



## APPLICATION

# South Carolina 2021 Rural Broadband Grant Program

### Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN)

Primary Contact Name

Title

Mailing Address

Phone Number

City, State, Zip

Email

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### Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission

Applicant and/or Project Partner has Experience:

- Delivering broadband service via fiber and/or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
- Delivering broadband service via fixed wireless infrastructure
- Building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
- Operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

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### Project Area Information

#### Eligible County Impact

Counties  
(list)

Cities/Towns/Municipalities  
(list)

Households

Businesses

Health Care Facilities

Community Anchor Institutions

Educational Institutions

## Contiguous County Impact

Counties  
(list)

Cities/Towns/Municipalities  
(list)

Households

Businesses

Health Care Facilities

Community Anchor Institutions

Educational Institutions

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## Broadband Infrastructure Information

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

- Fiber to the Premises* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
- Hybrid fiber-coax* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds  
(*symmetrical upload/download speeds*)
- Hybrid fiber-coax* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds  
(*non-symmetrical upload/download speeds*)
- Fixed wireless* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds

### Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

Indicate all rate tiers for wireline projects of at least 100/20 Mbps or fixed wireless at 50/5 Mbps or faster that will be offered to customers in the project area:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates less than \$10/month         | <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$20 - \$24.99/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$10 - \$14.99/month | <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$25 - \$34.99/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$15 - \$19.99/month |   |

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### Project Timeline

Project Start Date	Customer Premises
Project Construction Activity Begins	<i>Installations Begin</i>
Project Construction Activity Complete	<i>Installations End</i>
	Overall Project Completion Date

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### Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost	Average Cost per Location Served <i>(all locations or structures)</i>
Upfront Cost Requirements	
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises	Average Cost per Housing Unit
	Average Cost per Business

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### Project Funding Information

South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program Funds requested (\$)

Applicant-Provided Funding (\$)

#### Non-Public Funding

Amount (\$)

Source(s)



## Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to application:

- Map of project area (*PDF and Shapefile formats*)
- Letters of support evidencing community need and strategic partnerships
- Any additional information evidencing community need for project
- Most recent FCC Form 477 filing

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## Certification and Signature

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

**Signature:**

**Print Name of Signatory:**

**Title of Signatory:**

**Date:**

*All questions and completed applications should be submitted to [Broadband@ORS.SC.GOV](mailto:Broadband@ORS.SC.GOV)*

