Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
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BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION
For Fiscal Year 2022

Primary Applicant (Name and Address):	Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx. Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions. Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: **March 17, 2022** at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. **Late applications will not be accepted.**
Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC 417 Pine Street Green Bay, WI 54301 (920) 940-0138	Contact for further information: PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov
	Date: March 17, 2022

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.

Applicant Certification: In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.

Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)	Title	Phone ( )
Mitchel Olson	Chief Development Officer | General Counsel	920.940.0138
Signature of Authorized Representative	Date March 17, 2022	

SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) $2,000,000
Federal Employer Identification No. 20-0284635	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) $6,000,000
Contact Name and Title Mitchel Olson – Chief Development Officer | General Counsel	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) $8,000,000
Telephone Number 920.940.0138	Project Name R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality - Rock County
E-mail Address(es) mitchel.olson@bugtusselwireless.com	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) FTTH
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant N/A	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) Middle-mile / Last-mile
Grant Manager Contact Name N/A	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number N/A
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations Rock County 51 South Main Street Janesville, WI 53454	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) The Rock County R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Project is the deployment of 114.5 miles of fiberoptic middle-mile, completing a ring throughout Rock County, while providing gigabit service to homes and business locations along that route. This project is “Open Access” allows for future expansion and encourages faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which supports immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed 1 Gbps`	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed 1 Gbps
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location 200 mbps	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location 200 mbps

County or Counties served by this project	Community or Communities served by this project
Rock County	Town of Magnolia, Town of Spring Valley, City of Edgerton, Town of Porter, Town of Fulton, Village of Orfordville, Town of Avon, City of Evansville, Town of Union, City of Brodhead, Town of Newark, Town of Plymouth, Town of Lima, Town of Clinton, Town of Bradford, Town of Johnstown, Town of Turtle, Town of La Prairie, Town of Rock, Town of Beloit
List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve AT&T, CenturyLink, Charter Communications, Frontier Communications, Sharon Telephone Company, Edge Broadband, LiteWite, Netwurx, Rise Broadband, Sonic Spectrum, US Cellular, upnetwi	
Does proposed project serve an *unserved* area of the State, as defined in Section 1.4 of the application instruction? (yes/no) Yes	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no) Pending; Rock County is in the process of adopting the Broadband Forward! policies, with the expected completion on May 26, 2022.
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). 151	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). 2,871
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are *unserved*? 55	Of the improved residential locations, how many are *unserved*? 1,043
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) Yes	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) Yes
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) Yes	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) Yes
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) Yes	

FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application
Budget & Income Summary

Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC	R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality - Rock County

Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	$ 1,403,793.75	$ 4,211,381.25	$ 5,615,175.00
2	Equipment	$ 109,800.00	$ 329,400.00	$ 439,200.00
3	Supplies	$ 375,055.00	$ 1,125,165.00	$ 1,500,220.00
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	$ 75,570.00	$ 226,710.00	$ 302,280.00
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees	$ 35,781.25	$ 107,343.75	$ 143,125.00
6	Travel	$ -	$ -	$ -
7	Other	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Total:	$ 2,000,000.00	$ 6,000,000.00	$ 8,000,000.00
		75.0% match requested		

Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Partnership/Joint Venture - Rock County Loan	Applicant	Cash	$ 3,000,000.00
2	Rock County Loan to Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC	Partner	Cash	$ 3,000,000.00
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
			Total:	$ 6,000,000.00

