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OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PublicProposal

Please include:

1. An executive summary of the project:

For this project, Brightspeed plans to build 95 fiber miles to pass approximately 11,158 locations in Geary that currently lack reliable access to 100/20 Mbps broadband speeds. Our base speed fiber offering provides 200 Mbps/200 Mbps (download/upload) speeds, and our top-end service will be at least a 1 Gbps symmetrical (i.e., 1 Gbps upstream and 1 Gbps downstream) speed service (or higher).

2. A description of the location (City(s), County(s), etc.), proposed service areas, parners involved and anticipated improvements.

This Geary project will primarily serve the cities of Junction City, Fort Riley , and Milford. Brightspeed will leverage its diverse and varied network of partners to upgrade the existing, primarily copper network in these areas and bring a state-of-the-art 1G+ capable fiber-to-the-premises ("FTTP") network directly to 11,158 grant-eligible homes and businesses.

Brightspeed will provide a more competitive set of broadband services to the people of Geary which will significantly improve customer choice for internet access services and the customer service experience. Equally important, deployment of the Brightspeed fiber network will vastly improve access to the internet and the multitude of economic, government, educational, healthcare, business, and entertainment opportunities that broadband internet access enables.

3. Goals of the project and community need to address including whether the proposed area is unserved or economically distressed or what the compelling need is, if served.

In the area in which we are proposing to build, we have identified through a combination of (1) FCC 477 census block-level speed data and provider information, (2) select service area testing, and (3) Brightspeed's internal database of speeds provided to each home, that there exist approximately 654 unserved locations in our proposed area that do not currently have download | upload speeds of 100 | 20 Mbps available and 10,504 underserved locations that do not currently receive reliable speeds of 100 | 20 Mbps.
In the past, it has not been economically feasible to upgrade speeds in these areas given the rural nature, along with shallow bedrock that can greatly impact and portions of a route that is required to be buried. Thus, without grant funding, these areas continue to lack access to adequate internet speeds. The funding requested for this project will allow the upgrade of fiber in these areas. Deploying this fiber will allow for scalability going forward so that residents' needs can continue to be met.

4. The proposed infrastruture and access improvements planned, including the number of proposed connected premisees and community anchor institutions, businesses, or other organizations and the recipients to be served by the project.

Brightspeed intends to build 95 fiber miles to serve the proposed areas. Brightspeed also intends to upgrade existing central office locations to facilitate high speed broadband. This project will connect approximately 10,576 residences, 554 businesses, and 28 community anchor institutions across the proposed areas.

5. The short and long-term investment benefit to the community and service area proposed.

Brightspeed's project is likely to have a significant, positive economic impact on the community, because broadband speeds will increase to levels that can readily accommodate individuals and businesses seeking to access the increasingly data-centric and bandwidth intensive services and products available today via the Internet. The proposed project will increase the ability for customers to work from home, increase educational options, allow businesses greater access to business opportunities, increase access to tele-medicine and remote healthcare for patients and providers alike, and improve access to online government programs and services. In addition, this project will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to adjacent areas. This project will help remove geographical barriers to technology and enhance the critically important goals of improved digital inclusion and equity. Finally, as the experience with the Covid-19 pandemic has made clear, high speed internet access, ⊞