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

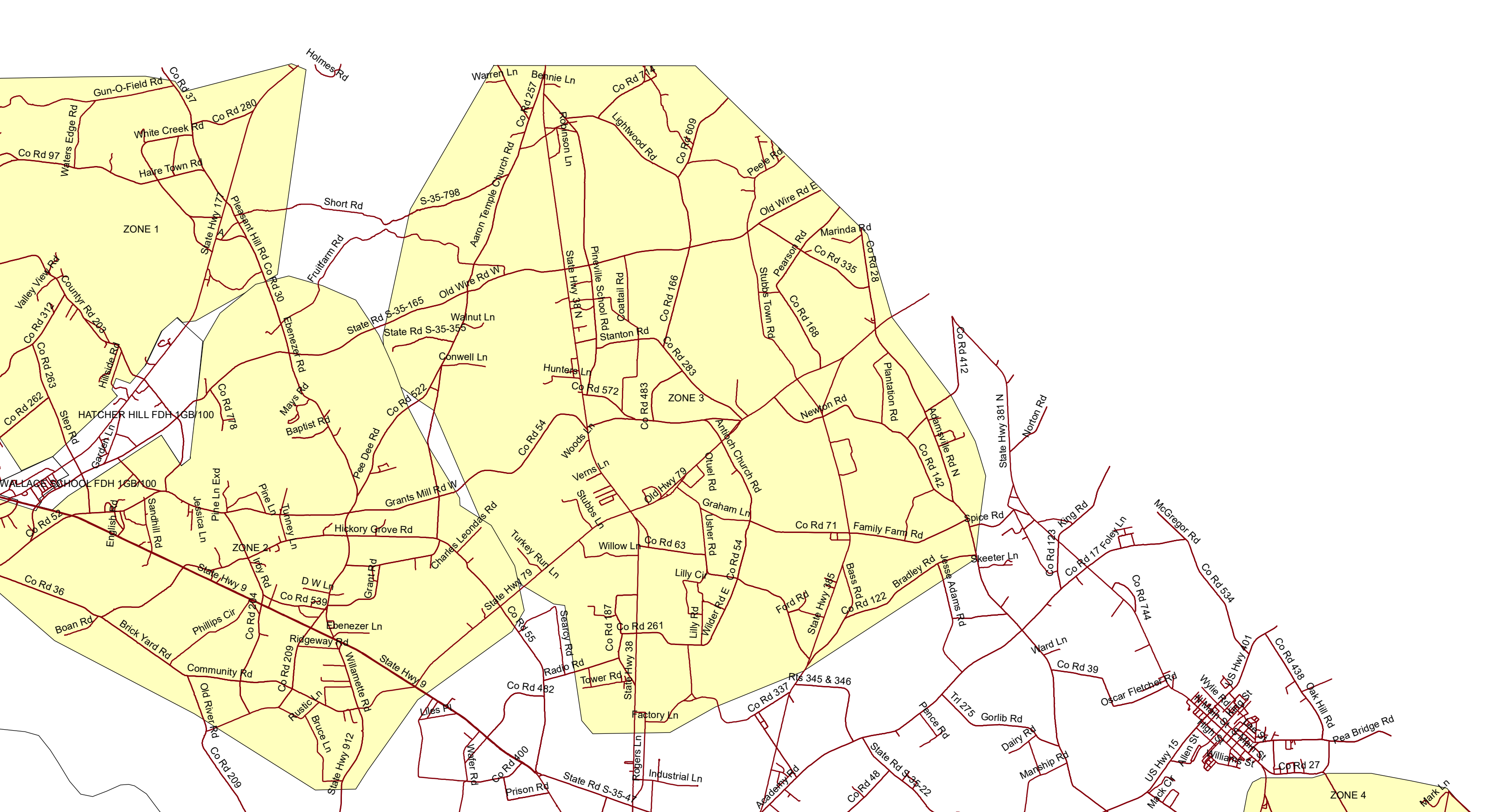


**South Carolina**  
Department of Commerce  
*Just right for business.*

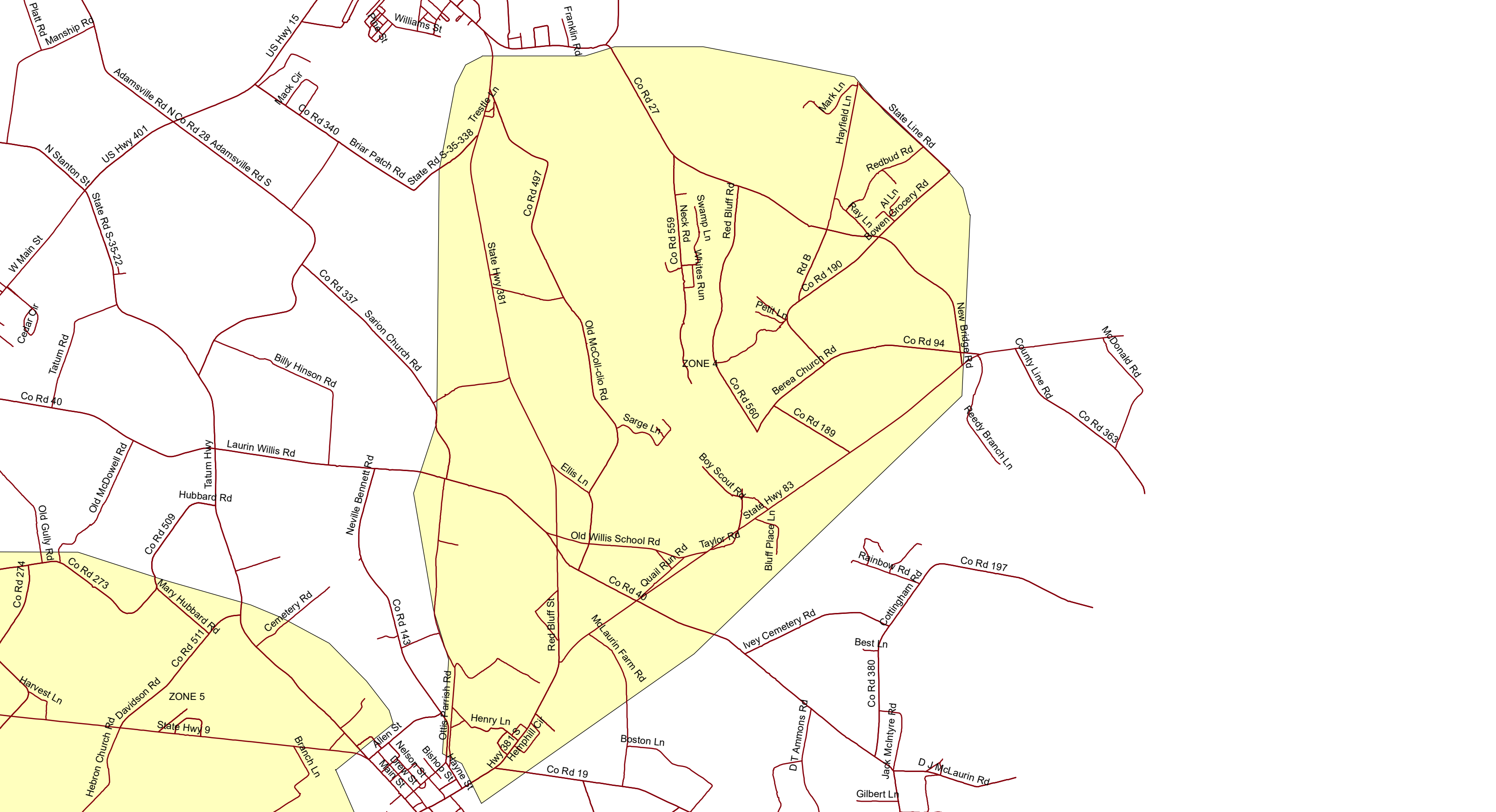












Platt Rd  
Manship Rd

US Hwy 401  
Adamsville Rd N  
Co Rd 28  
Adamsville Rd S

N Stanton St  
State Rd S-35-22-72  
W Main St

Cedar Cir  
Tatum Rd

Co Rd 40  
Old McDowell Rd

Hubbard Rd  
Tatum Hwy

Co Rd 274  
Co Rd 273  
Mary Hubbard Rd

Harvest Ln  
Hebron Church Rd  
Davidson Rd

Co Rd 511  
Cemetery Rd

State Hwy 9  
Branch Ln

US Hwy 15  
Mack Cir  
Co Rd 340

Briar Patch Rd  
State Rd S-35-338  
Trestle Ln

Co Rd 337  
Saron Church Rd

Billy Hinson Rd

Laurin Willis Rd

Hubbard Rd  
Neville Bennett Rd

Co Rd 509  
Cemetery Rd

Co Rd 143  
Otis Parrish Rd

State Hwy 9  
Allen St  
Nelson St  
Brew St  
Neil St

Branch Ln

Williams St  
Franklin Rd

Co Rd 497  
State Hwy 381

Old Willis School Rd

Ellis Ln

Old Willis School Rd

Quail Run Rd  
Taylor Rd

Co Rd 46  
McLaurin Farm Rd

Henry Ln  
Hwy 38  
Hempill Cir

Co Rd 19  
Boston Ln

Co Rd 19

Franklin Rd

Co Rd 27  
Mark Ln  
Hayfield Ln

Redbud Rd  
Ray Ln  
Al Ln  
Bowen Grocery Rd

Co Rd 190  
Rd B

Co Rd 94  
Berea Church Rd

Co Rd 189  
Boy Scout Rd

State Hwy 83  
Bluff Place Ln

Co Rd 197  
Rainbow Rd  
Cottingham Rd

Ivey Cemetery Rd  
Best Ln  
Co Rd 380

D T Ammons Rd  
Jack McIntyre Rd  
D J McLaurin Rd  
Gilbert Ln

Swamp Ln  
Neck Rd  
Maites Run

Co Rd 559

Red Bluff Rd

Pett Ln

Co Rd 560

Co Rd 189

Bluff Place Ln

Co Rd 197

Ivey Cemetery Rd

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D T Ammons Rd  
Jack McIntyre Rd  
D J McLaurin Rd  
Gilbert Ln

D T Ammons Rd

State Line Rd

Reedy Branch Ln

County Line Rd

McDonald Rd

Co Rd 363

Co Rd 197

Ivey Cemetery Rd

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Co Rd 380

D T Ammons Rd  
Jack McIntyre Rd  
D J McLaurin Rd  
Gilbert Ln

D T Ammons Rd

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McDonald Rd

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McDonald Rd

Co Rd 363

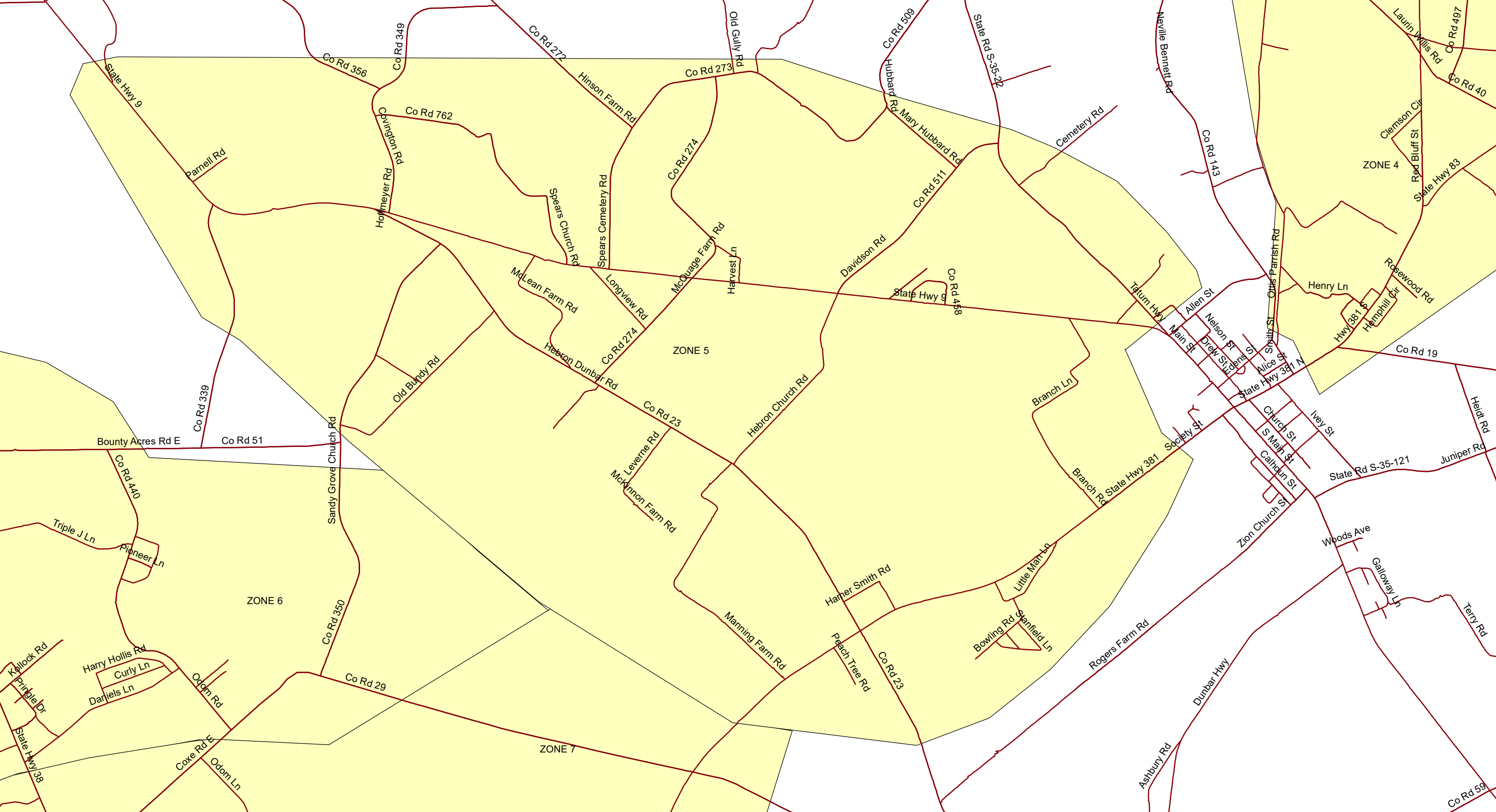
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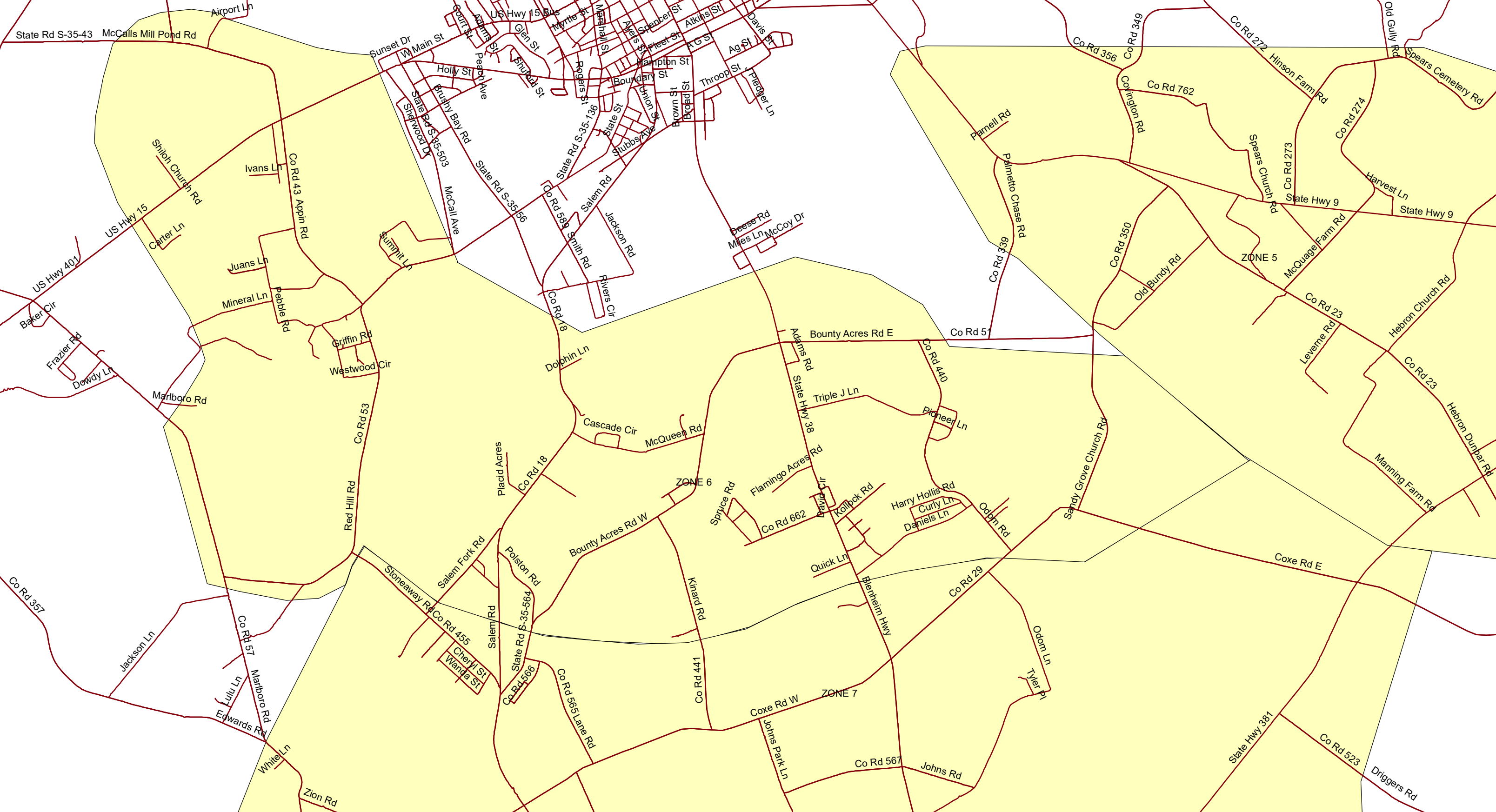
Ivey Cemetery Rd