FIGURE 1. PROPOSED FIBER ROUTE

Proposed Fiber Route

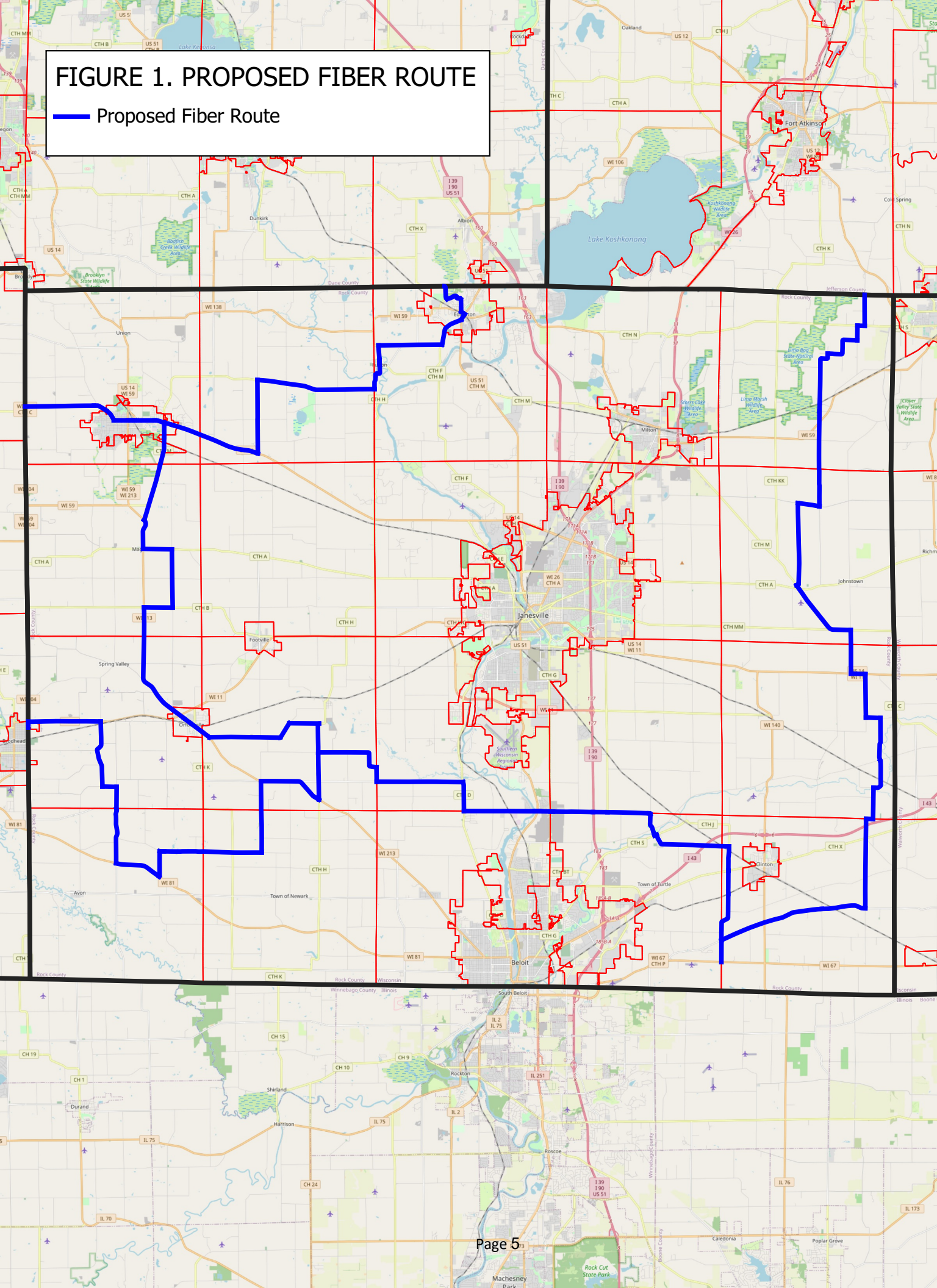
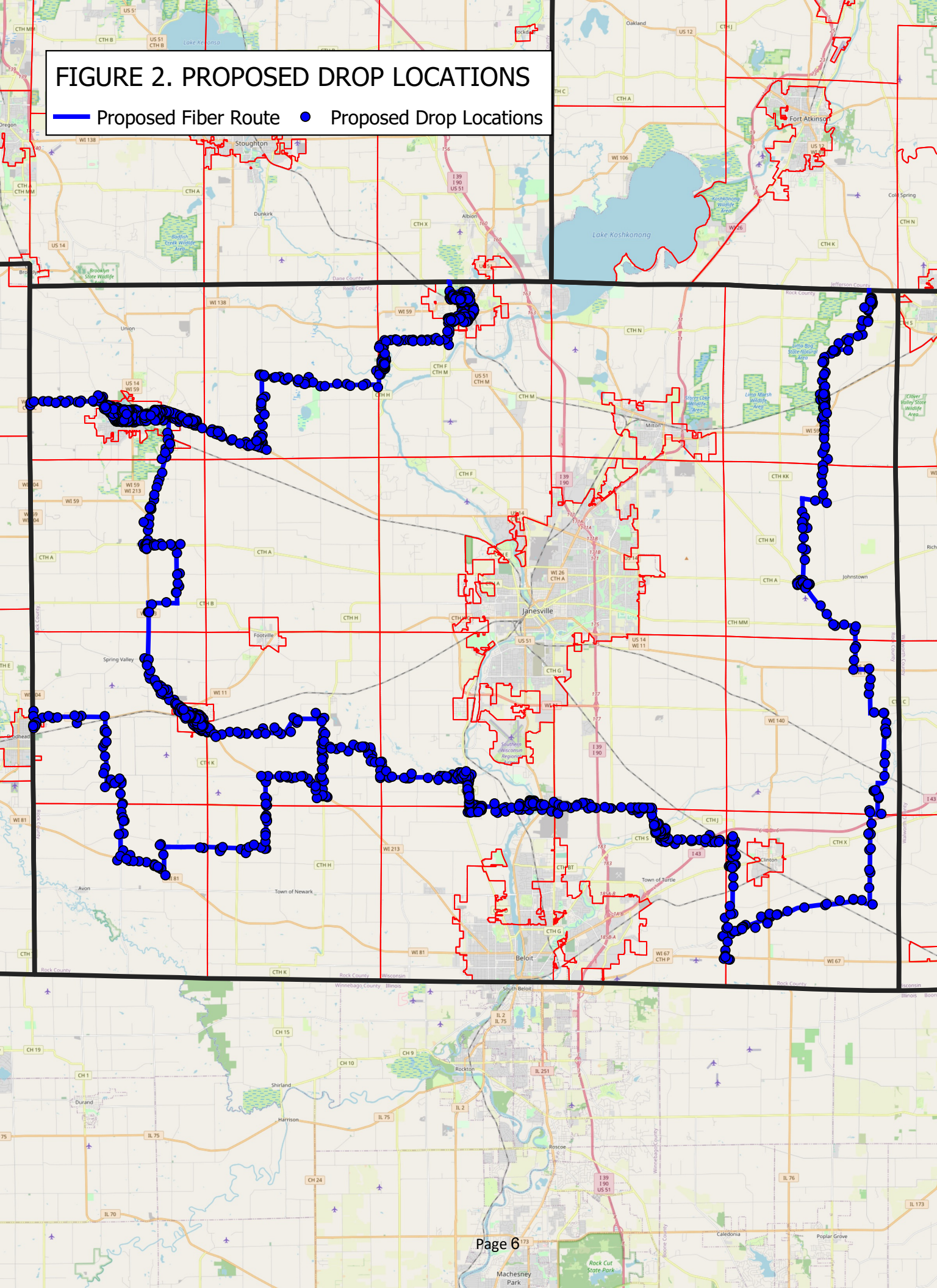


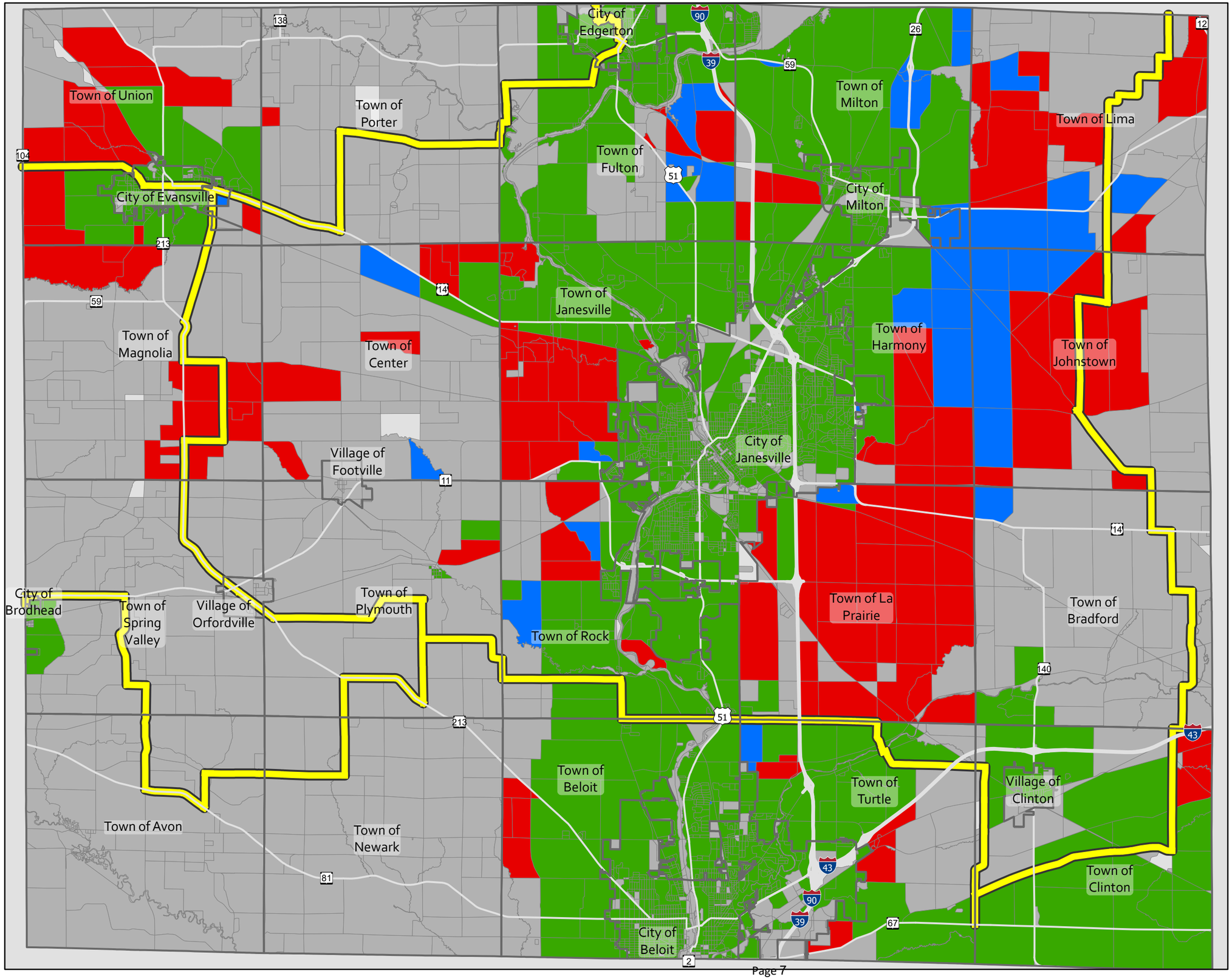
FIGURE 2. PROPOSED DROP LOCATIONS

Proposed Fiber Route
Proposed Drop Locations



Broadband Speed Test Data from GEO as of March 9, 2022

Rock County, Wisconsin
3/11/2022



Proposed Middle-Mile Fiber Route

Download speed

- No Service
- <10 M down
- <25 M down
- 25 - 300 M down

Municipalities

ROCK COUNTY GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

Planning, Economic and Community Development Agency
51 S Main St
Janesville WI 53545
(608) 757-5587
PLANNING@CO.ROCK.WI.US

