

Title	0301	09/09/2022
	by Justin Rush in Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Broadband Infrastructure Program: Phase Two Public Comment Form	id. 32053966
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Are you responding on behalf of an organization?	No
Which of the following best describes you? (Check all that apply)	Elected or Government Official Resident in proposed service area
I am providing comments related to the following application (comments must be filed individually for each project):	Cox Communications_Wabaunsee G3
I am submitting comments to express:	Support for a project

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Capital Project Fund Committee:

I am a member of Eskridge's City Council and have been an advocate of sorts for bringing fiber to our area for a long time. As you would expect, I'm ecstatic that Cox is pursuing this broadband grant. We have had wireline service from CenturyLink for years. When they put in DSL in the early 2000s it was a vast improvement over the old dialup modems, but as time and technology have progressed our area has remained frozen and the incumbent carrier has not shown an appetite for upgrading the old copper-based system.

Presently, streaming has become preferred over cable for watching video, and Zoom and Teams calling has become an efficient way to meet no matter where a person is. Both require high data speeds, especially if one wants to do more than one of these at a time.

I work for Evergy as an operations engineer. During the pandemic, although I work in role supporting our company's essential workers, we were asked to work from home ourselves. At that time my internet connection became "essential" for being able to do my job. Meetings didn't stop. What used to be a quick "hey come look at this" conversation in the office was now a video call and a screen share. Even with our DSL the experience wasn't horrible most days, but videos would pixelate and audio would garble at times. It was right on the edge of what our 10Mbps connection speed would handle. My wife worked from home as well during this time and we'd take turns sharing the internet connection. We'd try to schedule meetings around one another so both of us wouldn't be trying to consume our tiny bandwidth simultaneously. In the new hybrid work environment, our department is allowed to work up to 40% of the week from home, so some issues with rationing internet usage remain.

From a council standpoint, we saw a moderate drop in population from our city between the 2010 and 2020 census. Like many rural places, property values in our town are relatively low and housing inventory is available. But this can be spun into a positive, making our city very attractive to remote workers wanting to own a home, especially if they're drawn to a small town. There's just the very large hurdle to clear in that we need to have the type of digital infrastructure in place to serve those people. Therefore, the boost this project would provide is paramount to the future of this town!

There are hundreds of underserved homes that would greatly benefit from this grant. There's a buzz around town about the potential to be chosen for this fiber project. People are excited. For myself and on behalf of the citizens of Eskridge, I appeal to the Committee to please choose Cox for this important project to bring fiber to our area. Thank you for your consideration.

Upload supporting documentation - multiple files should be submitted as a .ZIP file.

n/a

By submitting the Public Comment Form (the "Form") and any supporting evidence, you attest that all information furnished is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and that any attachments are free of malware or viruses. You also acknowledge that falsifying any information could result in legal action against you and will bar you from submitting public comments to this web site in the future. You authorize the Kansas Office of Broadband Development, Kansas Department of Commerce (KOBD) to contact you if further information is needed. You expressly acknowledge and consent to some personal information, including your name, address, phone, e-mail, organization you represent, and comments, being posted for public view on the Kansas Department of Commerce web site at

Justin Rush

www.kansascommerce.gov.

The KOBD will use its best efforts to redact any personal identifiable information outside of the above that is not considered in the public domain. By typing your name and date and by submitting the Form, you acknowledge, authorize, and consent to this Public Comment Privacy & Acknowledgments.
