Applicant Name:  Eagle Communications, Inc.

Project Title:  Eagle Communications - Lincoln, Kansas

Project Type:  Last Mile Non-Remote

Executive Summary

The goals of this project are to deliver affordable and reliable broadband services to the residents and commercial and municipal entities of Lincoln, Kansas while adding opportunity, employment and quality of life enhancements to the community. By building a robust broadband infrastructure in Lincoln, Eagle will enable the rapid growth of opportunity. The City of Lincoln has a good website and interest in growing its functionality, but has little reason to do so since their residents do not have the ability to participate in it. Deploying broadband fiber deep into the community of Lincoln will have the effect of revitalizing the web participation activities of the city. The City of Lincoln's government, business community, and individual entrepreneurs will also have the opportunity to use modern Internet services of web hosting, application hosting, off-site data backup, and recovery. The City of Lincoln is a small 100% rural community of 1,350 residents located geographically close to a major highway, but saddled with declining economic prospects. The City of Lincoln is the county seat of Lincoln County Kansas and has a motivated and active leadership group who has reached out to Eagle Communications asking for improvements in broadband services. Lincoln has identified that the lack of affordable and reliable broadband is a major drawback to community viability and economic sustainability and the leadership is standing ready for a partner to help them solve this critical problem. Eagle works with the community of Lincoln currently and met with residents and business owners as well as the other network Wireless providers to discuss the current state of broadband in Lincoln. Vendor names and actual speeds delivered from each, along with the reliability or availability of each were shared with the Eagle team. This actual data was compared to the advertised data on vendor websites and was noted. There are two existing wireless vendors, including Eagle, who advertise varying speeds up to 2mb download. The physical nature of the existing wireless environment makes the existing wireless solution far less than optimal and testing showed average performance. AT&T, the local telephone company, advertises the availability of DSL, but actual attempts at providing same has lead Eagle to the conclusion that the copper system in Lincoln will not support broadband speeds on DSL. The cellular vendors list Lincoln as “edge” and actual testing of upload and download show below broadband floor performance speeds of approximately 115 kbps download and less upload from Altel. There are 630 households and 130 businesses are passed in Lincoln. The Eagle Broadband deployment in Lincoln will consist of Fiber to the Home (FTTH) using RF over Glass. The system will be connected by fiber to Eagles Wide Area Fiber Network. The fiber connecting these mainline and feeder legs can and will serve as a Metro-Ethernet based fiber ring. The fiber ring is strategically placed within the community to provide easy access to local government, school district, and commercial business facilities. This build out plan is a proven performer in small cities like Lincoln and Eagle has staff and resources with experience in building,
installing and maintaining this technology. Eagle Communications Inc. will comply with all FCC statements and rulings for Internet access or Internet Protocol-enabled (IP-enabled) services to insure its networks are operated in a neutral manner. Eagle continues to strive to see that our broadband networks are widely deployed, open, affordable, and accessible to all consumers. We thus incorporated the following FCC principals (from FCC 07-151) into our Statement of Use. To encourage broadband deployment and preserve and promote the open and interconnected nature of the public Internet, consumers are entitled to access the lawful Internet content of their choice. To encourage broadband deployment and preserve and promote the open and interconnected nature of the public Internet, consumers are entitled to run applications and use services of their choice, subject to the needs of law enforcement. To encourage broadband deployment and preserve and promote the open and interconnected nature of the public Internet, consumers are entitled to connect their choice of legal devices that do not harm the network. To encourage broadband deployment and preserve and promote the open and interconnected nature of the public Internet, consumers are entitled to competition among network providers, application and service providers, and content providers. Eagle Communications Inc. does and will continue to post our Network Management policies in our Customer Service Agreement on our Home Page and provide changes to same in notification of customers. Eagle Communications Inc. will offer interconnection to requesting parties through good faith negotiations on rates and terms where technically feasible and use will not exceed network capacity. Eagle will build Fiber transport to interconnect to the existing Eagle Network at Ellsworth Kansas. This network will provide affordable, reliable broadband service today, and be scalable for future growth and technologies. “Shovel Ready” and digging since 1946, Eagle Communications, Inc. has a long history of partnerships in successful efforts to revitalize the economic climate in Rural Kansas. Eagle has worked with many levels of economic strata in these communities including cities, schools, hospitals, Main Street businesses, home based businesses, and individual residents in facing their challenges to compete in the 21st century. People in Rural America face the same challenges that Urban American residents do in competing for goods and services; however, access to affordable broadband services has not been made available at the same level as in Urban America. Eagle comes to these communities with the premise that if broadband was not affordable then it was not truly accessible. Eagle then does what is necessary to make it both affordable and accessible. Along with dedicated fiber, shared fiber and cable Internet in town, Eagle has also partnered with Rural Farmers COOP businesses to offer broadband via commercial grade wireless to our most rural areas. Through Eagle’s partnerships and drive to deliver affordable and accessible broadband services to the underserved residents of Rural Kansas these communities have made progress in the economic and quality of life challenges they face. Eagle Communications, Inc. is a Kansas based broadband services company with over 250 employee owners via an Employee Stock Ownership Plan. For over a decade Eagle Communications has brought high quality, high speed Internet to homes and businesses through both hybrid fiber-coax systems and wireless technology. The overall infrastructure cost of the broadband system is $997,600 and the overall expected subscriber projections for the project are 385. This project is estimated to create 1.5 jobs.