0 1.5 3 6
Miles

3.2 Mandatory application requirements

3.2.1 Applicant identification and contact information

a. The name and address of the entity applying for the grant, and the mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address of one or more contact persons representing the applicant.

Name of Entity:	Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC ("Bug Tussel")
Mailing Address:	417 Pine Street Green Bay, WI 54701
Contact:	Mitchel Olson
Title:	Chief Development Officer | General Counsel
Phone:	920.940.0138
Email:	mitchel.olson@bugtusselwireless.com

b. If the application proposes a public-private partnership, the identity and contact information for all application partners.

Name of Entity:	Rock County
Mailing Address:	51 South Main Street Janesville, WI 53454
Contact:	Mr. Randolph Terronez
Title:	Assistant to the County Administrator
Phone:	608.757.5543
Email:	RANDOLPH.TERRONEZ@co.rock.wi.us

c. The application must show that the applicant is an organization, a telecommunications utility, or a city, village, town, or county that has established a legal partnership or joint venture arrangement with an otherwise qualified organization or telecommunications utility, and as such meets the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504(1).

Hilbert Communications, LLC, and its subsidiary, Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC, are Wisconsin Limited Liability Companies, with their headquarters located at 417 Pine Street, Green Bay, WI 54701, and are Eligible applicants, as defined by §196.504(1)(ac)(1).

3.2.2 Description of the project

a. A static map and description of the area of the State that will be affected by the proposed project.

Please see the enclosed project maps, **Figures 1 and 2** above. The enclosed maps show the proposed middle-mile route throughout Rock County, but the impact will be well beyond the route as shown. Future expansion projects, utilizing the middle-mile, will reach beyond the original territory served in this phase of deployment. With these additional projects, all of Rock County will be affected by this project.

b. If the project area lies within a census block designated as served on the PSC Broadband Map, provide additional documentation to demonstrate the actual broadband service that is available in the proposed project area.

Please see the enclosed map, **Figure 3**. As shown on the map, the signifficant major of areas outside of the metropolitan areas of Rock County are without reliable broadband at speeds in excess of 25 mbps download.

c. An explanation of how the proposed project will increase broadband access. Include information about the:

This project will increase broadband access by making last-mile fiber to the premises connections, in addition to installing middle-mile fiber with substantial capacity for expansion.

This project will have the capacity to service the 2,871 households located along the fiber route, in addition to the 151 business. Of those, 1,043 homes and 55 businesses are in underserved and unserved areas.

The fiber to the premises packages available will include a symmetrical 200 mbps download / 200 mbps upload option for $64.99, in addition to a 1 Gbps download / 1 Gbps upload option for $99.99. Moreover, eligible households connected will be eligible for participating in the FCC's Affordable Care Program (ACP) or otherwise provided access to a broad-based affordability program for low-income consumers that provides benefits commensurate with those provided under the ACP.

d. A statement whether the proposed project is targeting the "last mile," "middle mile," or backbone portion of the broadband infrastructure.

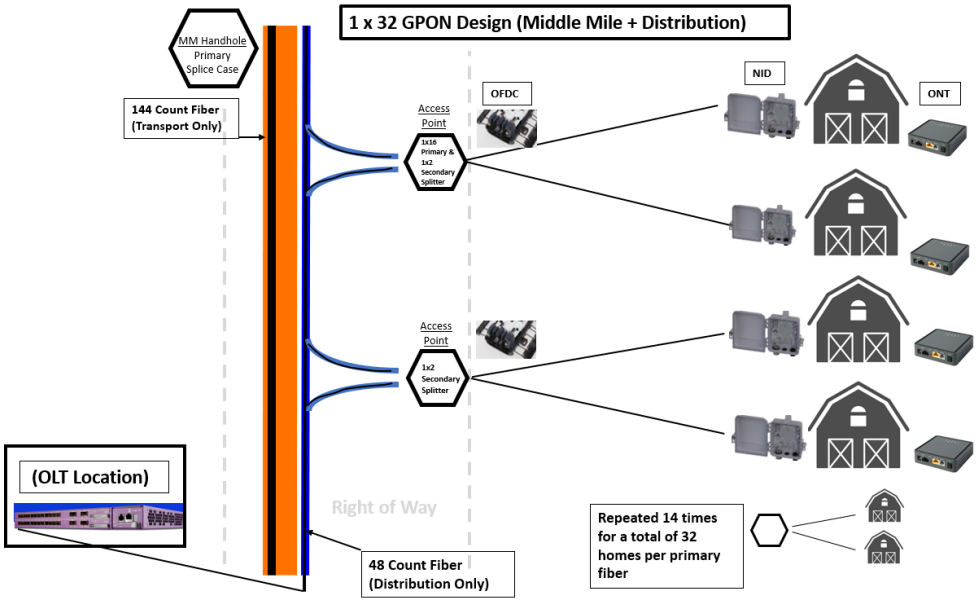
The proposed project will consist of both middle-mile and last-mile assets. The proposed project area is in significant need of additional backbone infrastructure and capacity, with last-mile connections being made along that route to promote a "dig-once" construction model.

e. A description of the broadband service to be provided, including estimated download and upload speeds, whether the speed is based on dedicated or shared bandwidth, and the technology that will be used. This description may be illustrated by a map or schematic diagram, as appropriate.

The network will consist of fiber optic cable connected to GPON/ONT electronics that will provide capacity for over 1 Gbps to each residence and business along the fiber route along with Dense Wave Division Multiplexing (DWDM) equipment for traffic aggregation, capable of supporting 200 to 800 Gbps.

As shown in Figure 4 below, a 144-strand transport fiber will be buried alongside a separate 48 strand fiber that will be utilized for fiber to the premises.

Figure 4 – Middle-mile and Distribution Design.



f. For middle mile projects:

At this time, no additional last-mile connections can be disclosed publicly. That said, Bug Tussel with itself be making last mile connections utilizing the middle-mile for transport.

Connections incident to this grant application will be made within the two-year construction window contemplated for this project, and additional last-mile projects will be completed, by both Bug Tussel and other internet service providers, in the years that follow.

By making the last-mile connections along the middle-mile route simultaneous to the installation of the middle-mile, it will not be necessary to perform additional construction projects along the same route. This conforms to the "dig-once" construction model, saving both time and construction expense.

g. A schedule by which the applicant intends to complete the components of the proposed project. The project period is up to 24 months.

