

Title	<b>0021</b>	09/28/2022
	by <b>Marlena Jahn</b> in <b>Capital Projects Fund (CPF)</b> <b>Broadband Infrastructure Program: Phase Two</b> <b>Applicant Response Form</b>	id. 32470718
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<b>Original Submission</b>	09/28/2022
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I am providing response comments related to the following application (choose one):	<b>H&amp;BCable_EllsworthCountySouth</b>
I am responding to the concern that this project:	<b>Other</b>
Please describe:	<b>Challenge 0261 - AMG Technology Kansas / Nextlink</b>
Please provide your response to the public comments received in the text box below:	<b>The goal of the Capital Projects Fund is to “deliver speeds that meet or exceed symmetrical speeds of 100 Mbps,” scalable to symmetrical speeds of 1 Gbps. Fiber networks, particularly buried ones, such as H&amp;B has proposed, have a proven track record of providing higher speeds with better consistency and less interference – seasonal, topographical, or technological – than wireless networks, such as the one proposed by AMG/Nextlink. In fact, with the right equipment</b>

deployed on the network, speed is limitless over fiber networks regardless of the fiber distance. The same cannot be said for wireless broadband networks – when wireless networks become busy, their limited bandwidth becomes congested, and users experience slower speeds. Additionally, signal strength over wireless networks weakens with distance.

While fiber networks are more capital-intensive up front, the investment is mainly for fiber assets which are viable long into the future. The electronics communicating over the fiber may need upgraded in the future to accommodate higher speeds, but that investment is minimal compared to the fiber itself. Capital spent on wireless networks is only as good as the wireless technology is valid. As new technology becomes available at higher speeds, though still slower than what fiber can offer, the entire wireless system is outdated, and needs replaced.

The Capital Projects Fund Program and H&B's proposed fiber network is the best opportunity for residents in Ellsworth County to have reliable, highspeed broadband. H&B Cable has proposed to build a fiber network that will provide symmetrical speeds up to 1 Gbps with low latency and no usage caps. This network will be scalable to 10 Gbps and beyond as customer demand increases. With 750 miles of fiber deployed across five counties in Central Kansas, H&B is the only provider in position to meet broadband demand in Ellsworth County. Furthermore, H&B has proven through multiple other Federal and State grant programs that it can meet the 2-year deadline for build-out. AMG/Nextlink has no historical ability to deploy the speeds that they are claiming they can provide, let alone within the timeframe required. In fact, RDOF requirements for build-out are less stringent than those of the Capital Projects Fund, so residents in Ellsworth County could wait as long six years for service from AMG/Nextlink.

H&B has been a provider in southwestern Ellsworth County since 1916 and began replacing its coaxial plant with fiber in 2006. In 2018, H&B began expanding its fiber network to the northwest to reach the City of Ellsworth and rural areas around Ellsworth. Just this year, H&B was the recipient of a Broadband Access Grant Round 2 award to reach more residents in Ellsworth County. This application expands upon that network to further our goal of bringing the best technology can offer to residents in Ellsworth County. In support of this application, Ellsworth County has granted H&B ARPA funds because they know that not only are fiber networks superior to wireless, but that H&B is in the best position to provide high-quality, highspeed broadband to its residents.

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

n/a

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.

**Marlena Jahn 09/28/22**