Best Ln  
Co Rd 380

D T Ammons Rd  
Jack McIntyre Rd  
D J McLaurin Rd  
Gilbert Ln

D T Ammons Rd





State Rd S-35-43 McCall's Mill Pond Rd

US Hwy 15

US Hwy 40

Frazier Rd

Co Rd 357

Zion Rd

Airport Ln

Shiloh Church Rd

Juans Ln

Marlboro Rd

Co Rd 157

Edwards Rd

White Ln

McCall Ave

Co Rd 43 Appin Rd

Mineral Ln

Westwood Cir

Co Rd 157

Marlboro Rd

White Ln

Sunset Dr

State Rd S-35-503

Summit Ln

Griffin Rd

Co Rd 53

Red Hill Rd

Co Rd 157

Edwards Rd

White Ln

W Main St

State Rd S-35-503

Summit Ln

Griffin Rd

Co Rd 53

Red Hill Rd

Co Rd 157

Edwards Rd

White Ln

US Hwy 15 Bus

State Rd S-35-503

Summit Ln

Griffin Rd

Co Rd 53

Red Hill Rd

Co Rd 157

Edwards Rd

White Ln

Glen St

State Rd S-35-503

Summit Ln

Griffin Rd

Co Rd 53

Red Hill Rd

Co Rd 157

Edwards Rd

White Ln

Myrtle St

State Rd S-35-503

Summit Ln

Griffin Rd

Co Rd 53

Red Hill Rd

Co Rd 157

Edwards Rd

White Ln

Marshall St

State Rd S-35-503

Summit Ln

Griffin Rd

Co Rd 53

Red Hill Rd

Co Rd 157

Edwards Rd

White Ln

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State Rd S-35-503

Summit Ln

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Co Rd 53

Red Hill Rd

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ZONE 6

ZONE 7

ZONE 5

State Rd S-35-43

US Hwy 15

US Hwy 40

Frazier Rd

Co Rd 357

Zion Rd

Airport Ln

Shiloh Church Rd

Juans Ln

Marlboro Rd

Co Rd 157

Edwards Rd

White Ln

McCall Ave

Co Rd 43 Appin Rd

Mineral Ln

Westwood Cir

Co Rd 157

Marlboro Rd

White Ln

Sunset Dr

State Rd S-35-503

Summit Ln

Griffin Rd

Co Rd 53

Red Hill Rd

Co Rd 157

Edwards Rd

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W Main St

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Co Rd 53

Red Hill Rd

Co Rd 157

Edwards Rd

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US Hwy 15 Bus

State Rd S-35-503

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Griffin Rd

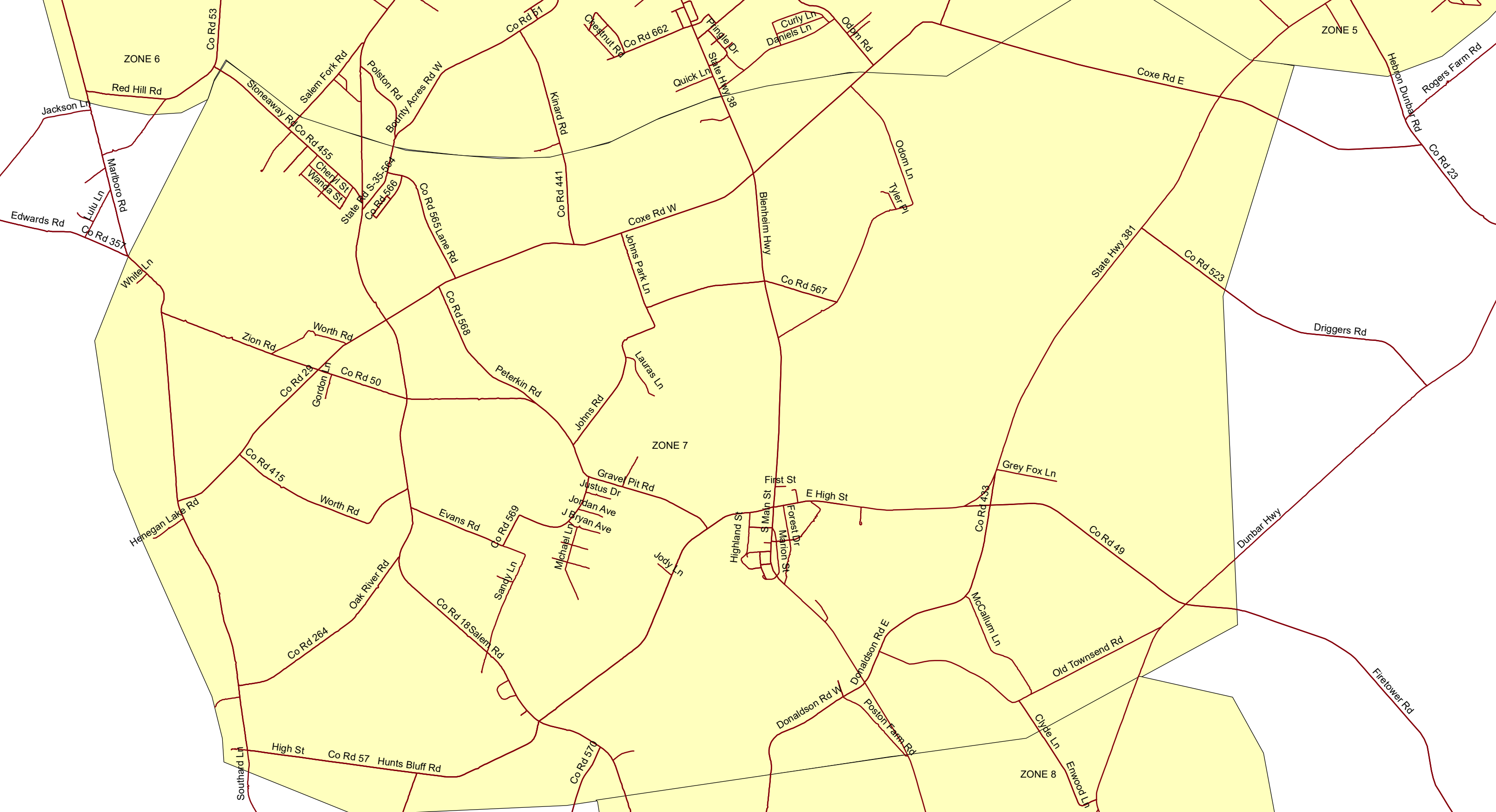
Co Rd 53

Red Hill Rd

Co Rd 157

Edwards Rd

White Ln



ZONE 6

ZONE 5

ZONE 7

ZONE 8

Co Rd 53

Co Rd 51

Co Rd 662

State Hwy 38

Curly Ln

Daniels Ln

Odom Rd

Coxe Rd E

Hebron Dunbar Rd

Rogers Farm Rd

Co Rd 23

Jackson Ln

Red Hill Rd

Stoneaway Rd

Salem Fork Rd

Polston Rd

Bounty Acres Rd W

Kinard Rd

Chestnut Rd

Quick Ln

State Hwy 38

Curly Ln

Daniels Ln

Odom Rd

Odom Ln

Edwards Rd

Lulu Ln

Marble Co Rd

Co Rd 357

Cheryl St

Wanda St

State Rd S-35-594

Co Rd 506

Co Rd 565 Lane Rd

Co Rd 441

Coxe Rd W

Johns Park Ln

Blenheim Hwy

Co Rd 567

Tyler Pl

State Hwy 381

Co Rd 523

Driggers Rd

White Ln

Zion Rd

Worth Rd

Co Rd 29

Gordon Ln

Co Rd 50

Co Rd 568

Peterkin Rd

Lauras Ln

Johns Rd

Grey Fox Ln

Henegan Lake Rd

Co Rd 415

Worth Rd

Evans Rd

Co Rd 569

Gravel Pit Rd

Justus Dr

Jordan Ave

J Bryan Ave

Michael Ln

Jody Ln

Highland St

First St

S Main St

Marion St

Forest Dr

E High St

Co Rd 433

Co Rd 49

Dunbar Hwy

Southard Ln

High St

Co Rd 57

Hunts Bluff Rd

Co Rd 570

Donaldson Rd W

Donaldson Rd E

Poston Farm Rd

McCallum Ln

Old Townsend Rd

Firetower Rd

Clyde Ln

Enwood Ln





# City of Bennettsville

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 1036

Bennettsville, South Carolina 29512

April 19, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

Please let this serve as a letter of support for the Sandhill Telephone Cooperative's second phase application for CARES Act funding of the broadband upgrade in Marlboro County.

The City of Bennettsville is fortunate to have an existing cable television franchise with Sandhill Connexions, LLC and many city residents enjoy the benefits provided as part of this service. However, the current Pandemic environment has created special and additional needs for citizens inside and outside the City of Bennettsville in terms of broadband access. Most important is the continuing need for a major online component in our schools that will require improvements in infrastructure to meet demands. Without these improvements, many children will have limited access to education.

With limited revenue combined with decreasing growth, the City of Bennettsville must rely heavily on grant funding for its infrastructure and utility improvements and we are a good example of how grant funding can make a real difference. This CARES Act funding will make the difference in broadband infrastructure improvements.

Again, we fully support Sandhill Telephone Cooperative's application for CARES Act funding for infrastructure improvement and extension in Marlboro County. Please contact Mayor Carolyn Prince or Max Alderman at 843.479.9001 for additional comments if needed.

Sincerely,

Mayor Carolyn A. Prince, Ph. D.

City Administrator, Max Alderman

SOUTH CAROLINA'S FIRST "GREAT" TOWN  
"Governor's Rural Economic Achievement Trophy"

**Jason K. Steen,**  
*County Council Chairman*

**Corrie H. Plato,**  
*County Council Vice-Chair*



**J. Ronald Munnerlyn, Jr.,**  
*County Administrator &  
Economic Developer*

## **MARLBORO COUNTY** **Government**

April 16, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Sandhill Telephone Cooperative's applications for CARES Act funding for Phase Two broadband infrastructure extension in Marlboro County. These applications were prepared in partnership with Marlboro County Administrator Ron Munnerlyn and have the full support of County Council. Sandhill is an experienced, not-for-profit, internet provider currently serving Marlboro County. Their experience and community-centered approach make them the perfect partner for this project.