Final route design, in conjunction with Bug Tussel's partner, Rock County, and engineering will commence immediately following the announcement of the grant award. This process will last through the end of 2022, with construction beginning in early 2023. Construction of the main-line fiber is anticipated to be completed in June, 2023, with last-mile drops and installations beginning shortly thereafter. It is Bug Tussel's expectation that the project with be completed by June, 2024.

3.2.3 Itemized Budget (all amounts should be rounded to the nearest dollar)

a. In addition to the Summary of Project Budget that is included as page 3, applicants should include a price list or quote for any equipment the applicant intends to purchase, including capital expenditures. The application should also indicate whether any facilities involved would be owned, rented, or leased.

At this time, Bug Tussel does not intend to purchase any equipment to facilitate construction pursuant to this grant application. All assets installed incident to this project will be owned and operated by Bug Tussel, or a related entity.

b. The application must show that the grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of a telecommunications provider or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers. For purposes of this grant program, subsidize means a contribution to the operating costs, including profit, of the telecommunications provider.

The sole purpose of the grant contemplated herein is to facilitate the construction of fiber assets. The grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of Bug Tussel, nor will it be used to subsidize the costs paid by customers.

c. The application must show that the grant funds requested will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by the application. Construction of broadband infrastructure may include any of the following:

Other than the work done in formulation of this grant application, no planning, engineering, permitting, or construction has taken place. All the costs of this project, as identified on the enclosed budget, will be incurred during the performance period.

3.2.4 Priority factors supporting the application

a. <u>Matching funds</u>. A description of the matching funds the applicant will invest in the proposed project, if any. For each element, indicate the type of match (cash, salary expense, or in-kind contribution). If the application is submitted by a partnership, identify the partner responsible for providing each element of the proposed matching funds. *Note: The requirement for this information is satisfied via inclusion of the completed Funding Statement as page 4 of the application.*

As discussed in Section b below, through the R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality Program, Bug Tussel and its partner are pledging a total of $6,000,000, or 75% of the total project cost. This partnership was codified by resolution by the Rock County Board (see **Exhibit A**).

b. <u>Public-private partnerships</u>. If the public-private partnership is memorialized in a joint venture agreement or other writing, provide a copy of that agreement. If the partnership has not been reduced to a written agreement, provide a short description of the management role, financial commitment, or other contribution to the project for each participating partner.

To fund this project, Rock County and Bug Tussel have formed a public private partnership, wherein Rock County will loan the funds necessary to complete this project to Bug Tussel. The funds will be paid back to Rock County over 30 years, pursuant to the terms and conditions of a Promissory Note. Bug Tussel will ultimately be responsible for all costs associated with the project, allowing Rock County to recapture its investment, facilitating further utilization of those funds.

Bug Tussel will own and operate all assets, and the county will benefit through free use of the fiber for governmental purposes for the lifetime of the Promissory Note, in addition to other financial considerations.

The creation of the public private partnership between Bug Tussel and Rock County is memorialized by Resolution 22-2b-444 (attached as **Exhibit A**).

c. <u>Existing broadband service</u>. A list of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve. In scoring this element, the following factors will be taken into account:

The design of the project contemplated herein has given significant priority to areas avoided by existing internet service providers. Although the middle-mile route passes through areas with existing service, this is a necessary step to develop a reliable broadband network through the project area. As shown on Table 1 below, several providers have some level of coverage in the project area. This coverage, however, is rarely, if ever, capable of reliably providing broadband service at speeds of 25 mbps download / 3 mbps upload. The services currently offered in the project area do not meet the needs of the residences and businesses in the project area, which is Bug Tussel's sole motivator in undertaking this project.

Table 1. Internet Service Providers.

Service Provider	Technology Platform	Price Range	Advertised Download Speeds	Advertised Upload Speeds
AT&T	DSL	$55/month	18 mbps	.0786 mbps
CenturyLink	DSL	Unknown without service address	15 mbps	0.75 mbps
Charter Communications	Cable	Unknown without service address	940 mbps	35 mbps
Frontier Communications	DSL	Unknown without service address	18 mbps	1.0 mbps
Sharon Telephone	DSL	$49.99/month	10 mpbs	1.0 mbps
Edge Broadband	Fixed Wireless	$84.35/month	20 mbps	2.0 mbps
LiteWire	Fixed Wireless	$71.95/month	30 mbps	6 mbps
Netwurx	Fixed Wireless	$84.94/month	20 mbps	10 mbps
Rise Broadband	Fixed Wireless	Unknown without service address	25 mbps	5 mbps
Sonic Spectrum	Fiber	$99.95/month	1 Gbps	1 Gbps
US Cellular	Fixed Wireless	Unknown without service address	2 mbps	.064 mbps
upnetwi	Fixed Wireless	$137.14/month	50 mbps	10 mbps

Insofar as the middle-mile portion of this project is concerned, installation of the middle-mile pursuant to this project will substantially limit future construction costs related to additional last-mile projects. County governments, municipalities, commercial organizations, and economic development advocates have all identified the need for expanded middle-mile transport to meet current needs, anticipate future needs, and to promote economic development.

The design of the middle-mile route was done in cooperation with Rock County, wherein County officials were able to provide first-hand knowledge of existing broadband assets. This information was utilized to avoid existing areas with adequate coverage if at all possible, while still accomplishing County objectives and allowing for the development of a robust middle-mile capable of serving all of the communities throughout Rock County.

d. <u>Project impact</u>. A description of the geographic area and the population, both in terms of absolute numbers and likely users, which will be served by the proposed project. Indicate the number of anticipated residential and business customers in the project area, if known. Explain the speed and quality of internet service that will be available. Include information about the range of packages available for purchase. Provide details on any low-income access programs and steps the project will take to support adoption.

This project will have a profound impact on broadband access in Rock County. Of the 3,022 homes and businesses that will be able to immediately take service off the middle-mile fiber route, 1,098 are outside of metropolitan areas where broadband service is severely lacking, both in terms of access and affordability.

This expanded access will enable improvements in the lives of the residents of Rock County by enabling remote work opportunities, improving access to educational opportunities, and enhancing access to medical services and information.

e. <u>Scalability</u>. A description of how the proposed project could expand or improve the broadband service it delivers, while maintaining the quality of its broadband service. This description should include specific projected increases in the following parameters that are known at the time of the application:

Bug Tussel is undertaking a significant fiber-optic build out across Wisconsin, with proposed projects in more than 45 of the 72 counties. When completed, this will create a statewide, rural focused fiber optic network with as many as 60 redundancies between the end user and the destination of their data traffic.

For too long, networks have been designed on an ad hoc basis, connecting only those areas with significant enough population to allow for a quick return on investment. This has resulted in unreliable networks that travers through entire communities without making connections to the residents. Bug Tussel has designed networks that focus first on reliability and need, and has found that profitably follows closely when you put the community, and its residents, first.

The project contemplated herein, as part of the statewide network design, will have the capacity to serve significantly more than the 3,022 homes and businesses first able to take service. There will be 6 network aggregation points along the middle-mile, allowing future projects to expand in every direction with the capacity to provide service for the totality of Rock County, and beyond.

