

Executive Summary of Project for BIP and BTOP:

8. Infrastructure Projects Executive Summary

Western Independent Networks, Inc (WIN) operates a network of connectivity between Independent Telephone Companies' areas, governmental agencies and business entities across the Willamette Valley in Western Oregon. This network provides these entities with connectivity to the Internet Backbone, connectivity between each other for exchange of content and services, connectivity to Inter-exchange Carriers and connectivity to the major markets in the area. The WIN Network currently operates [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The network is receiving requests that exceed the capacity. The first part of this grant application will provide equipment to increase the network bandwidth capability from [REDACTED], with the capability of [REDACTED], on a pure Ethernet platform. The second part of this grant proposal will provide for three fiber cable construction projects that will provide the network with some redundancy and connect new points to the network.

a. The primary opportunities the proposed system seeks to address are: 1) Provide additional bandwidth to an underserved area within one of our Last Mile providers service areas. 2) Increase availability of bandwidth at a better price to all areas on the network, 3) Lack of available Bandwidth in the existing system to meet the needs of the communities and the last mile providers 4) Provide a redundant path for the access Points in the Northern and Central Access Point Groups.

b. The proposed funded service areas include [REDACTED] Access Points for connection. [REDACTED] of these Points are Independent Telephone Companies including: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] additional points are Non-Telco access points that include [REDACTED], one in Portland, OR and the other in Eugene, OR. The final [REDACTED] access points will be in [REDACTED]. WIN will interconnect with [REDACTED] and with [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] Access Point. These include 16 census communities located throughout the Willamette Valley and in the foothills of the Coast range mountains.

c. Based on the data in the 2000 Decennial Census, there are approximately [REDACTED] households, in the proposed funded service areas. There is an estimated [REDACTED] businesses to go along with those households.

d. WIN estimates that there are [REDACTED] anchor institutions, public safety entities, and critical community organizations involved in the project. These figures were obtained individually from the respective independent telephone companies serving these areas and totaled.

e. The primary service we expect to use is Ethernet; for the transport of pure [REDACTED]. The major clients will be governmental agencies, local Internet Service Providers purchasing bandwidth between the local area and the Internet backbone. Also wireless carriers purchasing bandwidth capacity to transport their voice and data services to customers in rural areas, schools and health care facilities needing connectivity between themselves and related entities, and businesses with multiple locations in the Valley wishing to connect their locations, and other wholesale service

providers looking for less expensive alternatives to carry their existing and future traffic will be part of the client list.

f. Our approach to non-discrimination and interconnection will be much the same as it is today. We have always believed that the more people who were connected to the network, the greater the network's value. Consequently, we provide service to anyone who wishes to connect to us at the most favorable rates we can offer. While our initial mission was to create a backhaul alternative to [REDACTED] for our rural independent telephone company owners, over time our mission has expanded and we currently provide services to other wholesale and retail broadband service providers and even competitors if the need arises.

g. This application will provide us an opportunity to purchase an Ethernet based system. Advancement with this technology makes it look very similar to our current technology, which is SONET. In that the Ethernet can offer a self-healing design previously unavailable. Our expansion is in Ethernet and will be deployed across a ring configuration in the Northern and Central Sections and a spur in the Southern area. This will provide reliable consistent service. The new system will be used in conjunction with our current network and will not require retiring the existing equipment.

h. WIN was created in 1985 as an organization of Independent Telephone companies for purposes of collaboration, on Technology, legislative issues, regulatory issues and other industry issues that may come about. By the early 1990s the group decided to look at products and services as economic needs became more important. By 1995 the group started designing a regional switching network, System Signaling 7 (SS7) network and connectivity amongst the companies where possible. The switching network and SS7 network was put into service by 1999 and in 2001 the final design a network of connectivity was implemented. Although the switching network is gone, the SS7 network and connectivity network continue to flourish. The current staff has over 60 years of experience in the telecommunications industry

i. WIN is seeking a grant for \$1,700,640 on a project that will cost \$2,125,800. The total fiber optic terminal equipment cost is [REDACTED] and the total fiber optic cable construction portion is [REDACTED]. These costs include the engineering aspect of the project.

j. The Projected number of broadband subscribers by year number five (5) is [REDACTED].

k. While WIN has continued to manage through the downturn in the economy, the funding of this project will create [REDACTED] new positions within WIN and raise the total number of employees from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED].