Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: SALEM, COUNTY OF

Project Title: New Jersey Southern Region Broadband Project

Project Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

_______________________ Executive Summary _____________________

a) Opportunity the proposed system seeks to address: It should be immediately stated that the Southern Region has communicated with the New Jersey State Department of Information Technology (OIT), as they are also submitting a BTOP Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) application in Round II. After several communications it's been determined that the backbone being created in the southern counties is not a duplication of services but rather a complimentary system for it will impact county entities and local institutions. In contrast the OIT's application will create a statewide backbone that provides service to state institutions located within the southern region counties and the main campus of the community college located there. To be clear on that point, the State's application will link into the main campus of the community colleges where the Southern Region's services will benefit satellite campuses located within the outlying municipalities. If both applications are funded the State of New Jersey could be a model site for highlighting the benefits of broadband services with counties complimenting state projects and vice versa. The proposed New Jersey Southern Region Broadband Initiative will interconnect community anchor institutions across a four county region, uniting rural, suburban and urban communities in one contiguous network. This regional communications platform, consisting of state of the art wireless technologies, presents an excellent opportunity for the participating Counties to create a stable wireless foundation. This foundation will fulfill many participating Counties visions of becoming less reliant upon expensive, recurring costs of third party lease based services. A Southern Regional county-wide wireless broadband network project presents a compelling opportunity to provide enhanced broadband wireless communications services throughout the Southern region of the State of New Jersey in a coordinated and cost efficient manner. The benefits of this interconnection are numerous and substantial, especially as they relate to cost savings and sharing resources and knowledge among the targeted Community Anchor Institutions such as education institutions, health care providers, libraries, public safety agencies, and other governmental functions. The project will provide infrastructure to: - 3 County Colleges - 1 Workforce Investment Facility - 2 Vocational Education Schools/Centers - 1 Developmental Center - 39 Public K-12 Schools - 2 Non-Profit agencies - 1 County Institute of Technology - 34 Police Departments - 57 Fire Departments - 6 Public Libraries - 2 Hospitals and/or Health Care Centers - 7 Private Corporations/Businesses - 1 Nuclear Generation Facility b) General Description of the proposed funded service area (location, number of communities, etc.) The proposed funded area is comprised of four counties ' Atlantic, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem ' each located in the southern region of New Jersey. Within those four counties are 81 municipalities. The service area covers approximately 1,844 square miles, including rural, suburban and urban communities. In perspective the project service area covers approximately a third
of the State of New Jersey. c) Number of households and businesses passed In total, the project would pass approximately 259,179 households (for a total of 717,948 people), and 30,646 business. d) Number of community anchor institutions, public safety entities, and critical community organizations passed and/or involved with project. There is a total 1,131 community anchor institutions, public safety entities and critical community organizations located within the service area. In addition there is critical infrastructure such as a nuclear generation plant, regional and state highways, bridges, maritime ports and the Atlantic Casino industry. e) Proposed services and applications for the proposed funded service areas and users The Southern Region Broadband Initiative infrastructure - middle-mile project will significantly increase the cost effectiveness of providing internet services to community anchor institutions and governmental entities while lowering the barriers to companies that are interested in offering last-mile service to underserved and underserved residents in the rural regions located throughout the service area. The wireless solution will provide shared services between the four adjoining Southern Regional Counties for intergovernmental communications that will expand computer voice and radio communication network infrastructure. The sharing of these networks will provide an expanded service to residents of the region for Public Safety and Emergency Management services; provide the Counties with expanded Continuity of Operations and Continuity of Government through the sharing of data and data recovery sites; and through the sharing of costs reduce the burden on the taxpayers for these additional services. f) Type of broadband system that will be deployed (network type and technology standard) The proposed system will deploy a ‘collapsed loop’ system ‘two radios on each link sharing common antennas in each direction for protection against anomalous propagation that is common along the coast. The links would be license 155 MB/s. Specifically, the Proteus AMT M-Series is a Carrier Class medium to high capacity, point-to-point microwave system. g) Qualifications of the applicant that demonstrates the ability to implement and operate a broadband infrastructure, and/or sustainable broadband service provider As outlined in the Broadband Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed by the four partnering counties, each County's Information Technology Department is responsible to implement, manage and operate the proposed broadband infrastructure project. Being government entities there is a built in readiness that includes a formalized operations structure, administrative support, financial resources and qualified personnel to proceed with the broadband infrastructure project immediately upon federal funding. Each County IT Department consists of qualified network administrators who are responsible for preparing and administering department functions and budgets. An IT Director or their equivalent has been assigned from each county to act as the liaison between the County and the Consortium. The leadership team includes: 'William Taylor, Gloucester County 'Barry Solof, Cumberland County 'Terrence Layfield, Salem County 'A.J. Russo, Jr., Atlantic County All levels of County Government are prepared to move forward with the broadband project; from the Board of Chosen Freeholder level all the way to support personnel within the Information Technology Department. h) Overall infrastructure cost of the broadband system The cost for proposed system is $ 28,667,620. Federal request is $ 22,463,847 with the Southern Region Consortium matching at $ 6,213,773. i) Overall expected subscriber projections for the project. The primary existing customer base for each of the participating partners is County/Municipal Government Campuses including Emergency Management and 911 Operations, total structure count is 114. Specifically, Atlantic County services 33 County facilities, Cumberland County 23 facilities, Gloucester County 26 facilities and Salem County 32 facilities. Other Community anchor institutions located within
the proposed funded service area and provided with internet services include: 3 County Colleges 1 Workforce Investment Facility 2 Vocational Education Schools/Centers 1 Developmental Center 39 Public K-12 Schools 2 Non-Profit agencies 1 County Institute of Technology 34 Police Departments 57 Fire Departments 6 Public Libraries 2 Hospitals 7 Private Corporations/Businesses 1 Nuclear Generation Facility

At this point there are no third-party customers serviced by any of the partners associated with this application. Third-party customers require internet services from private vendors.

Number of jobs estimated to be created or saved as a result of this project. Job estimates project not less than 311 jobs will be created as a direct result of funding received to develop and construct the proposed network backbone system. Jobs would come in the form of construction, surveying, installation and maintenance positions to support newly created system. Guidance for developing the projected number of new jobs is from the Council of Economic Advisors whose estimates for the job-years created by direct government spending indicates that it takes approximately $92,000 of spending to create one job-year. Thus at a project total of $28,667,620 the project is likely to produce 311 jobs.