Located just 35 miles east of Los Angeles, Ontario is widely considered as the inland region's population and job growth center. With growing logistics and high technology sectors, Ontario is quickly becoming Southern California's Next Urban Center with high quality office development, urban housing and lifestyle amenities that are attracting large professional firms and corporate headquarters. Ontario offers an exceptional pro-business environment with a highly skilled labor force, lifestyle amenities, reasonable lease rates, and modern workspaces with the technical amenities necessary to compete in a global economy. The convenience of LA/Ontario International Airport (LA/ONT), superior transportation and access to local, regional, national and global markets makes Ontario the perfect Southern California location. The City of Ontario is a full service city supporting a variety of services (see http://www.ci.ontario.ca.us and http://www.ontarioplan.org/) including; police, fire, solid waste, water, waste water, parks, recreation, library, code enforcement, development services, housing and redevelopment operations. City operations have grown in such a way that these functions are now spread across the 50 square miles of the City. Over the past few years, the City's internal use of telecommunications technologies has grown significantly. The City now operates and depends upon sophisticated locally owned and leased line communications that connects staff at all City facilities for voice, data, Internet, radio and video communications. The City faces increasing costs as it continues to implement advanced information systems. The City's network and leased lines currently support a somewhat constrained and limited electronic delivery of government services. For the last decade, the City has implemented a variety of solutions to accommodate future telecommunication needs. These include; a structured wiring ordinance, fiber master planning, conditions on new development and impact fees. The City has also worked with several consultants on ways to improve existing communications and plan for future needs. The City of Ontario currently contracts with ID Consulting Solutions ('IDCS') for consultation on fiber optic issues and solutions. The City together with IDCS has the necessary background and experience to successfully implement the proposed project. In order to improve governmental services and public safety capabilities, the City is proposing to construct a wide area 10 Gig-E fiber ring backbone with 2 Gbps trunk links to several key City facilities. The proposed use of this backbone will be primarily for public safety and municipal services with the potential for serving future economic development opportunities. The project will connect dispersed sites resulting in significant enhancements to voice and data communications, especially for the police and fire buildings. The project will also connect with traffic control cabinets near the ring for improved, real time traffic management. Ultimately, the ring could serve as the backbone for wireless meshing to serve mobile police and fire vehicles. The proposed network will also make government information more readily
available, open opportunities to have searchable databases, interactive service request forms and business transactions for all constituents that interact with local government in Ontario. These services will be available to the community over the Internet and at public access terminals in libraries and other City facilities. The proposed network could be the foundation for many other innovative projects that otherwise would not be feasible. These include: meter reading, police video downlinks, economic development projects, smart communities and links to other community anchor sites. While it is not proposed at this time the City of Ontario may consider offering excess capacity on the network, under an open access model, to third party providers that would serve unserved and underserved businesses in the community. The project is a 24 mile underground ring (leveraging 10 miles of existing conduit) estimated to cost approximately $3.5 million to construct. The ring will consist of two (2") underground conduits with a 288 fiber count. It will connect 8 public safety facilities and 15 other municipal facilities. The project is a middle mile project primarily intended for public safety and municipal needs but will pass hundreds of commercial and industrial businesses. The location of the ring is primarily in the commercial and industrial areas of the City with limited exposure into residential areas. If the City opens up the network for serving broadband uses in the future, it would be on an open access basis, allowing third party providers to serve the business community. The City of Ontario has no plans to be a service provider or compete with broadband service providers. However, the open access approach would allow that excess capacity on the City's network could be made available where the City is wholesaling dark fiber or lit services to reach unserved or underserved areas. The anticipated number of jobs from this project will be 38 based upon ARRA Job Creation Methodology. Over the longer term, we envision that the ring may support future economic development efforts to retain existing companies and attract new companies to Ontario. Once the network is in place it will need to be maintained over its life which could create and maintain additional jobs into the future. The project area is also in a defined economically distressed area with unemployment consistently above the national average over the last two years and with the peaks in November 2009 at a level of 15.2% unemployment.