Unlike other counties that may be classified as underserved, broadband access in Marlboro County is virtually nonexistent with only .6% (point six) of households having access. In fact, we are ranked worst in the state in this regard. With the announcement that schools in Marlboro County will have a significant "online" component for the fall semester, the need for broadband access is even more critical. The telemedicine and "work-from-home" needs of our county are also significant. (Note that "quick fixes" providing temporary broadband access via cellular-based hot spots are not effective as cell tower coverage is also very limited in our county.)

The decision to break the state into "blocks" puts Marlboro County and other rural unserved areas at a serious disadvantage. Extension of the limited existing broadband infrastructure almost always is originated from some central point in these counties, requiring one block to be traversed to serve an outlying block. Furthermore, with little or no competition between providers and a very low population density, there is a slim chance of any provider seeing a return on investment for infrastructure expansion. Therefore, a county-wide grant for low population, rural counties is the only opportunity for broadband access improvement.

In light of the decision to consider applications block by block, it is counterintuitive to use county-wide school statistics instead of block statistics. The applications are heavily weighted towards counties with student poverty percentages in excess of 86% - our county's student poverty statistics are at 85.3%. If considered block by block (like every other criteria), half of Marlboro County's blocks exhibit student poverty far in excess of the 86% number.

April 16, 2021  
Page Two

In closing, we reiterate our full support for Sandhill's grant applications and ask that you consider our situation and the points made above in your evaluation of these requests. Please feel free to contact County Administrator Ron Munnery at 843-439-0238 if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



Jason Steen, Council Chair





John R. Nobles, MD, Chairman  
Lindsay M. Woodberry, Pharm D, Vice-Chairman  
Leslie Herndon, MBA-HIM, RT (R)(T), Secretary  
Joseph C. Breeden, Jr., Treasurer  
Barry Avent  
Casey Blackmon, DVM  
Sully Blair  
D. Gail Cain, FNP  
Wayne Easterling, RN  
Brittany Jones  
Joe Kinney, MSW, LISW  
George McIntyre  
Ansley A Moore  
Jane B. Rogers  
Dawn M. Seals  
Doc Stillwell

April 19, 2021

South Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Project  
Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security or "CARES Act"

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Sandhill Telephone Cooperative's application for a second round of CARES Act funding for continued broadband infrastructure expansion in Marlboro County. I serve as past Chairman and current acting Executive Director of the Board of Directors of the Marlboro County General Hospital, a private foundation created in 1982, and as a past member of the Scotland Health Care System Board of Trustees, a system based in Laurinburg, NC that has been providing access to primary and specialty care physicians in Marlboro County for over 15 years.

Less than a month ago, I was one of the many residents of Marlboro County who relied on broadband access via cellular-based hot spots which is a very unreliable system. Many folks are still required to work from home as much as possible. Schools are trying to return to normal schedule, but many students may still need to rely on some "online" classes. The service limitations of cell tower coverage in our county make this source of internet connection extremely unreliable and creates an extremely poor working and learning environment. I have recently benefited from the first round of the Sandhill's broadband expansion and can attest to many benefits and cost savings this infrastructure expansion project provides. Continued expansion will enhance the distance learning capabilities of our school system and allow our citizens to fulfill their job duties effectively.

Limited access to health care is another great concern for Marlboro County. In 1982 our hospital was sold to HCA. In 2015 Community Health Systems closed our hospital. Like other counties in South Carolina, losing our hospital has had a terribly negative impact on the health of our citizens as well as a negative economic impact. Even though Scotland Health Care System, CareSouth Carolina and McLeod Health each provide some services in the county, Marlboro County is a Medically Underserved area, designated as a High Needs Health Professional Shortage Area for Primary Care and Mental Health. Primary Care and Mental Health are the two access to care limitations that telehealth tools can help us overcome. Reliable broadband internet throughout the county will greatly increase the telehealth services available to our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of the needs of Marlboro County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane B. Rogers".

Jane B. Rogers

Marlboro County General Hospital  
Marlboro County General Hospital Charity Trust  
P.O. Box 388  
400 Tyson Avenue  
Bennettsville, SC 29512



Dr. Gregory A. McCord  
Superintendent

April 19, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

As Superintendent of Schools, one of my major responsibilities is to ensure that all students are afforded an opportunity for a quality education. Prior to the current pandemic Covid-19, we were making gains. Our students are now 1:1 with technology devices and our staff is increasingly doing more to support instructional technology. In March of 2020, we had to make a fast adjustment and provide instruction using a total virtual platform. Marlboro County does not have the services of larger counties and municipalities, therefore, we have been stymied as our students have not been able to receive services either at all or not adequately enough to maintain a consistent school schedule. This has created a barrier in areas such as attendance, academics and funding.

I am writing in support of Sandhill Telephone Cooperative's applications for CARES Act funding for broadband infrastructure extension in Marlboro County. Marlboro County has long been neglected and hindered in services related to broadband well behind other counties in the State. Even from a local standpoint, we are severely disadvantaged from access to local issues or advancements that would not only benefit education but local businesses as well. Therefore, a countywide grant for low population, rural counties such as this may be the only opportunity for broadband access improvement. Marlboro County School District currently has just under 90% of its students living in what is commonly referred to as "low-poverty" households. The pandemic has created a progressive pathway for technological expansion in education and broadband is the tool that we need to remain progressive. Education is the surest way that we can level the field for our youth and for this community.

