comporium

August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Comporium is committed to bridging the digital divide within Lancaster County. We are excited to respond to the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project Application.

Please review the attached application which shares all the details. We are extremely excited about this project and look forward to the opportunity to work together as a partner and achieve success together. If you need clarification or further information concerning the application, please do not hesitate to contact me at greg.lunsford@comporium.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Charles G. Lunsford
Vice President – Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

www.comporium.com
PO Box 470
Rock Hill SC 29731

APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization Lancaster Telephone Company

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0001-8892-45

Primary Contact Name Chris Moody | Title Regulatory Cost Analyst

Mailing Address 330 East Black St | Phone Number 803-326-7255

City, State, Zip Rock Hill, SC 29730 | Email chris.moody@comporium.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 09/01/2000

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 02/17/2020

- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience delivering broadband service over fiber or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

Project Area Information

County Lancaster County | Rural or Urban Rural

Nearest City/Town Van Wyck, South Carolina | Project Area Map Code Lancaster 1

112 Number of Households in Project Area *(Target code)*

14 Number of Businesses in Project Area

Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area

Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.

- [x] *Fiber to the Premises* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 1000/1000
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Fixed wireless* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *VDSL (25/3 Mbps or faster)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds

Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

Indicate all rate tiers for broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or faster will be offered to customers in the project area:

- [ ] Rates less than $10/month
- [ ] Rates between $10 - $14.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $15 - $19.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $20 - $24.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $25 - $34.99/month

Project Timeline and Milestones

Project Start Date 09/01/2020

Project Construction Activity Begins 09/01/2020

Project Construction Activity Complete 12/17/2020

Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/17/2020

Project Completion Date 12/17/2020

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost $476,114

Upfront Cost Requirements 0

Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises $476,114

Average Cost per Location Served *(all locations or structures)* $3,779

Average Cost per Housing Unit $3,779

Average Cost per Business $3,779

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested $238,056.97

Applicant-Provided Funding $238,056.97

Third-Party Funding Amount 0

Source(s)

Additional Information

Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

Lancaster Telephone Company, an affiliate of Comporium, Inc, is an independent telecommunications company located in Lancaster, South Carolina. Lancaster Telephone serves voice, broadband, and video customers in Lancaster County and parts of Kershaw County and Chester County. It also offers wireless service in partnership with AT&T under a limited liability company arrangement. Lancaster Telephone Company offers Digital Subscriber Line, Cable Modem, and Fiber-To-The-Home to both residential and business customers. DSL has three speed tiers to choose from: Standard (Downstream / Upstream) - (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). Coax has Standard (30Mbps/2Mbps), Ultra (90Mbps/3Mbps) and Elite (150Mbps/5Mbps). The FTTH product has four speed tiers: Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB). Zipstream is an internet service offering that provides upload and download speeds of one Gigabit per second to customers. What makes Zipstream unique, is it consists of an all fiber delivery, the newest network equipment, and a robust path to the internet backbone that can carry large amounts of data. In addition to voice, broadband and video services, Lancaster Telephone Company offers Metro Ethernet services that provide customers a redundant and secure way to transfer mission-critical data. Lancaster Telephone Company's Metro Ethernet service is a high-speed (10 Mbps to 10 Gbps) packet-based service that provides the transmission of point-to-point LAN or WAN data between a customer's locations. Metro Ethernet circuits can also be ordered to provide dedicated bandwidth to the Internet. Our Customer Network Operations Center offers technical support with proactive network monitoring of customer's Metro Ethernet circuits to ensure consistent, high-level performance. Lancaster Telephone Company's MPLS core network provides diverse and redundant IP routing that supports all of the customer facing services. Lancaster Telephone Company uses a variety of last mile technologies to serve customers including xDSL, Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) and Hybrid Fiber Coax (HFC). Lancaster Telephone Company also operates a remote switch and has connections to Comporium, Inc. and one of its sister companies who provide equipment to operate voice, data, and video networks. Lancaster's has been deploying FTTH networks since 2005.The Lancaster Telephone Company's remote switch homes to the Comporium, Inc. owned Rock Hill Class 5 Switch. The voice traffic from the Remotes, as identified in NECA Tariff No. 4, and all the data and video utilize the redundant fiber connections to the Rock Hill host switch, core broadband network and Video headend. The Comporium, Inc. network connects the voice and data traffic to the world. Leveraging these assets at the parent company level provides some economies of scale to Lancaster. Lancaster Telephone Company does perform its own customer service, and installation and repair. It has two business offices within the city of Lancaster for its customers to purchase services. The White Street office is the largest business office and is located in the downtown area of Lancaster. The University Place office is located near the University of South Carolina – Lancaster campus. This location is nestled in a busy shopping area for the community. Customers can come into any business offices to provision service, pay bills, or ask questions to available service representatives. Lancaster Telephone Company has a plant work center location that houses the Installation and Repair group, facilities and construction group. Each of Lancaster Telephone Company's 13 remote offices are designed and equipped to support the operation of communications networks. These remotes are equipped with sufficient battery backup in the event of an emergency.

Describe how your proposal meets CARES objectives as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

Van Wyck, is located in the rural panhandle section of Lancaster County, South Carolina. The total land area is roughly 10 miles. The 2019 population is an estimated 1,080 citizens. The citizens of the area decided to officially incorporate and officially formed the town in August of 2017. Due to the rurality and location of the town limits of Van Wyck, delivering high speed internet with speeds of 25/3 has been challenging. Receiving CARES funding would provide the company with the needed funding to deliver state-of-the-art fiber broadband to customers. Currently the broadband infrastructure in place that serves end user customers is Digital Subscriber Line, (DSL). DSL is offered to customers at three speed tiers: Standard (Downstream / Upstream) - (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). This proposal will provide four high speed fiber speed tiers for customers to choose from Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB).
Due to the rural location of Van Wyck, the town does not have any health care facilities in the town limits. Citizens battling the COVID-19 related illness travel to health care centers in Charlotte, North Carolina or have options to seek medical assistance in Rock Hill or Lancaster, South Carolina. Receiving CARES funding would allow high speed bandwidth citizens, so that they can perform virtual telehealth visits with health care facilities and hospitals. By providing increased telehealth options to town of Van Wyck, those impacted by COVID-19 will not have to leave their home when seeking medical assistance. This will reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others, while keeping healthcare workers safe at the same time. Telehealth options will also protect the elderly citizens who are greatly at risk to catch COVID-19. COVID-19 has posed many challenges for the students who live in the Van Wyck area. The poverty index currently is 53.23% for students within the Lancaster County School District. The Lancaster County School District has implemented two primary options for students in Van Wyck as they return to school this fall. Students will be allowed to return to school as normal also known as A/B Face-to-Face. An At-Home with Teacher Support option is also available to students who are unable to return to school due to COVID-19 issues. The At-Home with Teacher Support option allows students to complete continued learning experiences posted to Google Classroom. Assignments must be completed by the deadlines set by individual teachers. Students are required to follow the schedule provided by the teachers. Students who will be attending school virtually will greatly benefit from upgrading the current DSL infrastructure. Since the maximum DSL speed available to students is 11Mbps/1Mbps, virtual learning may be a challenge. Due to COVD-19 many DSLAMS that provide the DSL service are at full capacity and can no longer be expanded. Bandwidth has greatly increased now that entire families are working from home and attending school virtually from home. The CARES funding will allow the DSL infrastructure to be upgraded to fiber greatly alleviating the risk of students not being able to complete assignments on time. This upgraded technology will keep students on pace with other counterparts across other areas of the state and not be left behind. COVID-19 has drastically changed the typical workforce as we know it. Many companies have required employees to work from home since mid-March, once the pandemic began sweeping our state and nation. Those employees that once were working in a corporate environment had high speed broadband with redundancy. Having this type of broadband kept individual productivity high and cost low. Citizens who now work from home in Van Wyck are solely dependent on a DSL connection. These employees who are now being forced to work from home will be sharing bandwidth with their children who will be attending school virtually. With maximum download speeds of 11Mbps/1Mbps workers will face many challenges completing tasks due to the current DSL infrastructure that is in place. Individual workers who could be attending a virtual meeting, could miss vital details if the DSL connection becomes overloaded due to the increased burden on the network in the Van Wyck area. Individual residences who have parents working from home and children attending school virtually from that same dwelling will face challenges completing both corporate tasks and educational tasks. CARES funding will allow this DSL infrastructure to be upgraded with fiber to these residents in Van Wyck. Without this funding for upgrades, parents working from home may struggle to keep pace with co-workers and completing work related tasks as required by their employers.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The proposal will greatly enhance the community of Van Wyck, South Carolina. The quality of life for families and businesses will increase long after this upgrade is completed. Parents will be able to work from home sufficiently and effectively. Work tasks will be completed in a timely fashion without being in the office. Employers will have confidence in their employee's ability to achieve maximum output knowing a fiber connection to their premise capable of gigabit speeds is available to them. Children will have the ability to take exams and complete homework assignments without their broadband connection being overwhelmed due to lack of bandwidth. Families will have the option to now stream a movie, where in the past this was not an option. Van Wyck, South Carolina could grow from an Economic Development prospective. It will now be much easier for town leaders to recruit industry. Companies when looking to locate to the area will now see that DSL broadband has been replaced with fiber optics. Community Anchor institutions such as Van Wyck Volunteer Fire Department and Van Wyck Community Center will have sufficient broadband to conduct activities. Small businesses will be able to have adequate broadband to perform operations. The overall impact of receiving CARES funding will have an everlasting impact on a small community.

Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Use additional pages if necessary.

Lancaster Telephone Company is committed to assisting anyone in the proposed grant area with getting up to speed on digital literacy, especially those who have not previously had any Internet service and, as result, lack experience. Lancaster Telephone Company plans to provide free Internet access at various community centers, public gathering locations and community anchor institutions (CAIs), along with informational posters, to allow residents to experience the capabilities of the new broadband connectivity available to them. Lancaster Telephone Company has committed to produce and distribute educational and promotional programs and materials to the community regarding their new broadband service. We also plan on organizing events within the community to raise awareness of the educational resources and opportunities found Online that will become available to them.

Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

See attached bank letter.

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

County Road Permits and/or SC Highway Permits will be obtained prior to construction being performed.

Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:

1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

CERTIFICATION: The Applicant certifies that information included in this application is factual to their knowledge.

☑ Applicant agrees to comply with all applicable requirements and conditions contained in Subrecipient Agreement for Coronavirus Relief Funds

Signature:

Print Name of Signature: Charles G. Lunsford

Title of Signatory: Vice President - Regulatory Affairs

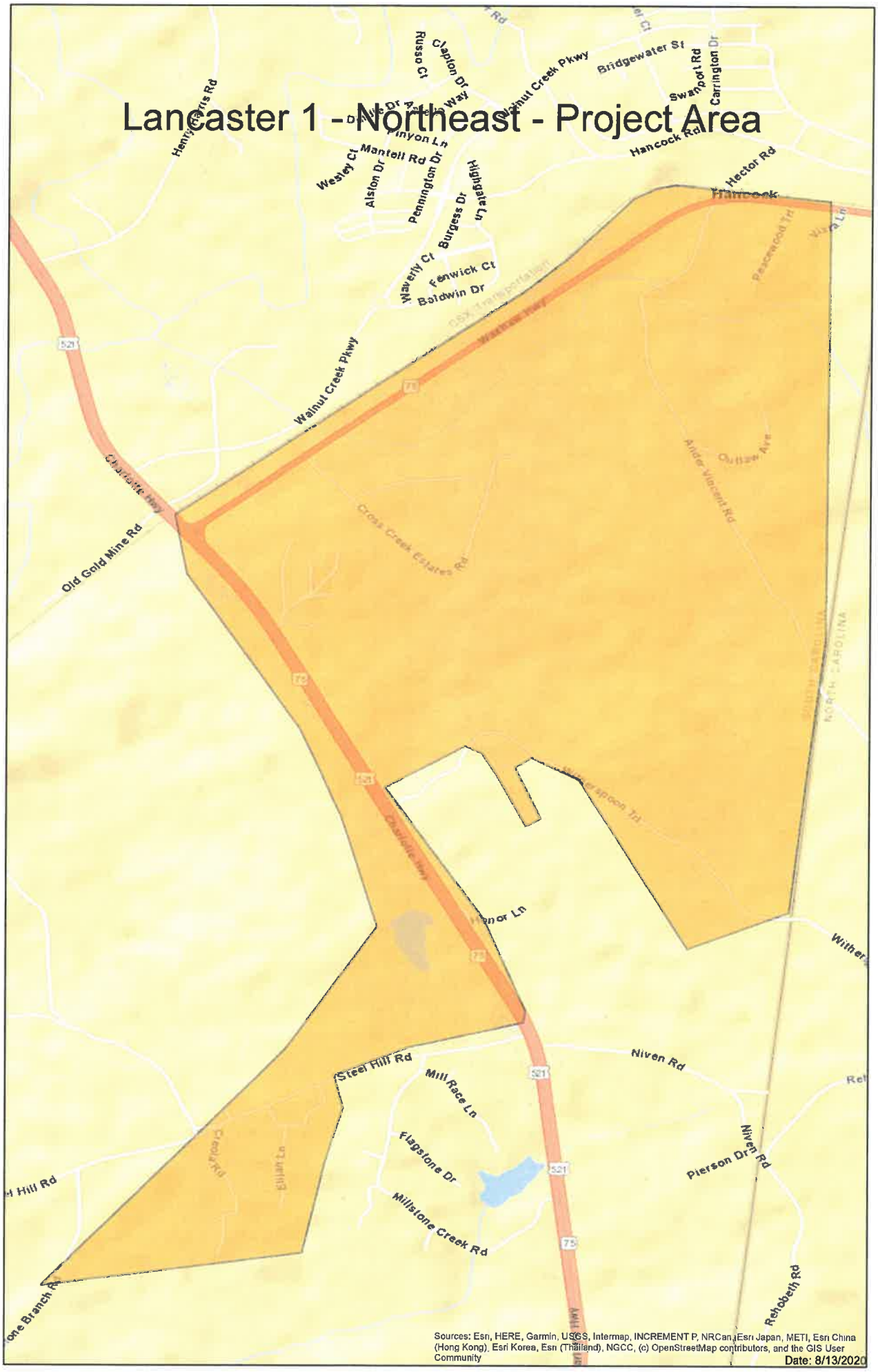
Date: August 14, 2020

Renewal Terms. *Contingent upon extensions for the expenditure of CARES Act funds provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury and the State of South Carolina, this Agreement may be renewed as evidenced by written approval of both parties.*

All questions and completed applications should be submitted to Broadband@ors.sc.gov

Facsimile signatures and email signatures shall be as effective as original signatures to bind any party.

Lancaster 1 - Northeast - Project Area



VAN WYCK

June 30, 2020

VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL

Nanette S. Edwards, Executive Director
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(nedwards@ors.sc.gov)

Re: CARES Act Funding for Fiberoptic Broadband to the Homes of our Residents.

Dear Director Edwards:

I hope this letter finds you well in these difficult times. I understand from speaking with Chris Rozycki that your office has been delegated authority over the review and disbursement of the CARES Act funding granted to the state. To that end, I am reaching out to you to place our town's present broadband Internet infrastructure needs on your radar and to petition your office for consideration of our proposal to fund those sorely needed improvements.

If you're not familiar with our area, Van Wyck is located in a predominantly rural part of Lancaster county, halfway between the city of Lancaster and the Indian Land community near the intersection of US Highway 521 and SC Highway 5. The town is one of South Carolina's newest additions having incorporated in 2017. Our residents represent an even cross section of income, age and race. The strong level of suburban growth seen in Indian Land in recent years is expected to reach Van Wyck at some time in the near future. We are working hard to be ready for it. Adequate internet will be a key element.

Unfortunately, due to the rural character of our community, there is not sufficient economic incentive to improve our telecommunications infrastructure. Currently, the majority of the town is minimally served to completely unserved with DSL broadband internet service. Some areas of the town, notably some of the poorest, are not able to be served by DSL at all. The current COVID 19 crisis has brought the community's internet needs into sharp focus. Residents who are required to work from home struggle to do so in an effective manner with the slow DSL service in place. Everyone, and particularly our senior-age population, has difficulty accessing telehealth resources that are best used to keep vulnerable populations from exposure to the virus. Last, the children in our area will need adequate resources to access broadband internet once school restarts for remote learning requirements.

I and my fellow members of town council have heard many stories from the residents detailing their needs for better internet service and improved cellular coverage going back some time. The poor internet service coupled with poor cell phone coverage makes our dilemma difficult to solve absent an immediate improvement to our telecommunications infrastructure. To that end, we recently started to explore with Comporium Communications (the sole telecommunications utility in our area) the costs and timeline for the addition of fiberoptic broadband-to-the-home infrastructure. At this time, Comporium has researched and provided us with an estimated cost, effectively making the project shovel-ready. I've included those materials herein.

We are actively seeking a funding source sufficient to cover most, if not all, of these costs. If we are able to secure sufficient funding through the CARES Act funds, the town is able to allocate some additional funding via grant if necessary. Considering the time-limitations imposed by the Act, our project may be able to see completion within the Act's requisite time limits should the funding be approved soon.

On behalf of my neighbors, the residents of Van Wyck, I ask that you give consideration to our request for funding. I also ask that you please contact me with any questions. I can be reached by cell: 704-589-0025 or email: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net.

I believe we can make this happen. Thank you.

Best regards,

Sean Corcoran
Mayor

Town Of
VAN WYCK
South Carolina

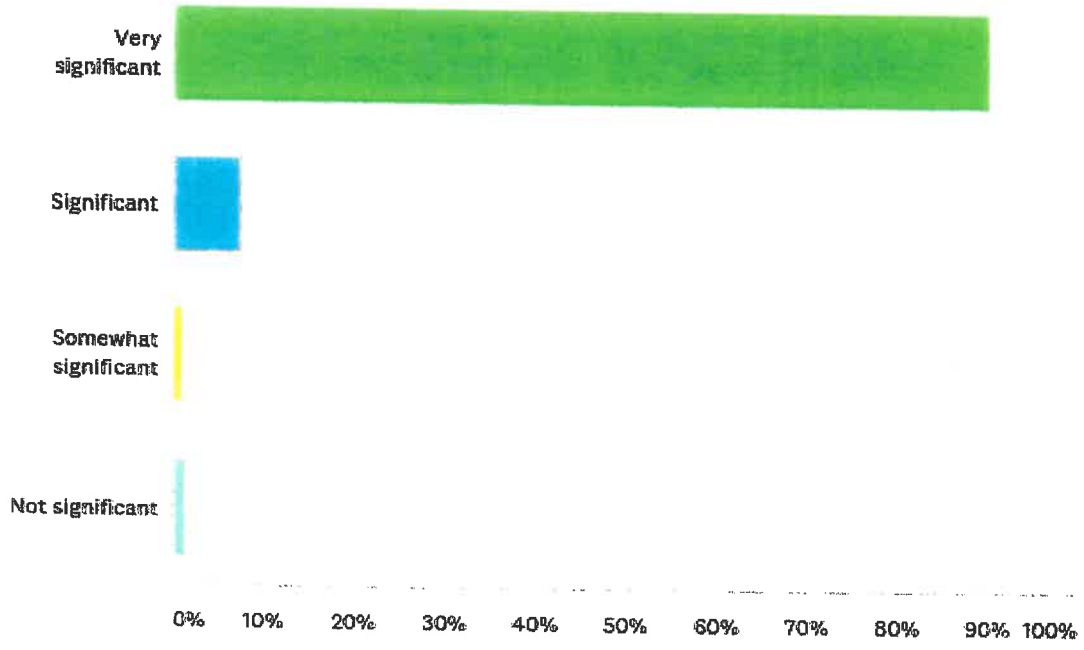
Comprehensive Plan 2020 Community Survey

July 2020 – Final Results / Broadband Excerpt

Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q25: How important is having high-speed internet access at your home?

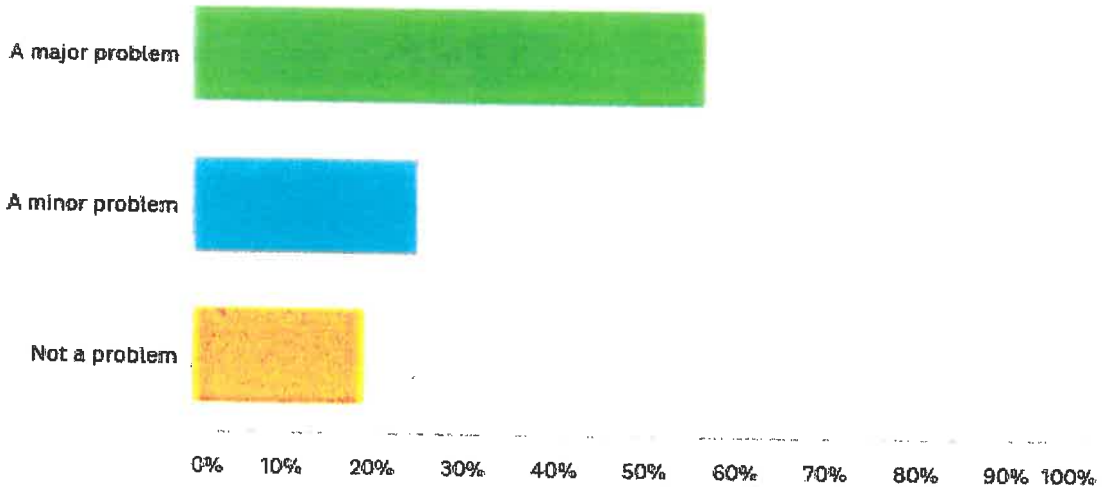
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q26: Access to high-speed internet at home is...

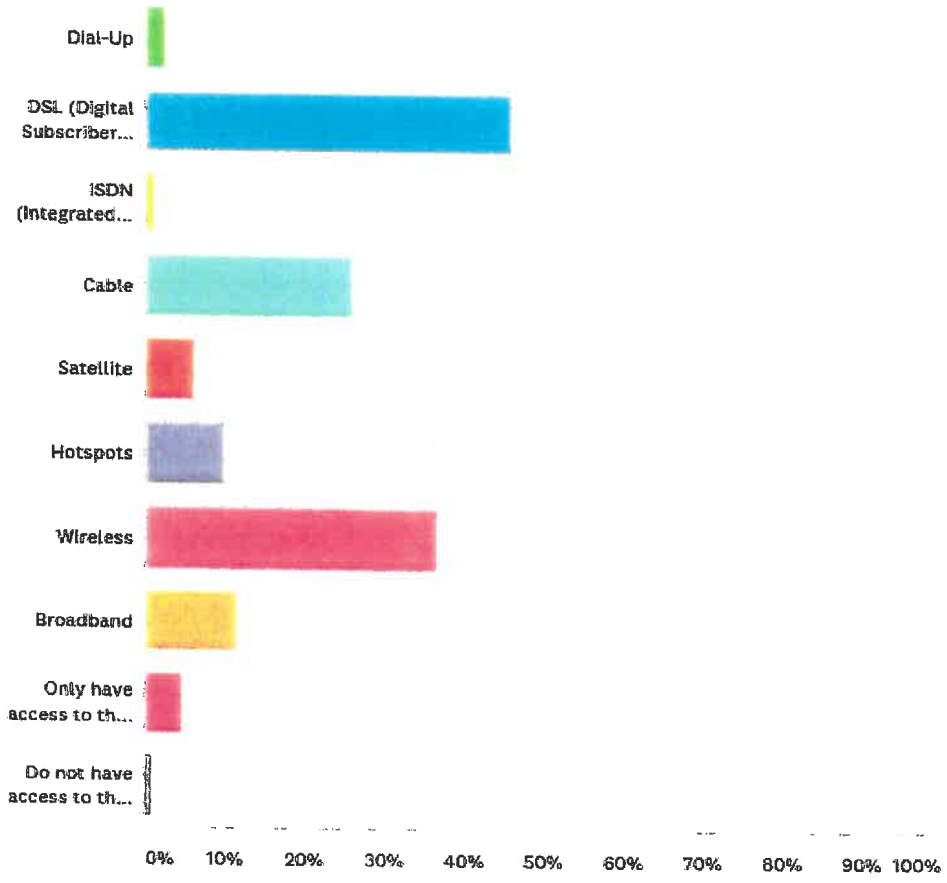
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q27: What type of internet access do you have at home? [check all that apply]

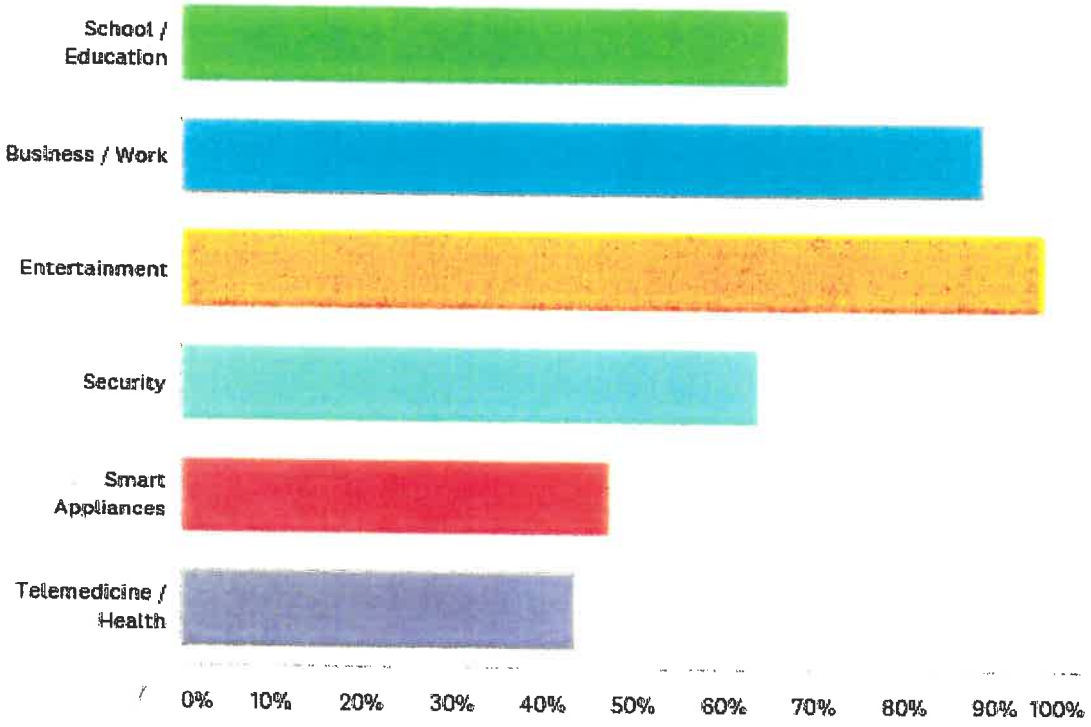
Answered: 131 Skipped: 17



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q28: Indicate how your household either currently uses or would like to use the internet within your home. [check all that apply]

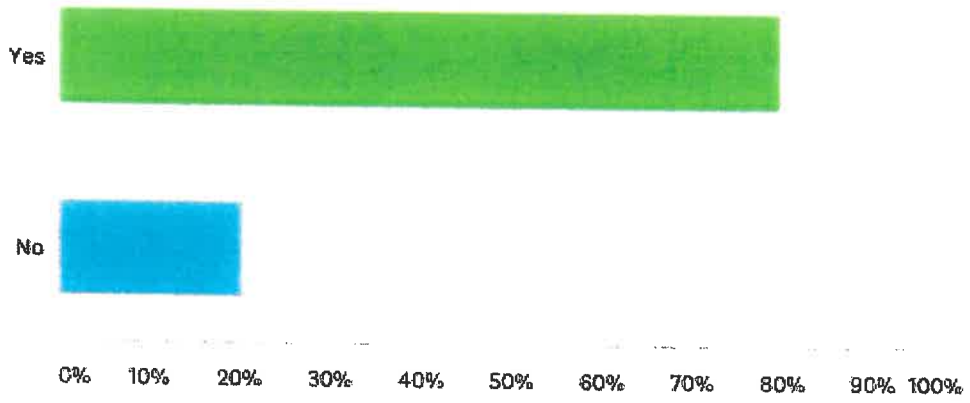
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q29: Would you be willing to pay a one-time fee to connect to high-speed internet?

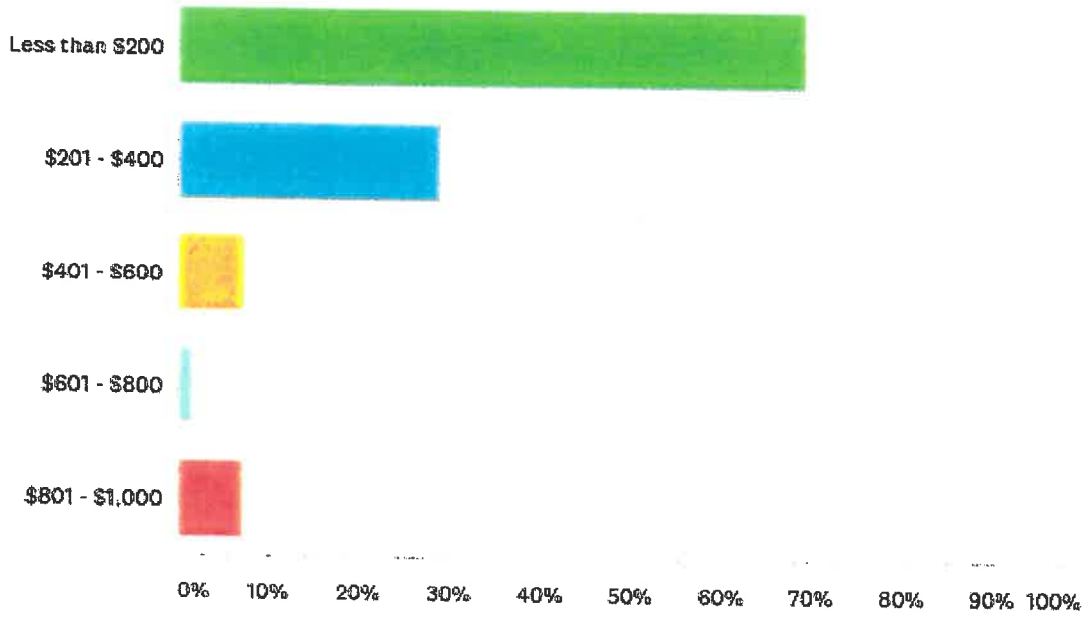
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q30: If yes, what connection fee range do you feel would be most appropriate for a one-time payment for high-speed internet access? [check all that apply]

Answered: 114 Skipped: 34



Powered by SurveyMonkey

From: Dan Saffer
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:13 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fwd: Please Consider

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Steven Puckett** <Steven.Puckett@lcsd.k12.sc.us>
Date: Thu, Jul 16, 2020 at 11:36 AM
Subject: Please Consider
To: <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>, <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>

Breeden and Chris,

I received your contact information from the parent of our students.

As I understand there is CARES Act funding available for broadband internet projects and that the Town of Van Wyck is an area under consideration.

As an educator in the Lancaster County School District I have seen the critical need for high speed connectivity at home for our students and fully support the funding of a Van Wyck project for educational and economic development needs.

Upgrading to the next generation broadband will improve educational outcomes for our students and better the community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Humbly,

Steven Puckett

--

Van Wyck Elementary School

"Take AIM at Greatness!"

4945 Charlotte Highway

Lancaster, SC 29720

Visit Us!

vwes.lancastercsd.com

www.facebook.com/vweseagles

Check Out Our Videos!

www.Vimeo.com/vweseaglecast

Phone: 803-313-6650

From: Dan Saffer
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:25 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fwd: ORS Broadband

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dan Saffer** <daniel.j.saffer@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 11:47 AM
Subject: Re: ORS Broadband
To: John, Breeden <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>
Cc: Rozycki, Chris <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>

Breeden thank you very much for the call and information.

Modern broadband technology is super important as we discussed for work from home, education, economic development and tele-health services.

Believe that Van Wyck is the perfect use case for the CARES Act funding and the town has already engaged Comporium, making quick execution in line with the CARES Act deadlines possible.

Will share your contact with others in town, look forward to seeing the criteria published in the next week or so and am available to support this as helpful.

Best regards,
Dan Saffer
1326 W Rebound Road
Van Wyck, SC 29720
908-966-1462

On Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 10:34 AM John, Breeden <bjohn@ors.sc.gov> wrote:

Dan, nice speaking with you earlier.

I will keep you updated as the broadband funding process gets underway in the several weeks. Please let me know if you have any questions in the meantime and feel free to share my contact info with other interested folks in Van Wyck and elsewhere.

Thanks for your interest!

Breeden John

S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff

(803) 730-9129

bjohn@ors.sc.gov

From: Maggie Norris
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:37 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Town of Van Wyck SC- Internet Service

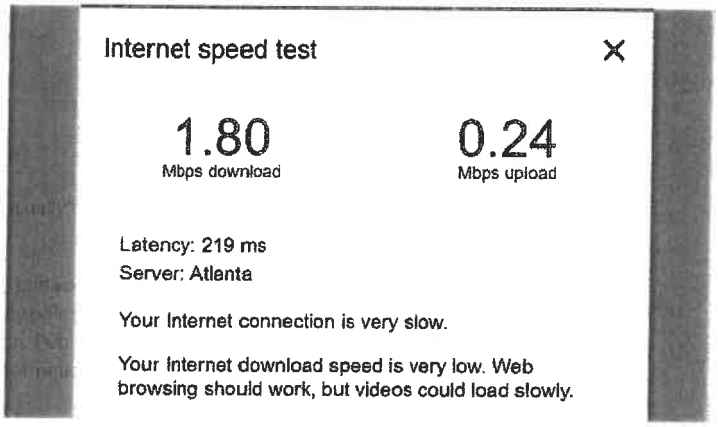
From: mbnorris54@gmail.com <mbnorris54@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:23 AM
To: nedwards@ors.sc.gov
Subject: Town of Van Wyck SC- Internet Service

To: Nanette Edwards, Director, South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

As our country has moved to find new ways to work, go to school, connect with medical staff and with each other; the access to acceptable levels of internet service
has become of paramount importance.

I live the town of Van Wyck, South Carolina and find my self and my family trying to access all of the resources above on a regular basis with internet service that is
always below a 10 mbs speed.

This is a shot of the speed this morning.



I know that South Carolina has received funds through the CARES Act to address internet connectivity across the state.
We have a plan in place in Van Wyck- we have met with our local service provider [we only have one] and have polled and gathered input from our citizens.
Our town is ready to support a project by Comporium with the aid of the CARES act funds.

I do hope you will consider my request and reach out to our elected officials and Comporium to make this happen.

From: Michael LaViolette
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 5:43 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Support for high speed internet

All,

I am in support of high speed internet for our area of Van Wyck. I am concerned with me working from home all day on the laptop with also three kids doing online school. The kids and I require the capabilities to do video conferencing and sometimes at the same time. My DSL line is already running into issues and the kids are not even back at school yet.
I work for Honeywell and handle their SAP system for all over the world so I do know that other tech people in our area are having issues like me. My long meetings with people in India are excruciating especially when trying to use MS Teams and controlling somone else's machine remotely.

I hope you all can understand the pain from working with old DSL technology. Please help the our community so kids will be able to succeed without added interruptions in connections. Times like this it shouldn't be about the money but the community in need due to circumstances.

Thank you for your time,

Michael LaViolette

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone

From: Tim Ivey
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:18 PM
To: newtonbrandon6@gmail.com
Cc: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Rural Community Broad-band Service

Dear Representative Newton

Dear Ms. Edwards

My name is Tim Ivey and my wife and I live on Old Church Road in Lancaster County. This is in the north corner area of the newly incorporated town of Van Wyck.
We are both retired State of SC employees. It was brought to my attention that some of the CARES ACT funds received by South Carolina could be used to address internet connectivity across the State.
My current internet connection is through an old phone line. Comporium is the only internet provider in my area. Although the service is reliable, the average download speed here is around 4 mb.
Although retired, I am attempting to conduct wildlife consulting in several local counties. GIS mapping is part of what I do and the download speed here is problematic. I have to renew an annual lease for ArcMap software and it takes several hours to download. I occasionally have to download county aerial photography and that takes even longer. I am currently unable to update my GPS maps from home. I have to
travel to a friend's house in Fort Mill and use his computer with adequate internet speed. I am also concerned that neighbor's children will have difficulty engaging in remote learning when school starts back.

I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to support a more robust broad-band service in Van Wyck. I understand the town already has a plan and a service provider (Comporium) who could do the installation if funds were available.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. If you need additional information feel free to call me at 803-331-3355.

Tim Ivey

From: Tim Ivey
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:13 PM
To: nedwards@ors.sc.gov
Cc: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Community Broad-band Service

Dear Ms. Edwards

My name is Tim Ivey and my wife and I live on Old Church Road in Lancaster County. This is in the north corner area of the newly incorporated town of Van Wyck.
We are both retired State of SC employees. It was brought to my attention that some of the CARES ACT funds received by South Carolina could be used to address internet connectivity across the State.
My current internet connection is through an old phone line. Comporium is the only internet provider in my area. Although the service is reliable, the average download speed here is around 4 mb.
Although retired, I am attempting to conduct wildlife consulting in several local counties. GIS mapping is part of what I do and the download speed here is problematic. I have to renew an annual lease for ArcMap software and it takes several hours to download. I occasionally have to download county aerial photography and that takes even longer. I am currently unable to update my GPS maps from home. I have to
travel to a friend's house in Fort Mill and use his computer with adequate internet speed. I am also concerned that neighbor's children will have difficulty engaging in remote learning when school starts back.

I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to support a more robust broad-band service in Van Wyck. I understand the town already has a plan and a service provider (Comporium) who could do the installation if funds were available.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. If you need additional information feel free to call me at 803-331-3355.

Tim Ivey

From: Tim Ivey
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:16 PM
To: bjohn@ors.sc.gov
Cc: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Rural community broad-band service

Dear Breeden

My name is Tim Ivey and my wife and I live on Old Church Road in Lancaster County. This is in the north corner area of the newly incorporated town of Van Wyck.
We are both retired State of SC employees. It was brought to my attention that some of the CARES ACT funds received by South Carolina could be used to address internet connectivity across the State.
My current internet connection is through an old phone line. Comporium is the only internet provider in my area. Although the service is reliable, the average download speed here is around 4 mb.
Although retired, I am attempting to conduct wildlife consulting in several local counties. GIS mapping is part of what I do and the download speed here is problematic. I have to renew an annual lease for ArcMap software and it takes several hours to download. I occasionally have to download county aerial photography and that takes even longer. I am currently unable to update my GPS maps from home. I have to
travel to a friend's house in Fort Mill and use his computer with adequate internet speed. I am also concerned that neighbor's children will have difficulty engaging in remote learning when school starts back.

I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to support a more robust broad-band service in Van Wyck. I understand the town already has a plan and a service provider (Comporium) who could do the installation if funds were available.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. If you need additional information feel free to call me at 803-331-3355.

Tim Ivey

From: Hinson, Derric
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 2:41 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Broadband Upgrade Van Wyck, SC

Hello,

I am a resident of the Town of Van Wyck and live at 965 W Rebound Rd, Lancaster, SC. Currently, our only internet option is 10 Mbps for $75/month. I have 4 children that are doing online schooling and I also work from home as an IT Administrator for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department. I am required to VPN and remote desktop to several computers and servers on a constant basis and am constantly getting dropped due to lack of bandwidth. My children's Zoom meetings as well as my Webex meetings constantly drop as well. I am literally across the street from the Comporium Telephone remote and fiber runs right by my hose to Riverchase Estates several miles down the road. I was on Fiber at Retreat At Rayfield in Indian Land and never had any issues with the internet bandwidth.

We ask that you please upgrade the services in van Wyck. More houses are being built and with the proximity of the new Elementary School and High School the population will continue grow in Van Wyck.

Thanks you,

Derric Hinson
Police Business Systems Specialist Senior
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department
601 E. Trade St
Charlotte, NC 28202
(C) 980-225-4050
(O) 704-432-0436
Dhinson1@cmpd.org

From: Dan Saffer
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:13 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fwd: CARES Act Funding

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ashley Fox Gulledge** <ashley.gulledge@lcsd.k12.sc.us>
Date: Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 11:33 AM
Subject: CARES Act Funding
To: <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>, <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>

Breeden and Chris,

Good afternoon to you! I received your contact information from the parent of a former student.

As I understand there is CARES Act funding available for broadband internet projects and that the Town of Van Wyck is an area under consideration.

As an educator in the Lancaster County School District I have seen the critical need for high speed connectivity at home for our students and fully support the funding of a Van Wyck project for educational and economic development needs.

Upgrading to the next generation broadband will improve educational outcomes for our students and better the community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope you have a great rest of your day!

Best regards,
--
Mrs. Ashley Gulledge
4th Grade Teacher
Van Wyck Elementary School
Take Aim at Greatness
Van Wyck 4th Grade Website
(803) 313-6650

From: 'Jeremy Ford' via info@townofvanwyck.net
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:49 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fw: CARES Act Funding for Broadband in Van Wyck

FYI.

Best Regards,
Jeremy Ford

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Jeremy Ford <jeremyford15@yahoo.com>
To: nedwards@ors.sc.gov <nedwards@ors.sc.gov>; bjohn@ors.sc.gov <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>; crozycki@ors.sc.gov <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 10:44:24 AM EDT
Subject: CARES Act Funding for Broadband in Van Wyck

Executive Director Edwards and team,

I received your contact information from an employee of mine that is a resident of the Town of Van Wyck.

From discussions with my team member I have come to understand that there is CARES Act funding available for broadband internet projects and that the Town of Van Wyck is an area under consideration. The proposed project seems to be the perfect use case for the allocated CARES Act funds and can be completed by the December 31, 2020 deadline.

In recent months we have all seen how critical modern broadband technology is to enable the ability to effectively work from home and conduct remote learning for our children. The need for this service will only continue to grow and I fully support the funding of a Van Wyck broadband project in support of educational and economic development needs.

Upgrading to the next generation broadband will improve socioeconomic and educational outcomes and better the Van Wyck community and the State of South Carolina.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,
Jeremy Ford

From: Susan Detwiler <sledriderx2@yahoo.com>
Date: July 18, 2020 at 2:11:28 PM EDT
To: "newtonbrandon6@gmail.com" <newtonbrandon6@gmail.com>
Subject: Internet for Van Wyck, SC

July 18, 2020

Brandon Newton
South Carolina State House of Representative (District 45)

Dear Brandon Newton,

While my mailing address is Lancaster, SC I actually live in the town of Van Wyck, SC. The only internet service available at my residence is basic DSL from Comporium. I am employed by Bank of America and I currently work from home. The poor internet service makes this very difficult. It is also difficult and frustrating when dealing with Tele-Doc services and other various internet services. Our internet service is already slow and with increased usage due to more individuals working from home due to COVID-19 and children doing school work due to remote learning it will only strain an already poor service further. Also of concern is that our town will not be able to attract new businesses or citizens without a high speed internet connection. We have a true need for better internet service.

This is a plea to please consider Van Wyck, SC as an under-served area in dire need of better internet that could benefit greatly with additional funding from the CARES Act or any other funding that may be available to assist our community. I've included a copy of the internet speed test I just ran on my computer using Comporium's website. As you can see, it is at 3 mbs download speed which is well below the required minimum of 10 mbs download speeds.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Detwiler
1276 Mooreland Wood Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: 704-591-5505

From: Susan Detwiler <sledriderx2@yahoo.com>
Date: July 18, 2020 at 2:00:59 PM EDT
To: "nedwards@ors.sc.gov" <nedwards@ors.sc.gov>
Subject: Internet for Van Wyck, SC

July 18, 2020

Nannette Edwards
Director, SC Office of Regulatory Staff

Dear Nannette Edwards,

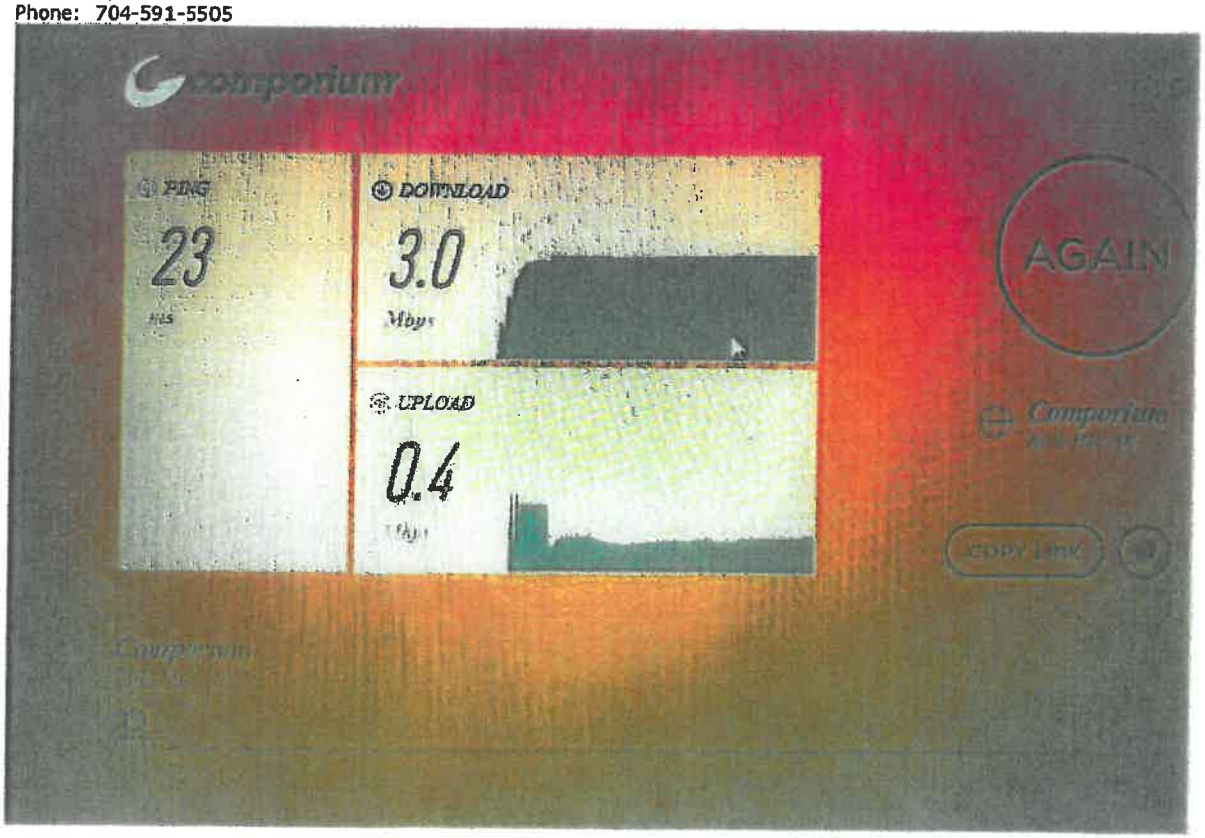
While my mailing address is Lancaster, SC I actually live in the town of Van Wyck, SC. The only internet service available at my residence is basic DSL from Comporium. I am employed by Bank of America and I currently work from home. The poor internet service makes this very difficult. It is also difficult and frustrating when dealing with Tele-Doc services and other various internet services. Our internet service is already slow and with increased usage due to more individuals working from home due to COVID-19 and children doing school work due to remote learning it will only strain an already poor service further. Also of concern is that our town will not be able to attract new businesses or citizens without a high speed internet connection. We have a true need for better internet service.

This is a plea to please consider Van Wyck, SC as an under-served area in dire need of better internet that could benefit greatly with additional funding from the CARES Act or any other funding that may be available to assist our community. I've included a copy of the internet speed test I just ran on my computer using Comporium's website. As you can see, it is at 3 mbs download speed which is well below the required minimum of 10 mbs download speeds.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Detwiler
1276 Mooreland Wood Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: 704-591-5505



From: Susan Detwiler <sledriderx2@yahoo.com>
Date: July 18, 2020 at 2:07:29 PM EDT
To: "bjohn@ors.sc.gov" <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>
Subject: Internet for Van Wyck, SC

July 18, 2020

Breedeen John, Telecommunications, South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

Dear Breedeen John,

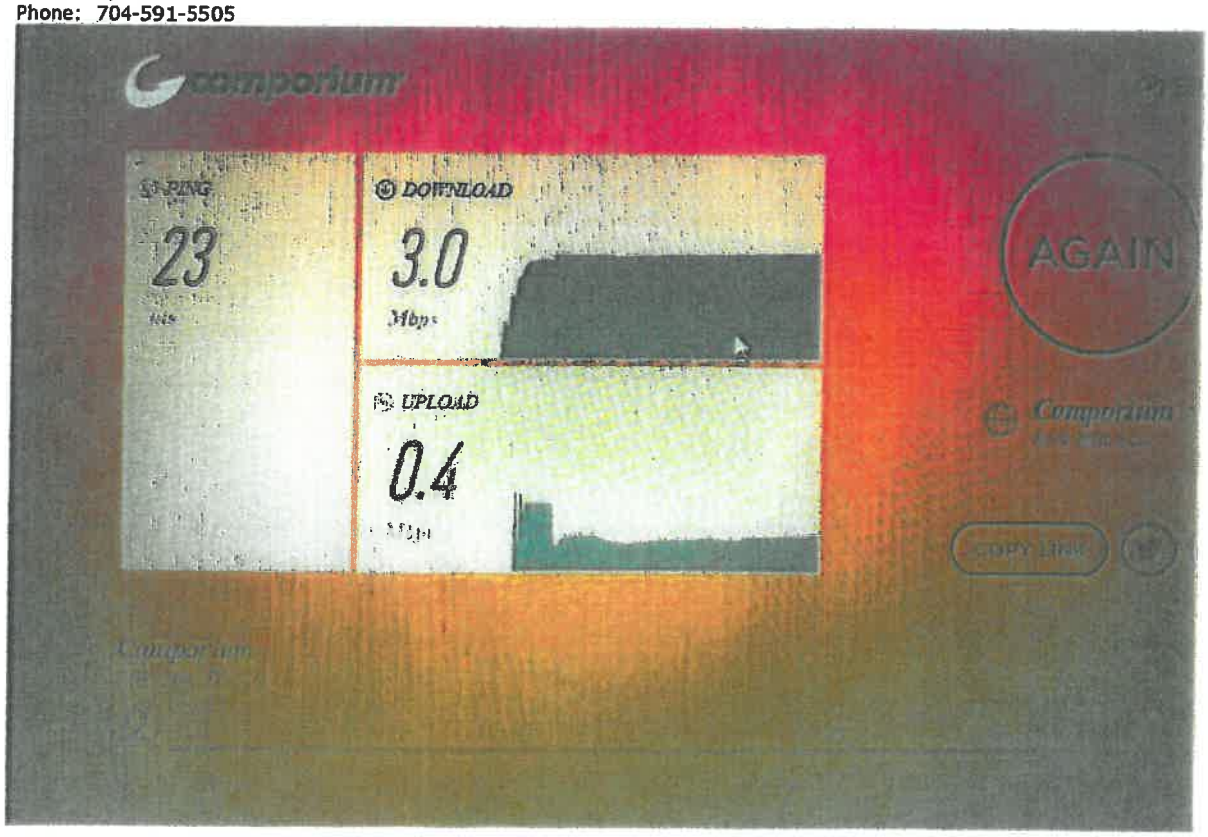
While my mailing address is Lancaster, SC I actually live in the town of Van Wyck, SC. The only internet service available at my residence is basic DSL from Comporium. I am employed by Bank of America and I currently work from home. The poor internet service makes this very difficult. It is also difficult and frustrating when dealing with Tele-Doc services and other various internet services. Our internet service is already slow and with increased usage due to more individuals working from home due to COVID-19 and children doing school work due to remote learning it will only strain an already poor service further. Also of concern is that our town will not be able to attract new businesses or citizens without a high speed internet connection. We have a true need for better internet service.

This is a plea to please consider Van Wyck, SC as an under-served area in dire need of better internet that could benefit greatly with additional funding from the CARES Act or any other funding that may be available to assist our community. I've included a copy of the internet speed test I just ran on my computer using Comporium's website. As you can see, it is at 3 mbs download speed which is well below the required minimum of 10 mbs download speeds.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Detwiler
1276 Mooreland Wood Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: 704-591-5505



My name is Stephanie Clemons. My husband and I are nearing completion of a home at 7292 Van Wyck Road, Lancaster, SC 29720, in the newly formed town of Van Wyck. Upon purchasing our property, our greatest concern was the lack of Internet speed in the area. Currently Comporium out of Fort Mill who services the area only provides DSL with speeds less than 10mbs. We almost didn't purchase the property because of the issue.

I am a teacher in the Lancaster County School District. Due to COVID-19, I have provided class sessions virtually after the schools closed in March. I am also currently, and would like to continue, teaching students in China virtually as well. However, I will have to stop my virtual teaching job from home due to the slow internet speed, which would result in a loss of some income. Additionally, I am one of the third grade virtual teachers at my school. In the event that our schools are shut down and I am required to teach from home, I wouldn't be able to provide the virtual learning, which includes live sessions, that my students need and deserve. I would have to spend time outside my home, away from my newborn, in order to get adequate internet service to prepare virtual lessons for my students upon moving into our home as the DSL Internet service will not be sufficient for my needs to teach and prepare virtually. Further, my husband, a Licensed Professional Counselor, will also need access to high speed Internet as he provides his mental health counseling services virtually as well. As you can see, without access to broadband services, we will be unable to do our jobs while remaining in quarantine, and further, especially in my husband's case, he'll be forced to go out of home and into his office, facing potential exposure to the virus, simply because our Internet connection at home will not allow for telehealth work.

Students in the area, attending Van Wyck Elementary School, will need access to broadband for the online academy that starts in another month. Churches in the area have been unable to provide live streaming of their services during the pandemic because DSL does not meet the requirements for online platforms to function properly. Further, businesses are not easily attracted to the area because of the speed issue. Accessing high speed Internet is necessary in our digital world.

The town council of Van Wyck has worked with Comporium to develop a proposal that would bring high speed fiber Internet to every home within the town limits. However, as you are aware, adding this infrastructure is not without a cost. It is my understanding that through the CARES Act, there is funding available to help with adding the necessary infrastructure to areas currently underserved when it comes to broadband connections. The town has a plan in place and a service provider, Comporium, that can get the job done if the funds are awarded. However, the clock is ticking and Comporium will need to start the project by the first of August to have the buildout completed by the required date.

Please consider awarding funding to our town, one of the newest towns in South Carolina, to allow us to serve our community more effectively and remain safe during these challenging times.

Thank you for your time,

Stephanie Clemons

My name is Steven Clemons, Jr. We are nearing completion of a home at 7292 Van Wyck Road, Lancaster, SC 29720, in the newly formed town of Van Wyck. Upon purchasing our property, our greatest concern was the lack of Internet speed in the area. Currently Comporium out of Fort Mill who services the area only provides DSL with speeds less than 10mbs. We almost didn't purchase the property because of the issue.

I work in mental health as a licensed professional counselor. Due to COVID-19, I have been providing mostly telehealth for my clients. However, I will have to go into my office every day upon moving into our home as the DSL Internet service will not be sufficient for telehealth visits. Further, my wife, a teacher in the Lancaster County School District, will also need access to high speed Internet as many students in the area opt for the virtual option for the school year. As you can see, without access to broadband services, we will be unable to do our jobs while remaining in quarantine, and further, especially in my case, I'll be forced to go out of home and into my office, facing potential exposure to the virus, simply because our Internet connection at home will not allow for telehealth work.

Students in the area, attending Van Wyck Elementary School, will need access to broadband for the online academy that starts in another month. Churches in the area have been unable to provide live streaming of their services during the pandemic because DSL does not meet the requirements for online platforms to function properly. Further, businesses are not easily attracted to the area because of the speed issue. Assessing high speed Internet is necessary in our digital world.

The town council of Van Wyck has worked with Comporium to develop a proposal that would bring high speed fiber Internet to every home within the town limits. However, as you are aware, adding this infrastructure is not without a cost. It is my understanding that through the CARES Act, there is funding available to help with adding the necessary infrastructure to areas currently underserved when it comes to broadband connections. The town has a plan in place and a service provider, Comporium, that can get the job done if the funds are awarded. However, the clock is ticking and Comporium will need to start the project by the first of August to have the buildout completed by the required date.

Please consider awarding funding to our town, one of the newest towns in South Carolina, to allow us to serve our community more effectively and remain safe during these challenging times.

Steven Clemons, Jr.
stevenclemonsjr@gmail.com
540-798-3255

August 9, 2020

Dear Comporium management,

This is a letter of support for the project to run broadband internet access to the rest of Van Wyck. Newer homes and developments already have broadband, but many older homes do not have fast reliable internet or cell service. This puts many of us at a disadvantage. Our students will have more trouble with homework and distance learning. Those of us who have the option to work at home find it frustrating and inefficient since we can't communicate well with our co workers.

Fast, reliable internet service has become a necessity in today's world.

Best Regards,

Laura Clark

5110 Old Hickory Road

August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Comporium is committed to bridging the digital divide within Lancaster County. We are excited to respond to the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project Application.

Please review the attached application which shares all the details. We are extremely excited about this project and look forward to the opportunity to work together as a partner and achieve success together. If you need clarification or further information concerning the application, please do not hesitate to contact me at greg.lunsford@comporium.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Charles G. Lunsford
Vice President – Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

www.comporium.com
PO Box 470
Rock Hill SC 29731

APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization Lancaster Telephone Company

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0001-8892-45

Primary Contact Name Chris Moody | Title Regulatory Cost Analyst

Mailing Address 330 East Black St | Phone Number 803-326-7255

City, State, Zip Rock Hill, SC 29730 | Email chris.moody@comporium.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 09/01/2000

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 02/17/2020

- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience delivering broadband service over fiber or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

Project Area Information

County Lancaster County | Rural or Urban Rural

Nearest City/Town Van Wyck, South Carolina | Project Area Map Code Lancaster 1

105 Number of Households in Project Area *(Target code)*

15 Number of Businesses in Project Area

Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area

Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.

- [x] *Fiber to the Premises* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 1000/1000
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Fixed wireless* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *VDSL (25/3 Mbps or faster)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds

Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

Indicate all rate tiers for broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or faster will be offered to customers in the project area:

- [ ] Rates less than $10/month
- [ ] Rates between $10 - $14.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $15 - $19.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $20 - $24.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $25 - $34.99/month

Project Timeline and Milestones

Project Start Date 09/01/2020

Project Construction Activity Begins 09/01/2020

Project Construction Activity Complete 12/17/2020

Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/17/2020

Project Completion Date 12/17/2020

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost $453,442

Upfront Cost Requirements 0

Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises $453,442

Average Cost per Location Served *(all locations or structures)* $3,779

Average Cost per Housing Unit $3,779

Average Cost per Business $3,779

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested $226,720.93

Applicant-Provided Funding $226,720.93

Third-Party Funding Amount

Source(s)

Additional Information

Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

Lancaster Telephone Company, an affiliate of Comporium, Inc, is an independent telecommunications company located in Lancaster, South Carolina. Lancaster Telephone serves voice, broadband, and video customers in Lancaster County and parts of Kershaw County and Chester County. It also offers wireless service in partnership with AT&T under a limited liability company arrangement. Lancaster Telephone Company offers Digital Subscriber Line, Cable Modem, and Fiber-To-The-Home to both residential and business customers. DSL has three speed tiers to choose from: Standard (Downstream / Upstream) - (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). Coax has Standard (30Mbps/2Mbps), Ultra (90Mbps/3Mbps) and Elite (150Mbps/5Mbps). The FTTH product has four speed tiers: Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB). Zipstream is an internet service offering that provides upload and download speeds of one Gigabit per second to customers. What makes Zipstream unique, is it consists of an all fiber delivery, the newest network equipment, and a robust path to the internet backbone that can carry large amounts of data. In addition to voice, broadband and video services, Lancaster Telephone Company offers Metro Ethernet services that provide customers a redundant and secure way to transfer mission-critical data. Lancaster Telephone Company's Metro Ethernet service is a high-speed (10 Mbps to 10 Gbps) packet-based service that provides the transmission of point-to-point LAN or WAN data between a customer's locations. Metro Ethernet circuits can also be ordered to provide dedicated bandwidth to the Internet. Our Customer Network Operations Center offers technical support with proactive network monitoring of customer's Metro Ethernet circuits to ensure consistent, high-level performance. Lancaster Telephone Company's MPLS core network provides diverse and redundant IP routing that supports all of the customer facing services. Lancaster Telephone Company uses a variety of last mile technologies to serve customers including xDSL, Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) and Hybrid Fiber Coax (HFC). Lancaster Telephone Company also operates a remote switch and has connections to Comporium, Inc. and one of its sister companies who provide equipment to operate voice, data, and video networks. Lancaster's has been deploying FTTH networks since 2005.The Lancaster Telephone Company's remote switch homes to the Comporium, Inc. owned Rock Hill Class 5 Switch. The voice traffic from the Remotes, as identified in NECA Tariff No. 4, and all the data and video utilize the redundant fiber connections to the Rock Hill host switch, core broadband network and Video headend. The Comporium, Inc. network connects the voice and data traffic to the world. Leveraging these assets at the parent company level provides some economies of scale to Lancaster. Lancaster Telephone Company does perform its own customer service, and installation and repair. It has two business offices within the city of Lancaster for its customers to purchase services. The White Street office is the largest business office and is located in the downtown area of Lancaster. The University Place office is located near the University of South Carolina – Lancaster campus. This location is nestled in a busy shopping area for the community. Customers can come into any business offices to provision service, pay bills, or ask questions to available service representatives. Lancaster Telephone Company has a plant work center location that houses the Installation and Repair group, facilities and construction group. Each of Lancaster Telephone Company's 13 remote offices are designed and equipped to support the operation of communications networks. These remotes are equipped with sufficient battery backup in the event of an emergency.

Describe how your proposal meets CARES objectives as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

Van Wyck, is located in the rural panhandle section of Lancaster County, South Carolina. The total land area is roughly 10 miles. The 2019 population is an estimated 1,080 citizens. The citizens of the area decided to officially incorporate and officially formed the town in August of 2017. Due to the rurality and location of the town limits of Van Wyck, delivering high speed internet with speeds of 25/3 has been challenging. Receiving CARES funding would provide the company with the needed funding to deliver state-of-the-art fiber broadband to customers. Currently the broadband infrastructure in place that serves end user customers is Digital Subscriber Line, (DSL). DSL is offered to customers at three speed tiers: Standard (Downstream / Upstream) - (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). This proposal will provide four high speed fiber speed tiers for customers to choose from Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB).
Due to the rural location of Van Wyck, the town does not have any health care facilities in the town limits. Citizens battling the COVID-19 related illness travel to health care centers in Charlotte, North Carolina or have options to seek medical assistance in Rock Hill or Lancaster, South Carolina. Receiving CARES funding would allow high speed bandwidth citizens, so that they can perform virtual telehealth visits with health care facilities and hospitals. By providing increased telehealth options to town of Van Wyck, those impacted by COVID-19 will not have to leave their home when seeking medical assistance. This will reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others, while keeping healthcare workers safe at the same time. Telehealth options will also protect the elderly citizens who are greatly at risk to catch COVID-19. COVID-19 has posed many challenges for the students who live in the Van Wyck area. The poverty index currently is 53.23% for students within the Lancaster County School District. The Lancaster County School District has implemented two primary options for students in Van Wyck as they return to school this fall. Students will be allowed to return to school as normal also known as A/B Face-to-Face. An At-Home with Teacher Support option is also available to students who are unable to return to school due to COVID-19 issues. The At-Home with Teacher Support option allows students to complete continued learning experiences posted to Google Classroom. Assignments must be completed by the deadlines set by individual teachers. Students are required to follow the schedule provided by the teachers. Students who will be attending school virtually will greatly benefit from upgrading the current DSL infrastructure. Since the maximum DSL speed available to students is 11Mbps/1Mbps, virtual learning may be a challenge. Due to COVD-19 many DSLAMS that provide the DSL service are at full capacity and can no longer be expanded. Bandwidth has greatly increased now that entire families are working from home and attending school virtually from home. The CARES funding will allow the DSL infrastructure to be upgraded to fiber greatly alleviating the risk of students not being able to complete assignments on time. This upgraded technology will keep students on pace with other counterparts across other areas of the state and not be left behind. COVID-19 has drastically changed the typical workforce as we know it. Many companies have required employees to work from home since mid-March, once the pandemic began sweeping our state and nation. Those employees that once were working in a corporate environment had high speed broadband with redundancy. Having this type of broadband kept individual productivity high and cost low. Citizens who now work from home in Van Wyck are solely dependent on a DSL connection. These employees who are now being forced to work from home will be sharing bandwidth with their children who will be attending school virtually. With maximum download speeds of 11Mbps/1Mbps workers will face many challenges completing tasks due to the current DSL infrastructure that is in place. Individual workers who could be attending a virtual meeting, could miss vital details if the DSL connection becomes overloaded due to the increased burden on the network in the Van Wyck area. Individual residences who have parents working from home and children attending school virtually from that same dwelling will face challenges completing both corporate tasks and educational tasks. CARES funding will allow this DSL infrastructure to be upgraded with fiber to these residents in Van Wyck. Without this funding for upgrades, parents working from home may struggle to keep pace with co-workers and completing work related tasks as required by their employers.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The proposal will greatly enhance the community of Van Wyck, South Carolina. The quality of life for families and businesses will increase long after this upgrade is completed. Parents will be able to work from home sufficiently and effectively. Work tasks will be completed in a timely fashion without being in the office. Employers will have confidence in their employee's ability to achieve maximum output knowing a fiber connection to their premise capable of gigabit speeds is available to them. Children will have the ability to take exams and complete homework assignments without their broadband connection being overwhelmed due to lack of bandwidth. Families will have the option to now stream a movie, where in the past this was not an option. Van Wyck, South Carolina could grow from an Economic Development prospective. It will now be much easier for town leaders to recruit industry. Companies when looking to locate to the area will now see that DSL broadband has been replaced with fiber optics. Community Anchor institutions such as Van Wyck Volunteer Fire Department and Van Wyck Community Center will have sufficient broadband to conduct activities. Small businesses will be able to have adequate broadband to perform operations. The overall impact of receiving CARES funding will have an everlasting impact on a small community.

Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Use additional pages if necessary.

Lancaster Telephone Company is committed to assisting anyone in the proposed grant area with getting up to speed on digital literacy, especially those who have not previously had any Internet service and, as result, lack experience. Lancaster Telephone Company plans to provide free Internet access at various community centers, public gathering locations and community anchor institutions (CAIs), along with informational posters, to allow residents to experience the capabilities of the new broadband connectivity available to them. Lancaster Telephone Company has committed to produce and distribute educational and promotional programs and materials to the community regarding their new broadband service. We also plan on organizing events within the community to raise awareness of the educational resources and opportunities found Online that will become available to them.

Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

See attached bank letter.

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

County Road Permits and/or SC Highway Permits will be obtained prior to construction being performed.

Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:

1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

CERTIFICATION: The Applicant certifies that information included in this application is factual to their knowledge.

☑ Applicant agrees to comply with all applicable requirements and conditions contained in Subrecipient Agreement for Coronavirus Relief Funds

Signature:

Print Name of Signature: Charles G. Lunsford

Title of Signatory: Vice President - Regulatory Affairs

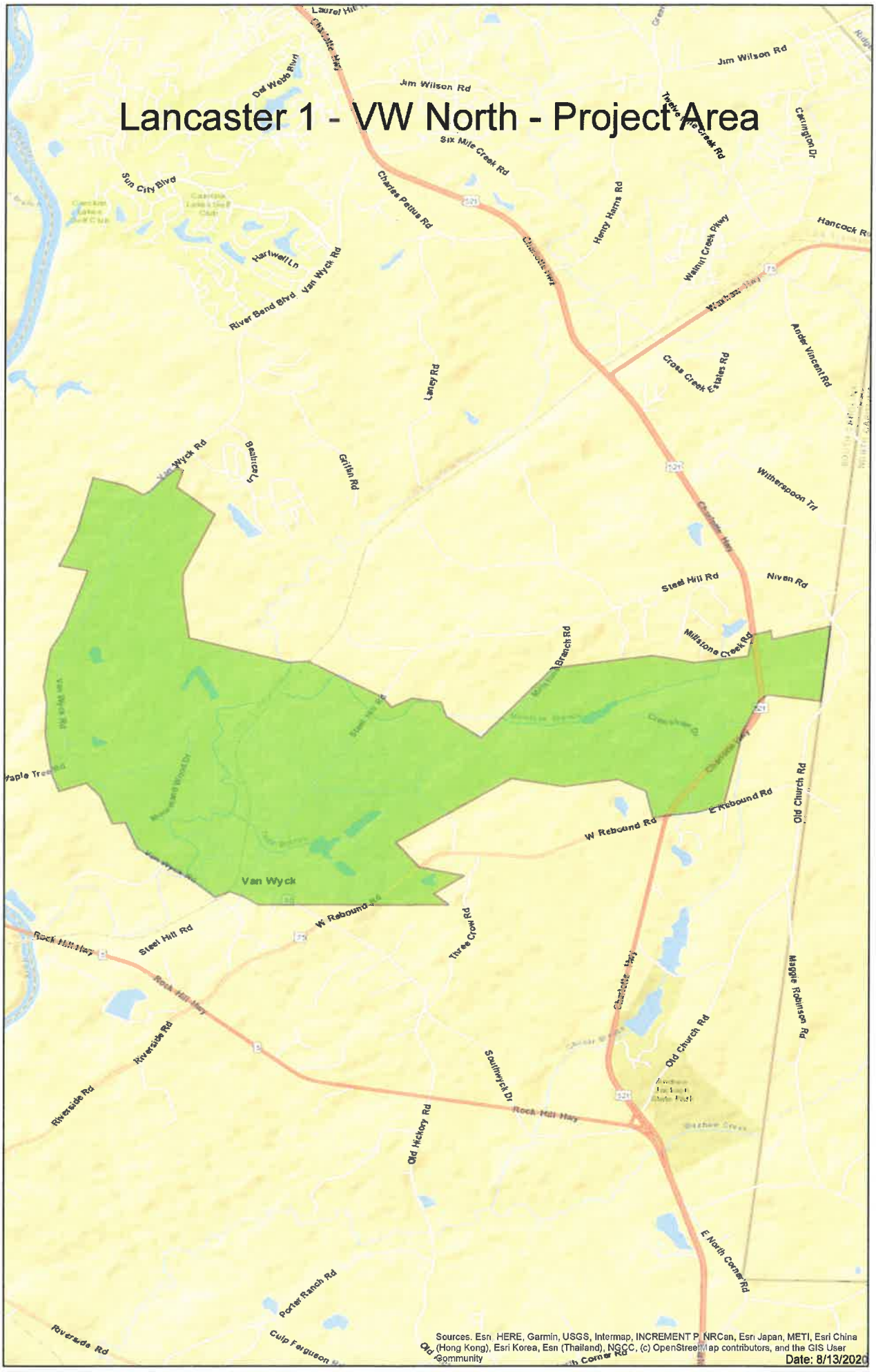
Date: August 14, 2020

Renewal Terms. *Contingent upon extensions for the expenditure of CARES Act funds provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury and the State of South Carolina, this Agreement may be renewed as evidenced by written approval of both parties.*

All questions and completed applications should be submitted to Broadband@ors.sc.gov

Facsimile signatures and email signatures shall be as effective as original signatures to bind any party.

Lancaster 1 - VW North - Project Area



VAN WYCK

June 30, 2020

VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL

Nanette S. Edwards, Executive Director
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(nedwards@ors.sc.gov)

Re: CARES Act Funding for Fiberoptic Broadband to the Homes of our Residents.

Dear Director Edwards:

I hope this letter finds you well in these difficult times. I understand from speaking with Chris Rozycki that your office has been delegated authority over the review and disbursement of the CARES Act funding granted to the state. To that end, I am reaching out to you to place our town's present broadband internet infrastructure needs on your radar and to petition your office for consideration of our proposal to fund those sorely needed improvements.

If you're not familiar with our area, Van Wyck is located in a predominantly rural part of Lancaster county, halfway between the city of Lancaster and the Indian Land community near the intersection of US Highway 521 and SC Highway 5. The town is one of South Carolina's newest additions having incorporated in 2017. Our residents represent an even cross section of income, age and race. The strong level of suburban growth seen in Indian Land in recent years is expected to reach Van Wyck at some time in the near future. We are working hard to be ready for it. Adequate internet will be a key element.

Unfortunately, due to the rural character of our community, there is not sufficient economic incentive to improve our telecommunications infrastructure. Currently, the majority of the town is minimally served to completely unserved with DSL broadband internet service. Some areas of the town, notably some of the poorest, are not able to be served by DSL at all. The current COVID 19 crisis has brought the community's internet needs into sharp focus. Residents who are required to work from home struggle to do so in an effective manner with the slow DSL service in place. Everyone, and particularly our senior-age population, has difficulty accessing telehealth resources that are best used to keep vulnerable populations from exposure to the virus. Last, the children in our area will need adequate resources to access broadband internet once school restarts for remote learning requirements.

I and my fellow members of town council have heard many stories from the residents detailing their needs for better internet service and improved cellular coverage going back some time. The poor internet service coupled with poor cell phone coverage makes our dilemma difficult to solve absent an immediate improvement to our telecommunications infrastructure. To that end, we recently started to explore with Comporium Communications (the sole telecommunications utility in our area) the costs and timeline for the addition of fiberoptic broadband-to-the-home infrastructure. At this time, Comporium has researched and provided us with an estimated cost, effectively making the project shovel-ready. I've included those materials herein.

We are actively seeking a funding source sufficient to cover most, if not all, of these costs. If we are able to secure sufficient funding through the CARES Act funds, the town is able to allocate some additional funding via grant if necessary. Considering the time-limitations imposed by the Act, our project may be able to see completion within the Act's requisite time limits should the funding be approved soon.

On behalf of my neighbors, the residents of Van Wyck, I ask that you give consideration to our request for funding. I also ask that you please contact me with any questions. I can be reached by cell: 704-589-0025 or email: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net.

I believe we can make this happen. Thank you.

Best regards,

Sean Corcoran
Mayor

Sean Corcoran

Linda Vaughan

Robert Dister
Cassandra Watkins
Richard Vaughan
Xavier Key

PO Box 159
Van Wyck, SC 29744
803 712 4903
www.townofvanwyck.net
info@townofvanwyck.net

Town Of
VAN WYCK
South Carolina

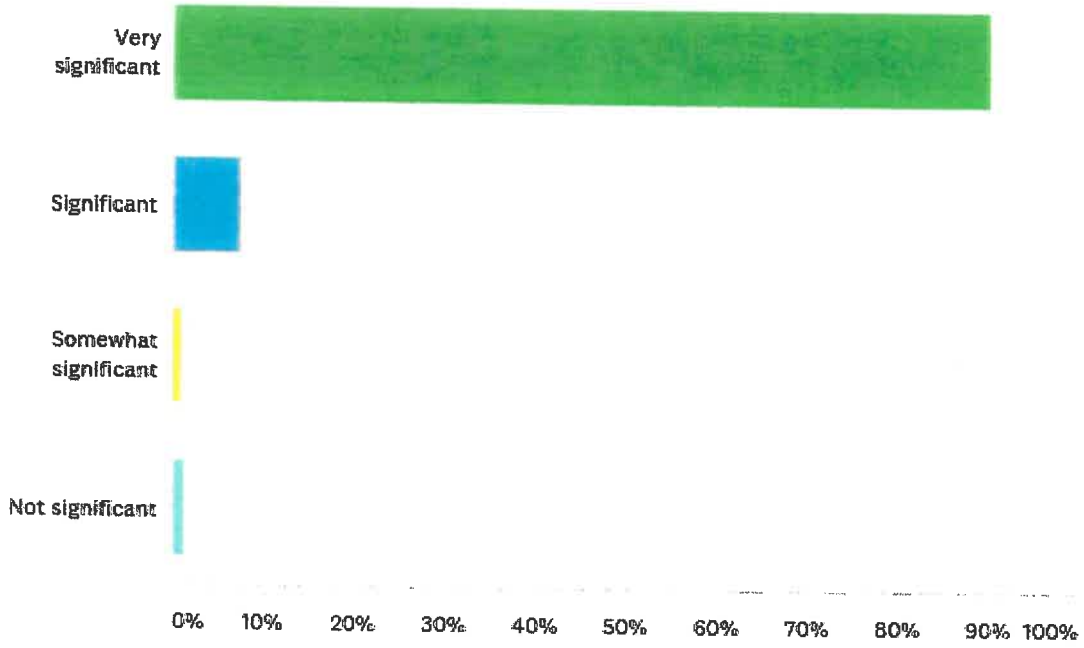
Comprehensive Plan 2020 Community Survey

July 2020 – Final Results / Broadband Excerpt

Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q25: How important is having high-speed internet access at your home?

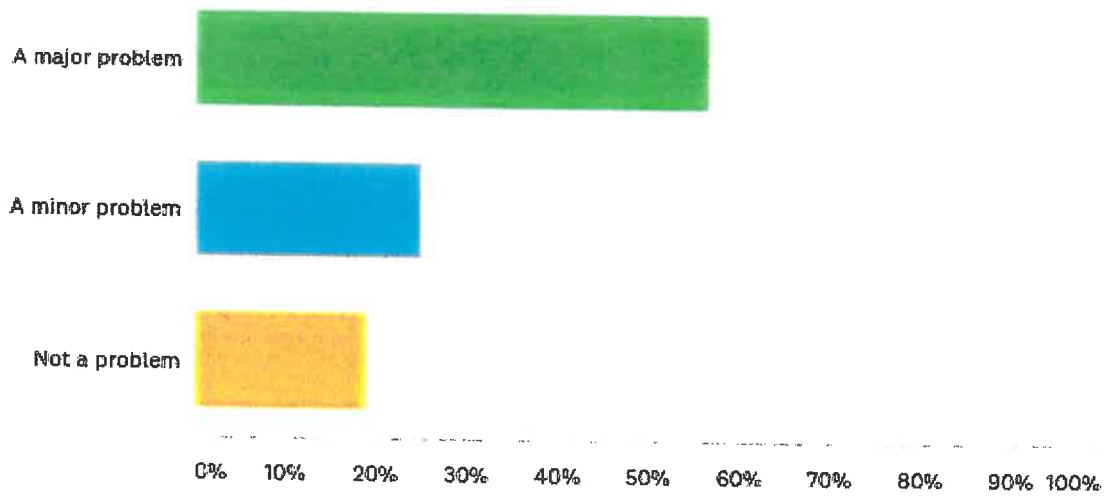
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q26: Access to high-speed internet at home is...

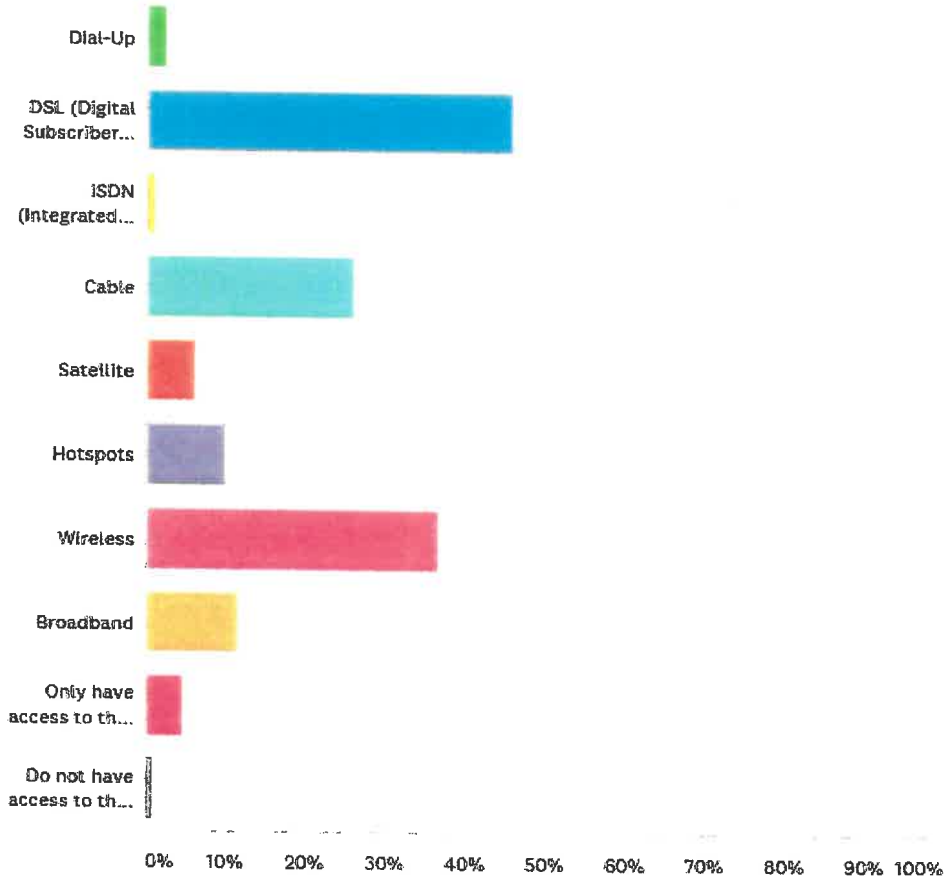
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q27: What type of internet access do you have at home? [check all that apply]

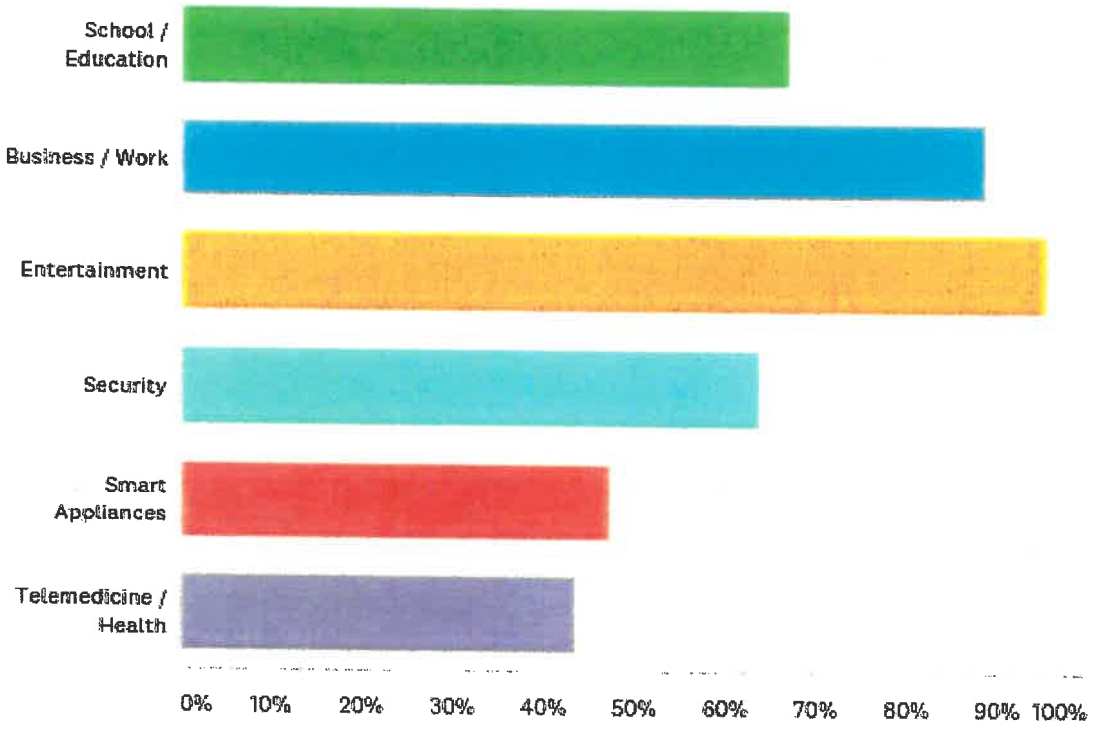
Answered: 131 Skipped: 17



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q28: Indicate how your household either currently uses or would like to use the internet within your home. [check all that apply]

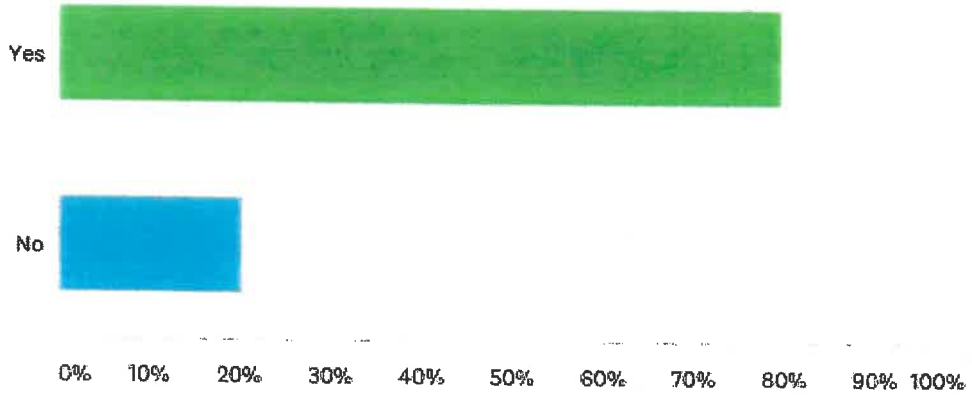
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q29: Would you be willing to pay a one-time fee to connect to high-speed internet?

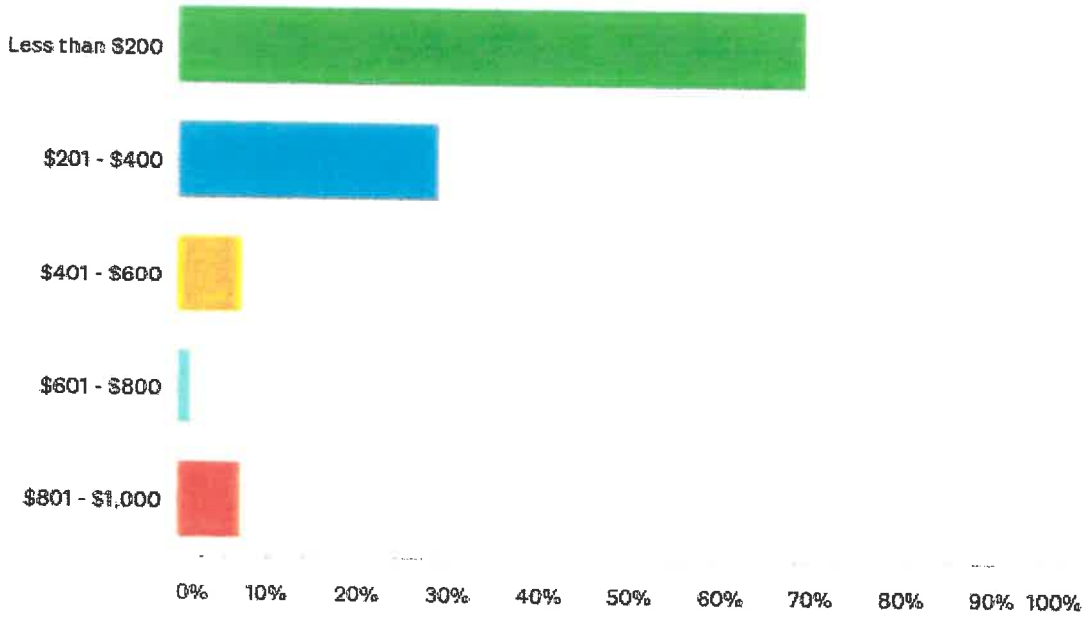
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q30: If yes, what connection fee range do you feel would be most appropriate for a one-time payment for high-speed internet access? [check all that apply]

Answered: 114 Skipped: 34



Powered by SurveyMonkey

From: Dan Saffer
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:13 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fwd: Please Consider

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Steven Puckett** <Steven.Puckett@lcsd.k12.sc.us>
Date: Thu, Jul 16, 2020 at 11:36 AM
Subject: Please Consider
To: <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>, <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>

Breeden and Chris,

I received your contact information from the parent of our students.

As I understand there is CARES Act funding available for broadband internet projects and that the Town of Van Wyck is an area under consideration.

As an educator in the Lancaster County School District I have seen the critical need for high speed connectivity at home for our students and fully support the funding of a Van Wyck project for educational and economic development needs.

Upgrading to the next generation broadband will improve educational outcomes for our students and better the community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Humbly,

Steven Puckett

--

Van Wyck Elementary School

"Take **AIM** at Greatness!"

4945 Charlotte Highway

Lancaster, SC 29720

Visit Us!

vwes.lancastercsd.com

www.facebook.com/vweseagles

Check Out Our Videos!

www.Vimeo.com/vweseaglecast

Phone: 803-313-6650

From: Dan Saffer
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:25 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fwd: ORS Broadband

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dan Saffer** <daniel.j.saffer@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 11:47 AM
Subject: Re: ORS Broadband
To: John, Breeden <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>
Cc: Rozycki, Chris <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>

Breeden thank you very much for the call and information.

Modern broadband technology is super important as we discussed for work from home, education, economic development and tele-health services.

Believe that Van Wyck is the perfect use case for the CARES Act funding and the town has already engaged Comporium, making quick execution in line with the CARES Act deadlines possible.

Will share your contact with others in town, look forward to seeing the criteria published in the next week or so and am available to support this as helpful.

Best regards,
Dan Saffer
1326 W Rebound Road
Van Wyck, SC 29720
908-966-1462

On Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 10:34 AM John, Breeden <bjohn@ors.sc.gov> wrote:

Dan, nice speaking with you earlier.

I will keep you updated as the broadband funding process gets underway in the several weeks. Please let me know if you have any questions in the meantime and feel free to share my contact info with other interested folks in Van Wyck and elsewhere.

Thanks for your interest!

Breeden John

S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff

(803) 730-9129

bjohn@ors.sc.gov

From: Maggie Norris
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:37 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Town of Van Wyck SC- Internet Service

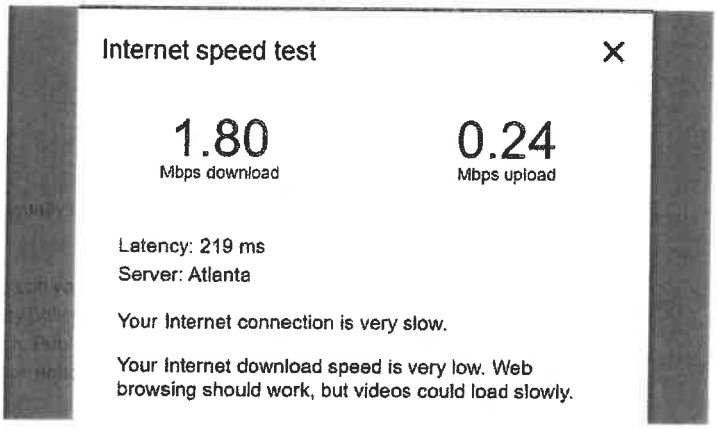
From: mbnorris54@gmail.com <mbnorris54@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:23 AM
To: nedwards@ors.sc.gov
Subject: Town of Van Wyck SC- Internet Service

To: Nanette Edwards, Director, South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

As our country has moved to find new ways to work, go to school, connect with medical staff and with each other; the access to acceptable levels of internet service
has become of paramount importance.

I live the town of Van Wyck, South Carolina and find my self and my family trying to access all of the resources above on a regular basis with internet service that is
always below a 10 mbs speed.

This is a shot of the speed this morning.



I know that South Carolina has received funds through the CARES Act to address internet connectivity across the state.
We have a plan in place in Van Wyck- we have met with our local service provider [we only have one] and have polled and gathered input from our citizens.
Our town is ready to support a project by Comporium with the aid of the CARES act funds.

I do hope you will consider my request and reach out to our elected officials and Comporium to make this happen.

From: Michael LaViolette
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 5:43 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Support for high speed internet

All,

I am in support of high speed internet for our area of Van Wyck. I am concerned with me working from home all day on the laptop with also three kids doing online school. The kids and I require the capabilities to do video conferencing and sometimes at the same time. My DSL line is already running into issues and the kids are not even back at school yet.
I work for Honeywell and handle their SAP system for all over the world so I do know that other tech people in our area are having issues like me. My long meetings with people in India are excruciating especially when trying to use MS Teams and controlling somone else's machine remotely.

I hope you all can understand the pain from working with old DSL technology. Please help the our community so kids will be able to succeed without added interruptions in connections. Times like this it shouldn't be about the money but the community in need due to circumstances.

Thank you for your time,

Michael LaViolette

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone

From: Tim Ivey
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:18 PM
To: newtonbrandon6@gmail.com
Cc: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Rural Community Broad-band Service

Dear Representative Newton

Dear Ms. Edwards

My name is Tim Ivey and my wife and I live on Old Church Road in Lancaster County. This is in the north corner area of the newly incorporated town of Van Wyck.
We are both retired State of SC employees. It was brought to my attention that some of the CARES ACT funds received by South Carolina could be used to address internet connectivity across the State.
My current internet connection is through an old phone line. Comporium is the only internet provider in my area. Although the service is reliable, the average download speed here is around 4 mb.
Although retired, I am attempting to conduct wildlife consulting in several local counties. GIS mapping is part of what I do and the download speed here is problematic. I have to renew an annual lease for ArcMap software and it takes several hours to download. I occasionally have to download county aerial photography and that takes even longer. I am currently unable to update my GPS maps from home. I have to
travel to a friend's house in Fort Mill and use his computer with adequate internet speed. I am also concerned that neighbor's children will have difficulty engaging in remote learning when school starts back.

I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to support a more robust broad-band service in Van Wyck. I understand the town already has a plan and a service provider (Comporium) who could do the installation if funds were available.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. If you need additional information feel free to call me at 803-331-3355.

Tim Ivey

From: Tim Ivey
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:13 PM
To: nedwards@ors.sc.gov
Cc: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Community Broad-band Service

Dear Ms. Edwards

My name is Tim Ivey and my wife and I live on Old Church Road in Lancaster County. This is in the north corner area of the newly incorporated town of Van Wyck.
We are both retired State of SC employees. It was brought to my attention that some of the CARES ACT funds received by South Carolina could be used to address internet connectivity across the State.
My current internet connection is through an old phone line. Comporium is the only internet provider in my area. Although the service is reliable, the average download speed here is around 4 mb.
Although retired, I am attempting to conduct wildlife consulting in several local counties. GIS mapping is part of what I do and the download speed here is problematic. I have to renew an annual lease for ArcMap software and it takes several hours to download. I occasionally have to download county aerial photography and that takes even longer. I am currently unable to update my GPS maps from home. I have to
travel to a friend's house in Fort Mill and use his computer with adequate internet speed. I am also concerned that neighbor's children will have difficulty engaging in remote learning when school starts back.

I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to support a more robust broad-band service in Van Wyck. I understand the town already has a plan and a service provider (Comporium) who could do the installation if funds were available.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. If you need additional information feel free to call me at 803-331-3355.

Tim Ivey

From: Tim Ivey
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:16 PM
To: bjohn@ors.sc.gov
Cc: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Rural community broad-band service

Dear Breeden

My name is Tim Ivey and my wife and I live on Old Church Road in Lancaster County. This is in the north corner area of the newly incorporated town of Van Wyck.
We are both retired State of SC employees. It was brought to my attention that some of the CARES ACT funds received by South Carolina could be used to address internet connectivity across the State.
My current internet connection is through an old phone line. Comporium is the only internet provider in my area. Although the service is reliable, the average download speed here is around 4 mb.
Although retired, I am attempting to conduct wildlife consulting in several local counties. GIS mapping is part of what I do and the download speed here is problematic. I have to renew an annual lease for ArcMap software and it takes several hours to download. I occasionally have to download county aerial photography and that takes even longer. I am currently unable to update my GPS maps from home. I have to
travel to a friend's house in Fort Mill and use his computer with adequate internet speed. I am also concerned that neighbor's children will have difficulty engaging in remote learning when school starts back.

I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to support a more robust broad-band service in Van Wyck. I understand the town already has a plan and a service provider (Comporium) who could do the installation if funds were available.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. If you need additional information feel free to call me at 803-331-3355.

Tim Ivey

From: Hinson, Derric
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 2:41 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Broadband Upgrade Van Wyck, SC

Hello,

I am a resident of the Town of Van Wyck and live at 965 W Rebound Rd, Lancaster, SC. Currently, our only internet option is 10 Mbps for $75/month. I have 4 children that are doing online schooling and I also work from home as an IT Administrator for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department. I am required to VPN and remote desktop to several computers and servers on a constant basis and am constantly getting dropped due to lack of bandwidth. My children's Zoom meetings as well as my Webex meetings constantly drop as well. I am literally across the street from the Comporium Telephone remote and fiber runs right by my hose to Riverchase Estates several miles down the road. I was on Fiber at Retreat At Rayfield in Indian Land and never had any issues with the internet bandwidth.

We ask that you please upgrade the services in van Wyck. More houses are being built and with the proximity of the new Elementary School and High School the population will continue grow in Van Wyck.

Thanks you,

Derric Hinson
Police Business Systems Specialist Senior
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department
601 E. Trade St
Charlotte, NC 28202
(C) 980-225-4050
(O) 704-432-0436
Dhinson1@cmpd.org

From: Dan Saffer
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:13 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fwd: CARES Act Funding

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ashley Fox Gulledge** <ashley.gulledge@lcsd.k12.sc.us>
Date: Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 11:33 AM
Subject: CARES Act Funding
To: <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>, <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>

Breeden and Chris,

Good afternoon to you! I received your contact information from the parent of a former student.

As I understand there is CARES Act funding available for broadband internet projects and that the Town of Van Wyck is an area under consideration.

As an educator in the Lancaster County School District I have seen the critical need for high speed connectivity at home for our students and fully support the funding of a Van Wyck project for educational and economic development needs.

Upgrading to the next generation broadband will improve educational outcomes for our students and better the community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope you have a great rest of your day!

Best regards,
--
Mrs. Ashley Gulledge
4th Grade Teacher
Van Wyck Elementary School
Take Aim at Greatness
Van Wyck 4th Grade Website
(803) 313-6650

From: 'Jeremy Ford' via info@townofvanwyck.net
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:49 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fw: CARES Act Funding for Broadband in Van Wyck

FYI.

Best Regards,
Jeremy Ford

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Jeremy Ford <jeremyford15@yahoo.com>
To: nedwards@ors.sc.gov <nedwards@ors.sc.gov>; bjohn@ors.sc.gov <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>; crozycki@ors.sc.gov <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 10:44:24 AM EDT
Subject: CARES Act Funding for Broadband in Van Wyck

Executive Director Edwards and team,

I received your contact information from an employee of mine that is a resident of the Town of Van Wyck.

From discussions with my team member I have come to understand that there is CARES Act funding available for broadband internet projects and that the Town of Van Wyck is an area under consideration. The proposed project seems to be the perfect use case for the allocated CARES Act funds and can be completed by the December 31, 2020 deadline.

In recent months we have all seen how critical modern broadband technology is to enable the ability to effectively work from home and conduct remote learning for our children. The need for this service will only continue to grow and I fully support the funding of a Van Wyck broadband project in support of educational and economic development needs.

Upgrading to the next generation broadband will improve socioeconomic and educational outcomes and better the Van Wyck community and the State of South Carolina.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,
Jeremy Ford

From: Susan Detwiler <sledriderx2@yahoo.com>
Date: July 18, 2020 at 2:11:28 PM EDT
To: "newtonbrandon6@gmail.com" <newtonbrandon6@gmail.com>
Subject: Internet for Van Wyck, SC

July 18, 2020

Brandon Newton
South Carolina State House of Representative (District 45)

Dear Brandon Newton,

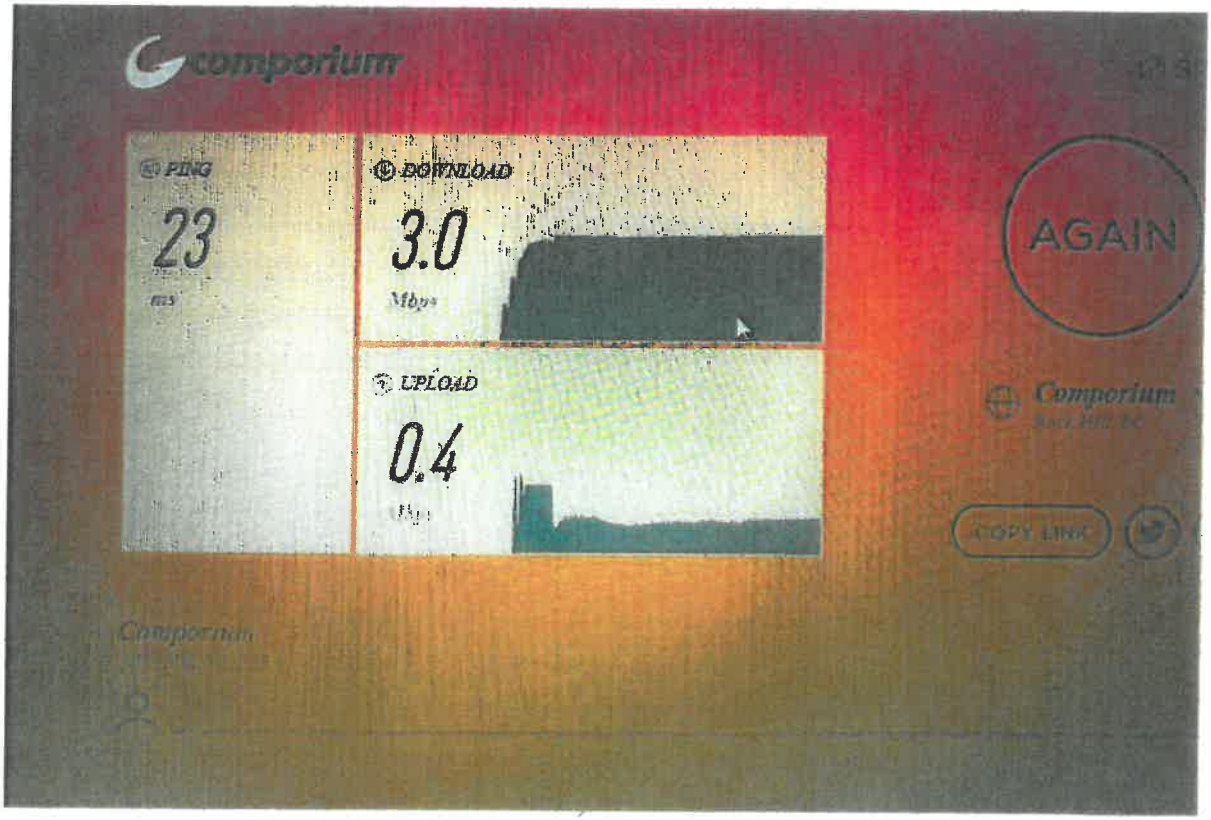
While my mailing address is Lancaster, SC I actually live in the town of Van Wyck, SC. The only internet service available at my residence is basic DSL from Comporium. I am employed by Bank of America and I currently work from home. The poor internet service makes this very difficult. It is also difficult and frustrating when dealing with Tele-Doc services and other various internet services. Our internet service is already slow and with increased usage due to more individuals working from home due to COVID-19 and children doing school work due to remote learning it will only strain an already poor service further. Also of concern is that our town will not be able to attract new businesses or citizens without a high speed internet connection. We have a true need for better internet service.

This is a plea to please consider Van Wyck, SC as an under-served area in dire need of better internet that could benefit greatly with additional funding from the CARES Act or any other funding that may be available to assist our community. I've included a copy of the internet speed test I just ran on my computer using Comporium's website. As you can see, it is at 3 mbs download speed which is well below the required minimum of 10 mbs download speeds.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Detwiler
1276 Mooreland Wood Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: 704-591-5505



From: Susan Detwiler <sledriderx2@yahoo.com>
Date: July 18, 2020 at 2:00:59 PM EDT
To: "nedwards@ors.sc.gov" <nedwards@ors.sc.gov>
Subject: Internet for Van Wyck, SC

July 18, 2020

Nannette Edwards
Director, SC Office of Regulatory Staff

Dear Nannette Edwards,

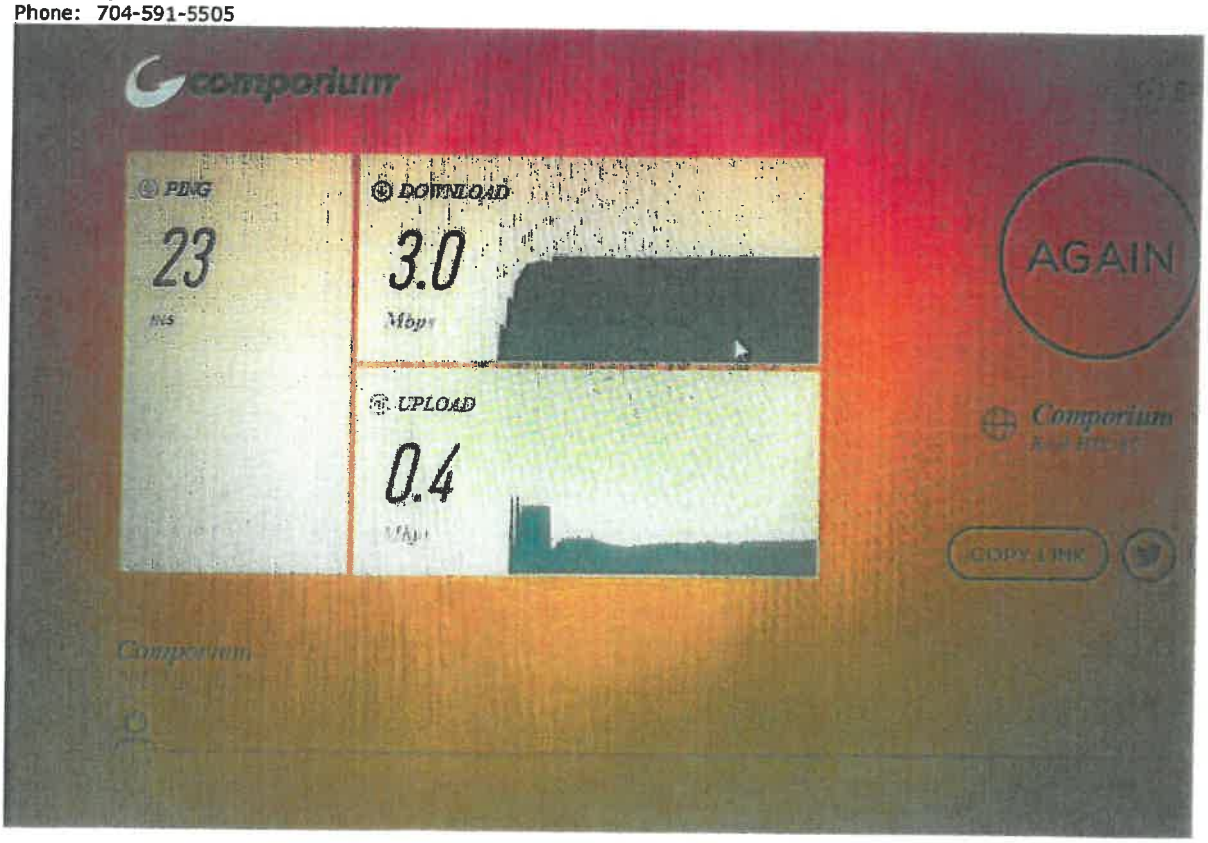
While my mailing address is Lancaster, SC I actually live in the town of Van Wyck, SC. The only internet service available at my residence is basic DSL from Comporium. I am employed by Bank of America and I currently work from home. The poor internet service makes this very difficult. It is also difficult and frustrating when dealing with Tele-Doc services and other various internet services. Our internet service is already slow and with increased usage due to more individuals working from home due to COVID-19 and children doing school work due to remote learning it will only strain an already poor service further. Also of concern is that our town will not be able to attract new businesses or citizens without a high speed internet connection. We have a true need for better internet service.

