions-v.05122022.pdf>

Technical Overview

Please describe targeted last mile service objectives, including last mile service provider letters of commitment, agreements, or contracts; and a description of the proposed service offerings, including the pricing of the services to be offered over the proposed facility.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Whidbey Telephone Company (WTC) will provide middle mile access to all of Whidbey Island 80,000 residents, 5,000 residents of Lummi Nation, 17,000 residents of San Juan County and 1,200 residents of Point Roberts. In addition, WTC will provide middle mile access to thousands of residents in mainland Northwest Whatcom County.

Point Roberts Route:

Part of the proposed project area is located in the unincorporated community of Point Roberts in Whatcom County, northwestern Washington, U.S., near the Canadian border. It is located at the tip of a small peninsula (also called Point Roberts) that juts southward from British Columbia and is bisected by the international boundary.

Point Roberts currently lacks the infrastructure to develop and provide adequate access to high-speed broadband. The construction of a new middle mile fiber backbone will help address this need. Much of the internet traffic in this area is controlled by Canadian companies who have not been responsive in requests to expand services. Routing phone and internet traffic through a foreign country is neither

desirable nor practical. WTC has a keen awareness of national security interests. Overreliance on Canada is an ever-present factor, as the community of Point Roberts is uniquely situated geographically.

Also, the FCC 477 maps were referenced on 9/25/2022 for Point Roberts and show only the following satellite providers: ViaSat, Hughes Network Systems, and VSAT.

Lummi Nation Route:

As part of this grant WTC will provide dark fiber internet access to the Lummi Nation to the Seattle Internet Exchange (SIX).

Naval Air Station – Whidbey Route:

The US Navy has provided a letter of support for dark fiber access to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. This grant will allow dark fiber access to a number of US Navy locations on Whidbey Island.

Orcas Power and Light Cooperative Route:

WTC has the potential to provide primary or backup internet access to the following anchor institutions through an agreement with Orcas Power and Light Cooperative:

San Juan County:

- Government and Public Services:
 - o -Washington State ferries, yes, electricity, yo San -Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw islands.
 - o -Fire and EMS on San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw islands.
 - o -SJ County Sheriff.
 - o -San Juan County Government:
 - o -Including County wide Public Safety Radio VHF for Fire, EMS, Sheriff, Public Works.
 - o -Transport for ICOM 911 dispatch connectivity.
 - o -Town of Friday Government.
 - o -OPALCO Electric co-op county wide.
 - o -Town of Friday Harbor Water.
 - o -East Sound Water Company.
- Hospitals:
 - o -Peace Health Peace Island Medical Center.
 - o -Island Hospital Orcas Island Center.
 - o -A large number of private health practices on San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw islands.
- Schools:
 - o -San Juan Islands School District
 - o -Orcas Island School District
 - o -Lopez Island School District

- o -Shaw Island School District
- o -Decatur and Stewart Island Schools
- o -A number of private schools k-12 on San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw islands.
- Broadcasters:
 - o -Various TV and Radion broad casters on Orcas Island Mt Constitution. KBTC, KBCB, KVOS, TCTV
- Cell providers:
 - o -T-Mobile
 - o -ATT
 - o

Available Services:

Wholesale aka Middle Mile Services:

The most common of these services will be dark fiber offered through a multiyear lease agreement. Our expectation is we will provide dark fiber pricing to the Seattle Internet Exchange for \$6,000 to \$10,000 a month depending on the needs of our customers. Also, we will offer wholesale lit fiber services to larger customers such as, federal, state and local government entities, and school/libraries. All these agreements will be negotiated in good faith and nondiscriminatory.

Retail Service:

Whidbey Telephone Company will offer services supporting retail broadband services and certifies that these services will be available upon completion of the Whidbey Middle Mile Infrastructure Project. We will offer retail customer up to gigabyte speeds. When the middle mile cable is installed, internet prices will decrease by approximately \$10.00 per month for Point Roberts' residents. This will significantly impact consumers' budget for internet as well as the value of the service in speed. We will offer broadband services, but they will be close to what competitors charge in a similar market but would offer greater symmetrical speeds than the current providers.

Applicants are encouraged to upload supplemental documentation.

