Applicant Name: EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA BROADBAND AUTHORITY

Project Title: Eastern Shore of Virginia Middle Mile Buildout to Anchor Institutions

Project Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

Executive Summary

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority (ESVBA) is proposing to build and operate a high performance, highly reliable broadband network to serve the businesses and citizens of the Eastern Shore. The design of the network is in full keeping with the intent expressed in the conference report of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Section 6001 of the House bill instructs the NTIA: to seek to fund, to the extent practicable, projects that provide the highest possible, next-generation broadband speeds to consumers. Our network is designed to accomplish precisely those goals. The ESVBA was formed by joint resolution of the counties of Accomack and Northampton and charged with providing the citizens and businesses of the Eastern Shore of Virginia with the broadband telecommunications infrastructure they require to be successful and productive citizens and communities in the twenty-first century. By charter, ESVBA is an open access network. The ESVBA is directed by a five-member board of directors consisting of public officials and citizens of the two counties. An executive director and a small professional staff operate the ESVBA. After completing years of study and evaluation, and the continued decision of the incumbent telecommunications providers not to allocate capital for significant expansion on the Eastern Shore the citizens and Boards of Supervisors acted to provide the means to improve telecommunications service themselves in this economically depressed and very rural area. The ESVBA’s goals are to: Work with local economic development organizations to attract high tech businesses and data centers and expand opportunities for local businesses. Work with the education sector to help develop and implement distance learning and other online education tools. Work with healthcare facilities to help develop and implement telemedicine applications. Provide improved governmental and emergency services response and delivery. Work with service providers to offer wide availability of advanced services and promote competition. Build a business organization and model that rapidly reaches positive cash flow in order to support itself and complete the community’s goals. Provide alternative carrier access to NASA, NOAA, Coast Guard, Navy, other federal agencies and private enterprise business customers. Provide improved business, education and employment opportunities for all our citizens.