Bug Tussel is installing a 144 strand transport fiber as its middle-mile. Of those 144, 24 have been given to Rock County through the public private partnership. Of the remaining 120 fibers, 48 fibers will be used for transport related FTTP, fixed wireless broadband, and cellular traffic, leaving 72 fibers, or one half of the installed assets, of additional capacity for future growth and expansion.

f. <u>Economic development</u>. A description of how the proposed project will promote job growth or retention, expand the property tax base or improve the overall economic vitality of the municipality or region. This description may be supplemented with a letter from one or more persons discussing the potential economic impact the project could have for that individual or business. In scoring this element, the following factors will be taken into account:

Rock County public and private sector stakeholders alike have universally identified the need for expanded broadband infrastructure to compete both domestically and globally. While the mere presence of this infrastructure by itself doesn't guarantee economic success, it does – when coupled with other strategic value-added assets and investments – improve a community, county and region's ability to compete. As a result, investment and development opportunities will naturally gravitate toward locations that can quantify and qualify its competitive edge. In addition to providing an important economic development x-factor, particularly for leveling the rural and urban playing fields. On that note, there are approximately 1,200 Rock County businesses located within two miles of the proposed 114.5 middle-mile project. These businesses, which represent a range of industry sectors from agriculture to manufacturing that contribute to the area's Gross Domestic Product values that are hovering around $7 Billion, are dominated by privately-held firms that have generational roots that extend throughout the county.

In addition to the direct economic benefits that are facilitated by broadband, these investments also impact those all-encompassing Quality of Life considerations (e.g. crime, education, healthcare, recreation, etc.) that help drive housing decisions. Housing, in turn, is an important variable that assists with recruiting and retaining talent – which is top of mind as businesses continually position themselves to move beyond the pandemic's wake. Speaking of housing, a 2019 study by the UW-Extension noted that that a 10% increase in Internet speeds at the county level lead to increased housing values in the range of $230 to $661. This study also indicated that as more households reached higher Internet speeds, increased township tax revenues would follow due to rising property values. Considering that over 70% of Rock County's equalized property values are attributed to the residential segment, housing development is most definitely an important economic development variable.

While the creature comforts of "internet coverage" often invoke commercialized images of gaming, instant messaging and video steaming, the reality is simply this: a robust communications network is critical for the effective and efficient delivery of various services and related amenities that citizens and businesses expect, and rely on every day. These services include, but are not limited to:

- Law enforcement, fire and emergency services, including the coordination of local and federal resources during national emergencies or disasters.

- Agricultural applications, including but not limited to: irrigation controls, mapping of soil conditions, amount of fertilizer needed per square meter or yard, yield mapping; monitoring cows for milk fever or bloat, asset management; logistics for fuel and commodity delivery.

• Logistics and transportation-related applications that are associated with: forecasting, planning and safety; railroad switching and monitoring of bearings to prevent derailments; aircraft and barge navigation; package and freight tracking; the management of delivery routes, including remote, autonomous and drone deliveries; and many others.

• Comfort, security and energy-efficiency automations for: childcare and eldercare monitoring; mechanicals, pumps, HVAC; back-up UPS generation and supply; etc.

• Health, lifestyle and medical purposes, for applications associated with: blood clot monitoring, oversight of insulin and pain pumps, in home cancer treatments, exercise and diet monitoring, heart monitoring and automatic adjustment of pacemakers and other heart monitors; attention and communication tools for those suffering from autism, cerebral palsy or other communication limiting diseases.

Improved broadband coverage throughout Rock County will also enhance the many recreational and tourism-related opportunities that are finally catching their breath following two consecutive, pandemic-influenced years. As a result, new and expanded broadband offerings will enable those businesses that cater to the leisure and visitor crowds to leverage this infrastructure in strategic ways to facilitate more traffic, sales and repeat customers. This is particularly important for those offerings located along the proposed 114.5 middle-mile fiber route. That is why Rock County is banding together with Bug Tussel in a public-private partnership to create a fiberoptic network supplemented with wireless communications towers throughout Rock County. Combined, these investments will facilitate Rock County's ability to accomplish the following, high-level objectives:

• Meet the current needs for industry, healthcare, governmental and emergency management entities, education, agriculture and tourism while anticipating their future needs, too.

• Provide access to broadband infrastructure facilities to connect cities, villages and towns to larger networks that connect Rock County to the ever-developing global economy.

• Provide superior data speeds and other value-added communications capabilities that residents and businesses can leverage to close the urban and rural divides; and compete domestically, as well as globally, without ever leaving SC WI.

g. <u>Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas</u>. A description of whether the proposed project will or will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area.

This project is about open-access expansion. In addition to compromising their reliability for the safe of profits, ad hoc networks that focus on dense, isolated population areas have a detrimental effect on future development.

Bug Tussel's middle-mile/last-mile fiber will allow immediate access to those along the route, and it was designed not with dense population areas as the prime motivator. This will facilitate further development, by Bug Tussel and other competing broadband service providers, by greatly reducing the distance to the end user, and as a result the cost to serve even the most remote customers.

3.2.5 Other information supporting the application

a. A description of applicant's history or experience constructing broadband communications facilities in the State and elsewhere.

As a growth oriented company with a statewide footprint, Bug Tussel has a long history of undertaking projects of this magnitude.

Through the PSC, Hilbert Communications, and its subsidiaries, have been awarded a number of grants, as shown on Table 2 below. All projects have been completed, or are in the process of being completed, within the parameters outlined in each respective grant application:

Table 2. Grant Awards.

Grant	Year	Technology	Status	Customers
Oneida County - I	2015	Fixed Wireless	Completed	199
Oneida County – II	2017	Fixed Wireless	Completed	256
Florence County	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	42
Oneida County – III	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	179
Juneau County	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	25
Green County	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	93
Oneida County – IV	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	169
LaFayette County	2019	Fixed Wireless	Completed	24
Green Lake County	2019	Fixed Wireless	Completed	31
Town of Deerfield	2019	Fixed Wireless	Completed	7
Oneida County – V	2019	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Kewaunee County	2020	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Menominee County	2020	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Forest County	2020	Fixed Wireless / Fiber	Pending	Pending
Green County	2020	Fiber	Pending	Pending
Iowa County	2020	Fiber	Pending	Pending
Florence County	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Fond du Lac County	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Iron County	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Wood County – SW	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Wood County	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Kewaunee County	2021	Fiber	Pending	Pending
Forest County	2022	Fiber	Pending	Pending

Bug Tussel completed a number of American Rescue Plan Act Broadband Access Grant applications that were not awarded, and four of those projects will commence despite not receiving the grant award. Construction on fiber-optic networks in Marathon, Waushara, Calumet, and Fond du Lac Counties will begin this spring. These projects were able to take place in large part due to the ability to leverage public resources through the bond issuance.

b. A description of how the proposed project will or will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure.

The project area is one where legacy providers have not continued to make the investments necessary to support modern technological advancement. As discussed above, existing access exists only in areas where profitability facilitated the investment, which leaves large geographic tracts throughout Rock County with little to no broadband access.

This necessitates the installation of a middle-mile, from which future expansions efforts can grow. The existing middle-mile infrastructure, in addition to being sparce, was not installed to facilitate widespread FTTP. The middle-mile contemplated here reaches far into the corners of the county, enabling low cost projects to make last mile connections.

c. A description of an applicant's financial ability to undertake the proposed broadband construction project. This may include information such as the number of years the company has been in operation, documentation of successful completion of similar infrastructure projects, evidence that sufficient funds are available to cover project expenditure and match, customer turn-over rates, and credit rating.