This is a plea to please consider Van Wyck, SC as an under-served area in dire need of better internet that could benefit greatly with additional funding from the CARES Act or any other funding that may be available to assist our community. I've included a copy of the internet speed test I just ran on my computer using Comporium's website. As you can see, it is at 3 mbs download speed which is well below the required minimum of 10 mbs download speeds.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Detwiler
1276 Mooreland Wood Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: 704-591-5505



From: Susan Detwiler <sledriderx2@yahoo.com>
Date: July 18, 2020 at 2:07:29 PM EDT
To: "bjohn@ors.sc.gov" <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>
Subject: Internet for Van Wyck, SC

July 18, 2020

Breedeen John, Telecommunications, South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

Dear Breedeen John,

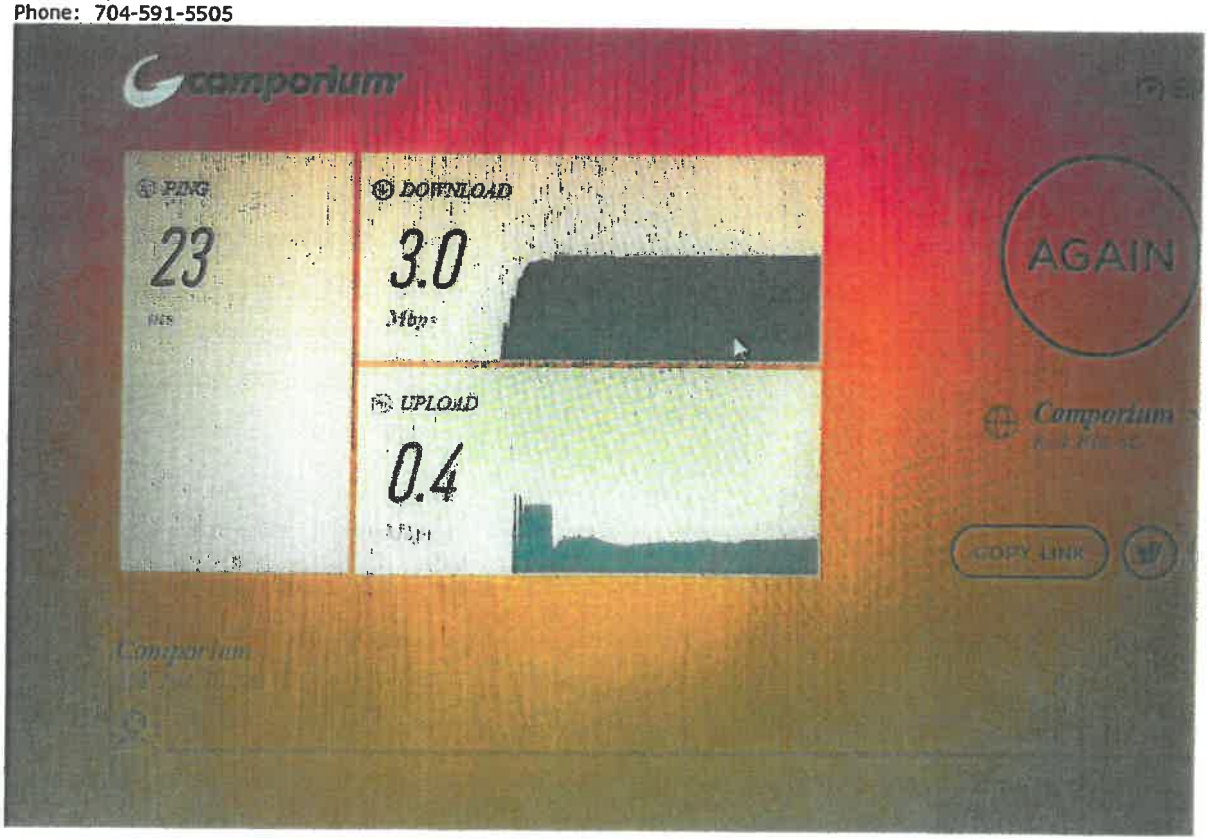
While my mailing address is Lancaster, SC I actually live in the town of Van Wyck, SC. The only internet service available at my residence is basic DSL from Comporium. I am employed by Bank of America and I currently work from home. The poor internet service makes this very difficult. It is also difficult and frustrating when dealing with Tele-Doc services and other various internet services. Our internet service is already slow and with increased usage due to more individuals working from home due to COVID-19 and children doing school work due to remote learning it will only strain an already poor service further. Also of concern is that our town will not be able to attract new businesses or citizens without a high speed internet connection. We have a true need for better internet service.

This is a plea to please consider Van Wyck, SC as an under-served area in dire need of better internet that could benefit greatly with additional funding from the CARES Act or any other funding that may be available to assist our community. I've included a copy of the internet speed test I just ran on my computer using Comporium's website. As you can see, it is at 3 mbs download speed which is well below the required minimum of 10 mbs download speeds.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Detwiler
1276 Mooreland Wood Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: 704-591-5505



My name is Stephanie Clemons. My husband and I are nearing completion of a home at 7292 Van Wyck Road, Lancaster, SC 29720, in the newly formed town of Van Wyck. Upon purchasing our property, our greatest concern was the lack of Internet speed in the area. Currently Comporium out of Fort Mill who services the area only provides DSL with speeds less than 10mbs. We almost didn't purchase the property because of the issue.

I am a teacher in the Lancaster County School District. Due to COVID-19, I have provided class sessions virtually after the schools closed in March. I am also currently, and would like to continue, teaching students in China virtually as well. However, I will have to stop my virtual teaching job from home due to the slow internet speed, which would result in a loss of some income. Additionally, I am one of the third grade virtual teachers at my school. In the event that our schools are shut down and I am required to teach from home, I wouldn't be able to provide the virtual learning, which includes live sessions, that my students need and deserve. I would have to spend time outside my home, away from my newborn, in order to get adequate internet service to prepare virtual lessons for my students upon moving into our home as the DSL Internet service will not be sufficient for my needs to teach and prepare virtually. Further, my husband, a Licensed Professional Counselor, will also need access to high speed Internet as he provides his mental health counseling services virtually as well. As you can see, without access to broadband services, we will be unable to do our jobs while remaining in quarantine, and further, especially in my husband's case, he'll be forced to go out of home and into his office, facing potential exposure to the virus, simply because our Internet connection at home will not allow for telehealth work.

Students in the area, attending Van Wyck Elementary School, will need access to broadband for the online academy that starts in another month. Churches in the area have been unable to provide live streaming of their services during the pandemic because DSL does not meet the requirements for online platforms to function properly. Further, businesses are not easily attracted to the area because of the speed issue. Accessing high speed Internet is necessary in our digital world.

The town council of Van Wyck has worked with Comporium to develop a proposal that would bring high speed fiber Internet to every home within the town limits. However, as you are aware, adding this infrastructure is not without a cost. It is my understanding that through the CARES Act, there is funding available to help with adding the necessary infrastructure to areas currently underserved when it comes to broadband connections. The town has a plan in place and a service provider, Comporium, that can get the job done if the funds are awarded. However, the clock is ticking and Comporium will need to start the project by the first of August to have the buildout completed by the required date.

Please consider awarding funding to our town, one of the newest towns in South Carolina, to allow us to serve our community more effectively and remain safe during these challenging times.

Thank you for your time,

Stephanie Clemons

My name is Steven Clemons, Jr. We are nearing completion of a home at 7292 Van Wyck Road, Lancaster, SC 29720, in the newly formed town of Van Wyck. Upon purchasing our property, our greatest concern was the lack of Internet speed in the area. Currently Comporium out of Fort Mill who services the area only provides DSL with speeds less than 10mbs. We almost didn't purchase the property because of the issue.

I work in mental health as a licensed professional counselor. Due to COVID-19, I have been providing mostly telehealth for my clients. However, I will have to go into my office every day upon moving into our home as the DSL Internet service will not be sufficient for telehealth visits. Further, my wife, a teacher in the Lancaster County School District, will also need access to high speed Internet as many students in the area opt for the virtual option for the school year. As you can see, without access to broadband services, we will be unable to do our jobs while remaining in quarantine, and further, especially in my case, I'll be forced to go out of home and into my office, facing potential exposure to the virus, simply because our Internet connection at home will not allow for telehealth work.

Students in the area, attending Van Wyck Elementary School, will need access to broadband for the online academy that starts in another month. Churches in the area have been unable to provide live streaming of their services during the pandemic because DSL does not meet the requirements for online platforms to function properly. Further, businesses are not easily attracted to the area because of the speed issue. Assessing high speed Internet is necessary in our digital world.

The town council of Van Wyck has worked with Comporium to develop a proposal that would bring high speed fiber Internet to every home within the town limits. However, as you are aware, adding this infrastructure is not without a cost. It is my understanding that through the CARES Act, there is funding available to help with adding the necessary infrastructure to areas currently underserved when it comes to broadband connections. The town has a plan in place and a service provider, Comporium, that can get the job done if the funds are awarded. However, the clock is ticking and Comporium will need to start the project by the first of August to have the buildout completed by the required date.

Please consider awarding funding to our town, one of the newest towns in South Carolina, to allow us to serve our community more effectively and remain safe during these challenging times.

Steven Clemons, Jr.
stevenclemonsjr@gmail.com
540-798-3255

August 9, 2020

Dear Comporium management,

This is a letter of support for the project to run broadband internet access to the rest of Van Wyck. Newer homes and developments already have broadband, but many older homes do not have fast reliable internet or cell service. This puts many of us at a disadvantage. Our students will have more trouble with homework and distance learning. Those of us who have the option to work at home find it frustrating and inefficient since we can't communicate well with our co workers.

Fast, reliable internet service has become a necessity in today's world.

Best Regards,

Laura Clark

5110 Old Hickory Road

August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Comporium is committed to bridging the digital divide within Lancaster County. We are excited to respond to the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project Application.

Please review the attached application which shares all the details. We are extremely excited about this project and look forward to the opportunity to work together as a partner and achieve success together. If you need clarification or further information concerning the application, please do not hesitate to contact me at greg.lunsford@comporium.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Charles G. Lunsford
Vice President – Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

www.comporium.com
PO Box 470
Rock Hill SC 29731

APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization Lancaster Telephone Company

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0001-8892-45

Primary Contact Name Chris Moody

Title Regulatory Cost Analyst

Mailing Address 330 East Black St

Phone Number 803-326-7255

City, State, Zip Rock Hill, SC 29730

Email chris.moody@comporium.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 09/01/2000

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 02/17/2020

- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience delivering broadband service over fiber or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

Project Area Information

County Lancaster County

Rural or Urban Rural

Nearest City/Town Van Wyck, South Carolina

Project Area Map Code *(Target code)*

298	Number of Households in Project Area
32	Number of Businesses in Project Area
1	Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area
1	Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area
1	Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area

Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.

- [x] *Fiber to the Premises* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 1000/1000
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Fixed wireless* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *VDSL (25/3 Mbps or faster)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds

Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

Indicate all rate tiers for broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or faster will be offered to customers in the project area:

- [ ] Rates less than $10/month
- [ ] Rates between $10 - $14.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $15 - $19.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $20 - $24.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $25 - $34.99/month

Project Timeline and Milestones

Project Start Date 09/01/2020

Project Construction Activity Begins 09/01/2020

Project Construction Activity Complete 12/17/2020

Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/17/2020

Project Completion Date 12/17/2020

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost $1,141,807

Upfront Cost Requirements 0

Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises $1,141,807

Average Cost per Location Served *(all locations or structures)* $3,460

Average Cost per Housing Unit $3,460

Average Cost per Business $3,460

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested $570,903.62

Applicant-Provided Funding $570,903.62

Third-Party Funding Amount

Source(s)

Additional Information

Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

Lancaster Telephone Company, an affiliate of Comporium, Inc, is an independent telecommunications company located in Lancaster, South Carolina. Lancaster Telephone serves voice, broadband, and video customers in Lancaster County and parts of Kershaw County and Chester County. It also offers wireless service in partnership with AT&T under a limited liability company arrangement. Lancaster Telephone Company offers Digital Subscriber Line, Cable Modem, and Fiber-To-The-Home to both residential and business customers. DSL has three speed tiers to choose from: Standard (Downstream / Upstream) - (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). Coax has Standard (30Mbps/2Mbps), Ultra (90Mbps/3Mbps) and Elite (150Mbps/5Mbps). The FTTH product has four speed tiers: Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB). Zipstream is an internet service offering that provides upload and download speeds of one Gigabit per second to customers. What makes Zipstream unique, is it consists of an all fiber delivery, the newest network equipment, and a robust path to the internet backbone that can carry large amounts of data. In addition to voice, broadband and video services, Lancaster Telephone Company offers Metro Ethernet services that provide customers a redundant and secure way to transfer mission-critical data. Lancaster Telephone Company's Metro Ethernet service is a high-speed (10 Mbps to 10 Gbps) packet-based service that provides the transmission of point-to-point LAN or WAN data between a customer's locations. Metro Ethernet circuits can also be ordered to provide dedicated bandwidth to the Internet. Our Customer Network Operations Center offers technical support with proactive network monitoring of customer's Metro Ethernet circuits to ensure consistent, high-level performance. Lancaster Telephone Company's MPLS core network provides diverse and redundant IP routing that supports all of the customer facing services. Lancaster Telephone Company uses a variety of last mile technologies to serve customers including xDSL, Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) and Hybrid Fiber Coax (HFC). Lancaster Telephone Company also operates a remote switch and has connections to Comporium, Inc. and one of its sister companies who provide equipment to operate voice, data, and video networks. Lancaster's has been deploying FTTH networks since 2005.The Lancaster Telephone Company's remote switch homes to the Comporium, Inc. owned Rock Hill Class 5 Switch. The voice traffic from the Remotes, as identified in NECA Tariff No. 4, and all the data and video utilize the redundant fiber connections to the Rock Hill host switch, core broadband network and Video headend. The Comporium, Inc. network connects the voice and data traffic to the world. Leveraging these assets at the parent company level provides some economies of scale to Lancaster. Lancaster Telephone Company does perform its own customer service, and installation and repair. It has two business offices within the city of Lancaster for its customers to purchase services. The White Street office is the largest business office and is located in the downtown area of Lancaster. The University Place office is located near the University of South Carolina – Lancaster campus. This location is nestled in a busy shopping area for the community. Customers can come into any business offices to provision service, pay bills, or ask questions to available service representatives. Lancaster Telephone Company has a plant work center location that houses the Installation and Repair group, facilities and construction group. Each of Lancaster Telephone Company's 13 remote offices are designed and equipped to support the operation of communications networks. These remotes are equipped with sufficient battery backup in the event of an emergency.

Describe how your proposal meets CARES objectives as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

Van Wyck, is located in the rural panhandle section of Lancaster County, South Carolina. The total land area is roughly 10 miles. The 2019 population is an estimated 1,080 citizens. The citizens of the area decided to officially incorporate and officially formed the town in August of 2017. Due to the rurality and location of the town limits of Van Wyck, delivering high speed internet with speeds of 25/3 has been challenging. Receiving CARES funding would provide the company with the needed funding to deliver state-of-the-art fiber broadband to customers. Currently the broadband infrastructure in place that serves end user customers is Digital Subscriber Line, (DSL). DSL is offered to customers at three speed tiers: Standard (Downstream / Upstream) - (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). This proposal will provide four high speed fiber speed tiers for customers to choose from Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB).
Due to the rural location of Van Wyck, the town does not have any health care facilities in the town limits. Citizens battling the COVID-19 related illness travel to health care centers in Charlotte, North Carolina or have options to seek medical assistance in Rock Hill or Lancaster, South Carolina. Receiving CARES funding would allow high speed bandwidth citizens, so that they can perform virtual telehealth visits with health care facilities and hospitals. By providing increased telehealth options to town of Van Wyck, those impacted by COVID-19 will not have to leave their home when seeking medical assistance. This will reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others, while keeping healthcare workers safe at the same time. Telehealth options will also protect the elderly citizens who are greatly at risk to catch COVID-19. COVID-19 has posed many challenges for the students who live in the Van Wyck area. The poverty index currently is 53.23% for students within the Lancaster County School District. The Lancaster County School District has implemented two primary options for students in Van Wyck as they return to school this fall. Students will be allowed to return to school as normal also known as A/B Face-to-Face. An At-Home with Teacher Support option is also available to students who are unable to return to school due to COVID-19 issues. The At-Home with Teacher Support option allows students to complete continued learning experiences posted to Google Classroom. Assignments must be completed by the deadlines set by individual teachers. Students are required to follow the schedule provided by the teachers. Students who will be attending school virtually will greatly benefit from upgrading the current DSL infrastructure. Since the maximum DSL speed available to students is 11Mbps/1Mbps, virtual learning may be a challenge. Due to COVD-19 many DSLAMS that provide the DSL service are at full capacity and can no longer be expanded. Bandwidth has greatly increased now that entire families are working from home and attending school virtually from home. The CARES funding will allow the DSL infrastructure to be upgraded to fiber greatly alleviating the risk of students not being able to complete assignments on time. This upgraded technology will keep students on pace with other counterparts across other areas of the state and not be left behind. COVID-19 has drastically changed the typical workforce as we know it. Many companies have required employees to work from home since mid-March, once the pandemic began sweeping our state and nation. Those employees that once were working in a corporate environment had high speed broadband with redundancy. Having this type of broadband kept individual productivity high and cost low. Citizens who now work from home in Van Wyck are solely dependent on a DSL connection. These employees who are now being forced to work from home will be sharing bandwidth with their children who will be attending school virtually. With maximum download speeds of 11Mbps/1Mbps workers will face many challenges completing tasks due to the current DSL infrastructure that is in place. Individual workers who could be attending a virtual meeting, could miss vital details if the DSL connection becomes overloaded due to the increased burden on the network in the Van Wyck area. Individual residences who have parents working from home and children attending school virtually from that same dwelling will face challenges completing both corporate tasks and educational tasks. CARES funding will allow this DSL infrastructure to be upgraded with fiber to these residents in Van Wyck. Without this funding for upgrades, parents working from home may struggle to keep pace with co-workers and completing work related tasks as required by their employers.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The proposal will greatly enhance the community of Van Wyck, South Carolina. The quality of life for families and businesses will increase long after this upgrade is completed. Parents will be able to work from home sufficiently and effectively. Work tasks will be completed in a timely fashion without being in the office. Employers will have confidence in their employee's ability to achieve maximum output knowing a fiber connection to their premise capable of gigabit speeds is available to them. Children will have the ability to take exams and complete homework assignments without their broadband connection being overwhelmed due to lack of bandwidth. Families will have the option to now stream a movie, where in the past this was not an option. Van Wyck, South Carolina could grow from an Economic Development prospective. It will now be much easier for town leaders to recruit industry. Companies when looking to locate to the area will now see that DSL broadband has been replaced with fiber optics. Community Anchor institutions such as Van Wyck Volunteer Fire Department and Van Wyck Community Center will have sufficient broadband to conduct activities. Small businesses will be able to have adequate broadband to perform operations. The overall impact of receiving CARES funding will have an everlasting impact on a small community.

Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Use additional pages if necessary.

Lancaster Telephone Company is committed to assisting anyone in the proposed grant area with getting up to speed on digital literacy, especially those who have not previously had any Internet service and, as result, lack experience. Lancaster Telephone Company plans to provide free Internet access at various community centers, public gathering locations and community anchor institutions (CAIs), along with informational posters, to allow residents to experience the capabilities of the new broadband connectivity available to them. Lancaster Telephone Company has committed to produce and distribute educational and promotional programs and materials to the community regarding their new broadband service. We also plan on organizing events within the community to raise awareness of the educational resources and opportunities found Online that will become available to them.

Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

See attached bank letter.

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

County Road Permits and/or SC Highway Permits will be obtained prior to construction being performed.

Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:

1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

CERTIFICATION: The Applicant certifies that information included in this application is factual to their knowledge.

☑ Applicant agrees to comply with all applicable requirements and conditions contained in Subrecipient Agreement for Coronavirus Relief Funds

Signature:

Print Name of Signature: Charles G. Lunsford

Title of Signatory: Vice President - Regulatory Affairs

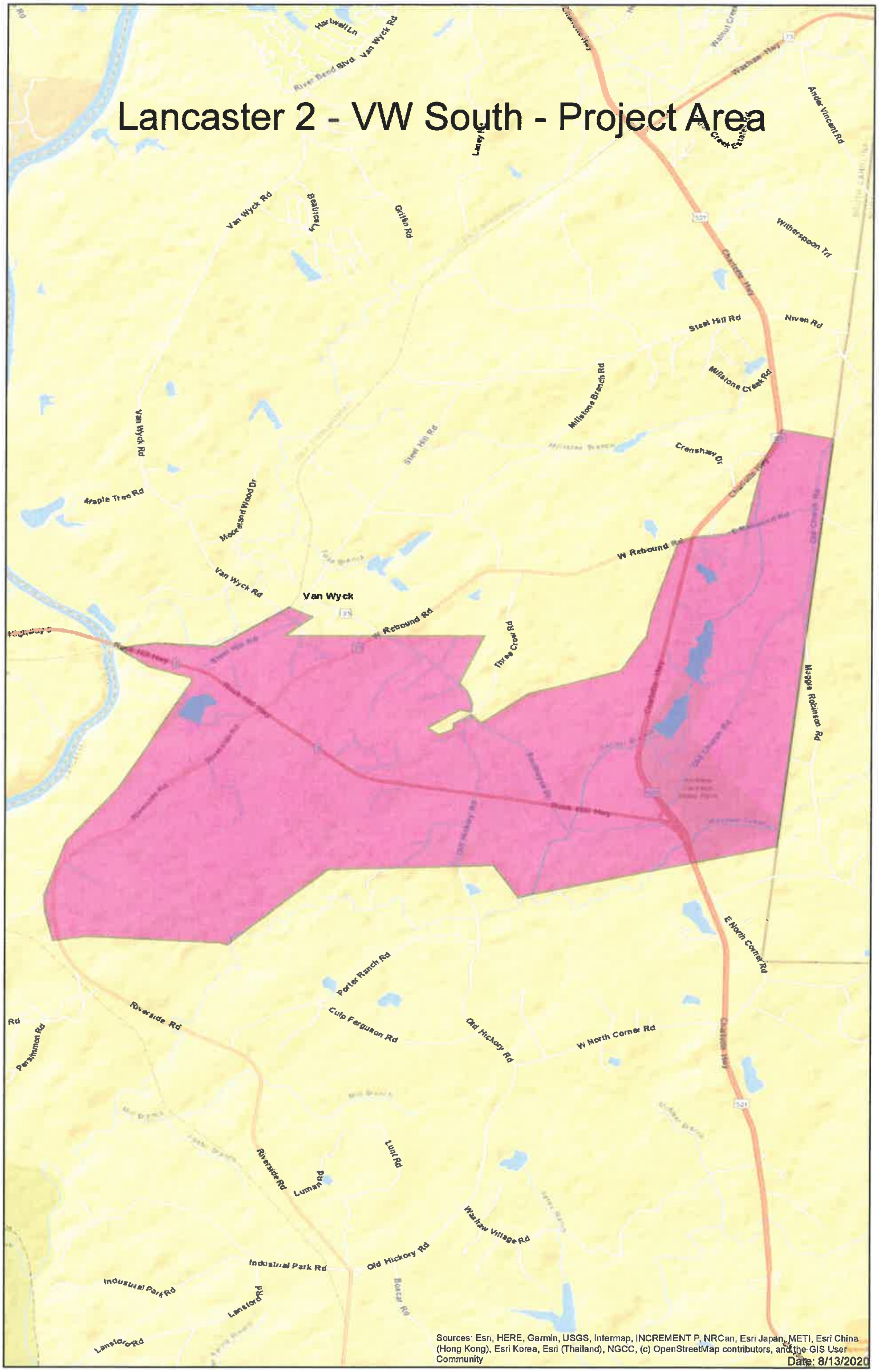
Date: August 14, 2020

Renewal Terms. *Contingent upon extensions for the expenditure of CARES Act funds provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury and the State of South Carolina, this Agreement may be renewed as evidenced by written approval of both parties.*

All questions and completed applications should be submitted to Broadband@ors.sc.gov

Facsimile signatures and email signatures shall be as effective as original signatures to bind any party.

Lancaster 2 - VW South - Project Area



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Date: 8/13/2020

VAN WYCK

June 30, 2020

VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL

Nanette S. Edwards, Executive Director
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(nedwards@ors.sc.gov)

Re: CARES Act Funding for Fiberoptic Broadband to the Homes of our Residents.

Dear Director Edwards:

I hope this letter finds you well in these difficult times. I understand from speaking with Chris Rozycki that your office has been delegated authority over the review and disbursement of the CARES Act funding granted to the state. To that end, I am reaching out to you to place our town's present broadband internet infrastructure needs on your radar and to petition your office for consideration of our proposal to fund those sorely needed improvements.

If you're not familiar with our area, Van Wyck is located in a predominantly rural part of Lancaster county, halfway between the city of Lancaster and the Indian Land community near the intersection of US Highway 521 and SC Highway 5. The town is one of South Carolina's newest additions having incorporated in 2017. Our residents represent an even cross section of income, age and race. The strong level of suburban growth seen in Indian Land in recent years is expected to reach Van Wyck at some time in the near future. We are working hard to be ready for it. Adequate internet will be a key element.

Unfortunately, due to the rural character of our community, there is not sufficient economic incentive to improve our telecommunications infrastructure. Currently, the majority of the town is minimally served to completely unserved with DSL broadband internet service. Some areas of the town, notably some of the poorest, are not able to be served by DSL at all. The current COVID 19 crisis has brought the community's internet needs into sharp focus. Residents who are required to work from home struggle to do so in an effective manner with the slow DSL service in place. Everyone, and particularly our senior-age population, has difficulty accessing telehealth resources that are best used to keep vulnerable populations from exposure to the virus. Last, the children in our area will need adequate resources to access broadband internet once school restarts for remote learning requirements.

I and my fellow members of town council have heard many stories from the residents detailing their needs for better internet service and improved cellular coverage going back some time. The poor internet service coupled with poor cell phone coverage makes our dilemma difficult to solve absent an immediate improvement to our telecommunications infrastructure. To that end, we recently started to explore with Comporium Communications (the sole telecommunications utility in our area) the costs and timeline for the addition of fiberoptic broadband-to-the-home infrastructure. At this time, Comporium has researched and provided us with an estimated cost, effectively making the project shovel-ready. I've included those materials herein.

We are actively seeking a funding source sufficient to cover most, if not all, of these costs. If we are able to secure sufficient funding through the CARES Act funds, the town is able to allocate some additional funding via grant if necessary. Considering the time-limitations imposed by the Act, our project may be able to see completion within the Act's requisite time limits should the funding be approved soon.

On behalf of my neighbors, the residents of Van Wyck, I ask that you give consideration to our request for funding. I also ask that you please contact me with any questions. I can be reached by cell: 704-589-0025 or email: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net.

I believe we can make this happen. Thank you.

Best regards,

Sean Corcoran
Mayor

MAYOR
Sean Corcoran

MUNICIPAL CLERK
Linda Vaughan

COUNCIL
Robert Duster
Cassandra Watkins
Richard Vaughan
Xavier Key

PO Box 159
Van Wyck, SC 29744
803 712 4993
www.townofvanwyck.net
info@townofvanwyck.net

Town Of
VAN WYCK
South Carolina

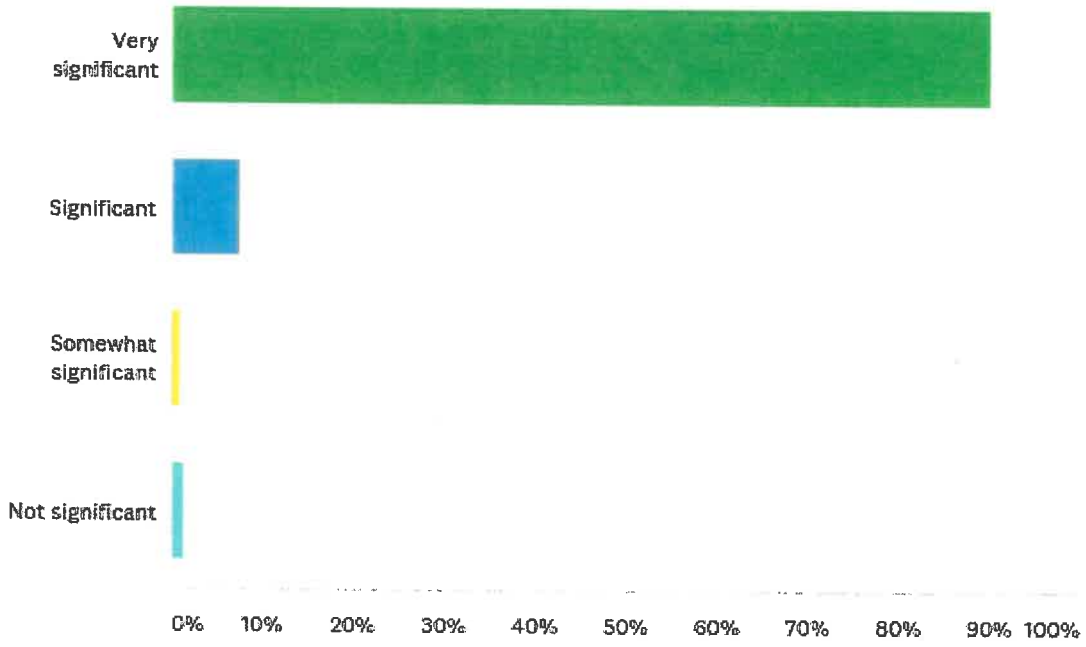
Comprehensive Plan 2020 Community Survey

July 2020 – Final Results / Broadband Excerpt

Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q25: How important is having high-speed internet access at your home?

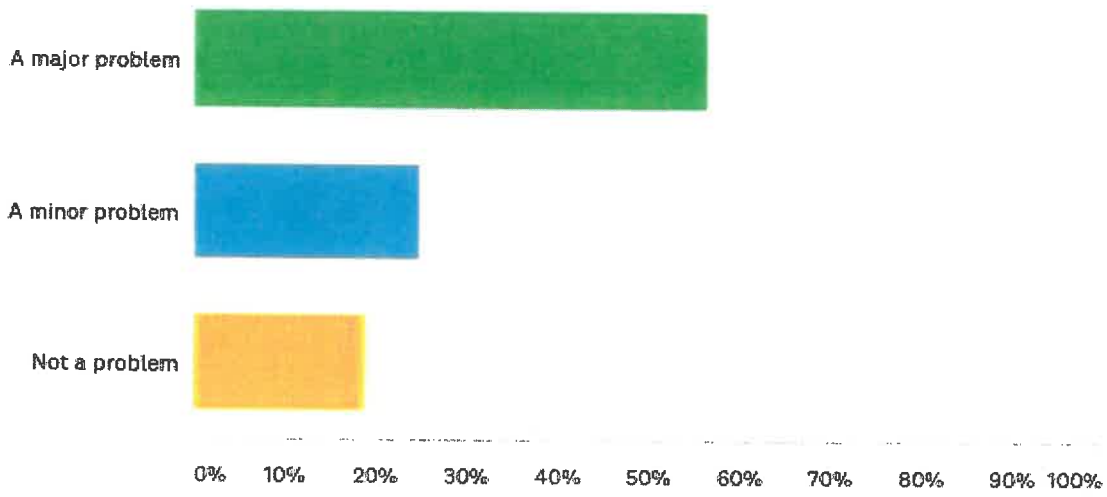
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q26: Access to high-speed internet at home is...

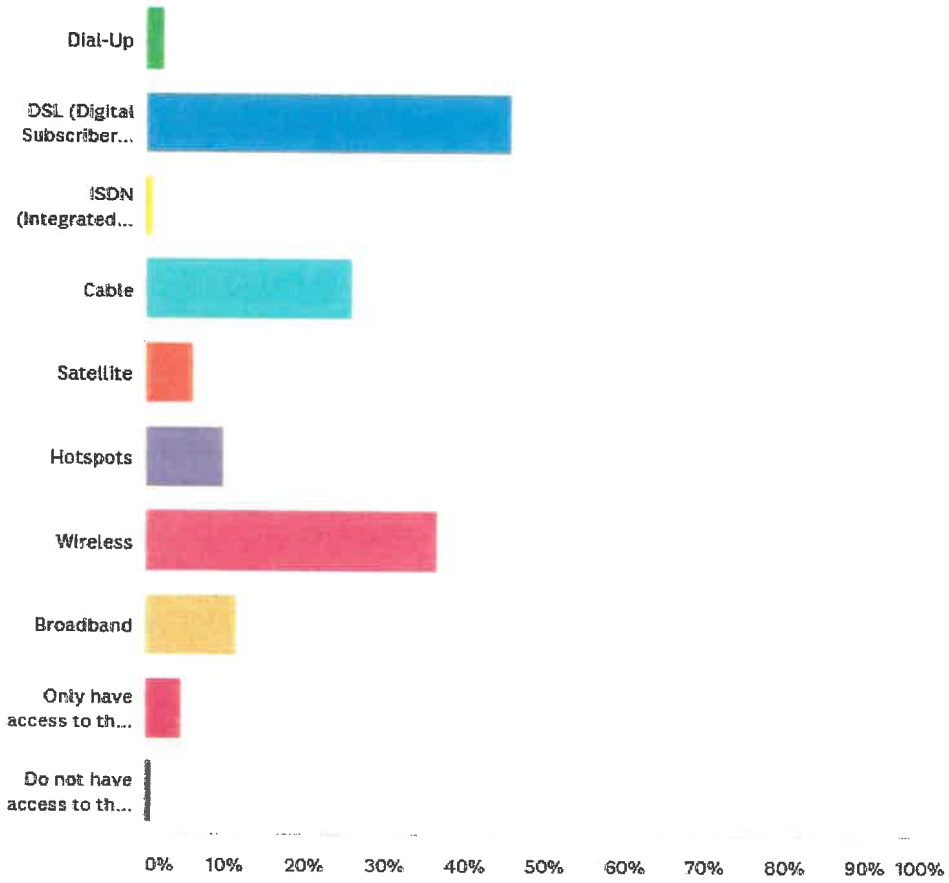
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q27: What type of internet access do you have at home? [check all that apply]

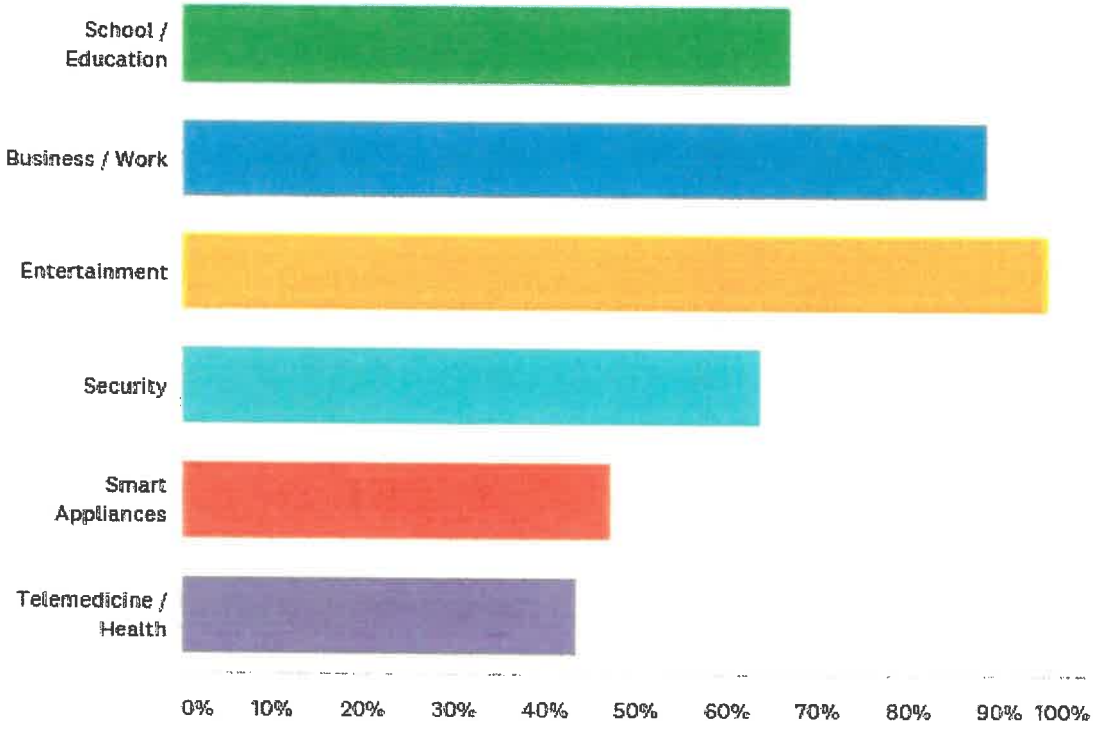
Answered: 131 Skipped: 17



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q28: Indicate how your household either currently uses or would like to use the internet within your home. [check all that apply]

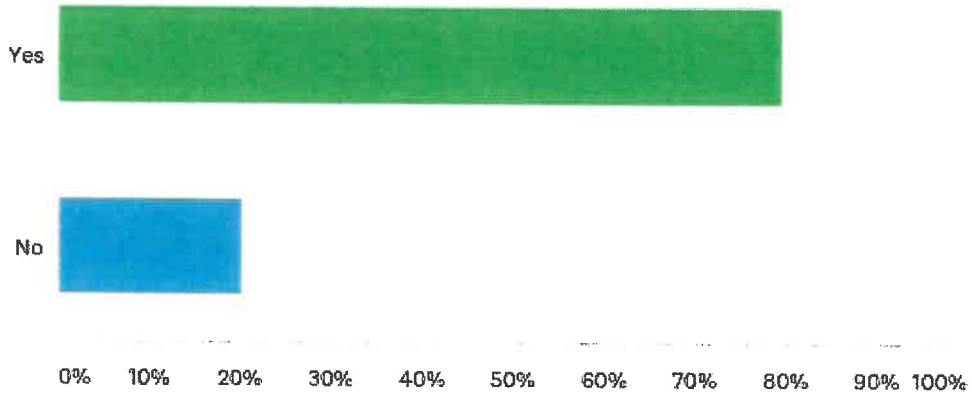
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q29: Would you be willing to pay a one-time fee to connect to high-speed internet?