Contingency Agreement Template - Whidbey Midd-09-23-2022 09-40-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY -GRN-000408.pdf

Competitive Landscape

The Applicant should describe existing middle mile offerings in the area, if any, including competitor data if applicable. This should include a description of the proposed service offerings, including the pricing and technology of the services to be offered over the proposed facility. Where possible, Applicant's project should be able to demonstrate a decline in middle mile costs that are likely to flow through to consumer broadband prices.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Middle mile offerings in Point Roberts are currently nonexistent. According to Broadband Now, the internet service provider competition includes Whidbey Telephone Company, Viasat Internet, and HughesNet. While Whidbey Telephone Company is currently providing internet service to Point Roberts, the technology used is not sufficient to provide greater than 10/1 service to the entire area. This complicates the consistency of speed for the Point Roberts area. Whidbey Telephone Company provides fiber service with a variable range between 5 – 1,000 Mbps for an average monthly price of \$50 per month for residents. Viasat Internet, via satellite, provides 50 Mbps with a time to download of 2m 43s for a monthly price starting at \$64.99 per month for residents. HughesNet is also an alternative satellite service, providing 25 Mbps with a time of download of 5m 27s starting at \$64.99 per month for residents.

If middle mile cable is installed, internet prices will decrease by approximately \$10.00 per month for Point Roberts' residents. This will significantly impact consumers' budget for internet as well as the value of the service in speed. According to Broadband Now, the average download speed in Point Roberts is 21.46 Mbps. This is 88.6% slower than the average in Washington and 428.5% slower than the national average.

Satellite is not a predictable replacement option to middle mile fiber for the community of Point Roberts. It has several variables that affect its usability. Latency is higher the further away the satellites are—so high-Earth orbit satellite systems (such as HughesNet and Viasat) have much higher latency than low-Earth orbit satellites. Data restrictions are another complaint among satellite internet consumers and account for most of the slowed speeds. Most satellite companies restrict your data usage to a relatively small amount—between 10 GB and 150 GB per month. If the consumers exceed this amount, they must pay more for additional data or cope with drastically reduced speeds. Given the expensive set-up costs and poor speeds, satellite is a poor return on investment.

Applicants are encouraged to upload supplemental documentation.

Letters of Support_Whidbey-09-29-2022 02-09-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.pdf

Type of technology to be used in proposal:

Fiber Optic Technology

Each applicant of an award to build middle mile infrastructure using fiber optic technology shall certify that the proposed project, upon completion, will include direct interconnection facilities that will facilitate the provision of lit broadband service, at speeds not less than 1 Gigabit per second for downloads and 1 Gigabit per second for uploads to anchor institutions located within 1,000 feet of the middle mile infrastructure, as detailed in the Template CAI below.

Do you agree to certify to the above?

Yes

Upload Template CAI. Required for Fiber Optic Technology, optional for Wireless or Other.

Community Anchor Institutions-09-28-2022 12-05-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.xlsx

An eligible entity applying for a middle mile grant may seek, and the Assistant Secretary may grant, a waiver of the requirements set out in the previous paragraph, in full or in part, to the extent the eligible entity demonstrates that the requirement is not technically or economically feasible.

Do you plan to apply for a waiver? If yes, please attach the waiver application in the Application Workspace, the Application Information section, Required Documents under Required Document Question 4 "Additional Waiver Upload".

No

Network Route Maps

Applicants should provide a physical network map that includes the following (if applicable):

The Project Area and those unserved and underserved areas which it will enable.

Applicant's pre-existing service area that demonstrates current service levels.

The physical path of the network's transmission medium (e.g., backbone and lateral cable routes, microwave links), transmission type, technology, operating bandwidth, capacity (e.g., dark vs. lit strand count), and cable placement (e.g., aerial, burial) should be displayed.

Points of interconnection (purely passive and non-environmentally controlled nodes, e.g., splice points are optional):

Provider Facilities

Collocation Facilities

Private Interconnection Points with partnering service provider/private network

Wireless towers and associated coverage areas.

Anchor institutions within 1,000 feet, if desired.

Additionally, the maps should delineate between network and facilities that are:

Part of the Applicant's/key partners' existing network;

Proposed as part of this project;

Leased from a third party;

Utilized under some alternative arrangement; or

Relevant to interconnection with either Last Mile or Middle Mile service providers.

PLEASE NOTE: Only ESRI Shapefiles will be accepted and uploaded.