Bug Tussel Wireless was founded in 2003, and in 2008 joined forces with McKinley Reserve and Paul Gehl to form Hilbert Communications through a merger of seven companies. With the goal to remedy the dire need for broadband and cellular access of those living in rural communities, Bug Tussel has grown substantially in its nearly 20 year history.

The core investment group has made investments in rural wireless and broadband in excess of $30 million and is currently completing a series of financing agreements to fund over $500,000,000 of new capital projects through a number of joint ventures with private equity firms and public bond issuances. Consolidated revenues per Hilbert's most recent audited financial statements is nearly $65,000,000, a doubling year on year increase.

Bug Tussel has a proven track record of operating, maintaining, and continually investing in its network to provide its thousands of rural customers with the best technologies on the market. Collaborating with partners like AT&T, Bug Tussel currently operates approximately 600 broadband and cellular sites throughout rural Wisconsin, Michigan and Iowa. Further, Bug Tussel has a rapidly expanding fiber footprint with existing fiber assets in Forest and Oconto Counties, as well as ongoing projects in Iowa, Green, Kewaunee, Marathon, Forest, Fond du Lac, Calumet, and Waushara Counties all set to be completed in 2022.

Bug Tussel and its subsidiaries can provide turnkey solutions for nearly any rural community. From site acquisition, tower construction, network operations, and sales and service, Bug Tussel can connect rural communities and keep residents competitive with larger urban centers.

Bug Tussel has been very deliberate in its network design creating significant redundancies through the use of "ring design" and a combination of over the air and fiberoptic connectivity resulting in industry high performance standards. This design and reputation resulted in the award of construction and operational contracts with AT&T for a portion of the FirstNet® National Emergency Communications Network. Bug Tussel brings the same reliability and redundancy design to an individual customer in rural Wisconsin as it does to a national emergency communications network.

Bug Tussel also believes that networks need to be sustainable and as such cannot be reliant on future grants or funding but must seek creative ways in rural markets to leverage assets. This application and our entire network leverages assets and relationships to create a superior network. Bug Tussel is in the final stages of a national build agreement with AT&T, with nearly 350 sites completed across Wisconsin and southwestern Iowa that also provides a basis for our broadband network and makes broadband possible on AT&T's network. Since 2018, Bug Tussel has ramped its site acquisition and construction teams from 2 to 4 sites per month to up to 20 sites per month and has completed nearly 200 sites in a single year. These sites met the stringent quality standards of FirstNet and of AT&T. They also met our own stringent quality standards for each rural customer.

d. For middle mile projects, state the terms under which the applicant will make its middle mile fiber resource available to last mile providers. Without disclosing project-specific or customer-specific negotiated rates for service or access, state whether access to the middle mile fiber resource will be offered to last mile providers at a rate that is reasonable and common to the industry. Describe any restrictions or limits that may limit the availability or interconnection with the middle mile route.

Bug Tussel's network is open to all providers, and we believe that by strategically placing the fiber in unserved or underserved areas and opening the DWDM network to other providers, that the speed of deployment for other providers who may want to use our fiber for backhaul, temporarily or permanently until their construction plans catch up, will be positively impacted.

The rates Bug Tussel intends to charge will be in accordance with industry standards, and will include sorter-term lease agreements, longer-term IRUs, and fiber swap agreements. By including 6 access points throughout the middle-mile route, the capacity available for expansion will be easily accessible to any and all who may have an interest.

e. For middle mile routes, state the amount of fiber capacity, by number of fiber strands in a cable, that the applicant has been reserved for public use. Describe any commitment or tentative discussion indicating the local government or State agency that might use those fiber strands, and for what purpose. Describe any restrictions or limits that may limit the public use (e.g. a possible use conflicts with an existing program covering the same subject matter).

Through Bug Tussel's public private partnership with Rock County, 24 dark fiber strands are reserved for the County at no cost. This commitment to free access for Rock County is contracted for 30 years.

Moreover, Bug Tussel engaged with Rock County in the planning stages of this grant application to design a network that accomplishes numerous County objectives, better allowing the County to utilize the fiber they are given.

f. A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of individuals to access health care service from home, including any impact upon the costs of those services.

Nationally, telehealth claims increased from less than one-half percent in 2019 to over 5.5% in 2020. In WI, that rate was 6.3%. While 2021 data hasn't been released or crunched yet, it's logical to assume these figures either held and/or experienced an uptick.

For WI and based on 2020 data, the statewide average rate or percentage of telehealth users per 1,000 insured lives was **about 17%.** In Rock County, the rate was **22.5%**; and this rate was the *third highest in WI*.

While behavioral health-related diagnoses represented seven of the top 20 telehealth user categories for WI's insured residents, providers noted significant upticks in telehealth utilization for medical needs that were associated with musculoskeletal system / connective tissue; neoplasms; digestive system; and endocrine / nutritional diseases. Considering that Rock County's healthcare network has a number of specialty care offerings, patients will most certainly have the option to receive telehealth care and consultation.

Overall and based on feedback from local healthcare providers, telehealth usage among patients remains fluid – and is driven by a number of factors. That said, there's an expectation that telehealth usage (which has declined as the public health regulations have eased) will continue to evolve and expand; and as patient's continue to balance calendars and cost considerations, telehealth use will most certainly be factored into those individual and/or household decisions.

g. A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of students to access educational opportunities from home.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), there are approximately 26,600 students enrolled in the 11 Rock County school districts. Five out of the eleven districts are located directly within the urban corridors of Beloit and Janesville; and the remaining seven districts are primarily located along this grant application's proposed 114.5 middle-mile fiber route.

Based on the combined responses from the Rock County districts that are participating in DPI's Digital Equity project, an average of 35% of students report that cost is a leading reason why there wasn't internet access at their home. Meanwhile, 52% from that same respondent group noted that internet availability was prohibiting them from accessing the internet from their home. Considering that more than 15,000 Rock County households will be located within two miles from this proposed middle-mile fiber route, the trajectory of the above percentages should most definitely begin to move downward with these proposed broadband investments are completed and operational.

Nearly every Rock County school district offers Advanced Placement (AP) courses; dual credits; coding, computing and robotics; FabLabs, independent study, virtual learning; and a host of value-added, enrichment learning opportunities. Moreover, the overwhelming majority of the districts provide Chromebooks and since academic curricula is continually migrating into cloud-based platforms, the need for internet connectivity at the home increases exponentially. Consequently, the convergence of these trends - coupled with the investments that are proposed for this Rock County fiber ring - provide an optimal alignment of education and infrastructure assets. Assets that will help build, as well as strengthen, Rock County's workforce and economic profile.

h. A description of actions taken by a city, village, town, or county in support of the grant application that have not been discussed in the context of a public-private partnership above, including but not limited to:

This project is the result of a true partnership between Bug Tussel and Rock County. From planning and design forward, Bug Tussel and the County have been engaged, and will continue to be engaged to complete the shared goal of expanded broadband access throughout Rock County.

In addition to the project contemplated herein, Bug Tussel and Rock County are partnering on the construction of an additional 12 communication towers for the purpose improving cellular and fixed wireless broadband coverage. The immediate deployment of expanded fixed wireless coverage with greatly improve access for the citizens of Rock County in the very short term, bridging the gap until additional FTTP projects can be undertaken. These communications towers, in addition to the 5 communication towers Bug Tussel already operates in Rock County, will utilize the middle-mile fiber installed incident to this project.