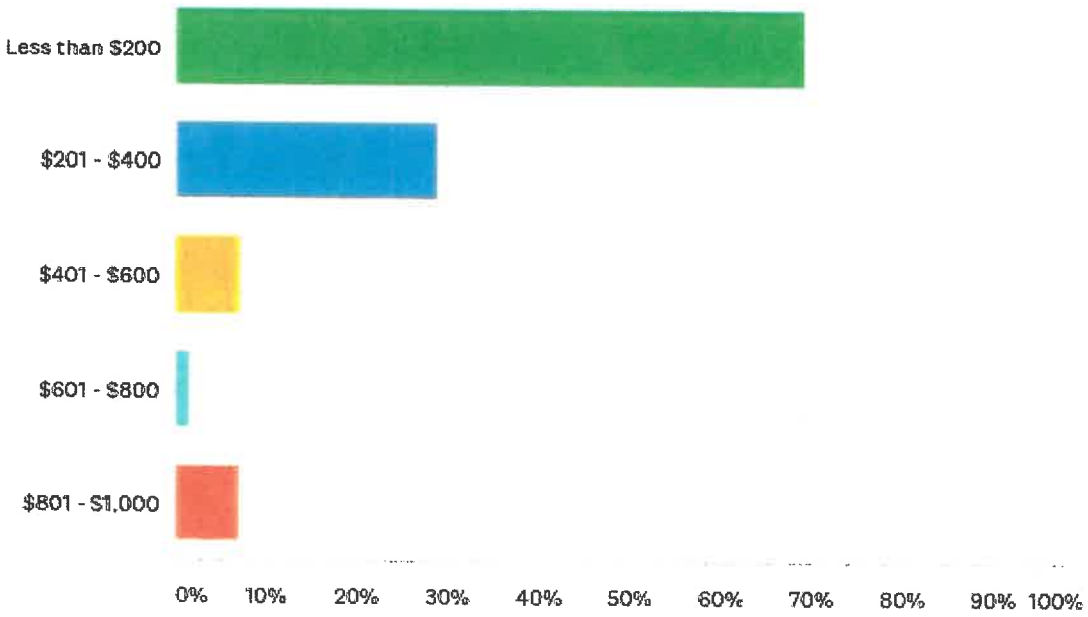
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q30: If yes, what connection fee range do you feel would be most appropriate for a one-time payment for high-speed internet access? [check all that apply]

Answered: 114 Skipped: 34



Powered by SurveyMonkey

From: Dan Saffer
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:13 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fwd: Please Consider

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Steven Puckett** <Steven.Puckett@lcsd.k12.sc.us>
Date: Thu, Jul 16, 2020 at 11:36 AM
Subject: Please Consider
To: <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>, <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>

Breeden and Chris,

I received your contact information from the parent of our students.

As I understand there is CARES Act funding available for broadband internet projects and that the Town of Van Wyck is an area under consideration.

As an educator in the Lancaster County School District I have seen the critical need for high speed connectivity at home for our students and fully support the funding of a Van Wyck project for educational and economic development needs.

Upgrading to the next generation broadband will improve educational outcomes for our students and better the community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Humbly,

Steven Puckett

--

Van Wyck Elementary School

"Take **AIM** at Greatness!"

4945 Charlotte Highway

Lancaster, SC 29720

Visit Us!

vwes.lancastercsd.com

www.facebook.com/vweseagles

Check Out Our Videos!

www.Vimeo.com/vweseaglecast

Phone: 803-313-6650

From: Dan Saffer
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:25 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fwd: ORS Broadband

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dan Saffer** <daniel.j.saffer@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 11:47 AM
Subject: Re: ORS Broadband
To: John, Breeden <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>
Cc: Rozycki, Chris <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>

Breeden thank you very much for the call and information.

Modern broadband technology is super important as we discussed for work from home, education, economic development and tele-health services.

Believe that Van Wyck is the perfect use case for the CARES Act funding and the town has already engaged Comporium, making quick execution in line with the CARES Act deadlines possible.

Will share your contact with others in town, look forward to seeing the criteria published in the next week or so and am available to support this as helpful.

Best regards,
Dan Saffer
1326 W Rebound Road
Van Wyck, SC 29720
908-966-1462

On Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 10:34 AM John, Breeden <bjohn@ors.sc.gov> wrote:

Dan, nice speaking with you earlier.

I will keep you updated as the broadband funding process gets underway in the several weeks. Please let me know if you have any questions in the meantime and feel free to share my contact info with other interested folks in Van Wyck and elsewhere.

Thanks for your interest!

Breeden John

S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff

(803) 730-9129

bjohn@ors.sc.gov

From: Maggie Norris
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:37 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Town of Van Wyck SC- Internet Service

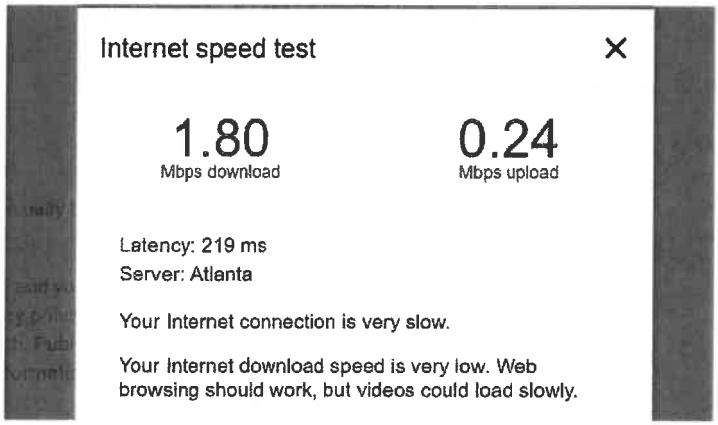
From: mbnorris54@gmail.com <mbnorris54@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:23 AM
To: nedwards@ors.sc.gov
Subject: Town of Van Wyck SC- Internet Service

To: Nanette Edwards, Director, South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

As our country has moved to find new ways to work, go to school, connect with medical staff and with each other; the access to acceptable levels of internet service
has become of paramount importance.

I live the town of Van Wyck, South Carolina and find my self and my family trying to access all of the resources above on a regular basis with internet service that is
always below a 10 mbs speed.

This is a shot of the speed this morning.



I know that South Carolina has received funds through the CARES Act to address internet connectivity across the state.
We have a plan in place in Van Wyck- we have met with our local service provider [we only have one] and have polled and gathered input from our citizens.
Our town is ready to support a project by Comporium with the aid of the CARES act funds.

I do hope you will consider my request and reach out to our elected officials and Comporium to make this happen.

From: Michael LaViolette
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 5:43 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Support for high speed internet

All,

I am in support of high speed internet for our area of Van Wyck. I am concerned with me working from home all day on the laptop with also three kids doing online school. The kids and I require the capabilities to do video conferencing and sometimes at the same time. My DSL line is already running into issues and the kids are not even back at school yet.
I work for Honeywell and handle their SAP system for all over the world so I do know that other tech people in our area are having issues like me. My long meetings with people in India are excruciating especially when trying to use MS Teams and controlling somone else's machine remotely.

I hope you all can understand the pain from working with old DSL technology. Please help the our community so kids will be able to succeed without added interruptions in connections. Times like this it shouldn't be about the money but the community in need due to circumstances.

Thank you for your time,

Michael LaViolette

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone

From: Tim Ivey
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:18 PM
To: newtonbrandon6@gmail.com
Cc: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Rural Community Broad-band Service

Dear Representative Newton

Dear Ms. Edwards

My name is Tim Ivey and my wife and I live on Old Church Road in Lancaster County. This is in the north corner area of the newly incorporated town of Van Wyck.
We are both retired State of SC employees. It was brought to my attention that some of the CARES ACT funds received by South Carolina could be used to address internet connectivity across the State.
My current internet connection is through an old phone line. Comporium is the only internet provider in my area. Although the service is reliable, the average download speed here is around 4 mb.
Although retired, I am attempting to conduct wildlife consulting in several local counties. GIS mapping is part of what I do and the download speed here is problematic. I have to renew an annual lease for ArcMap software and it takes several hours to download. I occasionally have to download county aerial photography and that takes even longer. I am currently unable to update my GPS maps from home. I have to
travel to a friend's house in Fort Mill and use his computer with adequate internet speed. I am also concerned that neighbor's children will have difficulty engaging in remote learning when school starts back.

I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to support a more robust broad-band service in Van Wyck. I understand the town already has a plan and a service provider (Comporium) who could do the installation if funds were available.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. If you need additional information feel free to call me at 803-331-3355.

Tim Ivey

From: Tim Ivey
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:13 PM
To: nedwards@ors.sc.gov
Cc: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Community Broad-band Service

Dear Ms. Edwards

My name is Tim Ivey and my wife and I live on Old Church Road in Lancaster County. This is in the north corner area of the newly incorporated town of Van Wyck.
We are both retired State of SC employees. It was brought to my attention that some of the CARES ACT funds received by South Carolina could be used to address internet connectivity across the State.
My current internet connection is through an old phone line. Comporium is the only internet provider in my area. Although the service is reliable, the average download speed here is around 4 mb.
Although retired, I am attempting to conduct wildlife consulting in several local counties. GIS mapping is part of what I do and the download speed here is problematic. I have to renew an annual lease for ArcMap software and it takes several hours to download. I occasionally have to download county aerial photography and that takes even longer. I am currently unable to update my GPS maps from home. I have to
travel to a friend's house in Fort Mill and use his computer with adequate internet speed. I am also concerned that neighbor's children will have difficulty engaging in remote learning when school starts back.

I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to support a more robust broad-band service in Van Wyck. I understand the town already has a plan and a service provider (Comporium) who could do the installation if funds were available.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. If you need additional information feel free to call me at 803-331-3355.

Tim Ivey

From: Tim Ivey
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:16 PM
To: bjohn@ors.sc.gov
Cc: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Rural community broad-band service

Dear Breeden

My name is Tim Ivey and my wife and I live on Old Church Road in Lancaster County. This is in the north corner area of the newly incorporated town of Van Wyck.
We are both retired State of SC employees. It was brought to my attention that some of the CARES ACT funds received by South Carolina could be used to address internet connectivity across the State.
My current internet connection is through an old phone line. Comporium is the only internet provider in my area. Although the service is reliable, the average download speed here is around 4 mb.
Although retired, I am attempting to conduct wildlife consulting in several local counties. GIS mapping is part of what I do and the download speed here is problematic. I have to renew an annual lease for ArcMap software and it takes several hours to download. I occasionally have to download county aerial photography and that takes even longer. I am currently unable to update my GPS maps from home. I have to
travel to a friend's house in Fort Mill and use his computer with adequate internet speed. I am also concerned that neighbor's children will have difficulty engaging in remote learning when school starts back.

I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to support a more robust broad-band service in Van Wyck. I understand the town already has a plan and a service provider (Comporium) who could do the installation if funds were available.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. If you need additional information feel free to call me at 803-331-3355.

Tim Ivey

From: Hinson, Derric
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 2:41 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Broadband Upgrade Van Wyck, SC

Hello,

I am a resident of the Town of Van Wyck and live at 965 W Rebound Rd, Lancaster, SC. Currently, our only internet option is 10 Mbps for $75/month. I have 4 children that are doing online schooling and I also work from home as an IT Administrator for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department. I am required to VPN and remote desktop to several computers and servers on a constant basis and am constantly getting dropped due to lack of bandwidth. My children's Zoom meetings as well as my Webex meetings constantly drop as well. I am literally across the street from the Comporium Telephone remote and fiber runs right by my hose to Riverchase Estates several miles down the road. I was on Fiber at Retreat At Rayfield in Indian Land and never had any issues with the internet bandwidth.

We ask that you please upgrade the services in van Wyck. More houses are being built and with the proximity of the new Elementary School and High School the population will continue grow in Van Wyck.

Thanks you,

Derric Hinson
Police Business Systems Specialist Senior
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department
601 E, Trade St
Charlotte, NC 28202
(C) 980-225-4050
(O) 704-432-0436
Dhinson1@cmpd.org

From: Dan Saffer
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:13 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fwd: CARES Act Funding

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ashley Fox Gulledge** <ashley.gulledge@lcsd.k12.sc.us>
Date: Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 11:33 AM
Subject: CARES Act Funding
To: <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>, <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>

Breeden and Chris,

Good afternoon to you! I received your contact information from the parent of a former student.

As I understand there is CARES Act funding available for broadband internet projects and that the Town of Van Wyck is an area under consideration.

As an educator in the Lancaster County School District I have seen the critical need for high speed connectivity at home for our students and fully support the funding of a Van Wyck project for educational and economic development needs.

Upgrading to the next generation broadband will improve educational outcomes for our students and better the community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope you have a great rest of your day!

Best regards,
--
Mrs. Ashley Gulledge
4th Grade Teacher
Van Wyck Elementary School
Take Aim at Greatness
Van Wyck 4th Grade Website
(803) 313-6650

From: 'Jeremy Ford' via info@townofvanwyck.net
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:49 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fw: CARES Act Funding for Broadband in Van Wyck

FYI.

Best Regards,
Jeremy Ford

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Jeremy Ford <jeremyford15@yahoo.com>
To: nedwards@ors.sc.gov <nedwards@ors.sc.gov>; bjohn@ors.sc.gov <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>; crozycki@ors.sc.gov <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 10:44:24 AM EDT
Subject: CARES Act Funding for Broadband in Van Wyck

Executive Director Edwards and team,

I received your contact information from an employee of mine that is a resident of the Town of Van Wyck.

From discussions with my team member I have come to understand that there is CARES Act funding available for broadband internet projects and that the Town of Van Wyck is an area under consideration. The proposed project seems to be the perfect use case for the allocated CARES Act funds and can be completed by the December 31, 2020 deadline.

In recent months we have all seen how critical modern broadband technology is to enable the ability to effectively work from home and conduct remote learning for our children. The need for this service will only continue to grow and I fully support the funding of a Van Wyck broadband project in support of educational and economic development needs.

Upgrading to the next generation broadband will improve socioeconomic and educational outcomes and better the Van Wyck community and the State of South Carolina.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,
Jeremy Ford

From: Susan Detwiler <sledriderx2@yahoo.com>
Date: July 18, 2020 at 2:11:28 PM EDT
To: "newtonbrandon6@gmail.com" <newtonbrandon6@gmail.com>
Subject: Internet for Van Wyck, SC

July 18, 2020

Brandon Newton
South Carolina State House of Representative (District 45)

Dear Brandon Newton,

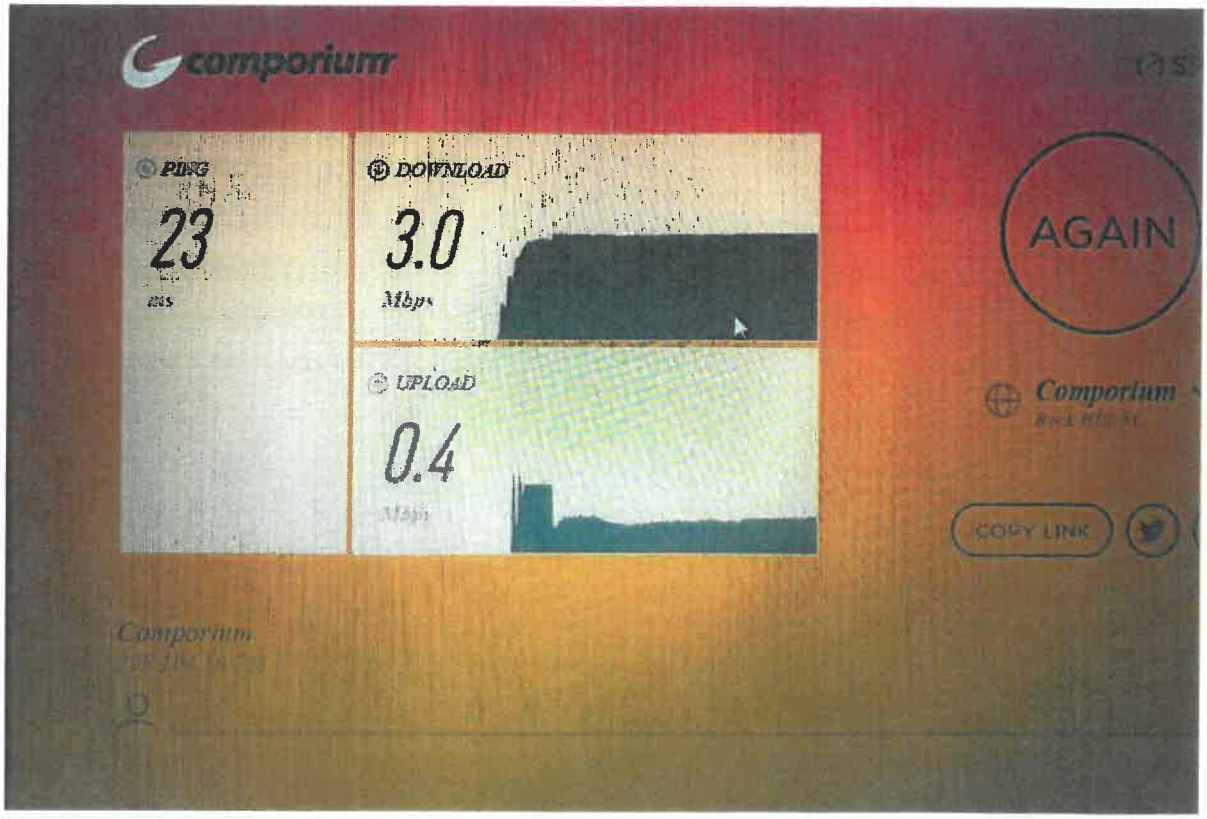
While my mailing address is Lancaster, SC I actually live in the town of Van Wyck, SC. The only internet service available at my residence is basic DSL from Comporium. I am employed by Bank of America and I currently work from home. The poor internet service makes this very difficult. It is also difficult and frustrating when dealing with Tele-Doc services and other various internet services. Our internet service is already slow and with increased usage due to more individuals working from home due to COVID-19 and children doing school work due to remote learning it will only strain an already poor service further. Also of concern is that our town will not be able to attract new businesses or citizens without a high speed internet connection. We have a true need for better internet service.

This is a plea to please consider Van Wyck, SC as an under-served area in dire need of better internet that could benefit greatly with additional funding from the CARES Act or any other funding that may be available to assist our community. I've included a copy of the internet speed test I just ran on my computer using Comporium's website. As you can see, it is at 3 mbs download speed which is well below the required minimum of 10 mbs download speeds.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Detwiler
1276 Mooreland Wood Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: 704-591-5505



From: Susan Detwiler <sledriderx2@yahoo.com>
Date: July 18, 2020 at 2:00:59 PM EDT
To: "nedwards@ors.sc.gov" <nedwards@ors.sc.gov>
Subject: Internet for Van Wyck, SC

July 18, 2020

Nannette Edwards
Director, SC Office of Regulatory Staff

Dear Nannette Edwards,

While my mailing address is Lancaster, SC I actually live in the town of Van Wyck, SC. The only internet service available at my residence is basic DSL from Comporium. I am employed by Bank of America and I currently work from home. The poor internet service makes this very difficult. It is also difficult and frustrating when dealing with Tele-Doc services and other various internet services. Our internet service is already slow and with increased usage due to more individuals working from home due to COVID-19 and children doing school work due to remote learning it will only strain an already poor service further. Also of concern is that our town will not be able to attract new businesses or citizens without a high speed internet connection. We have a true need for better internet service.

This is a plea to please consider Van Wyck, SC as an under-served area in dire need of better internet that could benefit greatly with additional funding from the CARES Act or any other funding that may be available to assist our community. I've included a copy of the internet speed test I just ran on my computer using Comporium's website. As you can see, it is at 3 mbs download speed which is well below the required minimum of 10 mbs download speeds.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Detwiler
1276 Mooreland Wood Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: 704-591-5505

From: Susan Detwiler <sledriderx2@yahoo.com>
Date: July 18, 2020 at 2:07:29 PM EDT
To: "bjohn@ors.sc.gov" <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>
Subject: Internet for Van Wyck, SC

July 18, 2020

Breedeen John, Telecommunications, South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

Dear Breedeen John,

While my mailing address is Lancaster, SC I actually live in the town of Van Wyck, SC. The only internet service available at my residence is basic DSL from Comporium. I am employed by Bank of America and I currently work from home. The poor internet service makes this very difficult. It is also difficult and frustrating when dealing with Tele-Doc services and other various internet services. Our internet service is already slow and with increased usage due to more individuals working from home due to COVID-19 and children doing school work due to remote learning it will only strain an already poor service further. Also of concern is that our town will not be able to attract new businesses or citizens without a high speed internet connection. We have a true need for better internet service.

This is a plea to please consider Van Wyck, SC as an under-served area in dire need of better internet that could benefit greatly with additional funding from the CARES Act or any other funding that may be available to assist our community. I've included a copy of the internet speed test I just ran on my computer using Comporium's website. As you can see, it is at 3 mbs download speed which is well below the required minimum of 10 mbs download speeds.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Detwiler
1276 Mooreland Wood Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: 704-591-5505

My name is Stephanie Clemons. My husband and I are nearing completion of a home at 7292 Van Wyck Road, Lancaster, SC 29720, in the newly formed town of Van Wyck. Upon purchasing our property, our greatest concern was the lack of Internet speed in the area. Currently Comporium out of Fort Mill who services the area only provides DSL with speeds less than 10mbs. We almost didn't purchase the property because of the issue.

I am a teacher in the Lancaster County School District. Due to COVID-19, I have provided class sessions virtually after the schools closed in March. I am also currently, and would like to continue, teaching students in China virtually as well. However, I will have to stop my virtual teaching job from home due to the slow internet speed, which would result in a loss of some income. Additionally, I am one of the third grade virtual teachers at my school. In the event that our schools are shut down and I am required to teach from home, I wouldn't be able to provide the virtual learning, which includes live sessions, that my students need and deserve. I would have to spend time outside my home, away from my newborn, in order to get adequate internet service to prepare virtual lessons for my students upon moving into our home as the DSL Internet service will not be sufficient for my needs to teach and prepare virtually. Further, my husband, a Licensed Professional Counselor, will also need access to high speed Internet as he provides his mental health counseling services virtually as well. As you can see, without access to broadband services, we will be unable to do our jobs while remaining in quarantine, and further, especially in my husband's case, he'll be forced to go out of home and into his office, facing potential exposure to the virus, simply because our Internet connection at home will not allow for telehealth work.

Students in the area, attending Van Wyck Elementary School, will need access to broadband for the online academy that starts in another month. Churches in the area have been unable to provide live streaming of their services during the pandemic because DSL does not meet the requirements for online platforms to function properly. Further, businesses are not easily attracted to the area because of the speed issue. Accessing high speed Internet is necessary in our digital world.

The town council of Van Wyck has worked with Comporium to develop a proposal that would bring high speed fiber Internet to every home within the town limits. However, as you are aware, adding this infrastructure is not without a cost. It is my understanding that through the CARES Act, there is funding available to help with adding the necessary infrastructure to areas currently underserved when it comes to broadband connections. The town has a plan in place and a service provider, Comporium, that can get the job done if the funds are awarded. However, the clock is ticking and Comporium will need to start the project by the first of August to have the buildout completed by the required date.

Please consider awarding funding to our town, one of the newest towns in South Carolina, to allow us to serve our community more effectively and remain safe during these challenging times.

Thank you for your time,

Stephanie Clemons

My name is Steven Clemons, Jr. We are nearing completion of a home at 7292 Van Wyck Road, Lancaster, SC 29720, in the newly formed town of Van Wyck. Upon purchasing our property, our greatest concern was the lack of Internet speed in the area. Currently Comporium out of Fort Mill who services the area only provides DSL with speeds less than 10mbs. We almost didn't purchase the property because of the issue.

I work in mental health as a licensed professional counselor. Due to COVID-19, I have been providing mostly telehealth for my clients. However, I will have to go into my office every day upon moving into our home as the DSL Internet service will not be sufficient for telehealth visits. Further, my wife, a teacher in the Lancaster County School District, will also need access to high speed Internet as many students in the area opt for the virtual option for the school year. As you can see, without access to broadband services, we will be unable to do our jobs while remaining in quarantine, and further, especially in my case, I'll be forced to go out of home and into my office, facing potential exposure to the virus, simply because our Internet connection at home will not allow for telehealth work.

Students in the area, attending Van Wyck Elementary School, will need access to broadband for the online academy that starts in another month. Churches in the area have been unable to provide live streaming of their services during the pandemic because DSL does not meet the requirements for online platforms to function properly. Further, businesses are not easily attracted to the area because of the speed issue. Assessing high speed Internet is necessary in our digital world.

The town council of Van Wyck has worked with Comporium to develop a proposal that would bring high speed fiber Internet to every home within the town limits. However, as you are aware, adding this infrastructure is not without a cost. It is my understanding that through the CARES Act, there is funding available to help with adding the necessary infrastructure to areas currently underserved when it comes to broadband connections. The town has a plan in place and a service provider, Comporium, that can get the job done if the funds are awarded. However, the clock is ticking and Comporium will need to start the project by the first of August to have the buildout completed by the required date.

Please consider awarding funding to our town, one of the newest towns in South Carolina, to allow us to serve our community more effectively and remain safe during these challenging times.

Steven Clemons, Jr.
stevenclemonsjr@gmail.com
540-798-3255

August 9, 2020

Dear Comporium management,

This is a letter of support for the project to run broadband internet access to the rest of Van Wyck. Newer homes and developments already have broadband, but many older homes do not have fast reliable internet or cell service. This puts many of us at a disadvantage. Our students will have more trouble with homework and distance learning. Those of us who have the option to work at home find it frustrating and inefficient since we can't communicate well with our co workers.

Fast, reliable internet service has become a necessity in today's world.

Best Regards,

Laura Clark

5110 Old Hickory Road

August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Comporium is committed to bridging the digital divide within Lancaster County. We are excited to respond to the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project Application.

Please review the attached application which shares all the details. We are extremely excited about this project and look forward to the opportunity to work together as a partner and achieve success together. If you need clarification or further information concerning the application, please do not hesitate to contact me at greg.lunsford@comporium.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Charles G. Lunsford
Vice President – Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

www.comporium.com
PO Box 470
Rock Hill SC 29731

APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization Lancaster Telephone Company

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0001-8892-45

Primary Contact Name Chris Moody

Title Regulatory Cost Analyst

Mailing Address 330 East Black St

Phone Number 803-326-7255

City, State, Zip Rock Hill, SC 29730

Email chris.moody@comporium.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 09/01/2000

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 02/17/2020

- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience delivering broadband service over fiber or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

Project Area Information

County Lancaster County

Rural or Urban Rural

Nearest City/Town Van Wyck, South Carolina

Project Area Map Code Lancaster 2 *(Target code)*

156 Number of Households in Project Area

15 Number of Businesses in Project Area

Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area

Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area

Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area

Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.

- [x] *Fiber to the Premises* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 1000/1000
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Fixed wireless* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *VDSL (25/3 Mbps or faster)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds

Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

Indicate all rate tiers for broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or faster will be offered to customers in the project area:

- [ ] Rates less than $10/month
- [ ] Rates between $10 - $14.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $15 - $19.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $20 - $24.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $25 - $34.99/month

Project Timeline and Milestones

Project Start Date 09/01/2020

Project Construction Activity Begins 09/01/2020

Project Construction Activity Complete 12/17/2020

Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/17/2020

Project Completion Date 12/17/2020

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost $591,664

Upfront Cost Requirements 0

Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises 591,664

Average Cost per Location Served *(all locations or structures)* $3,460

Average Cost per Housing Unit $3,460

Average Cost per Business $3,460

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested $295,831.88

Applicant-Provided Funding $295,831.88

Third-Party Funding Amount

Source(s)

Additional Information

Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

Lancaster Telephone Company, an affiliate of Comporium, Inc, is an independent telecommunications company located in Lancaster, South Carolina. Lancaster Telephone serves voice, broadband, and video customers in Lancaster County and parts of Kershaw County and Chester County. It also offers wireless service in partnership with AT&T under a limited liability company arrangement. Lancaster Telephone Company offers Digital Subscriber Line, Cable Modem, and Fiber-To-The-Home to both residential and business customers. DSL has three speed tiers to choose from: Standard (Downstream / Upstream) - (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). Coax has Standard (30Mbps/2Mbps), Ultra (90Mbps/3Mbps) and Elite (150Mbps/5Mbps). The FTTH product has four speed tiers: Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB). Zipstream is an internet service offering that provides upload and download speeds of one Gigabit per second to customers. What makes Zipstream unique, is it consists of an all fiber delivery, the newest network equipment, and a robust path to the internet backbone that can carry large amounts of data. In addition to voice, broadband and video services, Lancaster Telephone Company offers Metro Ethernet services that provide customers a redundant and secure way to transfer mission-critical data. Lancaster Telephone Company's Metro Ethernet service is a high-speed (10 Mbps to 10 Gbps) packet-based service that provides the transmission of point-to-point LAN or WAN data between a customer's locations. Metro Ethernet circuits can also be ordered to provide dedicated bandwidth to the Internet. Our Customer Network Operations Center offers technical support with proactive network monitoring of customer's Metro Ethernet circuits to ensure consistent, high-level performance. Lancaster Telephone Company's MPLS core network provides diverse and redundant IP routing that supports all of the customer facing services. Lancaster Telephone Company uses a variety of last mile technologies to serve customers including xDSL, Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) and Hybrid Fiber Coax (HFC). Lancaster Telephone Company also operates a remote switch and has connections to Comporium, Inc. and one of its sister companies who provide equipment to operate voice, data, and video networks. Lancaster's has been deploying FTTH networks since 2005.The Lancaster Telephone Company's remote switch homes to the Comporium, Inc. owned Rock Hill Class 5 Switch. The voice traffic from the Remotes, as identified in NECA Tariff No. 4, and all the data and video utilize the redundant fiber connections to the Rock Hill host switch, core broadband network and Video headend. The Comporium, Inc. network connects the voice and data traffic to the world. Leveraging these assets at the parent company level provides some economies of scale to Lancaster. Lancaster Telephone Company does perform its own customer service, and installation and repair. It has two business offices within the city of Lancaster for its customers to purchase services. The White Street office is the largest business office and is located in the downtown area of Lancaster. The University Place office is located near the University of South Carolina – Lancaster campus. This location is nestled in a busy shopping area for the community. Customers can come into any business offices to provision service, pay bills, or ask questions to available service representatives. Lancaster Telephone Company has a plant work center location that houses the Installation and Repair group, facilities and construction group. Each of Lancaster Telephone Company's 13 remote offices are designed and equipped to support the operation of communications networks. These remotes are equipped with sufficient battery backup in the event of an emergency.

Describe how your proposal meets CARES objectives as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

Van Wyck, is located in the rural panhandle section of Lancaster County, South Carolina. The total land area is roughly 10 miles. The 2019 population is an estimated 1,080 citizens. The citizens of the area decided to officially incorporate and officially formed the town in August of 2017. Due to the rurality and location of the town limits of Van Wyck, delivering high speed internet with speeds of 25/3 has been challenging. Receiving CARES funding would provide the company with the needed funding to deliver state-of-the-art fiber broadband to customers. Currently the broadband infrastructure in place that serves end user customers is Digital Subscriber Line, (DSL). DSL is offered to customers at three speed tiers: Standard (Downstream / Upstream) - (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). This proposal will provide four high speed fiber speed tiers for customers to choose from Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB).
Due to the rural location of Van Wyck, the town does not have any health care facilities in the town limits. Citizens battling the COVID-19 related illness travel to health care centers in Charlotte, North Carolina or have options to seek medical assistance in Rock Hill or Lancaster, South Carolina. Receiving CARES funding would allow high speed bandwidth citizens, so that they can perform virtual telehealth visits with health care facilities and hospitals. By providing increased telehealth options to town of Van Wyck, those impacted by COVID-19 will not have to leave their home when seeking medical assistance. This will reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others, while keeping healthcare workers safe at the same time. Telehealth options will also protect the elderly citizens who are greatly at risk to catch COVID-19. COVID-19 has posed many challenges for the students who live in the Van Wyck area. The poverty index currently is 53.23% for students within the Lancaster County School District. The Lancaster County School District has implemented two primary options for students in Van Wyck as they return to school this fall. Students will be allowed to return to school as normal also known as A/B Face-to-Face. An At-Home with Teacher Support option is also available to students who are unable to return to school due to COVID-19 issues. The At-Home with Teacher Support option allows students to complete continued learning experiences posted to Google Classroom. Assignments must be completed by the deadlines set by individual teachers. Students are required to follow the schedule provided by the teachers. Students who will be attending school virtually will greatly benefit from upgrading the current DSL infrastructure. Since the maximum DSL speed available to students is 11Mbps/1Mbps, virtual learning may be a challenge. Due to COVD-19 many DSLAMS that provide the DSL service are at full capacity and can no longer be expanded. Bandwidth has greatly increased now that entire families are working from home and attending school virtually from home. The CARES funding will allow the DSL infrastructure to be upgraded to fiber greatly alleviating the risk of students not being able to complete assignments on time. This upgraded technology will keep students on pace with other counterparts across other areas of the state and not be left behind. COVID-19 has drastically changed the typical workforce as we know it. Many companies have required employees to work from home since mid-March, once the pandemic began sweeping our state and nation. Those employees that once were working in a corporate environment had high speed broadband with redundancy. Having this type of broadband kept individual productivity high and cost low. Citizens who now work from home in Van Wyck are solely dependent on a DSL connection. These employees who are now being forced to work from home will be sharing bandwidth with their children who will be attending school virtually. With maximum download speeds of 11Mbps/1Mbps workers will face many challenges completing tasks due to the current DSL infrastructure that is in place. Individual workers who could be attending a virtual meeting, could miss vital details if the DSL connection becomes overloaded due to the increased burden on the network in the Van Wyck area. Individual residences who have parents working from home and children attending school virtually from that same dwelling will face challenges completing both corporate tasks and educational tasks. CARES funding will allow this DSL infrastructure to be upgraded with fiber to these residents in Van Wyck. Without this funding for upgrades, parents working from home may struggle to keep pace with co-workers and completing work related tasks as required by their employers.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The proposal will greatly enhance the community of Van Wyck, South Carolina. The quality of life for families and businesses will increase long after this upgrade is completed. Parents will be able to work from home sufficiently and effectively. Work tasks will be completed in a timely fashion without being in the office. Employers will have confidence in their employee's ability to achieve maximum output knowing a fiber connection to their premise capable of gigabit speeds is available to them. Children will have the ability to take exams and complete homework assignments without their broadband connection being overwhelmed due to lack of bandwidth. Families will have the option to now stream a movie, where in the past this was not an option. Van Wyck, South Carolina could grow from an Economic Development prospective. It will now be much easier for town leaders to recruit industry. Companies when looking to locate to the area will now see that DSL broadband has been replaced with fiber optics. Community Anchor institutions such as Van Wyck Volunteer Fire Department and Van Wyck Community Center will have sufficient broadband to conduct activities. Small businesses will be able to have adequate broadband to perform operations. The overall impact of receiving CARES funding will have an everlasting impact on a small community.

Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Use additional pages if necessary.

Lancaster Telephone Company is committed to assisting anyone in the proposed grant area with getting up to speed on digital literacy, especially those who have not previously had any Internet service and, as result, lack experience. Lancaster Telephone Company plans to provide free Internet access at various community centers, public gathering locations and community anchor institutions (CAIs), along with informational posters, to allow residents to experience the capabilities of the new broadband connectivity available to them. Lancaster Telephone Company has committed to produce and distribute educational and promotional programs and materials to the community regarding their new broadband service. We also plan on organizing events within the community to raise awareness of the educational resources and opportunities found Online that will become available to them.

Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

See attached bank letter.

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

County Road Permits and/or SC Highway Permits will be obtained prior to construction being performed.

Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:

1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

CERTIFICATION: The Applicant certifies that information included in this application is factual to their knowledge.

☑ Applicant agrees to comply with all applicable requirements and conditions contained in Subrecipient Agreement for Coronavirus Relief Funds

Signature:

Print Name of Signature: Charles G. Lunsford

Title of Signatory: Vice President - Regulatory Affairs

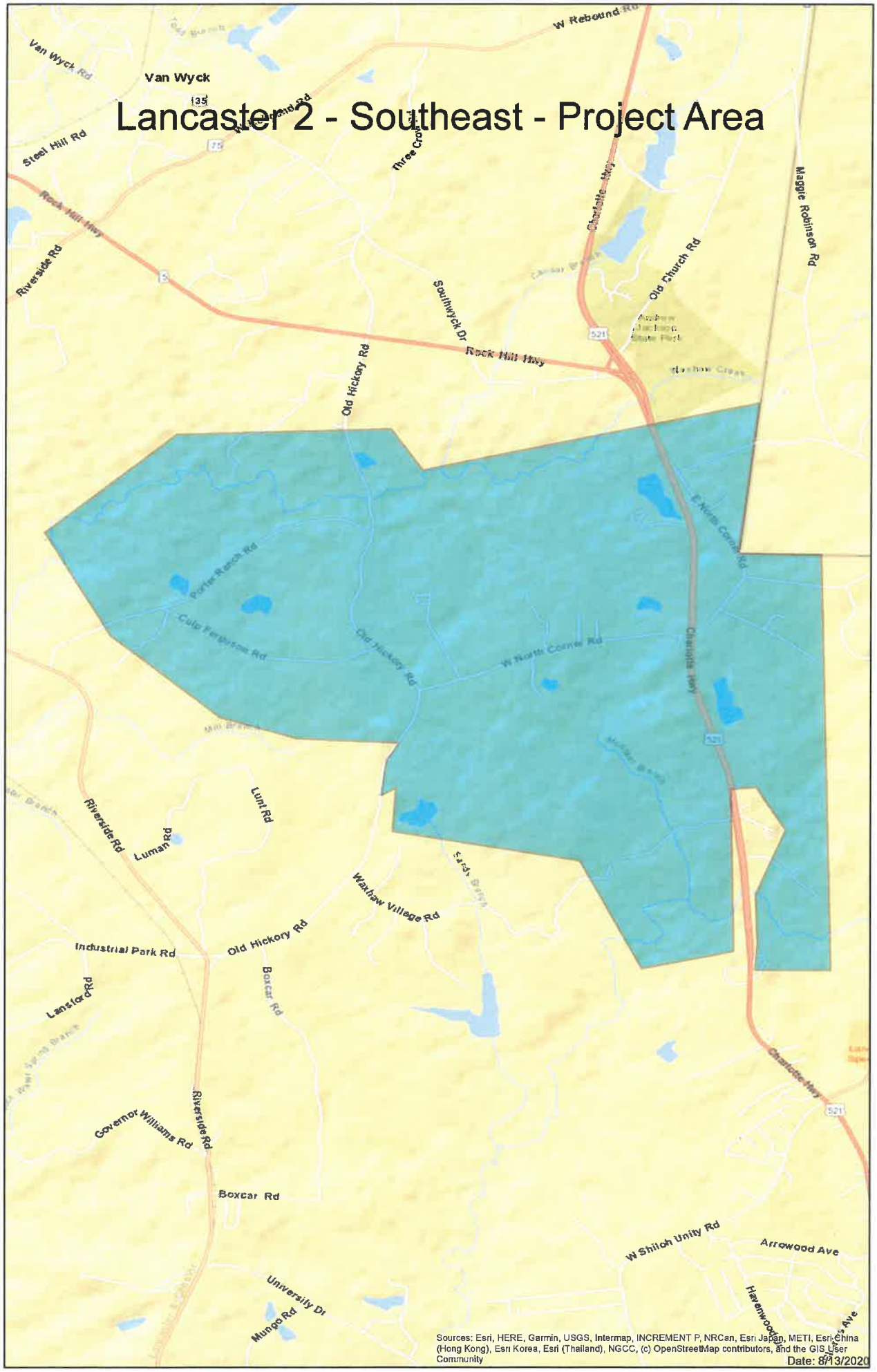
Date: August 14, 2020

Renewal Terms. *Contingent upon extensions for the expenditure of CARES Act funds provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury and the State of South Carolina, this Agreement may be renewed as evidenced by written approval of both parties.*

All questions and completed applications should be submitted to Broadband@ors.sc.gov

Facsimile signatures and email signatures shall be as effective as original signatures to bind any party.

Lancaster 2 - Southeast - Project Area



VAN WYCK

June 30, 2020

VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL

Nanette S. Edwards, Executive Director
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(nedwards@ors.sc.gov)

Re: CARES Act Funding for Fiberoptic Broadband to the Homes of our Residents.

Dear Director Edwards:

I hope this letter finds you well in these difficult times. I understand from speaking with Chris Rozycki that your office has been delegated authority over the review and disbursement of the CARES Act funding granted to the state. To that end, I am reaching out to you to place our town's present broadband Internet infrastructure needs on your radar and to petition your office for consideration of our proposal to fund those sorely needed improvements.

If you're not familiar with our area, Van Wyck is located in a predominantly rural part of Lancaster county, halfway between the city of Lancaster and the Indian Land community near the intersection of US Highway 521 and SC Highway 5. The town is one of South Carolina's newest additions having incorporated in 2017. Our residents represent an even cross section of income, age and race. The strong level of suburban growth seen in Indian Land in recent years is expected to reach Van Wyck at some time in the near future. We are working hard to be ready for it. Adequate internet will be a key element.

Unfortunately, due to the rural character of our community, there is not sufficient economic incentive to improve our telecommunications infrastructure. Currently, the majority of the town is minimally served to completely unserved with DSL broadband internet service. Some areas of the town, notably some of the poorest, are not able to be served by DSL at all. The current COVID 19 crisis has brought the community's internet needs into sharp focus. Residents who are required to work from home struggle to do so in an effective manner with the slow DSL service in place. Everyone, and particularly our senior-age population, has difficulty accessing telehealth resources that are best used to keep vulnerable populations from exposure to the virus. Last, the children in our area will need adequate resources to access broadband internet once school restarts for remote learning requirements.

I and my fellow members of town council have heard many stories from the residents detailing their needs for better internet service and improved cellular coverage going back some time. The poor internet service coupled with poor cell phone coverage makes our dilemma difficult to solve absent an immediate improvement to our telecommunications infrastructure. To that end, we recently started to explore with Comporium Communications (the sole telecommunications utility in our area) the costs and timeline for the addition of fiberoptic broadband-to-the-home infrastructure. At this time, Comporium has researched and provided us with an estimated cost, effectively making the project shovel-ready. I've included those materials herein.

We are actively seeking a funding source sufficient to cover most, if not all, of these costs. If we are able to secure sufficient funding through the CARES Act funds, the town is able to allocate some additional funding via grant if necessary. Considering the time-limitations imposed by the Act, our project may be able to see completion within the Act's requisite time limits should the funding be approved soon.

On behalf of my neighbors, the residents of Van Wyck, I ask that you give consideration to our request for funding. I also ask that you please contact me with any questions. I can be reached by cell: 704-589-0025 or email: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net.

I believe we can make this happen. Thank you.

Best regards,

Sean Corcoran
Mayor

MAYOR
Sean Corcoran

MUNICIPAL CLERK
Linda Vaughan

COUNCIL
Robert Duster
Cassandra Watkins
Richard Vaughan
Xavier Key

PO Box 159
Van Wyck, SC 29744
803 712 4993
www.townofvanwyck.net
info@townofvanwyck.net

Town Of
VAN WYCK
South Carolina

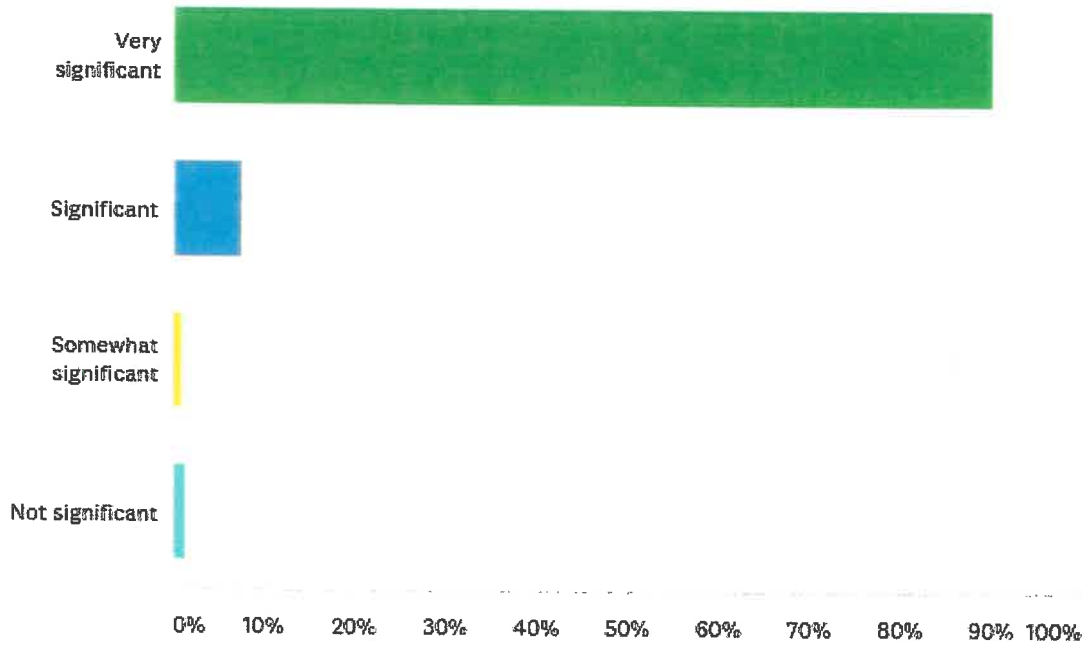
Comprehensive Plan 2020 Community Survey

July 2020 – Final Results / Broadband Excerpt

Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q25: How important is having high-speed internet access at your home?

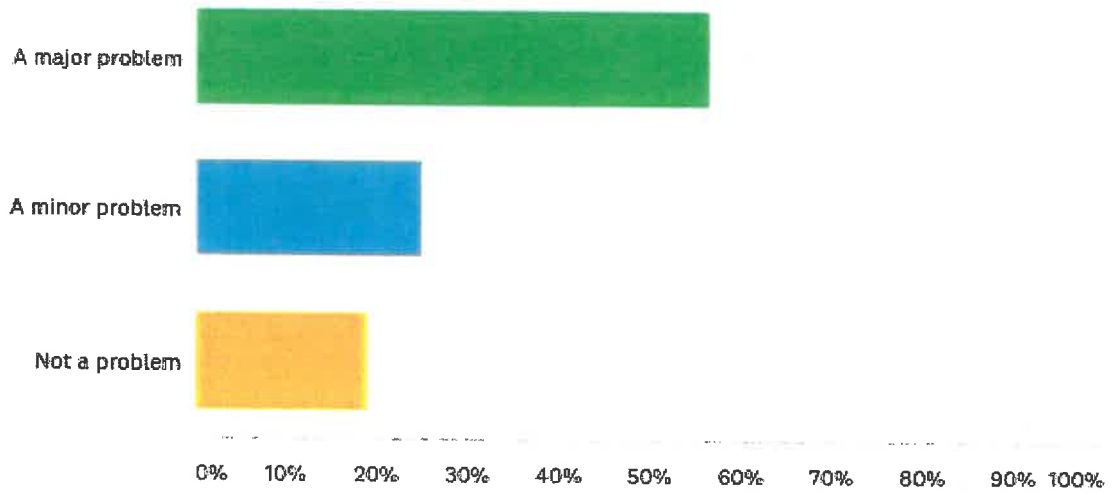
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q26: Access to high-speed internet at home is...

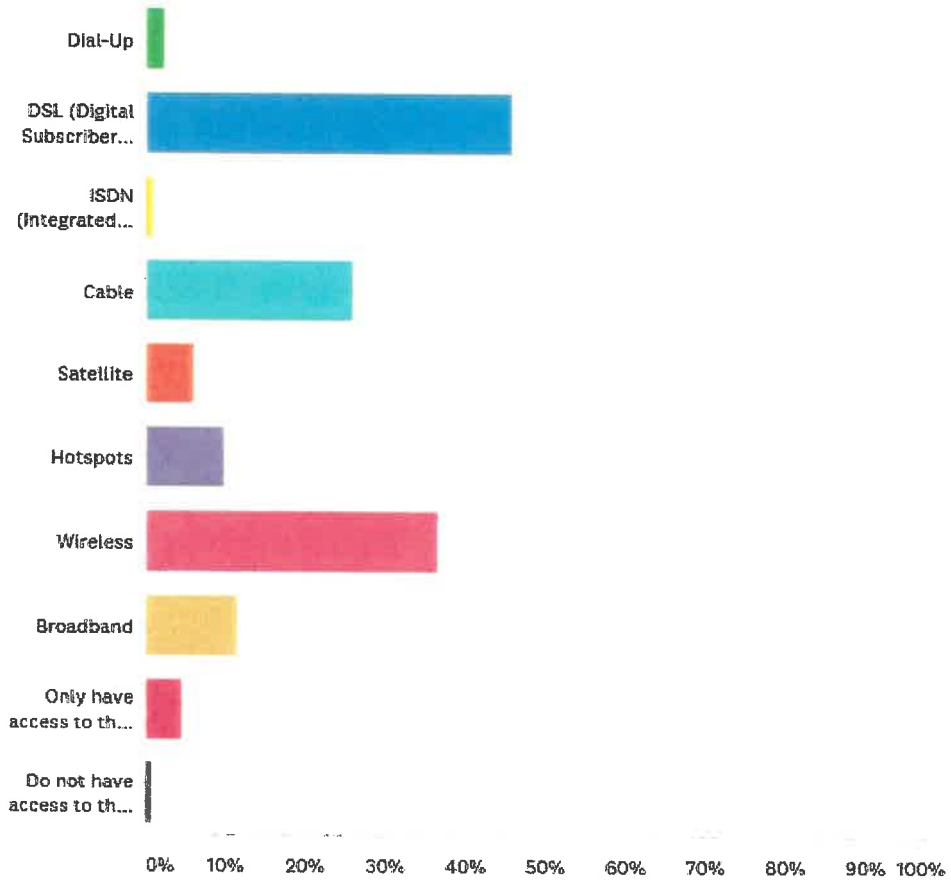
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q27: What type of internet access do you have at home? [check all that apply]

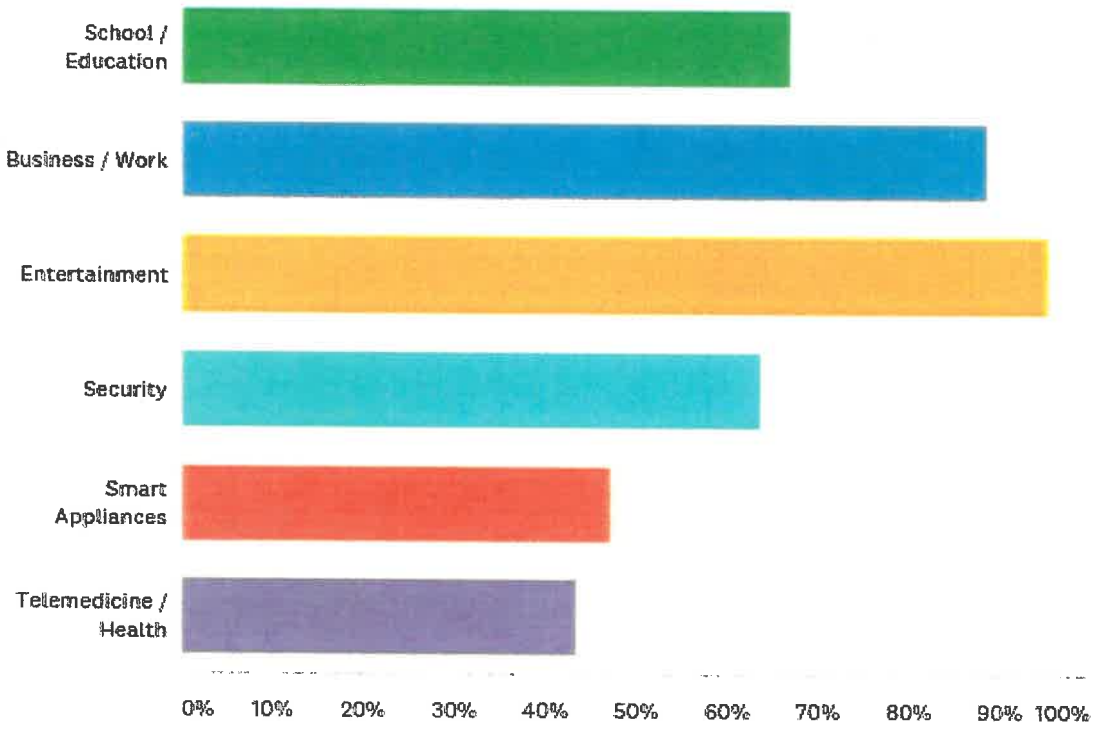
Answered: 131 Skipped: 17



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q28: Indicate how your household either currently uses or would like to use the internet within your home. [check all that apply]

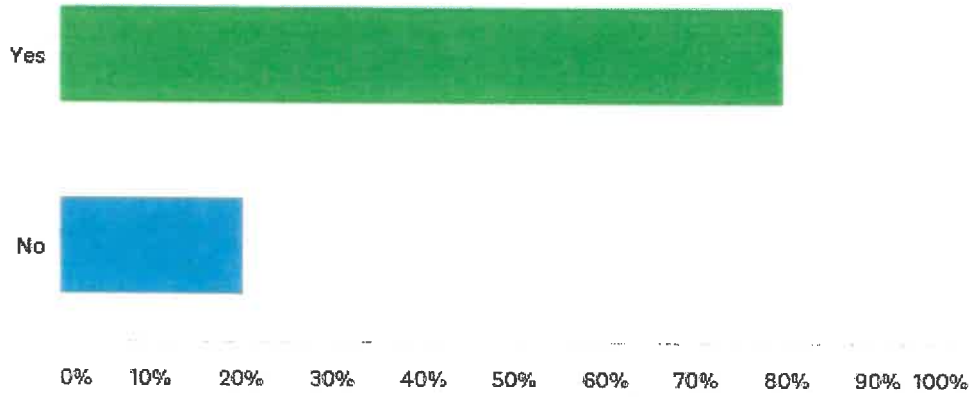
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q29: Would you be willing to pay a one-time fee to connect to high-speed internet?

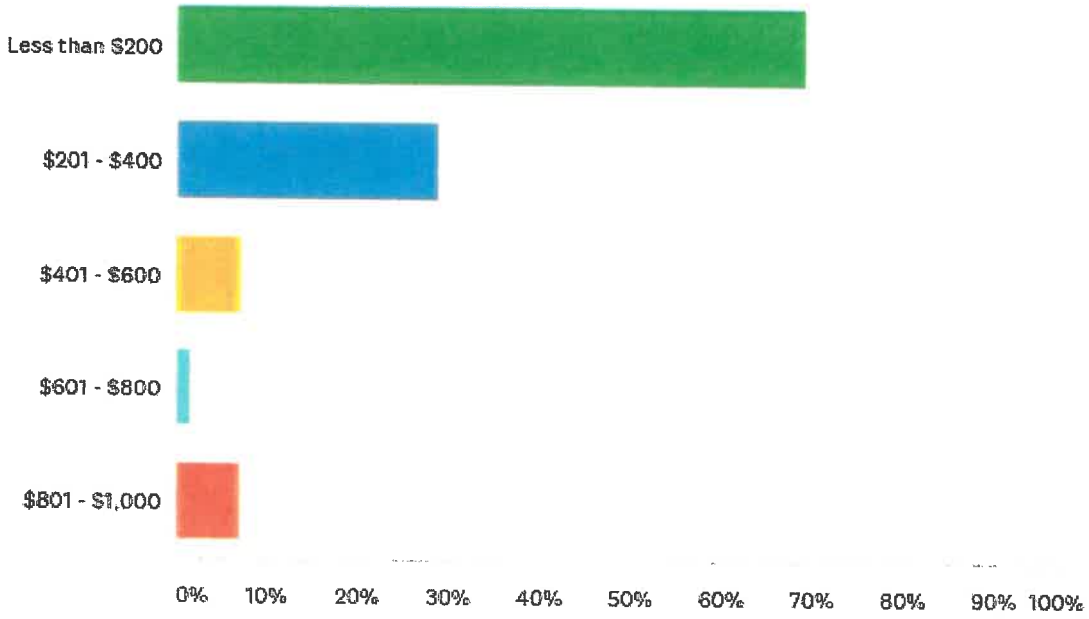
Answered: 133 Skipped: 15



Powered by SurveyMonkey

Q30: If yes, what connection fee range do you feel would be most appropriate for a one-time payment for high-speed internet access? [check all that apply]

Answered: 114 Skipped: 34



Powered by SurveyMonkey

From: Dan Saffer
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:13 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fwd: Please Consider

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Steven Puckett** <Steven.Puckett@lcsd.k12.sc.us>
Date: Thu, Jul 16, 2020 at 11:36 AM
Subject: Please Consider
To: <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>, <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>

Breeden and Chris,

I received your contact information from the parent of our students.

As I understand there is CARES Act funding available for broadband internet projects and that the Town of Van Wyck is an area under consideration.

As an educator in the Lancaster County School District I have seen the critical need for high speed connectivity at home for our students and fully support the funding of a Van Wyck project for educational and economic development needs.

Upgrading to the next generation broadband will improve educational outcomes for our students and better the community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Humbly,

Steven Puckett

--

Van Wyck Elementary School

"Take **AIM** at Greatness!"

4945 Charlotte Highway

Lancaster, SC 29720

Visit Us!

vwes.lancastercsd.com

www.facebook.com/vweseagles

Check Out Our Videos!

www.Vimeo.com/vweseaglecast

Phone: 803-313-6650

From: Dan Saffer
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:25 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fwd: ORS Broadband

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dan Saffer** <daniel.j.saffer@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 11:47 AM
Subject: Re: ORS Broadband
To: John, Breeden <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>
Cc: Rozycki, Chris <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>

Breeden thank you very much for the call and information.

Modern broadband technology is super important as we discussed for work from home, education, economic development and tele-health services.

Believe that Van Wyck is the perfect use case for the CARES Act funding and the town has already engaged Comporium, making quick execution in line with the CARES Act deadlines possible.

Will share your contact with others in town, look forward to seeing the criteria published in the next week or so and am available to support this as helpful.

Best regards,
Dan Saffer
1326 W Rebound Road
Van Wyck, SC 29720
908-966-1462

On Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 10:34 AM John, Breeden <bjohn@ors.sc.gov> wrote:

Dan, nice speaking with you earlier.

I will keep you updated as the broadband funding process gets underway in the several weeks. Please let me know if you have any questions in the meantime and feel free to share my contact info with other interested folks in Van Wyck and elsewhere.

Thanks for your interest!

Breeden John

S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff

(803) 730-9129

bjohn@ors.sc.gov

From: Maggie Norris
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:37 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Town of Van Wyck SC- Internet Service

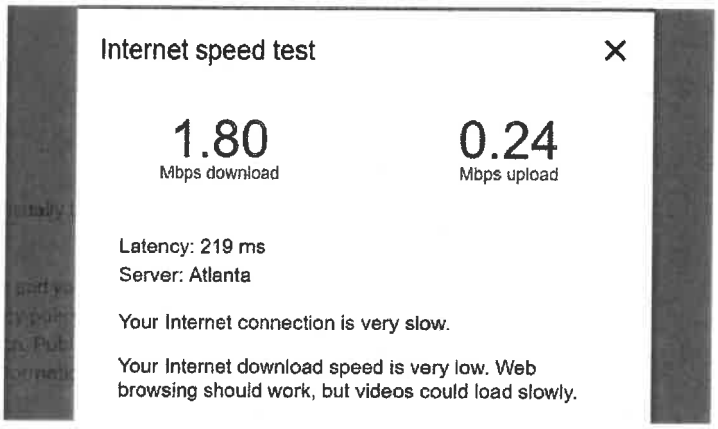
From: mbnorris54@gmail.com <mbnorris54@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:23 AM
To: nedwards@ors.sc.gov
Subject: Town of Van Wyck SC- Internet Service

To: Nanette Edwards, Director, South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

As our country has moved to find new ways to work, go to school, connect with medical staff and with each other; the access to acceptable levels of internet service
has become of paramount importance.

I live the town of Van Wyck, South Carolina and find my self and my family trying to access all of the resources above on a regular basis with internet service that is
always below a 10 mbs speed.

This is a shot of the speed this morning.



I know that South Carolina has received funds through the CARES Act to address internet connectivity across the state.
We have a plan in place in Van Wyck- we have met with our local service provider [we only have one] and have polled and gathered input from our citizens.
Our town is ready to support a project by Comporium with the aid of the CARES act funds.

I do hope you will consider my request and reach out to our elected officials and Comporium to make this happen.

From: Michael LaViolette
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 5:43 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Support for high speed internet

All,

I am in support of high speed internet for our area of Van Wyck. I am concerned with me working from home all day on the laptop with also three kids doing online school. The kids and I require the capabilities to do video conferencing and sometimes at the same time. My DSL line is already running into issues and the kids are not even back at school yet.
I work for Honeywell and handle their SAP system for all over the world so I do know that other tech people in our area are having issues like me. My long meetings with people in India are excruciating especially when trying to use MS Teams and controlling somone else's machine remotely.

I hope you all can understand the pain from working with old DSL technology. Please help the our community so kids will be able to succeed without added interruptions in connections. Times like this it shouldn't be about the money but the community in need due to circumstances.

Thank you for your time,

Michael LaViolette

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone

From: Tim Ivey
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:18 PM
To: newtonbrandon6@gmail.com
Cc: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Rural Community Broad-band Service

Dear Representative Newton

Dear Ms. Edwards

My name is Tim Ivey and my wife and I live on Old Church Road in Lancaster County. This is in the north corner area of the newly incorporated town of Van Wyck.
We are both retired State of SC employees. It was brought to my attention that some of the CARES ACT funds received by South Carolina could be used to address internet connectivity across the State.
My current internet connection is through an old phone line. Comporium is the only internet provider in my area. Although the service is reliable, the average download speed here is around 4 mb.
Although retired, I am attempting to conduct wildlife consulting in several local counties. GIS mapping is part of what I do and the download speed here is problematic. I have to renew an annual lease for ArcMap software and it takes several hours to download. I occasionally have to download county aerial photography and that takes even longer. I am currently unable to update my GPS maps from home. I have to
travel to a friend's house in Fort Mill and use his computer with adequate internet speed. I am also concerned that neighbor's children will have difficulty engaging in remote learning when school starts back.

I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to support a more robust broad-band service in Van Wyck. I understand the town already has a plan and a service provider (Comporium) who could do the installation if funds were available.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. If you need additional information feel free to call me at 803-331-3355.

Tim Ivey

From: Tim Ivey
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:13 PM
To: nedwards@ors.sc.gov
Cc: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Community Broad-band Service

Dear Ms. Edwards

My name is Tim Ivey and my wife and I live on Old Church Road in Lancaster County. This is in the north corner area of the newly incorporated town of Van Wyck.
We are both retired State of SC employees. It was brought to my attention that some of the CARES ACT funds received by South Carolina could be used to address internet connectivity across the State.
My current internet connection is through an old phone line. Comporium is the only internet provider in my area. Although the service is reliable, the average download speed here is around 4 mb.
Although retired, I am attempting to conduct wildlife consulting in several local counties. GIS mapping is part of what I do and the download speed here is problematic. I have to renew an annual lease for ArcMap software and it takes several hours to download. I occasionally have to download county aerial photography and that takes even longer. I am currently unable to update my GPS maps from home. I have to
travel to a friend's house in Fort Mill and use his computer with adequate internet speed. I am also concerned that neighbor's children will have difficulty engaging in remote learning when school starts back.

I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to support a more robust broad-band service in Van Wyck. I understand the town already has a plan and a service provider (Comporium) who could do the installation if funds were available.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. If you need additional information feel free to call me at 803-331-3355.

Tim Ivey

From: Tim Ivey
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:16 PM
To: bjohn@ors.sc.gov
Cc: sean.corcoran@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Rural community broad-band service

Dear Breeden

My name is Tim Ivey and my wife and I live on Old Church Road in Lancaster County. This is in the north corner area of the newly incorporated town of Van Wyck.
We are both retired State of SC employees. It was brought to my attention that some of the CARES ACT funds received by South Carolina could be used to address internet connectivity across the State.
My current internet connection is through an old phone line. Comporium is the only internet provider in my area. Although the service is reliable, the average download speed here is around 4 mb.
Although retired, I am attempting to conduct wildlife consulting in several local counties. GIS mapping is part of what I do and the download speed here is problematic. I have to renew an annual lease for ArcMap software and it takes several hours to download. I occasionally have to download county aerial photography and that takes even longer. I am currently unable to update my GPS maps from home. I have to
travel to a friend's house in Fort Mill and use his computer with adequate internet speed. I am also concerned that neighbor's children will have difficulty engaging in remote learning when school starts back.

I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to support a more robust broad-band service in Van Wyck. I understand the town already has a plan and a service provider (Comporium) who could do the installation if funds were available.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. If you need additional information feel free to call me at 803-331-3355.

Tim Ivey

From: Hinson, Derric
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 2:41 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Broadband Upgrade Van Wyck, SC

Hello,

I am a resident of the Town of Van Wyck and live at 965 W Rebound Rd, Lancaster, SC. Currently, our only internet option is 10 Mbps for $75/month. I have 4 children that are doing online schooling and I also work from home as an IT Administrator for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department. I am required to VPN and remote desktop to several computers and servers on a constant basis and am constantly getting dropped due to lack of bandwidth. My children's Zoom meetings as well as my Webex meetings constantly drop as well. I am literally across the street from the Comporium Telephone remote and fiber runs right by my hose to Riverchase Estates several miles down the road. I was on Fiber at Retreat At Rayfield in Indian Land and never had any issues with the internet bandwidth.

We ask that you please upgrade the services in van Wyck. More houses are being built and with the proximity of the new Elementary School and High School the population will continue grow in Van Wyck.

Thanks you,

Derric Hinson
Police Business Systems Specialist Senior
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department
601 E, Trade St
Charlotte, NC 28202
(C) 980-225-4050
(O) 704-432-0436
Dhinson1@cmpd.org

From: Dan Saffer
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:13 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fwd: CARES Act Funding

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ashley Fox Gulledge** <ashley.gulledge@lcsd.k12.sc.us>
Date: Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 11:33 AM
Subject: CARES Act Funding
To: <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>, <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>

Breeden and Chris,

Good afternoon to you! I received your contact information from the parent of a former student.

As I understand there is CARES Act funding available for broadband internet projects and that the Town of Van Wyck is an area under consideration.

As an educator in the Lancaster County School District I have seen the critical need for high speed connectivity at home for our students and fully support the funding of a Van Wyck project for educational and economic development needs.

Upgrading to the next generation broadband will improve educational outcomes for our students and better the community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope you have a great rest of your day!

Best regards,
--
Mrs. Ashley Gulledge
4th Grade Teacher
Van Wyck Elementary School
Take Aim at Greatness
Van Wyck 4th Grade Website
(803) 313-6650

From: 'Jeremy Ford' via info@townofvanwyck.net
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 7:49 PM
To: info@townofvanwyck.net
Subject: Fw: CARES Act Funding for Broadband in Van Wyck

FYI.

Best Regards,
Jeremy Ford

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Jeremy Ford <jeremyford15@yahoo.com>
To: nedwards@ors.sc.gov <nedwards@ors.sc.gov>; bjohn@ors.sc.gov <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>; crozycki@ors.sc.gov <crozycki@ors.sc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 10:44:24 AM EDT
Subject: CARES Act Funding for Broadband in Van Wyck

Executive Director Edwards and team,

I received your contact information from an employee of mine that is a resident of the Town of Van Wyck.

From discussions with my team member I have come to understand that there is CARES Act funding available for broadband internet projects and that the Town of Van Wyck is an area under consideration. The proposed project seems to be the perfect use case for the allocated CARES Act funds and can be completed by the December 31, 2020 deadline.

In recent months we have all seen how critical modern broadband technology is to enable the ability to effectively work from home and conduct remote learning for our children. The need for this service will only continue to grow and I fully support the funding of a Van Wyck broadband project in support of educational and economic development needs.

Upgrading to the next generation broadband will improve socioeconomic and educational outcomes and better the Van Wyck community and the State of South Carolina.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,
Jeremy Ford

From: Susan Detwiler <sledriderx2@yahoo.com>
Date: July 18, 2020 at 2:11:28 PM EDT
To: "newtonbrandon6@gmail.com" <newtonbrandon6@gmail.com>
Subject: Internet for Van Wyck, SC

July 18, 2020

Brandon Newton
South Carolina State House of Representative (District 45)

Dear Brandon Newton,

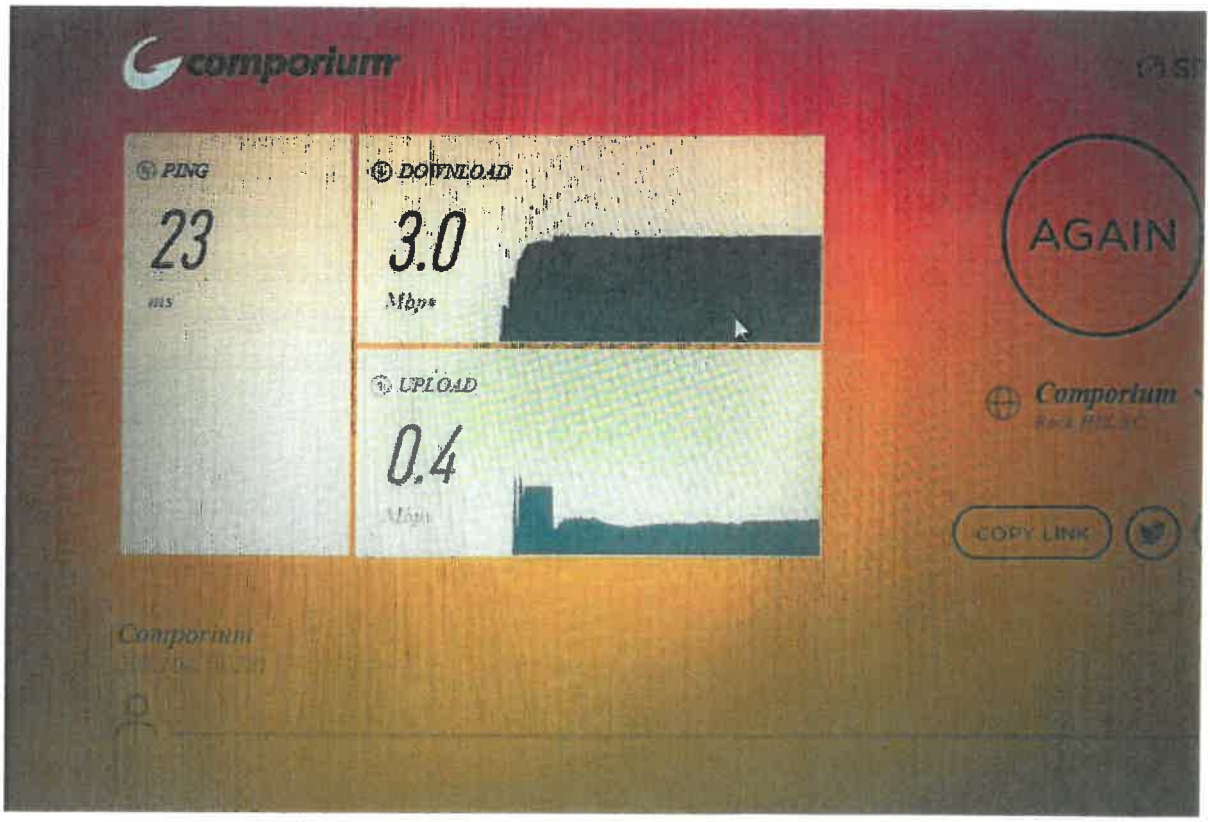
While my mailing address is Lancaster, SC I actually live in the town of Van Wyck, SC. The only internet service available at my residence is basic DSL from Comporium. I am employed by Bank of America and I currently work from home. The poor internet service makes this very difficult. It is also difficult and frustrating when dealing with Tele-Doc services and other various internet services. Our internet service is already slow and with increased usage due to more individuals working from home due to COVID-19 and children doing school work due to remote learning it will only strain an already poor service further. Also of concern is that our town will not be able to attract new businesses or citizens without a high speed internet connection. We have a true need for better internet service.

