Applicant Name: El Paso Community College

Project Title: Digital El Paso Expansion Initiative

Project Type: Last Mile

_______________________ Executive Summary _______________________

a) Opportunity the proposed system seeks to address: This application is being submitted by El Paso Community College under the Broadband Infrastructure Component of the BTOP. b) A general description of the proposed funded service areas: El Paso Community College in collaboration with El Paso County are proposing to provide and establish broadband access to underserved, middle mile; and unserved, last mile; services to eleven communities within the County of El Paso. The eleven communities identified are Vinton, Canutillo, Anthony, Socorro, Clint, San Elizario, Tornillo, Horizon City, Agua Dulce, Westway, and Homestead. Each of these communities is a designated Colonia, described as an unincorporated, irregular community with inadequate water, sewer and improved roads. c) Number of households and businesses passed: The population of the eleven communities combined is 140,731; serving 37,580 households. The median income level for the combined communities is $25,275. Of this population, there is 85% Hispanics, 15% Caucasian, 8% Black or African American and 2% Asian (US Census Bureau) with a combined population within the County of 742,062. Ciudad Juarez, the largest city in the state of Chihuahua borders the City of El Paso. This border is the largest US/Mexico border. The international metro area is home to about 2 million people and is the largest community in the world where a developed country and a newly-industrialized county join regional economy. d) Number of community and anchor institutions, public safety entities, and critical community organizations passed and/or involved with project: El Paso Community College and El Paso County are partners of Digital El Paso; a local program comprised of partners throughout the community including the City of El Paso, Housing Authority of City of El Paso, El Paso Independent School District, and several other community entities. The program was established to provide free wireless broadband Internet access to the downtown area of the City of El Paso. The program collaboratively increased the successful outcome of broadband penetration and sustainability to unserved areas within the City of El Paso e) Proposed services and applications for the proposed funded service areas and users: The services and applications proposed for the funded service areas and users will include mobility to support public safety and transportation activity in coordination with the City of El Paso’s BTOP application. f) Approach to addressing the non-discrimination and interconnection obligations: All public access will be provisioned as an open network that will operate without any restrictions to end-users. El Paso Community College and the County of El Paso in both its Middle Mile and Last Mile Projects shall address the non-discrimination and interconnection obligations by: 1. Adhering to the principles contained in the FCC’s Broadband Policy Statement (FCC 05-151 adopted Aug. 5, 2005) 2. Shall not favor any lawful internet applications or content over others. 3. Shall display on the Digital El Paso web page (http://www.digitalelpaso.com) network management policies in a prominent location and provide
notice to customers of changes to these policies. 4. Middle Mile Project will connect to the public Internet, and provide connectivity to the public Internet to Last Mile projects, such that the projects are not an entirely closed network. 5. Middle and Last Mile Projects will offer interconnection, at all of its Middle Mile and Last Mile interconnections (where technically-feasible) as well as the central interconnection on reasonable rates and terms to be negotiated with any requesting parties. This includes the ability to connect to the public Internet and physical interconnection for the exchange of traffic. g) Type of broadband system that will be deployed: Based on the success that El Paso Community College and the County of El Paso has had with the current network design for the Digital El Paso pilot project, it was decided to use the same network type and technology. The network type is a wireless mesh network that allows the County of El Paso to blanket an entire area with Wireless broadband Internet access while maintaining easy administration and troubleshooting. This system allows up to 54mb speeds via wireless broadband Internet. The technology standard for this wireless mesh is from Cisco Systems, which is the standard of the current network system. Also due to the nature of this design, the Last Mile technology will allow several types of networks to run on the same network. In short, School Districts, Public Safety, Public Internet, Health Care institutions, First Responders and key Anchor Institutions could all have their own network segment while on the same technology, thus improving connectivity, interconnection and an overall end user experience. h) Qualifications of the applicant that demonstrate the ability to implement and operate a broadband infrastructure: Fabiola Rubio, El Paso Community College CIO and Peter Cooper, El Paso County CTO, will lead the project along with their Network Planning Managers, and IT support staff with proven expertise and experience. The IT staff for El Paso Community College was responsible for the design and development of the Orion Project which provides fiber optic connectivity to major K-12 and post-secondary educational institutions in the El Paso area. The mission of Orion was to use collaboration to support the delivery of online educational activities and services. The Orion collaboration was the foundation for Digital El Paso. The County of El Paso’s IT Department was instrumental in the initial design, installation, implementation and the launching of the Digital El Paso Project. El Paso County continues to provide network operations, maintenance and technical expertise. This County Department offers services to the entire County ranging from help desk, technical support, business analysis, network design and web-team. El Paso Community College was a key supporting partner providing the program leadership for broadband adoption and training. i) Overall infrastructure cost of broadband system: The overall cost to implement the Broadband system will be approximately $15,736,682. This cost is to include all middle mile and last mile equipment, personnel and other equipment needed to install the system as well as to provide the Operation and Maintenance of the system. j) Overall infrastructure Cost of the Broadband System The overall cost to implement the Broadband System will be $15,736,682. This is to include all middle mile and last mile equipment, personnel and equipment needed to install the system as well as allow providing free internet access for 1 year after build out. k) The projections for subscriber rate are projected as follows: 1. Year 0- 1½ Construction: pre-adoption in areas covered (All work is in collaboration with El Paso Community College) a. Begin marketing campaign to educate communities of the project b. Begin signup for Computer Training Classes. c. Ramp up the Re-furbished computer d. Seek donations from entities to increase supply chain of refurbished computers 2. Year 1½ - 2½ Finalized Construction: Continue adoption in areas covered (Free Internet first year) a. Begin Training classes in areas where last mile regions are up b. Collaborate with local anchor institutions to provide
additional training c. Continue with aggressive marketing campaign d. Continue to seek donations for refurbished computers supply chain 3. Year 2 ½ - 3: 20-30% adoption as users have readily accessible Last Mile a. Continue with aggressive marketing campaign b. Continue partnering with anchor institutions and bringing them on board c. Continue with on-going training classes and re-furbished computer program