Moreover, Bug Tussel will continue to partner with Rock County following the completion of the construction projects. Bug Tussel works diligently to level the playing field so that rural areas can utilize the same types of services as urbanized areas and therefore able to fully compete economically and socially to attract and retain residents and businesses. Through its community outreach component, Bug Tussel University, Bug Tussel will work with Rock County to provide educational seminars ranging from basic classes ("How to use the internet" and "How to use social media") to more advanced curriculum. Bug Tussel University personnel are always very engaged in the communities in which Bug Tussel operates, seeking user feedback on ways to assist them in connecting technology and the community.

i. Letters and messages in support of the application submitted by prospective customers, local government officials, and other interested persons.

Please see the attached Letters of Support from a sample of those who will benefit from this project, collectively attached as **Exhibit B**.

EXHIBIT LIST

A. **Resolution No. 22-2B-444 – Authorizing ARPA Funding for Broadband Expansion Projects**

B. **Letters of Support**

   a. **Bostwick, Rich – County Board Chair**

   b. **Klenz, Jeff; McNall, Matt; Tollefson, Tim – Wisconsin Towns Rock County Unit**

   c. **Knudson, Troy – Rock County's Sheriff's Office**

   d. **Sukus, Kathren – Rock County Communications Center Director**

   e. **Petition in Support of Application – Town of Milton**

ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN
Office of the Rock County Clerk
51 South Main Street
Janesville, WI 53545

Lisa Tollefson, Rock County Clerk

Office (608) 757-5660
Fax (608) 757-5662
www.co.rock.wi.us/countyclerk
CountyClerk@co.rock.wi.us

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS
COUNTY OF ROCK)

This is to certify that this Resolution (Resolution No. 22-2B-444) is a true and correct copy of the original as passed by the Rock County Board of Supervisors at a meeting of said Board held in the Rock County Courthouse, Janesville, Wisconsin, on Thursday, February 24, 2022.

Given under my hand and Official Seal of the County of Rock, State of Wisconsin, this 15th day of March, 2022.

Lisa Tollefson
Rock County Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 22-2B-444

AGENDA NO. 11.A.4.

RESOLUTION

ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Broadband Committee
INITIATED BY

2/10/2022
DATE DRAFTED

Authorizing ARPA Funding for Broadband Expansion Projects

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee was established per Resolution #21-7A-285 to evaluate potential uses of American Rescue Plan Act funding for broadband expansion throughout Rock County, coordinate with other local units of local government, the State, and private sector organizations; and serve as the focus of public input into broadband needs; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has been diligently pursuing the duties and roles outlined in the establishing resolution including a set of guiding principles and funding sources that maximize the expansion of broadband services throughout Rock County; and,

WHEREAS, ARPA guidelines require that broadband projects will meet a minimum of 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload data speed; and connected households be eligible to participate in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) or otherwise provide access to a broad-based affordability program for low-income consumers that provides benefits commensurate with those provided under the ACP; and,

WHEREAS, the Broadband Committee supports a grant application to the State Public Service Commission Broadband Expansion program and requests $6 million in ARPA funds; and,

WHEREAS, this resolution identifies broadband expansion as the priority area for allocating the balance of ARPA, subject to County Board approval of subsequent, additional ARPA funded projects.

NOW, THEREFORE IT RESOLVED by the Rock County Board of Supervisors assembled this 24th day of February, 2022, that this resolution provides a base, floor funding amount of $6 million for broadband expansion ~~and that any unallocated ARPA funds and any unspent allocated ARPA funds will also be available for broadband expansion project funding.~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution provides funds for a Public Service Broadband Expansion grant application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that additional resolutions will be required to provide budgetary authority and authorize specific broadband projects.

FISCAL NOTE:
This resolution addresses using ARPA funds for broadband projects. It does not address other types of funding sources that may also be needed for broadband projects.

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Broadband projects are an eligible expenditure under ARPA.

Josh Smith
County Administrator

Committee Action

Planning & Development Committee

The Planning & Development Committee recommended this approval by a unanimous voice vote. Supervisor Potter was absent.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommended this approval by a unanimous voice vote. Supervisor Fox was absent.

Authorizing ARPA Funding for Broadband Expansion Projects

Executive Summary

The Ad Hoc Broadband Committee has been meeting and received several proposals from large and small broadband-related companies.

At their meeting of Tuesday, February 15, 2022, the Broadband Committee approved the submission of a State of Wisconsin Public Service Commission Broadband Expansion grant application: that is based upon a proposal from Bug Tussle Wireless in the total project amount of $13,0000:

1. Fixed Wireless
    a. Base $2,500,000 with 100% funded from county bonding, to be repaid by Bug Tussel over a 30 – year term
    b. Supplemental 6 towers $2,500,000 with 100% funded from county bonding, to be repaid by Bug Tussel over a 30 – year term
2. Fiber ring (middle mile) $8,000,000
    a. PSC Grant application $2,000,000 (25%)
    b. ARPA $6,000,000 (75%) to be repaid by Bug Tussel over a 30 – year term.

The resolution requests $6 million in ARPA funds towards the broadband project.

Additionally, this resolution:

A. identifies broadband expansion as the priority area for allocating the balance of ARPA, subject to County Board approval of subsequent, additional ARPA funded projects.
B. provides for any unallocated ARPA funds, and any unused funds from other approved ARPA funded program be reverted to broadband project funding.
C. acknowledges that additional resolutions will be needed to provide budgetary authority and authorize specific broadband projects.

BUG TUSSEL WIRELESS BROADBAND PROJECT

	CATEGORY	PROJECT $	PSC GRANT	ARPA	CO. BONDING	COMMENTS
1	Fixed Wireless (utlizes existing AT & T antennas, and constructing 8 new towers	$2,500,000			$2,500,000	Fixed wireless ineligible for ARPA $
2	Fiber Ring (middle mile)	$8,000,000	$2,000,000	$6,000,000		25% Grant/75% Local
3	Added Fixed Wireless (6 new towers) (@ $416,700/new tower)	$2,500,000			$2,500,000	Fixed wireless ineligible for ARPA $
	Total	$13,000,000	$2,000,000	$6,000,000	$5,000,000	

Note 1 Total project costs to be repaid by Bug Tussel over 30 years.

Note 2 Costs of financing to be paid by Bug Tussel, no cost to the County, if go thru Fond Du Lac County bond sale program.

Note 3 County to receive @ $700,000 during life of bond repayments

ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN
Board of Supervisors
51 South Main Street
Janesville, WI 53545
(608)757-5510
Fax (608)757-5511

March 14, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin 4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Dear Ms. Nieto:

On behalf of the Rock County Board of Supervisors, I want to express our support for the Rock County application for grant funding under the Broadband Expansion program.

Rock County has developed a comprehensive proposal partner with Bug Tussel Wireless for a middle mile fiber ring that will be the backbone for high-speed broadband service in eras of Rock County that have minimal to no existing broadband service.

Rock County's grant application for $2 million in state funds is matched with $6 million of local county sources for a 25% state – 75% local leverage.

Rock County selected Bug Tussel Wireless as its partner for this grant application based upon proven work in other parts of the state.

A key component of the project will provide Rock County with 24 strands of dedicated fiber to connect and/or expand broadband speed to county, municipal, K-12 education, post-K-12 education, and health care facilities along the middle mile fiber ring.