Whidbey Shape Files-09-26-2022 03-11-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.zip

Data Submission Specification

There is a template “Upload Template Data Submission Specification” which shall be uploaded. Applicants must complete the table with information for all interconnection points proposed for the network. This table has three required fields: Point Name, Latitude and Longitude. This should accommodate all of the points of interconnection (passive, non-environmentally controlled points of interconnection, e.g., splice points, may be excluded), collocation facilities, central offices, head ends, and other centralized facilities, network access points to Last Mile service providers, Internet peering points, and towers.

Interconnection Points Table -09-23-2022 09-51-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.xlsx

Network Diagram

The Applicant must provide a high-level network diagram to be uploaded for the project that is a representation of the network, capacities, and facilities. The diagram must clearly denote which of the network elements already exist. The diagram should show:

The links between the network nodes. The types of facilities used in connecting the network elements (fiber, wireless microwave, etc.).

The points of interconnection and collocation facilities, including Internet peering points, access to local exchange carriers, central offices, or cable head ends.

The proposed aggregation node facilities that will provide the egress point(s) from the broadband backbone to the networks of the selected service provider(s), named Last Mile service providers, and the selected named Internet Service Provider(s) in the new infrastructure.

The Applicant should show which technologies are used and include bandwidth capacity constraints.

Whidbey Network Logical Diagram-09-23-2022 09-51-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.pdf

Environmental Narrative

Any project-related activity that may adversely affect the environment must not be undertaken prior

to the completion of the environmental review process prescribed by NTIA. Doing so may jeopardize consideration of the application.

All Applicants for MMG projects must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Endangered Species Act, and other applicable environmental regulations.

Please provide a service-area environmental description that describes the physical project area and its surroundings (e.g., disturbed or developed land vs. open space; adjacent natural resources, such as rivers, wetlands, or forestlands; and any protected lands or resources in or near the project area), including site photographs and aerial photographs (e.g., Google Earth or Google Maps images), if the project includes construction and/or ground disturbing activities.

This response is limited to 12000 characters as an open field narrative with image files to be uploaded.

The project area is located in the unincorporated community of Point Roberts in Whatcom County, northwestern Washington, U.S., near the Canadian border. It is located at the tip of a small peninsula (also called Point Roberts) that juts southward from British Columbia and is bisected by the international boundary, and it is surrounded on three sides by the waters of the Strait of Georgia (west and south) and Boundary Bay (east). This American town can be reached overland from the United States only via British Columbia (going through both Canadian and U.S. customs).

There are several wetland areas in Point Roberts, as outlined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Wetland Mapper image (attached). According to the U.S. Forest Service finder, there are no forests on Whidbey Island.

The project will include ground disturbing areas. The five submarine cable sites are in N. Whidbey Moran's Beach County Park, Orcas Island at Olga Bay, Birch Bay, Birch Bay State Park, Point Roberts at Lighthouse Park choice #1, and Point Roberts, S. Beach Dr choice #2.

Upload Map Images:

Whidbey Island to Point Roberts proposed Subm-09-23-2022 09-52-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.jpg, Birch Bay to Lummi Nation proposed terrestria-09-23-2022 09-52-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.jpg, Whidbey Island proposed cable route screen sh-09-23-2022 09-52-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.jpg, Point Roberts proposed Terrestrial cable rout -09-23-2022 09-52-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.jpg, US Navy proposed terrestrial cable route leg -09-23-2022 09-52-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.jpg, US Navy proposed terrestrial cable route leg -09-23-2022 09-52-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.jpg, Welands Mapper -09-27-2022 10-43-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.png

Template Table of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators

List all funded and unfunded project collaborators, including partners, subrecipients, match providers, major contractors/supplies, details on role/scope of work for project. A fillable Template of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators can be found in found in the MMG ZIP folder.

Table of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collabo-09-23-2022 09-54-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.

Certificate of Operational Capability

Each applicant must supply a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) attesting to the applicant's operational capability to complete and operate the proposed project.

If the applicant has provided a voice and/or broadband internet access service, it must supply a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) attesting that it has filed FCC Form 477s and the Broadband DATA Act submission, if applicable, to the extent required during this time period and otherwise complied with the Commission's rules and regulations. Alternatively, the applicant must explain any pending or completed enforcement action, civil litigation, or other matter in which it was alleged to have failed to comply with Commission rules or regulations.