This is a plea to please consider Van Wyck, SC as an under-served area in dire need of better internet that could benefit greatly with additional funding from the CARES Act or any other funding that may be available to assist our community. I've included a copy of the internet speed test I just ran on my computer using Comporium's website. As you can see, it is at 3 mbs download speed which is well below the required minimum of 10 mbs download speeds.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Detwiler
1276 Mooreland Wood Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: 704-591-5505



From: Susan Detwiler <sledriderx2@yahoo.com>
Date: July 18, 2020 at 2:00:59 PM EDT
To: "nedwards@ors.sc.gov" <nedwards@ors.sc.gov>
Subject: Internet for Van Wyck, SC

July 18, 2020

Nannette Edwards
Director, SC Office of Regulatory Staff

Dear Nannette Edwards,

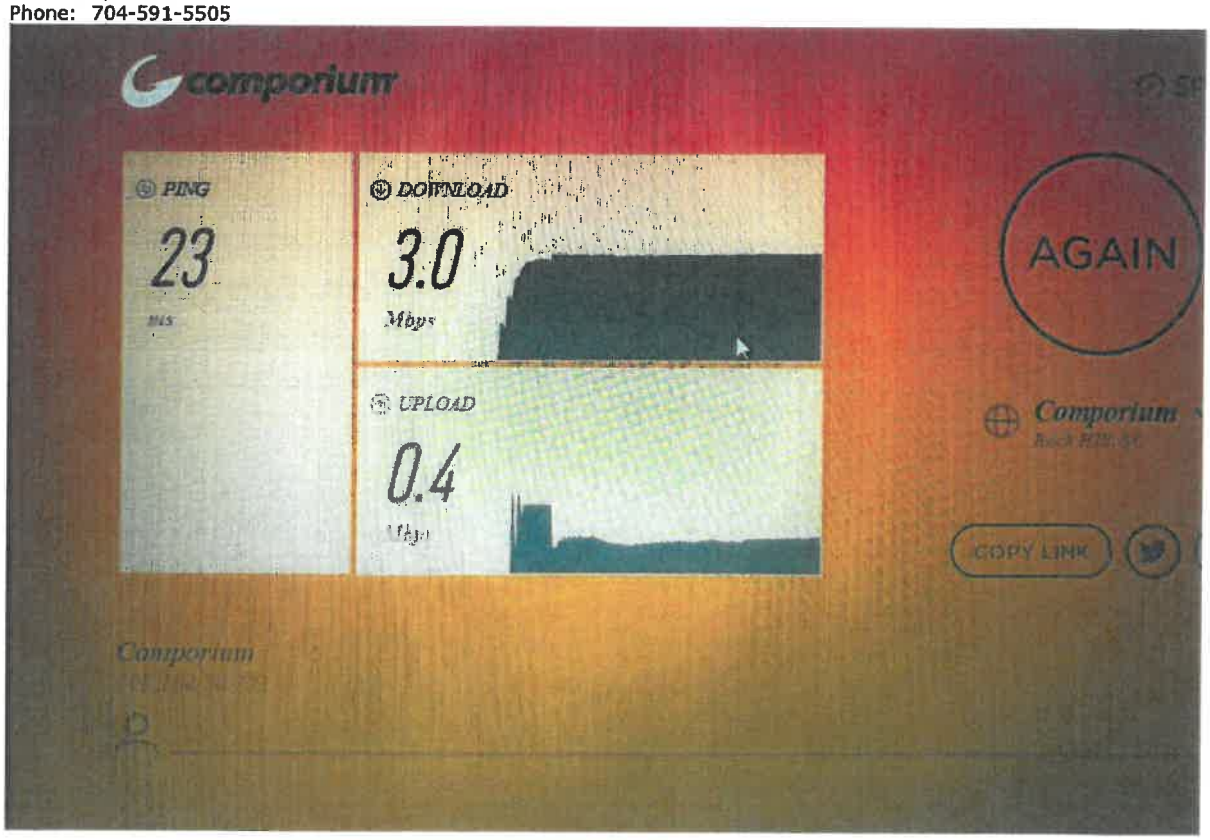
While my mailing address is Lancaster, SC I actually live in the town of Van Wyck, SC. The only internet service available at my residence is basic DSL from Comporium. I am employed by Bank of America and I currently work from home. The poor internet service makes this very difficult. It is also difficult and frustrating when dealing with Tele-Doc services and other various internet services. Our internet service is already slow and with increased usage due to more individuals working from home due to COVID-19 and children doing school work due to remote learning it will only strain an already poor service further. Also of concern is that our town will not be able to attract new businesses or citizens without a high speed internet connection. We have a true need for better internet service.

This is a plea to please consider Van Wyck, SC as an under-served area in dire need of better internet that could benefit greatly with additional funding from the CARES Act or any other funding that may be available to assist our community. I've included a copy of the internet speed test I just ran on my computer using Comporium's website. As you can see, it is at 3 mbs download speed which is well below the required minimum of 10 mbs download speeds.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Detwiler
1276 Mooreland Wood Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: 704-591-5505



From: Susan Detwiler <sledriderx2@yahoo.com>
Date: July 18, 2020 at 2:07:29 PM EDT
To: "bjohn@ors.sc.gov" <bjohn@ors.sc.gov>
Subject: Internet for Van Wyck, SC

July 18, 2020

Breedeen John, Telecommunications, South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

Dear Breedeen John,

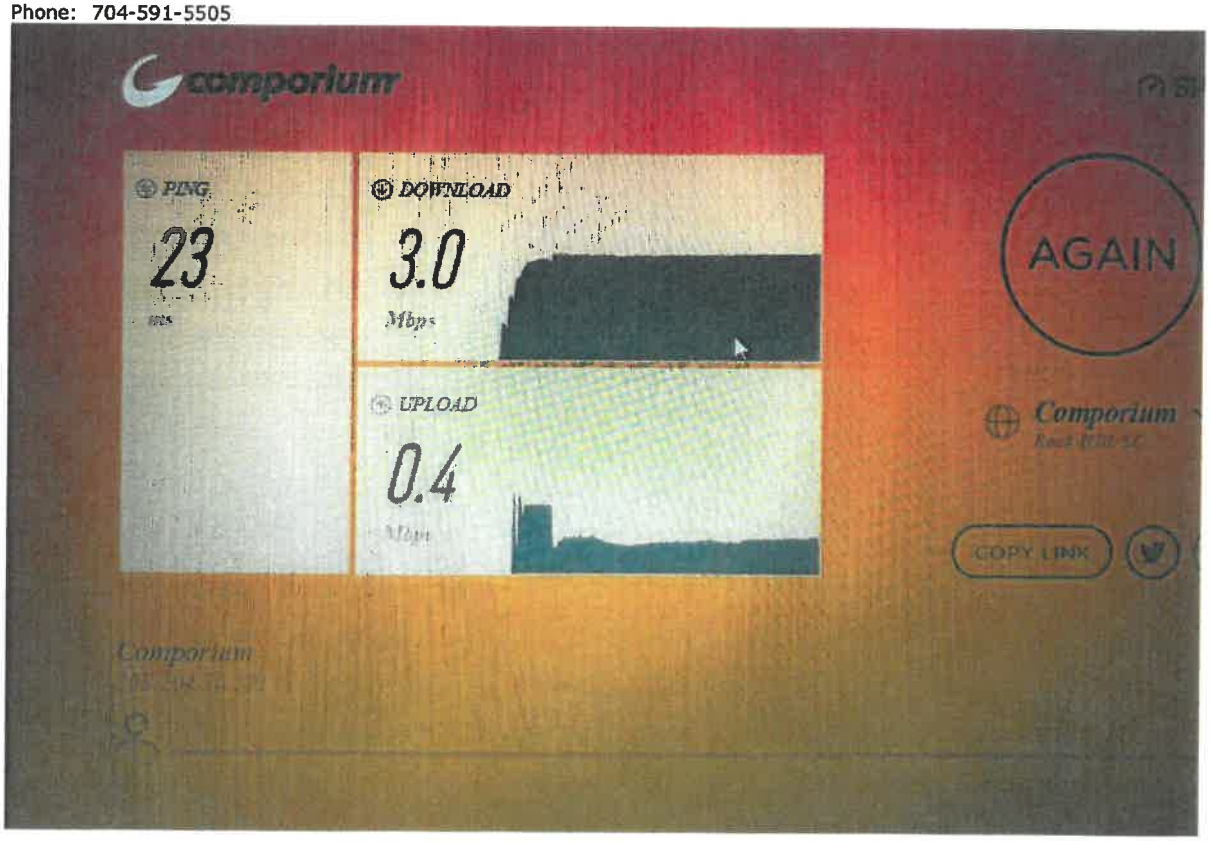
While my mailing address is Lancaster, SC I actually live in the town of Van Wyck, SC. The only internet service available at my residence is basic DSL from Comporium. I am employed by Bank of America and I currently work from home. The poor internet service makes this very difficult. It is also difficult and frustrating when dealing with Tele-Doc services and other various internet services. Our internet service is already slow and with increased usage due to more individuals working from home due to COVID-19 and children doing school work due to remote learning it will only strain an already poor service further. Also of concern is that our town will not be able to attract new businesses or citizens without a high speed internet connection. We have a true need for better internet service.

This is a plea to please consider Van Wyck, SC as an under-served area in dire need of better internet that could benefit greatly with additional funding from the CARES Act or any other funding that may be available to assist our community. I've included a copy of the internet speed test I just ran on my computer using Comporium's website. As you can see, it is at 3 mbs download speed which is well below the required minimum of 10 mbs download speeds.

Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Detwiler
1276 Mooreland Wood Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: 704-591-5505



My name is Stephanie Clemons. My husband and I are nearing completion of a home at 7292 Van Wyck Road, Lancaster, SC 29720, in the newly formed town of Van Wyck. Upon purchasing our property, our greatest concern was the lack of Internet speed in the area. Currently Comporium out of Fort Mill who services the area only provides DSL with speeds less than 10mbs. We almost didn't purchase the property because of the issue.

I am a teacher in the Lancaster County School District. Due to COVID-19, I have provided class sessions virtually after the schools closed in March. I am also currently, and would like to continue, teaching students in China virtually as well. However, I will have to stop my virtual teaching job from home due to the slow internet speed, which would result in a loss of some income. Additionally, I am one of the third grade virtual teachers at my school. In the event that our schools are shut down and I am required to teach from home, I wouldn't be able to provide the virtual learning, which includes live sessions, that my students need and deserve. I would have to spend time outside my home, away from my newborn, in order to get adequate internet service to prepare virtual lessons for my students upon moving into our home as the DSL Internet service will not be sufficient for my needs to teach and prepare virtually. Further, my husband, a Licensed Professional Counselor, will also need access to high speed Internet as he provides his mental health counseling services virtually as well. As you can see, without access to broadband services, we will be unable to do our jobs while remaining in quarantine, and further, especially in my husband's case, he'll be forced to go out of home and into his office, facing potential exposure to the virus, simply because our Internet connection at home will not allow for telehealth work.

Students in the area, attending Van Wyck Elementary School, will need access to broadband for the online academy that starts in another month. Churches in the area have been unable to provide live streaming of their services during the pandemic because DSL does not meet the requirements for online platforms to function properly. Further, businesses are not easily attracted to the area because of the speed issue. Accessing high speed Internet is necessary in our digital world.

The town council of Van Wyck has worked with Comporium to develop a proposal that would bring high speed fiber Internet to every home within the town limits. However, as you are aware, adding this infrastructure is not without a cost. It is my understanding that through the CARES Act, there is funding available to help with adding the necessary infrastructure to areas currently underserved when it comes to broadband connections. The town has a plan in place and a service provider, Comporium, that can get the job done if the funds are awarded. However, the clock is ticking and Comporium will need to start the project by the first of August to have the buildout completed by the required date.

Please consider awarding funding to our town, one of the newest towns in South Carolina, to allow us to serve our community more effectively and remain safe during these challenging times.

Thank you for your time,

Stephanie Clemons

My name is Steven Clemons, Jr. We are nearing completion of a home at 7292 Van Wyck Road, Lancaster, SC 29720, in the newly formed town of Van Wyck. Upon purchasing our property, our greatest concern was the lack of Internet speed in the area. Currently Comporium out of Fort Mill who services the area only provides DSL with speeds less than 10mbs. We almost didn't purchase the property because of the issue.

I work in mental health as a licensed professional counselor. Due to COVID-19, I have been providing mostly telehealth for my clients. However, I will have to go into my office every day upon moving into our home as the DSL Internet service will not be sufficient for telehealth visits. Further, my wife, a teacher in the Lancaster County School District, will also need access to high speed Internet as many students in the area opt for the virtual option for the school year. As you can see, without access to broadband services, we will be unable to do our jobs while remaining in quarantine, and further, especially in my case, I'll be forced to go out of home and into my office, facing potential exposure to the virus, simply because our Internet connection at home will not allow for telehealth work.

Students in the area, attending Van Wyck Elementary School, will need access to broadband for the online academy that starts in another month. Churches in the area have been unable to provide live streaming of their services during the pandemic because DSL does not meet the requirements for online platforms to function properly. Further, businesses are not easily attracted to the area because of the speed issue. Assessing high speed Internet is necessary in our digital world.

The town council of Van Wyck has worked with Comporium to develop a proposal that would bring high speed fiber Internet to every home within the town limits. However, as you are aware, adding this infrastructure is not without a cost. It is my understanding that through the CARES Act, there is funding available to help with adding the necessary infrastructure to areas currently underserved when it comes to broadband connections. The town has a plan in place and a service provider, Comporium, that can get the job done if the funds are awarded. However, the clock is ticking and Comporium will need to start the project by the first of August to have the buildout completed by the required date.

Please consider awarding funding to our town, one of the newest towns in South Carolina, to allow us to serve our community more effectively and remain safe during these challenging times.

Steven Clemons, Jr.
stevenclemonsjr@gmail.com
540-798-3255

August 9, 2020

Dear Comporium management,

This is a letter of support for the project to run broadband internet access to the rest of Van Wyck. Newer homes and developments already have broadband, but many older homes do not have fast reliable internet or cell service. This puts many of us at a disadvantage. Our students will have more trouble with homework and distance learning. Those of us who have the option to work at home find it frustrating and inefficient since we can't communicate well with our co workers.

Fast, reliable internet service has become a necessity in today's world.

Best Regards,

Laura Clark

5110 Old Hickory Road

August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Comporium is committed to bridging the digital divide within Lexington and Orangeburg Counties. We are excited to respond to the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project Application.

Please review the attached application which shares all the details. We are extremely excited about this project and look forward to the opportunity to work together as a partner and achieve success together. If you need clarification or further information concerning the application, please do not hesitate to contact me at greg.lunsford@comporium.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Charles G. Lunsford
Vice President – Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

www.comporium.com
330 East Black Street
P.O. Box 470
Rock Hill, SC 29731-6470

APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization PBT Telecom, Inc.

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0003-7177-09

Primary Contact Name Chris Moody

Title Regulatory Cost Analyst

Mailing Address 330 East Black Street

Phone Number 803-326-7255

City, State, Zip Rock Hill, SC 29715

Email chris.moody@comporium.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 09/01/2000

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 02/17/2020

- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience delivering broadband service over fiber or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

Project Area Information

County Lexington, Orangeburg

Rural or Urban Rural

Nearest City/Town Swansea, Woodford

Project Area Map Code Lexington 6

748	Number of Households in Project Area	*(Target code)*
14	Number of Businesses in Project Area	
0	Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area	
0	Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area	
0	Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area	

Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.

- [x] *Fiber to the Premises* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 1000/1000
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Fixed wireless* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *VDSL (25/3 Mbps or faster)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds

Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

Indicate all rate tiers for broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or faster will be offered to customers in the project area:

- [ ] Rates less than $10/month
- [ ] Rates between $10 - $14.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $15 - $19.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $20 - $24.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $25 - $34.99/month

Project Timeline and Milestones

Project Start Date 9/1/20

Project Construction Activity Begins 9/1/20

Project Construction Activity Complete 12/17/20

Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/17/20

Project Completion Date 12/17/20

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost $2,035,930

Upfront Cost Requirements 0

Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises $2,035,930

Average Cost per Location Served *(all locations or structures)* $2,672

Average Cost per Housing Unit $2,672

Average Cost per Business $2,672

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested $1,017,965

Applicant-Provided Funding $1,017,965

Third-Party Funding Amount

Source(s)

Additional Information

Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

PBT Telecom, Inc., a subsidiary of Comporium, Inc., is an independent telecommunications company located in Gilbert, South Carolina. Today, PBT Telecom, Inc. provides local telephone service, to voice customers and broadband to residential and business customers located in portions of Aiken, Calhoun, Edgefield, Lexington, Orangeburg, and Saluda Counties in rural South Carolina. Digital video and security are offered to residential and business customers through PBT-Communications, a subsidiary CLEC of Comporium, Inc., and sister company of PBT Telecom, Inc. Voice service is regulated by the South Carolina Public Service Commission; broadband services are not regulated. PBT Telecom, Inc. offers Digital Subscriber Line and Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) to both residential and business customers. DSL has four speed tiers to choose from: Package 1 Basic, (1.5Mbps/256Kbps), Standard (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). The FTTH product has four speed tiers: Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB.) Zipstream is an internet service offering that provides upload and download speeds of one Gigabit per second to customers. What makes Zipstream unique, is it consists of an all fiber delivery, the newest network equipment, and a robust path to the internet backbone that can carry large amounts of data. In addition to voice and broadband, security, and video are provided to customers by the non-regulated CLEC, PBT Communications. PBT Telecom, Inc. offers Metro Ethernet services that provide customers a redundant and secure way to transfer mission-critical data. PBT Telecom, Inc.'s Metro Ethernet service is a high-speed (10 Mbps to 10 Gbps) packet-based service that provides the transmission of point-to-point LAN or WAN data between a customer's locations. Metro Ethernet circuits can also be ordered to provide dedicated bandwidth to the Internet. Our Customer Network Operations Center offers technical support with proactive network monitoring of customer's Metro Ethernet circuits to ensure consistent, high-level performance. PBT Telecom, Inc.'s MPLS core network provides diverse and redundant IP routing that supports all of the customer facing services. PBT Telecom, Inc. uses a variety of last mile technologies to serve customers including xDSL and Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH). PBT Telecom, Inc. also operates a remote switch and has connections to Comporium, Inc. or one of its sister companies who provide equipment to operate voice, data and video networks. PBT Telecom, Inc. has been deploying FTTH networks since 2005. The PBT Telecom, Inc.'s remote switch homes to the Comporium, Inc. owned Rock Hill Class 5 Switch. The voice traffic from the remotes and all the data and video utilizes the redundant fiber connections to the Rock Hill host switch, core broadband network, and video headend. The Comporium, Inc. network connects the voice and data traffic to the world. Leveraging these assets at the parent company level provides some economies of scale to PBT Telecom, Inc. PBT Telecom, Inc. has one large business office in Gilbert, SC for its customers to purchase services from. Customers can come into the business office to provision service, pay bills, or ask questions to available service representatives. PBT Telecom, Inc. has a plant work center location that houses Installation and Repair groups, along with Facilities and Construction also operate out of this location. Each of PBT Telecom, Inc.'s 25 remote offices are designed and equipped to support the operation of communications networks. These remotes are equipped with sufficient battery backup in the event of an emergency.

Describe how your proposal meets CARES objectives as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

Woodford is located in the rural northwestern Orangeburg County, South Carolina close to the Lexington County Line. The total land area is roughly .79 square miles. The 2018 population is an estimated 164 citizens. The citizens of the area decided to incorporate and officially formed the town in 1891. Due to the rurality and location of the town limits of Woodford, delivering high speed internet with speeds of 25/3 has been challenging. Receiving CARES funding would provide the company with the needed funding to deliver sufficient broadband to customers. Currently the broadband infrastructure in place that serves end user customers is Digital Subscriber Line, (DSL). DSL is offered to customers at three speed tiers: Standard (Downstream / Upstream) - (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). This proposal will provide four high speed fiber speed tiers for customers to choose from Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB). Due to the rural location of Woodford, the town does not have any health care facilities in the town limits. Citizens battling the COVID-19 related illness travel to health care centers in Columbia, South Carolina or have options to seek medical assistance in Lexington or Orangeburg, South Carolina. Receiving CARES funding would provide high speed bandwidth citizens, so that they can perform virtual telehealth visits with health care facilities and hospitals. By providing increased telehealth options to the Town of Woodford, those impacted by COVID-19 will not have to leave their home when seeking medical assistance. This will reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others, while keeping healthcare workers safe at the same time. Telehealth options will also protect the elderly citizens who make up over 36% of the total population who are greatly at risk to catch COVID-19. COVID-19 has posed many challenges for the students who live in the Woodford area. The current poverty rate in the Orangeburg County School District is 84.79%. The Orangeburg County School District has implemented virtual school for all students in Woodford. The students in the District will virtual learn this fall until September 14, 2020 when they will re-evaluate their options for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Students who will be attending school virtually will greatly benefit from upgrading the current DSL infrastructure. Since the maximum DSL speed available to students is 11Mbps/1Mbps, virtual learning will be a challenge. Due to COVD-19, many DSLAMS that provide the DSL service are at full capacity and can no longer be expanded. Bandwidth has greatly increased now that entire families are working from home and attending school virtually from home. The CARES funding will allow the DSL infrastructure to be upgraded to fiber that will greatly alleviate the risk of students not being able to complete assignments on time. This upgraded technology will keep students on pace with their counterparts across other areas of the State and not be left behind.COVID-19 has drastically changed the typical workforce as we know it. Many companies have required employees to work from home since mid-March, once the pandemic began sweeping our state and nation. Those employees that once were working in a corporate environment had high speed broadband with redundancy. Having this type of broadband kept individual productivity high and cost low. Citizens who now work from home in Woodford are solely dependent on a DSL connection. These employees who are now being forced to work from home will be sharing bandwidth with their children who will be attending school virtually. With only maximum download speeds of 11Mbps/1Mbps, workers will face many challenges completing tasks due to the current DSL infrastructure that is in place. Individual workers who could be attending a virtual meeting, could miss vital details if the DSL connection becomes overloaded due to the increased burden on the network in the Woodford area. Individual residences who have parents working from home and children attending school virtually from that same dwelling will face challenges completing both corporate tasks and educational tasks. CARES funding will allow this DSL infrastructure to be upgraded with fiber to the residents in Woodford. Without this funding for upgrades, parents working from home will struggle to keep pace with co-workers and completing work related tasks as required by their employers. In reviewing the demographics of Woodford, thirty-six (36%) percent of the population is older than 60 years of age and thirty-one (31%) percent of the population is under than 20. This helps to reinforce the fact that there is a valid need for enhanced healthcare and educational resources for the population that resides in Woodford.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The proposal will greatly enhance the community of Woodford, South Carolina. The quality of life for families and businesses will increase long after this upgrade is completed. Parents will be able to work from home sufficiently and effectively. Work tasks will be completed in a timely fashion without being in the office. Employers will have confidence in their employee's ability to achieve maximum output knowing a fiber connection to their premise capable of gigabit speeds is available to them. Children will have the ability to take exams and complete homework assignments without their broadband connection being overwhelmed due to lack of bandwidth. Families will have the option to now stream a movie, where in the past this was not an option. Woodford, South Carolina has one industry in the town limits; Argo Screens. Fiber upgrades will help the area grow from an Economic Development prospective. It will now be much easier for town leaders to recruit technically astute types of industry to retain its young people and to create a more diversified and unified community. Companies, when looking to locate in this area will now see that DSL broadband has been upgraded with fiber optics. Community Anchor institutions such as Woodford Volunteer Fire Department and Woodford Community Center will have sufficient broadband to conduct activities. Small businesses will be able to have adequate broadband to perform operations. The overall impact of receiving CARES funding will have an everlasting impact on a small community and greatly enhance the lives of all citizens that reside within the Town of Woodford and the surrounding area.

Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Use additional pages if necessary.

PBT Telecom, Inc. is committed to assisting anyone in the proposed grant area with getting up to speed on digital literacy, especially those who have not previously had any Internet service and, as result, lack experience. PBT Telecom, Inc. plans to provide free Internet access at various community centers, public gathering locations and community anchor institutions (CAIs), along with informational posters, to allow residents to experience the capabilities of the new broadband connectivity available to them. PBT Telecom, Inc. has committed to produce and distribute educational and promotional programs and materials to the community regarding their new broadband service. We also plan on organizing events within the community to raise awareness of the educational resources and opportunities found Online that will become available to them.

Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

See attached bank letter.

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

County Road Permits and/or SC Highway Permits will be obtained prior to construction being performed.

Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:

1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

CERTIFICATION: The Applicant certifies that information included in this application is factual to their knowledge.

☑ Applicant agrees to comply with all applicable requirements and conditions contained in Subrecipient Agreement for Coronavirus Relief Funds

Signature:

Print Name of Signature: Charles G. Lunsford

Title of Signatory: Vice President - Regulatory Affairs

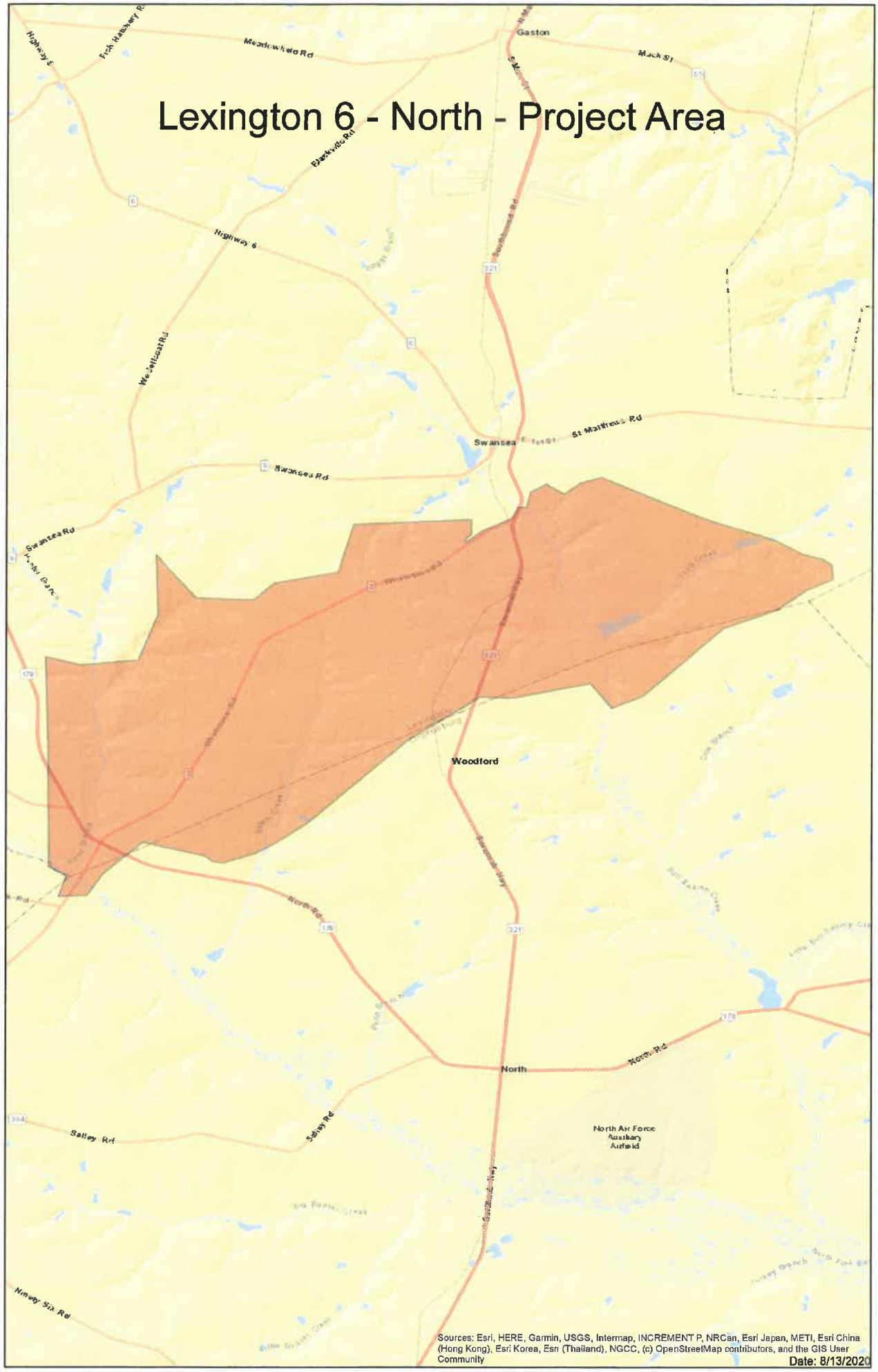
Date: August, 14, 2020

Renewal Terms. *Contingent upon extensions for the expenditure of CARES Act funds provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury and the State of South Carolina, this Agreement may be renewed as evidenced by written approval of both parties.*

All questions and completed applications should be submitted to Broadband@ors.sc.gov

Facsimile signatures and email signatures shall be as effective as original signatures to bind any party.

Lexington 6 - North - Project Area



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Date: 8/13/2020

August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Comporium is committed to bridging the digital divide within Lexington and Orangeburg Counties. We are excited to respond to the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project Application.

Please review the attached application which shares all the details. We are extremely excited about this project and look forward to the opportunity to work together as a partner and achieve success together. If you need clarification or further information concerning the application, please do not hesitate to contact me at greg.lunsford@comporium.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Charles G. Lunsford
Vice President – Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

www.comporium.com
330 East Black Street
P.O. Box 470
Rock Hill, SC 29731-6470

APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization PBT Telecom, Inc.

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0003-7177-09

Primary Contact Name Chris Moody

Title Regulatory Cost Analyst

Mailing Address 330 East Black Street

Phone Number 803-326-7255

City, State, Zip Rock Hill, SC 29715

Email chris.moody@comporium.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 09/01/2000

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 02/17/2020

- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience delivering broadband service over fiber or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

Project Area Information

County Lexington, Orangeburg

Rural or Urban Rural

Nearest City/Town Swansea, Woodford

Project Area Map Code Lexington 6

163	Number of Households in Project Area	*(Target code)*
9	Number of Businesses in Project Area	
0	Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area	
0	Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area	
0	Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area	

Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.

- [x] *Fiber to the Premises* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 1000/1000
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Fixed wireless* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *VDSL (25/3 Mbps or faster)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds

Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

Indicate all rate tiers for broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or faster will be offered to customers in the project area:

- [ ] Rates less than $10/month
- [ ] Rates between $10 - $14.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $15 - $19.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $20 - $24.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $25 - $34.99/month

Project Timeline and Milestones

Project Start Date 9/1/20

Project Construction Activity Begins 9/1/20

Project Construction Activity Complete 12/17/20

Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/17/20

Project Completion Date 12/17/20

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost $459,554

Upfront Cost Requirements 0

Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises $459,554

Average Cost per Location Served *(all locations or structures)* $2,672

Average Cost per Housing Unit $2,672

Average Cost per Business $2,672

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested $229,777

Applicant-Provided Funding $229,777

Third-Party Funding Amount

Source(s)

Additional Information

Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

PBT Telecom, Inc., a subsidiary of Comporium, Inc., is an independent telecommunications company located in Gilbert, South Carolina. Today, PBT Telecom, Inc. provides local telephone service, to voice customers and broadband to residential and business customers located in portions of Aiken, Calhoun, Edgefield, Lexington, Orangeburg, and Saluda Counties in rural South Carolina. Digital video and security are offered to residential and business customers through PBT-Communications, a subsidiary CLEC of Comporium, Inc., and sister company of PBT Telecom, Inc. Voice service is regulated by the South Carolina Public Service Commission; broadband services are not regulated. PBT Telecom, Inc. offers Digital Subscriber Line and Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) to both residential and business customers. DSL has four speed tiers to choose from: Package 1 Basic, (1.5Mbps/256Kbps), Standard (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). The FTTH product has four speed tiers: Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB.) Zipstream is an internet service offering that provides upload and download speeds of one Gigabit per second to customers. What makes Zipstream unique, is it consists of an all fiber delivery, the newest network equipment, and a robust path to the internet backbone that can carry large amounts of data. In addition to voice and broadband, security, and video are provided to customers by the non-regulated CLEC, PBT Communications. PBT Telecom, Inc. offers Metro Ethernet services that provide customers a redundant and secure way to transfer mission-critical data. PBT Telecom, Inc.'s Metro Ethernet service is a high-speed (10 Mbps to 10 Gbps) packet-based service that provides the transmission of point-to-point LAN or WAN data between a customer's locations. Metro Ethernet circuits can also be ordered to provide dedicated bandwidth to the Internet. Our Customer Network Operations Center offers technical support with proactive network monitoring of customer's Metro Ethernet circuits to ensure consistent, high-level performance. PBT Telecom, Inc.'s MPLS core network provides diverse and redundant IP routing that supports all of the customer facing services. PBT Telecom, Inc. uses a variety of last mile technologies to serve customers including xDSL and Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH). PBT Telecom, Inc. also operates a remote switch and has connections to Comporium, Inc. or one of its sister companies who provide equipment to operate voice, data and video networks. PBT Telecom, Inc. has been deploying FTTH networks since 2005. The PBT Telecom, Inc.'s remote switch homes to the Comporium, Inc. owned Rock Hill Class 5 Switch. The voice traffic from the remotes and all the data and video utilizes the redundant fiber connections to the Rock Hill host switch, core broadband network, and video headend. The Comporium, Inc. network connects the voice and data traffic to the world. Leveraging these assets at the parent company level provides some economies of scale to PBT Telecom, Inc. PBT Telecom, Inc. has one large business office in Gilbert, SC for its customers to purchase services from. Customers can come into the business office to provision service, pay bills, or ask questions to available service representatives. PBT Telecom, Inc. has a plant work center location that houses Installation and Repair groups, along with Facilities and Construction also operate out of this location. Each of PBT Telecom, Inc.'s 25 remote offices are designed and equipped to support the operation of communications networks. These remotes are equipped with sufficient battery backup in the event of an emergency.

Describe how your proposal meets CARES objectives as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

Woodford is located in the rural northwestern Orangeburg County, South Carolina close to the Lexington County Line. The total land area is roughly .79 square miles. The 2018 population is an estimated 164 citizens. The citizens of the area decided to incorporate and officially formed the town in 1891. Due to the rurality and location of the town limits of Woodford, delivering high speed internet with speeds of 25/3 has been challenging. Receiving CARES funding would provide the company with the needed funding to deliver sufficient broadband to customers. Currently the broadband infrastructure in place that serves end user customers is Digital Subscriber Line, (DSL). DSL is offered to customers at three speed tiers: Standard (Downstream / Upstream) - (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). This proposal will provide four high speed fiber speed tiers for customers to choose from Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB). Due to the rural location of Woodford, the town does not have any health care facilities in the town limits. Citizens battling the COVID-19 related illness travel to health care centers in Columbia, South Carolina or have options to seek medical assistance in Lexington or Orangeburg, South Carolina. Receiving CARES funding would provide high speed bandwidth citizens, so that they can perform virtual telehealth visits with health care facilities and hospitals. By providing increased telehealth options to the Town of Woodford, those impacted by COVID-19 will not have to leave their home when seeking medical assistance. This will reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others, while keeping healthcare workers safe at the same time. Telehealth options will also protect the elderly citizens who make up over 36% of the total population who are greatly at risk to catch COVID-19. COVID-19 has posed many challenges for the students who live in the Woodford area. The current poverty rate in the Orangeburg County School District is 84.79%. The Orangeburg County School District has implemented virtual school for all students in Woodford. The students in the District will virtual learn this fall until September 14, 2020 when they will re-evaluate their options for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Students who will be attending school virtually will greatly benefit from upgrading the current DSL infrastructure. Since the maximum DSL speed available to students is 11Mbps/1Mbps, virtual learning will be a challenge. Due to COVD-19, many DSLAMS that provide the DSL service are at full capacity and can no longer be expanded. Bandwidth has greatly increased now that entire families are working from home and attending school virtually from home. The CARES funding will allow the DSL infrastructure to be upgraded to fiber that will greatly alleviate the risk of students not being able to complete assignments on time. This upgraded technology will keep students on pace with their counterparts across other areas of the State and not be left behind.COVID-19 has drastically changed the typical workforce as we know it. Many companies have required employees to work from home since mid-March, once the pandemic began sweeping our state and nation. Those employees that once were working in a corporate environment had high speed broadband with redundancy. Having this type of broadband kept individual productivity high and cost low. Citizens who now work from home in Woodford are solely dependent on a DSL connection. These employees who are now being forced to work from home will be sharing bandwidth with their children who will be attending school virtually. With only maximum download speeds of 11Mbps/1Mbps, workers will face many challenges completing tasks due to the current DSL infrastructure that is in place. Individual workers who could be attending a virtual meeting, could miss vital details if the DSL connection becomes overloaded due to the increased burden on the network in the Woodford area. Individual residences who have parents working from home and children attending school virtually from that same dwelling will face challenges completing both corporate tasks and educational tasks. CARES funding will allow this DSL infrastructure to be upgraded with fiber to the residents in Woodford. Without this funding for upgrades, parents working from home will struggle to keep pace with co-workers and completing work related tasks as required by their employers. In reviewing the demographics of Woodford, thirty-six (36%) percent of the population is older than 60 years of age and thirty-one (31%) percent of the population is under than 20. This helps to reinforce the fact that there is a valid need for enhanced healthcare and educational resources for the population that resides in Woodford.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The proposal will greatly enhance the community of Woodford, South Carolina. The quality of life for families and businesses will increase long after this upgrade is completed. Parents will be able to work from home sufficiently and effectively. Work tasks will be completed in a timely fashion without being in the office. Employers will have confidence in their employee's ability to achieve maximum output knowing a fiber connection to their premise capable of gigabit speeds is available to them. Children will have the ability to take exams and complete homework assignments without their broadband connection being overwhelmed due to lack of bandwidth. Families will have the option to now stream a movie, where in the past this was not an option. Woodford, South Carolina has one industry in the town limits; Argo Screens. Fiber upgrades will help the area grow from an Economic Development prospective. It will now be much easier for town leaders to recruit technically astute types of industry to retain its young people and to create a more diversified and unified community. Companies, when looking to locate in this area will now see that DSL broadband has been upgraded with fiber optics. Community Anchor institutions such as Woodford Volunteer Fire Department and Woodford Community Center will have sufficient broadband to conduct activities. Small businesses will be able to have adequate broadband to perform operations. The overall impact of receiving CARES funding will have an everlasting impact on a small community and greatly enhance the lives of all citizens that reside within the Town of Woodford and the surrounding area.

Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Use additional pages if necessary.

PBT Telecom, Inc. is committed to assisting anyone in the proposed grant area with getting up to speed on digital literacy, especially those who have not previously had any Internet service and, as result, lack experience. PBT Telecom, Inc. plans to provide free Internet access at various community centers, public gathering locations and community anchor institutions (CAIs), along with informational posters, to allow residents to experience the capabilities of the new broadband connectivity available to them. PBT Telecom, Inc. has committed to produce and distribute educational and promotional programs and materials to the community regarding their new broadband service. We also plan on organizing events within the community to raise awareness of the educational resources and opportunities found Online that will become available to them.

Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

See attached bank letter.

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

County Road Permits and/or SC Highway Permits will be obtained prior to construction being performed.

Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:

1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

CERTIFICATION: The Applicant certifies that information included in this application is factual to their knowledge.

☑ Applicant agrees to comply with all applicable requirements and conditions contained in Subrecipient Agreement for Coronavirus Relief Funds

Signature:

Print Name of Signature: Charles G. Lunsford

Title of Signatory: Vice President - Regulatory Affairs

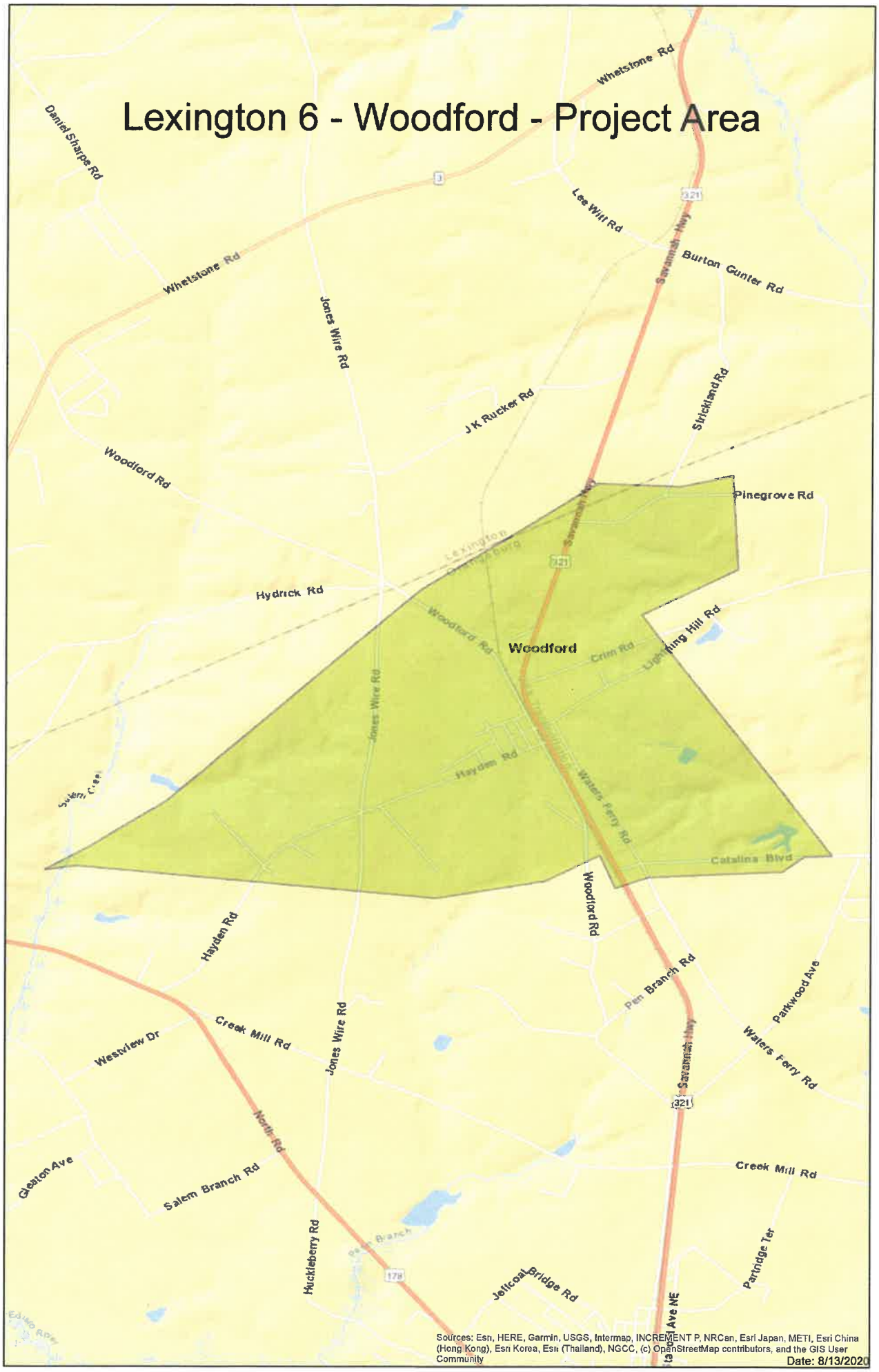
Date: August, 14, 2020

Renewal Terms. *Contingent upon extensions for the expenditure of CARES Act funds provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury and the State of South Carolina, this Agreement may be renewed as evidenced by written approval of both parties.*

All questions and completed applications should be submitted to Broadband@ors.sc.gov

Facsimile signatures and email signatures shall be as effective as original signatures to bind any party.

Lexington 6 - Woodford - Project Area



August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Comporium is committed to bridging the digital divide within Lexington, Calhoun, and Orangeburg Counties. We are excited to respond to the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project Application.

Please review the attached application which shares all the details. We are extremely excited about this project and look forward to the opportunity to work together as a partner and achieve success together. If you need clarification or further information concerning the application, please do not hesitate to contact me at greg.lunsford@comporium.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Charles G. Lunsford
Vice President – Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

www.comporium.com
330 East Black Street
P.O. Box 470
Rock Hill, SC 29731-6470

APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization PBT Telecom, Inc.

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0003-7177-09

Primary Contact Name Chris Moody | Title Regulatory Cost Analyst

Mailing Address 330 East Black Street | Phone Number 803-326-7255

City, State, Zip Rock Hill, SC 29715 | Email chris.moody@comporium.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 09/01/2000

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 02/17/2020

- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience delivering broadband service over fiber or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

Project Area Information

County Lexington, Calhoun, Orangeburg | Rural or Urban Rural

Nearest City/Town Swansea, Woodford | Project Area Map Code Lexington 7

1044	Number of Households in Project Area	*(Target code)*
21	Number of Businesses in Project Area	
1	Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area	
3	Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area	
0	Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area	

Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.

- [x] *Fiber to the Premises* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 1000/1000
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Fixed wireless* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *VDSL (25/3 Mbps or faster)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds

Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

Indicate all rate tiers for broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or faster will be offered to customers in the project area:

- [ ] Rates less than $10/month
- [ ] Rates between $10 - $14.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $15 - $19.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $20 - $24.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $25 - $34.99/month

Project Timeline and Milestones

Project Start Date 9/1/20

Project Construction Activity Begins 9/1/20

Project Construction Activity Complete 12/17/20

Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/17/20

Project Completion Date 12/17/20

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost $3,827,149

Upfront Cost Requirements 0

Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises $3,827,149

Average Cost per Location Served *(all locations or structures)* $3,594

Average Cost per Housing Unit $3,594

Average Cost per Business $3,594

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested $1,913,574.5

Applicant-Provided Funding $1,913,574.5

Third-Party Funding Amount

Source(s)

Additional Information

Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

PBT Telecom, Inc., a subsidiary of Comporium, Inc., is an independent telecommunications company located in Gilbert, South Carolina. Today, PBT Telecom, Inc. provides local telephone service, to voice customers and broadband to residential and business customers located in portions of Aiken, Calhoun, Edgefield, Lexington, Orangeburg, and Saluda Counties in rural South Carolina. Digital video and security are offered to residential and business customers through PBT-Communications, a subsidiary CLEC of Comporium, Inc., and sister company of PBT Telecom, Inc. Voice service is regulated by the South Carolina Public Service Commission; broadband services are not regulated. PBT Telecom, Inc. offers Digital Subscriber Line and Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) to both residential and business customers. DSL has four speed tiers to choose from: Package 1 Basic, (1.5Mbps/256Kbps), Standard (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). The FTTH product has four speed tiers: Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB.) Zipstream is an internet service offering that provides upload and download speeds of one Gigabit per second to customers. What makes Zipstream unique, is it consists of an all fiber delivery, the newest network equipment, and a robust path to the internet backbone that can carry large amounts of data. In addition to voice and broadband, security, and video are provided to customers by the non-regulated CLEC, PBT Communications. PBT Telecom, Inc. offers Metro Ethernet services that provide customers a redundant and secure way to transfer mission-critical data. PBT Telecom, Inc.'s Metro Ethernet service is a high-speed (10 Mbps to 10 Gbps) packet-based service that provides the transmission of point-to-point LAN or WAN data between a customer's locations. Metro Ethernet circuits can also be ordered to provide dedicated bandwidth to the Internet. Our Customer Network Operations Center offers technical support with proactive network monitoring of customer's Metro Ethernet circuits to ensure consistent, high-level performance. PBT Telecom, Inc.'s MPLS core network provides diverse and redundant IP routing that supports all of the customer facing services. PBT Telecom, Inc. uses a variety of last mile technologies to serve customers including xDSL and Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH). PBT Telecom, Inc. also operates a remote switch and has connections to Comporium, Inc. or one of its sister companies who provide equipment to operate voice, data and video networks. PBT Telecom, Inc. has been deploying FTTH networks since 2005. The PBT Telecom, Inc.'s remote switch homes to the Comporium, Inc. owned Rock Hill Class 5 Switch. The voice traffic from the remotes and all the data and video utilizes the redundant fiber connections to the Rock Hill host switch, core broadband network, and video headend. The Comporium, Inc. network connects the voice and data traffic to the world. Leveraging these assets at the parent company level provides some economies of scale to PBT Telecom, Inc. PBT Telecom, Inc. has one large business office in Gilbert, SC for its customers to purchase services from. Customers can come into the business office to provision service, pay bills, or ask questions to available service representatives. PBT Telecom, Inc. has a plant work center location that houses Installation and Repair groups, along with Facilities and Construction also operate out of this location. Each of PBT Telecom, Inc.'s 25 remote offices are designed and equipped to support the operation of communications networks. These remotes are equipped with sufficient battery backup in the event of an emergency.

Describe how your proposal meets CARES objectives as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

Woodford is located in the rural northwestern Orangeburg County, South Carolina close to the Lexington County Line. The total land area is roughly .79 square miles. The 2018 population is an estimated 164 citizens. The citizens of the area decided to incorporate and officially formed the town in 1891. Due to the rurality and location of the town limits of Woodford, delivering high speed internet with speeds of 25/3 has been challenging. Receiving CARES funding would provide the company with the needed funding to deliver sufficient broadband to customers. Currently the broadband infrastructure in place that serves end user customers is Digital Subscriber Line, (DSL). DSL is offered to customers at three speed tiers: Standard (Downstream / Upstream) - (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). This proposal will provide four high speed fiber speed tiers for customers to choose from Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB). Due to the rural location of Woodford, the town does not have any health care facilities in the town limits. Citizens battling the COVID-19 related illness travel to health care centers in Columbia, South Carolina or have options to seek medical assistance in Lexington or Orangeburg, South Carolina. Receiving CARES funding would provide high speed bandwidth citizens, so that they can perform virtual telehealth visits with health care facilities and hospitals. By providing increased telehealth options to the Town of Woodford, those impacted by COVID-19 will not have to leave their home when seeking medical assistance. This will reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others, while keeping healthcare workers safe at the same time. Telehealth options will also protect the elderly citizens who make up over 36% of the total population who are greatly at risk to catch COVID-19. COVID-19 has posed many challenges for the students who live in the Woodford area. The current poverty rate in the Orangeburg County School District is 84.79%. The Orangeburg County School District has implemented virtual school for all students in Woodford. The students in the District will virtual learn this fall until September 14, 2020 when they will re-evaluate their options for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Students who will be attending school virtually will greatly benefit from upgrading the current DSL infrastructure. Since the maximum DSL speed available to students is 11Mbps/1Mbps, virtual learning will be a challenge. Due to COVD-19, many DSLAMS that provide the DSL service are at full capacity and can no longer be expanded. Bandwidth has greatly increased now that entire families are working from home and attending school virtually from home. The CARES funding will allow the DSL infrastructure to be upgraded to fiber that will greatly alleviate the risk of students not being able to complete assignments on time. This upgraded technology will keep students on pace with their counterparts across other areas of the State and not be left behind. COVID-19 has drastically changed the typical workforce as we know it. Many companies have required employees to work from home since mid-March, once the pandemic began sweeping our state and nation. Those employees that once were working in a corporate environment had high speed broadband with redundancy. Having this type of broadband kept individual productivity high and cost low. Citizens who now work from home in Woodford are solely dependent on a DSL connection. These employees who are now being forced to work from home will be sharing bandwidth with their children who will be attending school virtually. With only maximum download speeds of 11Mbps/1Mbps, workers will face many challenges completing tasks due to the current DSL infrastructure that is in place. Individual workers who could be attending a virtual meeting, could miss vital details if the DSL connection becomes overloaded due to the increased burden on the network in the Woodford area. Individual residences who have parents working from home and children attending school virtually from that same dwelling will face challenges completing both corporate tasks and educational tasks. CARES funding will allow this DSL infrastructure to be upgraded with fiber to the residents in Woodford. Without this funding for upgrades, parents working from home will struggle to keep pace with co-workers and completing work related tasks as required by their employers. In reviewing the demographics of Woodford, thirty-six (36%) percent of the population is older than 60 years of age and thirty-one (31%) percent of the population is under than 20. This helps to reinforce the fact that there is a valid need for enhanced healthcare and educational resources for the population that resides in Woodford.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The proposal will greatly enhance the community of Woodford, South Carolina. The quality of life for families and businesses will increase long after this upgrade is completed. Parents will be able to work from home sufficiently and effectively. Work tasks will be completed in a timely fashion without being in the office. Employers will have confidence in their employee's ability to achieve maximum output knowing a fiber connection to their premise capable of gigabit speeds is available to them. Children will have the ability to take exams and complete homework assignments without their broadband connection being overwhelmed due to lack of bandwidth. Families will have the option to now stream a movie, where in the past this was not an option. Woodford, South Carolina has one industry in the town limits; Argo Screens. Fiber upgrades will help the area grow from an Economic Development prospective. It will now be much easier for town leaders to recruit technically astute types of industry to retain its young people and to create a more diversified and unified community. Companies, when looking to locate in this area will now see that DSL broadband has been upgraded with fiber optics. Community Anchor institutions such as Woodford Volunteer Fire Department and Woodford Community Center will have sufficient broadband to conduct activities. Small businesses will be able to have adequate broadband to perform operations. The overall impact of receiving CARES funding will have an everlasting impact on a small community and greatly enhance the lives of all citizens that reside within the Town of Woodford and the surrounding area.

Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Use additional pages if necessary.

PBT Telecom, Inc. is committed to assisting anyone in the proposed grant area with getting up to speed on digital literacy, especially those who have not previously had any Internet service and, as result, lack experience. PBT Telecom, Inc. plans to provide free Internet access at various community centers, public gathering locations and community anchor institutions (CAIs), along with informational posters, to allow residents to experience the capabilities of the new broadband connectivity available to them. PBT Telecom, Inc. has committed to produce and distribute educational and promotional programs and materials to the community regarding their new broadband service. We also plan on organizing events within the community to raise awareness of the educational resources and opportunities found Online that will become available to them.

Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

See attached bank letter.

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

County Road Permits and/or SC Highway Permits will be obtained prior to construction being performed.

Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:

1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

CERTIFICATION: The Applicant certifies that information included in this application is factual to their knowledge.

☑ Applicant agrees to comply with all applicable requirements and conditions contained in Subrecipient Agreement for Coronavirus Relief Funds

Signature:

Print Name of Signature: Charles G. Lunsford

Title of Signatory: Vice President - Regulatory Affairs

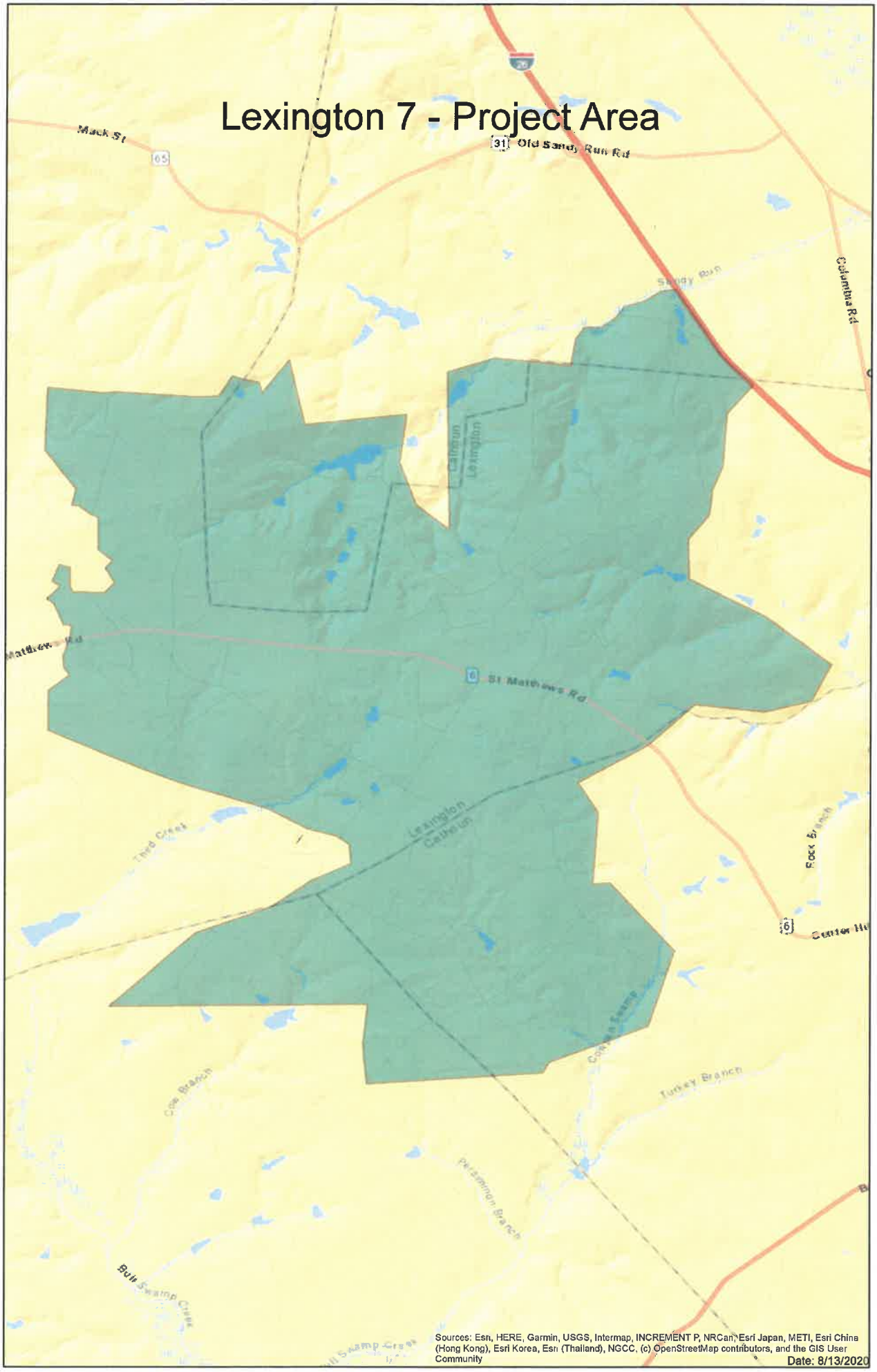
Date: August, 14, 2020

Renewal Terms. *Contingent upon extensions for the expenditure of CARES Act funds provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury and the State of South Carolina, this Agreement may be renewed as evidenced by written approval of both parties.*

All questions and completed applications should be submitted to Broadband@ors.sc.gov

Facsimile signatures and email signatures shall be as effective as original signatures to bind any party.

Lexington 7 - Project Area



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Date: 8/13/2020

August 14, 2020

Mr. Chris Rozycki
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Rozycki:

Comporium is committed to bridging the digital divide within Saluda County. We are excited to respond to the South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project Application.

Please review the attached application which shares all the details. We are extremely excited about this project and look forward to the opportunity to work together as a partner and achieve success together. If you need clarification or further information concerning the application, please do not hesitate to contact me at greg.lunsford@comporium.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Charles G. Lunsford
Vice President – Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

www.comporium.com
330 East Black Street
P.O. Box 470
Rock Hill, SC 29731-6470

APPLICATION

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization PBT Telecom, Inc.

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) 0003-7177-09

Primary Contact Name Chris Moody

Title Regulatory Cost Analyst

Mailing Address 330 East Black Street

Phone Number 803-326-7255

City, State, Zip Rock Hill, SC 29730

Email chris.moody@comporium.com

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission 09/01/2000

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission 02/17/2020

- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience delivering broadband service over fiber or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
- [x] Applicant and/or project Partner has experience building and operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

Project Area Information

County Saluda

Rural or Urban Rural

Nearest City/Town Ridge Spring & Ward

Project Area Map Code Saluda 9

257	Number of Households in Project Area	*(Target code)*
23	Number of Businesses in Project Area	
2	Number of Health Care Facilities in Project Area	
2	Number of Community Anchor Points in Project Area	
0	Number of Educational Institutions in Project Area	

Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.

- [x] *Fiber to the Premises* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 1000/1000
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Hybrid fiber-coax (non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *Fixed wireless* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- [ ] *VDSL (25/3 Mbps or faster)* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds

Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

Indicate all rate tiers for broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps or faster will be offered to customers in the project area:

- [ ] Rates less than $10/month
- [ ] Rates between $10 - $14.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $15 - $19.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $20 - $24.99/month
- [ ] Rates between $25 - $34.99/month

Project Timeline and Milestones

Project Start Date 9/1/20

Project Construction Activity Begins 9/1/20

Project Construction Activity Complete 12/17/20

Customer Premises Installations Complete 12/17/20

Project Completion Date 12/17/20

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost $2,270,940

Upfront Cost Requirements 0

Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises $2,270,940

Average Cost per Location Served *(all locations or structures)* $8,111

Average Cost per Housing Unit $8,111

Average Cost per Business $8,111

Project Funding Information

South Carolina CARES Act Funding Requested $1,135,470

Applicant-Provided Funding $1,135,470

Third-Party Funding Amount

Source(s)

Additional Information

Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

PBT Telecom, Inc., a subsidiary of Comporium, Inc., is an independent telecommunications company located in Gilbert, South Carolina. Today, PBT Telecom, Inc. provides local telephone service to voice customers and broadband to residential and business customers located in portions of Aiken, Calhoun, Edgefield, Lexington, Orangeburg, and Saluda Counties in rural South Carolina. Digital video and security are offered to residential and business customers through PBT-Communications, a subsidiary CLEC of Comporium, Inc., and sister company of PBT Telecom, Inc. Voice service is regulated by the South Carolina Public Service Commission; broadband services are not regulated. PBT Telecom, Inc. offers Digital Subscriber Line and Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) to both residential and business customers. DSL has four speed tiers to choose from: Package 1 Basic, (1.5Mbps/256Kbps), Standard (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). The FTTH product has four speed tiers: Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB.) Zipstream is an internet service offering that provides upload and download speeds of one Gigabit per second to customers. What makes Zipstream unique, is it consists of an all fiber delivery, the newest network equipment, and a robust path to the internet backbone that can carry large amounts of data. In addition to voice and broadband, security, and video are provided to customers by the non-regulated CLEC, PBT Communications. PBT Telecom, Inc. offers Metro Ethernet services that provide customers a redundant and secure way to transfer mission-critical data. PBT Telecom, Inc.'s Metro Ethernet service is a high-speed (10 Mbps to 10 Gbps) packet-based service that provides the transmission of point-to-point LAN or WAN data between a customer's locations. Metro Ethernet circuits can also be ordered to provide dedicated bandwidth to the Internet. Our Customer Network Operations Center offers technical support with proactive network monitoring of customer's Metro Ethernet circuits to ensure consistent, high-level performance. PBT Telecom, Inc.'s MPLS core network provides diverse and redundant IP routing that supports all of the customer facing services. PBT Telecom, Inc. uses a variety of last mile technologies to serve customers including xDSL and Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH). PBT Telecom, Inc. also operates a remote switch and has connections to Comporium, Inc. or one of its sister companies who provide equipment to operate voice, data and video networks. PBT Telecom, Inc. has been deploying FTTH networks since 2005. The PBT Telecom, Inc.'s remote switch homes to the Comporium, Inc. owned Rock Hill Class 5 Switch. The voice traffic from the remotes and all the data and video utilizes the redundant fiber connections to the Rock Hill host switch, core broadband network, and video headend. The Comporium, Inc. network connects the voice and data traffic to the world. Leveraging these assets at the parent company level provides some economies of scale to PBT Telecom, Inc. PBT Telecom, Inc. has one large business office in Gilbert, SC for its customers to purchase services from. Customers can come into the business office to provision service, pay bills, or ask questions to available service representatives. PBT Telecom, Inc. has a plant work center location that houses Installation and Repair groups, along with Facilities and Construction also operate out of this location. Each of PBT Telecom, Inc.'s 25 remote offices are designed and equipped to support the operation of communications networks. These remotes are equipped with sufficient battery backup in the event of an emergency.

Describe how your proposal meets CARES objectives as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The Ridge Spring/Ward Area is located in the Saluda County, South Carolina close to the Aiken, Lexington, and Edgefield County Lines. The total land area of Ridge Spring is roughly 1.85 square miles and the total land area of Ward is .78 roughly square miles. The 2019 population of Ridge Spring is an estimated 748 citizens and the 2019 population of Ward is an estimated 93 citizens. The citizens of Ridge Spring area decided to incorporate and officially form the town in December 1882. The citizens of the Ward area decided to incorporate and officially form the area into a town. Due to the rurality and location of the Ridge Spring/Ward area, delivering high speed internet with speeds of 25/3 has been challenging. Receiving CARES funding would provide the company with the needed funding to deliver sufficient broadband to customers. Currently the broadband infrastructure in place that serves end user customers is Digital Subscriber Line, (DSL). DSL is offered to customers at three speed tiers: Standard (Downstream / Upstream) - (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). This proposal will provide four high speed fiber speed tiers for customers to choose from Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB). The Town of Ridge Spring has a health care facility but lacks advanced diagnostic equipment. Due to the rural location of Ward, the town does not have any health care facilities. Citizens battling the COVID-19 related illness travel to health care centers in Columbia, South Carolina or have options to seek medical assistance in Aiken, Lexington or Greenwood, South Carolina. Receiving CARES funding would allow high speed bandwidth citizens, so that they can perform virtual telehealth visits with health care facilities and hospitals. By providing increased telehealth options to the Town of Ridge Spring and Ward, those impacted by COVID-19 will not have to leave their home when seeking medical assistance. This will reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others, while keeping healthcare workers safe at the same time. Telehealth options will also protect the elderly citizens who make up over 36% of the total population who are greatly at risk to catch COVID-19. COVID-19 has posed many challenges for the students who live in the Ridge Spring/Ward area. For students attending the Aiken County School District, the District has implemented virtual school for all students in this portion of Saluda County for three days a week and in class on two days a week. The poverty index for students within the Aiken County School District is 63.52%. For students attending Saluda County Schools, the students have an option of attending two days a week and two virtual days, along with full virtual schools as an option. The poverty index for students within the Saluda County School District is 77.06%. Students who will be attending school virtually will greatly benefit from upgrading the current DSL infrastructure. Since the maximum DSL speed available to students is 11Mbps/1Mbps, virtual learning will be a challenge. Due to COVD-19, many DSLAMS that provide the DSL service are at full capacity and can no longer be expanded. Bandwidth has greatly increased now that entire families are working from home and attending school virtually from home. The CARES funding will allow the DSL infrastructure to be upgraded to fiber. This will greatly alleviate the risk of students not being able to complete assignments on time. This upgraded technology will keep students on pace with their counterparts across other areas of the State and not be left behind. COVID-19 has drastically changed the typical workforce as we know it. Many companies have required employees to work from home since mid-March, once the pandemic began sweeping our state and nation. Those employees that once were working in a corporate environment had high speed broadband with redundancy. Having this type of broadband kept individual productivity high and cost low. Citizens who now work from home in the Ridge Spring/Ward Area are solely dependent on a DSL connection. These employees who are now being forced to work from home will be sharing bandwidth with their children who will be attending school virtually. With only maximum download speeds of 11Mbps/1Mbps, workers will face many challenges completing tasks due to the current DSL infrastructure that is in place. Individual workers who could be attending a virtual meeting, could miss vital details if the DSL connection becomes overloaded due to the increased burden on the network in the Ridge Spring/Ward area. Individual residences who have parents working from home and children attending school virtually from that same dwelling will face challenges completing both corporate tasks and educational tasks. CARES funding will allow this DSL infrastructure to be overbuilt with fiber to these residents in the Ridge Spring/Ward area. Without this funding for upgrades, parents working from home will struggle to keep pace with co-workers and completing work related tasks as required by their employers.

Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines." Use additional pages if necessary.

The proposal will greatly enhance the communities of Ridge Spring/Ward, South Carolina. The quality of life for families and businesses will increase long after this upgrade is completed. Parents will be able to work from home sufficiently and effectively. Work tasks will be completed in a timely fashion without being in the office. Employers will have confidence in their employee's ability to achieve maximum output knowing a fiber connection to their premise capable of gigabit speeds is available to them. Children will have the ability to take exams and complete homework assignments without their broadband connection being overwhelmed due to lack of bandwidth. Families will have the option to now stream a movie, where in the past this was not an option. The general Ridge Spring and Ward areas, are predominately and seasonal and agricultural in nature. They have no industry within their respective jurisdictions. This project will help the area grow from an Economic Development prospective on their industrial site that has sat dormant for the past fifteen plus years. It will now be much easier for town leaders to recruit technically astute types of industry to retain its young people and to create a more diversified and unified community. Companies, when looking to locate in this area will now see that DSL broadband has been upgraded with fiber optics. Community Anchor institutions such as the Ridge Spring Volunteer Fire Department and Community/Arts Center will have sufficient broadband to conduct activities. Small businesses will be able to have adequate broadband to perform operations. The overall impact of receiving CARES funding will have an everlasting impact on a small community and greatly enhance the lives of all citizens that reside within the Towns of Ridge Spring and Ward, and the surrounding area.

Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Use additional pages if necessary.

PBT-Telecom, Inc. is committed to assisting anyone in the proposed grant area with getting up to speed on digital literacy, especially those who have not previously had any Internet service and, as result, lack experience. PBT Telecom, Inc. plans to provide free Internet access at various community centers, public gathering locations and community anchor institutions (CAIs), along with informational posters, to allow residents to experience the capabilities of the new broadband connectivity available to them. PBT Telecom, Inc. has committed to produce and distribute educational and promotional programs and materials to the community regarding their new broadband service. We also plan on organizing events within the community to raise awareness of the educational resources and opportunities found Online that will become available to them.

Provide documents to establish proof that your organization has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

See attached bank letter.

List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

County Road Permits and/or SC Highway Permits will be obtained prior to construction being performed.

Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to Application:

1. Map of Project Area (PDF and Shapefile formats)
2. Letters of support evidencing community need for project
3. Any additional information evidencing community need for project

Certification and Signature

CERTIFICATION: The Applicant certifies that information included in this application is factual to their knowledge.

☑ Applicant agrees to comply with all applicable requirements and conditions contained in Subrecipient Agreement for Coronavirus Relief Funds

Signature:

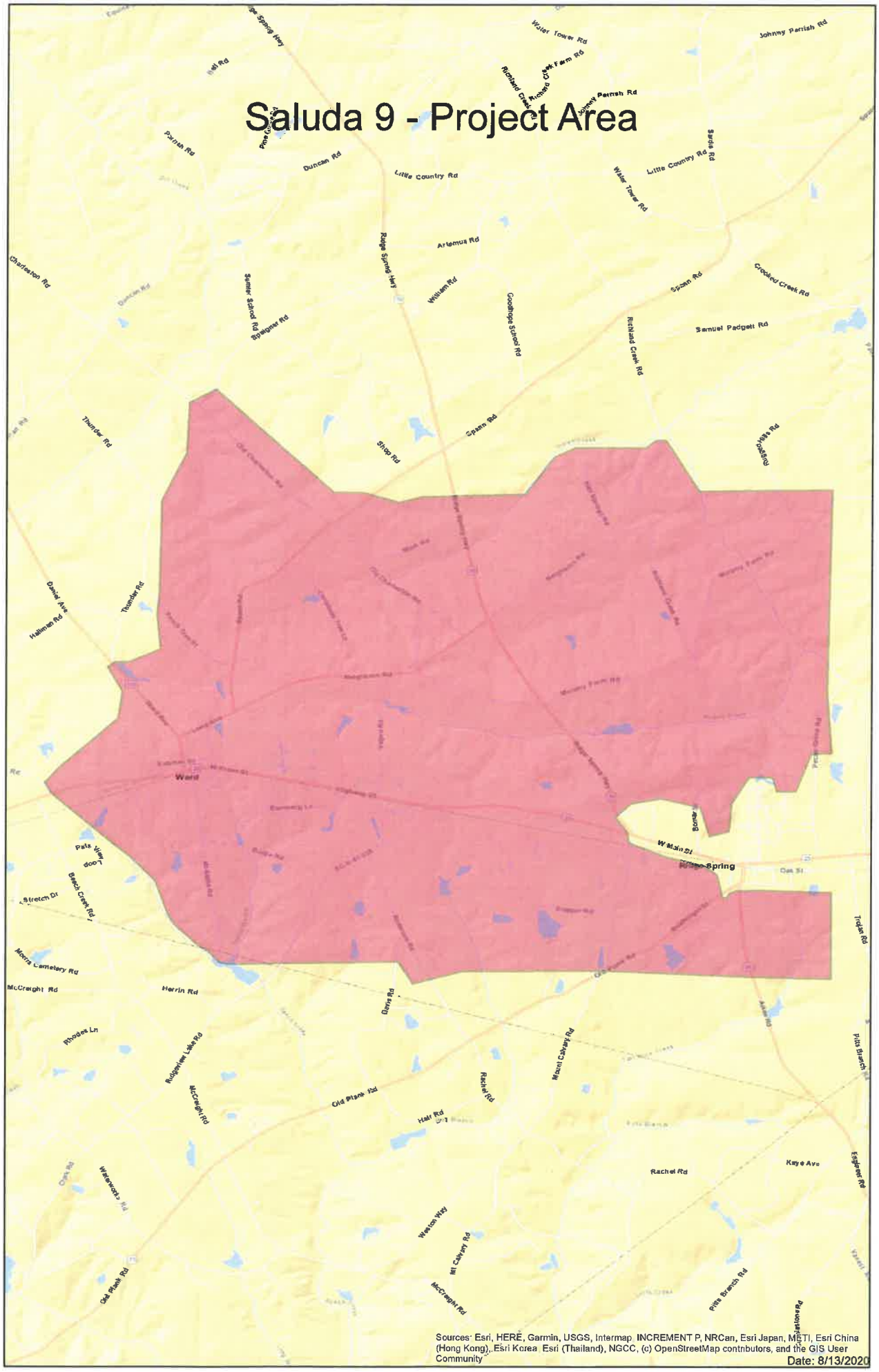
Print Name of Signature: Charles G. Lunsford

Title of Signatory: Vice President - Regulatory Affairs

Date: August 14, 2020

Renewal Terms. *Contingent upon extensions for the expenditure of CARES Act funds provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury and the State of South Carolina, this Agreement may be renewed as evidenced by written approval of both parties.*

All questions and completed applications should be submitted to Broadband@ors.sc.gov

Facsimile signatures and email signatures shall be as effective as original signatures to bind any party.

Saluda 9 - Project Area