Thank you for giving Rock County's proposal due consideration and we look forward to a positive response!

Sincerely,

Rich Bostwick
Rock County Board Chair

TOWN OF HARMONY

Rock County Wisconsin

Office of the Clerk

March 16, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Dear Ms. Nieto,

This letter is in support of the efforts on the part of Rock County to improve and bring broadband to the residents of Rock County. As you know, rural residents get overlooked when it comes to private companies' expansion, as the population base is not large enough to justify the capital expense.

Rock County formed a committee to look at what it would take to expand rural broadband, holding numerous committee meeting for the last 5 months and hired a consulting firm to guide Rock County to ensure funds are spent responsibly. It is my understanding that Rock County has committed to support and $8 million project that involves middle mile fiber and some final mile to home connectivity. Rock County has committed $6 million of ARPA funding and is requesting a grant of $2 million to ensure this project can be completed.

The Wisconsin Towns Rock County Unit is in full support of the project. Once completed, the project will help to serve rural residents throughout Rock County and can be built upon in the future to continue to improve broadband coverage.

Sincerely,

Jeff Klenz
Chairman, Wisconsin Towns Rock County Unit

Matt McNall
Vice Chairman, Wisconsin Towns Rock County Unit

Tim Tollefson
Clerk/Treasurer, Wisconsin Town Rock County Unit

Sheriff Troy J. Knudson
ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Craig L. Strouse, Chief Deputy

Jude G. Maurer
Commander, Law Enforcement Services

"A Tradition of Service"

Erik D. Chellevold
Commander, Correctional Services

March 15, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin 4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Dear Ms. Nieto:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support of the Rock County application for grant funding under the Broadband Expansion Program.

This program will include installation of multiple towers and fiber to link and raise broadband speed as well as, allow for forward-thinking technology throughout Rock County. Additionally, the towers will be able to be used to mount first responder communication equipment to increase connectivity and coverage.

This project should significantly and positively impact our communication in areas where we have seen minimal, sometimes non-existent, service. Officer safety is of high concern and being able to trust the connectivity of current services is a priority, as well as, being able to effectively relay critical information to dispatchers. Providing immediate, efficient, and safe assistance to Rock County residents is our main objective. The Broadband Expansion Program will offer reassurance to our first responders' efforts in providing aid to our citizens safely and rapidly.

I am enthusiastic that this program will provide resourceful technology and services, not only for law enforcement, fire and EMS agencies, but as well as numerous other educational, health care, county and municipal facilities within our county.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of this application and look forward to hearing a positive reply soon!

Sincerely,

Troy J. Knudson
Sheriff

200 East U.S. Highway 14
Janesville, WI 53545
Phone: 608-757-8000 Fax: 608-757-7997

Rock County, Wisconsin

Communications Center
3636 N. County Highway F
Janesville, WI 53545
Phone (608)757-5100
Fax (608)757-5081

March 15, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin 4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Dear Ms. Nieto:

I would like to express my support for Rock County's application for grant funding under the Broadband Expansion program.

As the Rock County (911) Communications Center Director it is very important to us that all of our community has access to 911 on any device, at any time, in any location. With the upcoming implementation of Next Generation 911 in Wisconsin over the next few years it will be crucial that our rural communities have adequate wireless coverage and improved broadband access to reach emergency services. The expanded broadband access will give citizens and visitors to Rock County the ability to provide real time information such as photos and videos to 911 to assist first responders in assessing the situation while enroute to the scene.

Furthermore, it is also important that our police, fire and EMS responders have adequate radio coverage to communicate during those emergencies. Access to the additional tower sites in this proposal would be extremely beneficial to Rock County public safety and would most definitely improve radio coverage in some of our most rural areas.

Thank you for your consideration of Rock County's proposal and if you require further information or explanation from the Communications Center, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Kathren Sukus

Kathren Sukus
Rock County Communications Center Director

GARY SHACKELFORD

Dear Laura,

One page of petition signatures and one email from Doris Ann Van Altena who are in Florida right now.

Jenny Shackelford
608 201-1600

Citizen Petition for Broadband Access in Milton Township, Rock County, WI

We, the undersigned, petition the Town of Milton and Rock County to pursue broadband coverage for our homes and businesses in the Town of Milton, Rock County, WI. Although many residents nearby have broadband access through CenturyLink or Spectrum, we do not. Some of us subscribe to CenturyLink but the wiring available in our location does not provide adequate broadband speed as defined by the Wisconsin Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access [2021]. Broadband access of adequate speed is important to us for education, business activity, telehealth, communication, and recreation. Speed test: https://madisonregion.org/test-your-speed/

Print name	Signature	Date	Address	Email address/speed test	Comment
Penelope Shackelford	Penelope K Shackelford	03/02/22	11305 N. Vogel Rd Milton, WI 53563	shackelfordp@centurylink.net 1.48Mb/s download	Need for education, business
Gary Shackelford	Gary D. Shackelford	03/03/21	11305 N. Vogel Rd Milton WI 53563	shackelfordg@mac.com	
Steven Jones	Steven Jones	3/02/22	10801 N Vogel Rd Milton, WI 53563	KDUCH530@gmail.com	
Elizabeth Parker	Elizabeth Parker	3/02/22	4325 County Rd N Milton, WI 53563	parker.e.w@gmail.com	
David Watrous	[illegible]	3/05/22	11307 N. Vogel Rd Milton, WI 53563	dwatrous713@gmail.com	
Will Watrous	[illegible]	3/05/22	11307 N Vogel Rd Milton, WI 53563	whwatrous@gmail.com	

Subject: Re: broadband petition
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 at 8:11:47 AM Central Standard Time
From: Ann Vanaltena
To: Penelope Shackelford

Don and Ann Van Altena sign our names to the petition to provide Broadband access to our area of Rock County, Wisconsin. We fully agree to this petition and the necessity for the petition.

Ann Van Altena, annievan819@hotmail.com, 4946 E. CountyRd. N, Milton, Wi
Don Van Altena, buckva@hotmail.com, 4946 E. County Rd. N, Milton, Wi

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 27, 2022, at 2:30 PM, Penelope Shackelford <shackelfordp@centurylink.net> wrote:

Dear Ann,

It was good to talk to you!

Attached is the petition that I hope you and Don and Kathy and Charlie will agree to in your response. Look on the second page for the article in the Milton Courier that summarizes what is going on.

I am going to turn this into Laura Siclovan (the new Milton Town Clerk) and she will pass it on to the Rock County Board to include with their grant submission.

Note: you should only do the speed test when you are at your Milton home, so just leave that out.

Here is the wording that is on the petition. It you agree, please put this wording in your response and each of you put your name at the bottom with the date, address and email address.

"Citizen Petition for Broadband Access in Milton Township, Rock County, WI

We, the undersigned, petition the Town of Milton and Rock County to pursue broadband coverage for our homes and businesses in the Town of Milton, Rock County, WI. Although many residents nearby have broadband access through CenturyLink or Spectrum, we do not. Some of us subscribe to CenturyLink but the wiring available in our location does not provide adequate broadband speed as defined by the Wisconsin Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access [2021]. Broadband access of adequate speed is important to us for education, business activity, telehealth, communication, and recreation. Speed test: madisonregion.org/industry-and-innovation/broadband"

Penny Shackelford

Penelope Shackelford
11305 N Vogel Road
Milton, WI 53563
608 201-1600