If the applicant has operated only an electric transmission or distribution service, it must submit qualified operating or financial reports that it has filed with the relevant financial institution for the relevant time period along with a certification that the submission is a true and accurate copy of the reports that were provided to the relevant financial institution.

If applicable, the applicant must submit a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) that is has operated a middle mile broadband network for at least two years or that it is a wholly owned subsidiary of such an entity and must specify the number of years the applicant or its parent company has been operating.

Organizational Capacity Certification-09-23-2022 09-54-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.pdf

Certification of Financial Capability

Each applicant must supply a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) attesting that it is financially qualified to meet the obligations associated with a project, that they will have available funds for all project costs that exceed the amount of the grant, and that they will comply with all MMG Program requirements, including service milestones.

Letter of Credit

During the application process, each applicant must submit a letter from a bank meeting eligibility requirements consistent with those set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(c)(2) committing to issue an irrevocable stand-by letter of credit, in the required form, to the applicant. The letter shall at a minimum provide the dollar amount of credit offered and the issuing bank's agreement to follow the terms and conditions of NTIA's model letter of credit. NTIA shall publish on its website a model letter of credit substantially similar to the model letter of credit established by the Federal Communications Commission in connection with the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF - Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order, 35 FCC Rcd at 773-77, Appx. C.).

NTIA will ensure, prior to issuing a middle mile grant award, that each eligible entity obtains an acceptable, irrevocable standby letter of credit in a value of no less than 25 percent of the award amount.

Each eligible entity shall provide with its letter of credit an opinion letter from its legal counsel clearly stating, subject only to customary assumptions, limitations, and qualifications, that in a proceeding under Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. (the "Bankruptcy Code"), the bankruptcy court would not treat the letter of credit or proceeds of the letter of credit as property of the winning bidder's bankruptcy estate under Section 541 of the Bankruptcy Code.

Bank Pre-Letter of Credit-09-23-2022 09-55-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.

Audited Financial Statement (Previous 3 Years)

Each applicant shall submit financial statements from the most recent fiscal year that are audited by an independent certified public accountant. If the applicant is not audited in the ordinary course of business, in lieu of submitting audited financial statements it must submit unaudited financial statements from the three prior fiscal years and certify that it will provide financial statements from the three prior fiscal years that are audited by an independent certified public accountant by an NTIA specified deadline.

***You must provide 3 years of audited financial statements.**

WTC Audited Historical Financial Statements 2-09-23-2022 09-55-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.pdf, WTC Audited Historical Financial Statements 2-09-23-2022 09-55-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.pdf

Historical Financial Statements (Previous 3 Years)

Each applicant shall submit financial statements from the three prior fiscal years that are audited by an independent certified public accountant. If the applicant is not audited in the ordinary course of business, in lieu of submitting audited financial statements it must submit unaudited financial statements from the three prior fiscal years and certify that it will provide financial statements from the three prior fiscal years that are audited by an independent certified public accountant by an NTIA specified deadline.

***You must provide 3 years of historical financial statements.**

WTC Audited Historical Financial Statements 2-09-23-2022 09-56-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.pdf, WTC Audited Historical Financial Statements 2-09-23-2022 09-56-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.pdf

Budget Narrative

Applicants will create and submit a budget narrative that adequately describes all proposed activities and costs for their grant-funded project. Applicants must complete the file template, fill in all required information, and upload the file

. The file must be uploaded as a Word file, and not converted to a PDF. You can find additional guidance in the MMG Application Guidance.

Budget Narrative_Whidbey-09-28-2022 02-59-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.docx, Budget Narrative_Whidbey-10-17-2022 03-41-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.docx

Template Detailed Budget Justification

The Detailed Budget Justification spreadsheet must reflect the cost categories that appear on the SF-424 and SF-424C and include itemized calculations for each cost placed under those categories. A fillable Template Detailed Budget Justification can be found in found in the MMG ZIP folder.

Detailed Budget Justification-09-28-2022 12-17-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.xlsx

Any other funding provided for this project?

No

Template Pro Forma

Pro forma financial projection and analysis related to the project's sustainability, inclusive of subscriber (e.g., last mile network connections, other wholesale services), across an eight-year

forecast period. A fillable Template Pro Forms can be found in the MMG ZIP folder.

Pro Forma-09-23-2022 10-03-WHIDBEY TELEPHONE COMPANY-GRN-000408.

