

2010



Tennessee Recovery Act Management Broadband Prioritized Projects – Round 2

TRAM Broadband Team

State of Tennessee

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1. Executive Summary

The State of Tennessee has reviewed all the grant applications for the State of Tennessee, where Tennessee was identified as the only Proposed Project Area. The following represents our endorsement:

BTOP – PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTERS

- State Library & Archives, Tennessee, Applicant Number 6588

BTOP – SUSTAINABLE BROADBAND ADOPTION

- Connected Tennessee, LLC, Applicant Number 6431

BTOP – COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- City of Johnson City, Applicant Number 5522

BIP – LAST MILE

- DigitalBridge Communications Corporation, Applicant Numbers 5949, 5974, 5970, 5967, 5965, 5960, 5967, 5958, 5953
- National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative, Applicant Numbers 6801, 6741, 6712, 6710
- Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Applicant Number 4457

There were additional projects where Tennessee was listed as a Proposed Project Area; however, in these projects, Tennessee was part of a multi-state application and therefore the direct benefit to Tennessee could not be derived and these were excluded for the purpose of this report.

2. Data Gathering

NTIA has published on its website (<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/applications/search.cfm>) a list of all applications received with the ability to search by project area, this combined with the Rural Utilities Service Broadband Initiates Program Round Two Application Directory, was used to develop the list of projects for Tennessee.

3. BTOP – Public Computer Centers

Public Computer Centers application is listed below:

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- State Library & Archives, Tennessee, Applicant Number 6588

3.1. State Library & Archives, Tennessee, Applicant Number 6588, \$557,020

The applicant states public libraries are major sources of free Internet access. Along with substantial BTOP access and adoption efforts, the Tennessee State Library proposes to expand community coalitions, awareness, and broadband training, to target vulnerable and economically distressed populations. Adding hours, broadband technology and equipment will add capacity to rural libraries to bridge this Digital Divide.

4. BTOP - Sustainable Adoption

Sustainable Broadband Adoption application is listed below:

- Connected Tennessee, Applicant Number 6431

4.1. Connected Tennessee, Applicant Number 6431, \$2,469,792

The applicant proposes to partner with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, the Boys & Girls Clubs in Tennessee, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, CIBER and the Internet Keep Safe Coalition, C4K is seeking to bridge the digital divide for thousands of Tennessee's youth while addressing major barriers to broadband adoption.

5. BTOP – Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

Comprehensive Community Infrastructure application is listed below:

- City of Johnson City, Applicant Number 5522

5.1. City of Johnson City, Applicant Number 5522, \$6,406,183

The applicant proposes to build a fiber optic middle mile network throughout the PFSA that will address the shortcomings of our broadband market, and provide a fiber-based broadband infrastructure the city can utilize to deliver energy efficiency benefits to the community through smart grid deployment. The network will provide robust bandwidth for anchor institutions, and provide it at much more affordable costs compared to existing services

6. BIP – Last Mile

The BIP Last Mile applications are listed below:

- DigitalBridge Communication Corp., Applicant Number various
- National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative, Applicant Number various
- Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Applicant Number 4457

6.1. DigitalBridge Communication Corp, \$58,858,635

DigitalBridge Communications Corp. will bring affordable, fourth generation broadband services to those portions of Tennessee Counties that lack high-speed access. As a proven WiMAX operator, DBC brings the record of accomplishment needed to deploy promptly, generate jobs, and ensure financial sustainability at a very low cost per household covered.

6.2. National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative, \$21,490,087

The National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) will bring affordable and reliable wireless broadband services to those rural portions of Tennessee Counties that lack high-speed broadband access. Using WiMAX technology, NRTC's proposed network will pass 5,937 households, 1,637 businesses and 43 critical community facilities/public safety entities and will create/save 7 jobs in St. Croix County. With over 20 years of experience in bringing innovative telecommunications products and services to rural America, NRTC has the record of accomplishment to deploy promptly, ensure financial sustainability of the project, and facilitate rural economic development.

6.3. Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative Corporation, \$5,091,173

This project will provide high speed broadband service to all end users in the Nine Mile and College Station PFSAs of Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative. The project will shorten existing copper cable in the two exchange areas to lengths which will allow end users to experience broadband service at speeds of up to 15 Mbps and to enjoy the same economic, educational, and social opportunities that broadband has afforded subscribers in neighboring communities.