Working with our local county government and Ron Munnery, has presented us this opportunity to show how all county entities are connected regardless of the infrastructure of the organization and how we should always work towards bettering our citizens. For this we are thankful but without approval, it will leave us not only back at point zero but our students even further behind. Having limited access to a broadband infrastructure has been crippling in many areas and it has restricted our student's educational growth.

In closing, we reiterate our full support for Sandhill's grant applications and ask that you consider our circumstances, barriers, limitations in your assessment of our requests. Please feel free to contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. McCord, Ed.D.

cc: Larry McNeil, Board of Trustees, Chairman

Marlboro County School District  
P.O. Box 947 - 122 Broad Street  
Bennettsville, SC 29512-0947  
Phone (843)521-7631

#345

gmccord@marlboro.k12.sc.us



**WHERE partnerships MAKE THE Difference!**

PO Box 653, 214 East Market Street,  
Bennettsville, SC 29512  
Tel: 843.479.5626 Fax: 843.479.2663

April 16, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Sandhill Telephone Cooperative's applications for CARES Act funding for Phase Two of broadband infrastructure extension in Marlboro County. The Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership supports these applications.

Broadband access in our County is almost nonexistent making it very difficult for industries and businesses to conduct their day-to-day business in an efficient manner. Many businesses rely on broadband access via cellular-based hot spots. The service limitations of cell tower coverage in our County make this source of internet connection very unreliable and creates a very poor working environment. Expansion of Broadband infrastructure is needed to attract new businesses and industries to our area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andy Rogers, Chairman



# NORTHEASTERN

— TECHNICAL COLLEGE —

April 16, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Sandhill Telephone Cooperative's applications for CARES Act funding for broadband infrastructure extension in Marlboro County (South Carolina). This application was prepared in partnership with Marlboro County Administrator, Mr. Ron Munnery and has the full support of Northeastern Technical College. Sandhill Telephone Cooperative is an experienced, not-for-profit, internet service provider currently serving Marlboro County. Their experience and community-centered approach make them the perfect partner for this project.

Sandhill Telephone Cooperative and Northeastern Technical College (NETC) have an established partnership to provide free broadband service to NETC students, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted and increased the demand for broadband access for citizens in rural areas such as Marlboro County.

Within the past year, the Marlboro County School District (along with other school districts across the state) has heavily relied on online instruction, which has required significant upgrades to the broadband infrastructure of rural counties such as Marlboro County (South Carolina). These upgrades are vital to the educational success of students, as they directly impact academic accessibility and instruction for all Marlboro County residents.

In closing, we extend our full support for Sandhill's grant application. You may contact me directly at (843) 921-6901 or via email at [kwagner@netc.edu](mailto:kwagner@netc.edu) should you require additional information.

Sincerely,

**Kyle Wagner, Ph.D.**  
**Northeastern Technical College, President**

# Town of Blenheim

Post Office Box 88  
Blenheim, S.C. 29516

Mayor  
Bobby Brock

Clerk/Treasurer  
Martha McQuage

Council  
Toma Dees  
Freddy Brock  
John Nolan  
Carl Freeman

April 16, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

This has reference to applications by Sandhill Telephone Cooperative for Cares Act funding for Broadband Infrastructure extension in Marlboro County. Phase one has been completed and now we need funding for Phase Two which will provide these services to the majority of our County. The Town of Blenheim continues to support Broadband provided by Sandhill Connections and we anxiously await Phase Two. Sandhill Connections is a not-for-profit, internet provider serving Marlboro County.

Broadband access in our County was almost nonexistent, however Phase One has provided service to the Towns of Blenheim, Clio and McColl, now if Phase Two funding is approved many additional areas in our County will have access to Broadband.

The Town of Blenheim fully supports Sandhill's grant application and therefore your consideration to approve this grant should be based on the need to provide our students with access to the internet for virtual lessons.

Sincerely,



Bobby Brock, Mayor  
Town of Blenheim

TOWN OF CLIO

Mayor  
Ben Petrone

Council  
Cathy Helsel  
Samuel McCollum  
Pearlie Thomas, Sr.  
Ken Phillips



101 Calhoun Street  
P.O. Box 487  
Clio, SC 29525-0487  
843-586-9426 Tel  
843-586-7733 Fax

clerk@cliosc.gov

April 16, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

This in reference to applications by Sandhill Telephone Cooperative for the second round of Cares Act funding to continue the broadband infrastructure extension in Marlboro County. The Town of Clio fully supports these applications. Sandhill is a not-for-profit, internet provider serving Marlboro County.

Broadband access in our Town is almost nonexistent with only .6% of households having access. The need for broadband access is essential for on-line classes for our School System. Our county's student poverty statistics are 85.3% and certainly should be considered as an important part of broadband coverage for our county. A county wide grant for low population, rural counties is the only opportunity for broadband access improvement.

The Town of Clio fully supports Sandhill's grant application and therefore your Consideration to approve this grant should be based on the need to provide our students with access to the internet for virtual lessons, and to our residents for employment searches.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Petrone". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

Ben Petrone

Mayor, Town of Clio