

Title **0066** 09/29/2022

by **Becky Scott** in **Capital Projects Fund (CPF)**
Broadband Infrastructure Program: Phase Two
Applicant Response Form

id. 32688971

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Original Submission 09/29/2022

Please provide your name: **Becky Scott**

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I am providing response comments related to the following application (choose one): **EpicTouchCo_LiberalCPF**

I am responding to the concern that this project: **Proposes to serve an area that already has service
Proposes to serve an area likely to be served without grant funds because plans area in place to serve this area, although construction has not yet begun
Proposes service to an area in which construction is already underway**

Please describe: **Response to Challenge 0336 on EpicTouhCo_LiberalCPF application**

Please provide your response to the public comments received in the text box below:

Epic Touch is grateful for the public comments and the opportunity to solidify our position. In 2018, we began our investment in Liberal, Kansas. Our plan as a company was to provide the highest quality broadband service to this historically underserved community. Every foot of fiber during those first two years was paid for by Epic Touch and our plan was to continue that build. Through the support of the Kansas Office of Broadband Development and local community partners, we have been able to leverage our private funds and fast-track our build in Liberal.

Our buried fiber infrastructure provides the most future-proof investment in broadband, which has been a priority for the Kansas Office of Broadband Development. As supported by the enclosed letter from the local electric company, Southern Pioneer Electric Company, our lines do not interfere with other aerial utilities or have the risks associated with utility infrastructure on poles. There is a growing concern regarding the utility poles in Liberal becoming too congested and not meeting height requirements. It would be a significant benefit to the City of Liberal to have utility infrastructure that is underground, as referenced by Southern Pioneer Electric's own practice. Aerial fiber may provide the speeds required to meet the definition of broadband, but there is substantial risk of that service being consistently available, especially considering the severe wind and weather impacts in Southwest Kansas. The fiber that we bury will reliably serve this community for decades and it would be optimal to have this same quality, buried infrastructure throughout the entire City.

Please provide supporting documents relative to your comments. Please submit multiple files as a ZIP file.

[EpicTouchCo_LiberalCPF_ResponseChallenge0336.zip](#)

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By submitting this form for public comment and evidence to support your comment, you are accepting responsibility for the accuracy of the information submitted and that it is true and correct to the best of your knowledge. You agree to be contacted by the Kansas Office of Broadband Development, Kansas Department of Commerce should the need arise. Furthermore, by making this submission, you understand that Kansas Department of Commerce and the Office of Broadband Development reserve the right to publicly publish your comment and evidence provided. Falsification of information will result in rejection of future public comment submissions and could result legal action. Please type your name and today's date in the text box below.
