

PROJECT PROPOSAL

- FOR PUBLIC POSTING



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Please include:

1. An executive summary of the project:

The proposed service area for IdeaTek ' s Harvey County Project deploys over 190 miles of Harvey County, and would service approximately 672 total underserved homes and businesses, bringing capacity for a symmetrical 1Gbps service level or higher with scalability to significantly higher speeds for long term broadband sustainability. The scope of this project grew overtime as conversations with county stakeholders, especially the Harvey County Commission confirmed both the significant need in their county but also the significant appetite in coming alongside IdeaTek in its efforts with significant matching dollars.


Currently, internet speeds in the proposed areas do not exceed 25 Mbps download, which does not meet the standard 100/100 Mbps set by the FCC. This project includes the entire incorporated town of Walton (an unusually large cluster of unserved locations), which was called to our attention by a Harvey county commissioner. Our plan also partners with Harvey County emergency dispatch to

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

Location: The proposed service area will cover 672 premises in Harvey County to include Harvey County East Park, and the town of Walton.

Partners: Harvey County Economic Development, Harvey County, Harvey County Farm Bureau Association, Newton Area Chamber of Commerce, Representative Stephen Owens, Hesston USD 460, City of Hesston, Representative Ron Estes, Senator Jerry Moran, Representative Ron Estes, Representative Steven Howe, USD 375 - Circle Public Schools, USD 460 - Hesston Public Schools, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Improvements: fiber optic broadband connectivity deployments

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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.

Connect the underserved with scalable, high capacity fiber optic broadband services - current service speeds from FCC 477 data indicate an average of 44/6 Mbps; well below the Kansas Federal definition of minimum speed broadband. See also attached letters of support expressing the need in the community.

Leverage broadband infrastructure builds to unserved areas to serve other public priorities such as 911 communications infrastructure and public area connectivity. Serve disadvantaged residents, students, business owners, and farmers deprived of affordable broadband by providing low to no cost connectivity, utilizing FCC ACP and lifeline programs.

Capitalized on engaged and active community partners in both their excitement and willingness to contribute monetarily to extend precious grant funding dollars.

Bolsture Kansas ' ag economy and ag investments with next generation infrastructure - this service area represents under connected / unserved cattle

4. The proposed infrastructure 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.

Premises Passed: 644
Education Institutions: 3
Businesses: 20
Anchor Institutions: 5

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

In the short-term, IdeaTek will hire contractors to complete the fiber build, providing an opportunity for employment for Kansas-based workers. In addition, broadband access will provide residents in these areas an immediate opportunity to efficiently work remotely, expanding employment access, as well as access to telehealth and remote education.

In the long-term, communities with fiber infrastructure are far more attractive to new residents and businesses, bringing long-term economic growth and opportunity to the community . When critical, superior broadband access is provided to rural areas, economic growth and opportunity are no longer out of reach.

