



May 14, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Stritzinger:

Comporium is committed to bridging the digital divide within Orangeburg County. We are excited to respond to the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program 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](mailto:greg.lunsford@comporium.com).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles G. Lunsford'.

Charles G. Lunsford  
Vice President – Regulatory Affairs

Attachment



## APPLICATION

# South Carolina 2021 Rural Broadband Grant Program

### 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 **04/05/2021**

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

### Project Area Information

#### Eligible County Impact

Counties  
(list) **Orangeburg**

Cities/Towns/Municipalities  
(list) **Unincorporated area near Woodford, South Carolina.**

Households **118**

Businesses **6**

Community Anchor Institutions **1**

Health Care Facilities **0**

Educational Institutions **0**

## 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 1000/1000
- 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 checked="" 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 07/01/2021	Customer Premises
Project Construction Activity Begins 10/01/2021	<i>Installations Begin</i> 06/30/2022
Project Construction Activity Complete 09/30/2022	<i>Installations End</i> 10/31/2022
	Overall Project Completion Date 10/31/2022

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### Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost \$452,600	Average Cost per Location Served <i>(all locations or structures)</i> \$3,650
Upfront Cost Requirements \$0	
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises \$452,600	Average Cost per Housing Unit \$3,650
	Average Cost per Business \$3,650

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### Project Funding Information

South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program Funds requested (\$) \$226,300

Applicant-Provided Funding (\$) \$226,300

#### Non-Public Funding

Amount (\$)

Source(s)

## Additional Information

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

Please see attached .pdf file.

- 2) Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines."

Please see attached .pdf file.

- 3) Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Please include letters of support from key community partners that indicate their awareness of your project.

Please see attached .pdf file.

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

Please see attached bank letter.

- 5) 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:

- 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:** Charles G. Lunsford

**Title of Signatory:** Vice President - Regulatory Affairs

**Date:** 05/14/2021

*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.*



## Woodford East Application Questions

### **1) Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks**

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.)

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.

### **Question 2) Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines."**

Orangeburg County is located 51 miles south of Columbia, South Carolina. The county land area covers 1,128 square miles and has an estimated population of 86,175. Orangeburg, the largest

## Woodford East Application Questions

incorporated municipality is the county seat with a population of 12,654. The county has 16 other smaller towns with populations that have less than 1,500 citizens. The local economy within the county is mostly agriculture focused in the areas of cotton, soybeans, corn, and turf grass. For the premise of this application, Comporium seeks to expand fiber within the town of Woodford.

Woodford is located in the northwest corner of Orangeburg County. The total land area is roughly .79 square miles. The 2019 population is an estimated 171 citizens. Argo Screens is the main employer in the Town of Woodford. Various areas of Orangeburg County are suffering due to plant closures. Mayer Industries, a textile manufacturer closed after 50 years of operation, with a loss of 59 jobs. Koyo Bearings also closed in March 2021, impacting 362 employees. Due to the lack of industry within Woodford, and other rural areas of the county, employees commute to other areas to find work in the greater Columbia Metropolitan area. Orangeburg County has 9,644 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 244 deaths. Since the pandemic began many small businesses have closed and individuals have lost their jobs, creating further economic hardships for citizens in the region.

Orangeburg County has experienced many economic challenges in recent years. The current unemployment rate within the county is 7.8%. 2,704 people are currently depending on unemployment assistance. Aside to those people who are unemployed, 22,664 individuals are living in poverty or 26.3%. Individuals who have experienced hardships rely on broadband to communicate, apply for unemployment, and search for jobs. Extending fiber into the most remote areas of the county will greatly assist these individuals by increasing their overall quality of life, and to lift them out of poverty.

Additional broadband can also help combat childhood poverty. The current poverty rate in the Orangeburg County School District is 84.79%. By adding additional high-speed broadband, this will allow students to complete assignments from home, assist in virtual learning, and increase the overall learning experience. Students who attend 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. The RBGP 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.

Each day 19,464 employees leave Orangeburg County to work elsewhere. Broadband expansion into rural areas of the county could allow these individuals to work from home. This could also bolster economic development efforts for small businesses. Employees who used to commute to the Columbia metropolitan area would have the ability to spend money at local restaurants, gyms, barber shops, gas stations, and retail stores. These funds would otherwise be leaving Orangeburg County. Expanding fiber-based broadband access will make northwestern Orangeburg County more attractive to industry and facilitate economic development. Companies will be more enticed to re-locate to these areas knowing that high-speed broadband is available to residences and businesses.

Due to the rurality of locations in Woodford, delivering high speed internet with speeds of 25/3 has been challenging. Receiving South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program funding would provide the company with the needed capital to deliver state-of-the-art fiber broadband to customers and businesses. Currently the broadband infrastructure in place that serves end user customers is Digital



## Woodford East Application Questions

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 five high speed fiber residential and four business speed tiers for customers to choose from:

Residential Broadband fiber offerings will consist of the following speeds and prices:

Fiber Residential Low-Moderate Income Package 100 Mbps x 20 Mbps = \$9.99 (\*With Lifeline Discount Applied)

Fiber Residential Package 1 300 Mbps x 300 Mbps = \$69.94

Fiber Residential Package 2 600 Mbps x 600 Mbps = \$79.94

Fiber Residential Package 3 750 Mbps x 750 Mbps = \$89.94

Zipstream Residential 1000 Mbps x 1000 Mbps = \$99.94

Business Broadband fiber offerings for locations will consist of the following speeds and prices:

Fiber Business Package 1 300 Mbps x 300 Mbps = \$84.98

Fiber Business Package 2 600 Mbps x 600 Mbps = \$154.98

Fiber Business Package 3 750 Mbps x 750 Mbps = \$204.98

Zipstream Business 1000 Mbps x 1000 Mbps = \$299.99

To encourage broadband adoption, Comporium will create a new low/moderate income package with speeds of 100 Mbps x 20 Mbps. The initial price point is \$19.24. This will be available to qualifying customers who participate in broadband Lifeline service. After applying the Lifeline discount of \$9.25, the rate will be \$9.99 per month for Lifeline customers within the grant areas. This new offering will help those in need during these difficult economic times.

A Wi-Fi access point will be installed at the Woodford Community Center in Orangeburg County. This will allow those in the area who are underserved to have broadband at no charge. Comporium is committed to working with the town of Woodford to install this Wi-Fi access point for the benefit of the community.

Comporium understands how beneficial this improved broadband offering will be to the residences and businesses in the Project Area. Therefore, we are committed to working as fast as possible to deliver these services if we are awarded this RBGP Grant. We have seen extended material lead times over the past six months, but we will work with our suppliers to obtain the material required for these overbuilds as soon as practical.

The latest FCC 477 information has already been submitted to Jim Stritzinger. He asked that I put a note in the application regarding this.

## Woodford East Application Questions

The company commits that it will serve all residences and businesses within the application areas on a non-discriminatory basis. All locations will be able to obtain necessary speeds defined by the Rural Broadband Grant Program.

**Question 3) Describe any plans or program you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Please include letters of support from key community partners that indicate their awareness of your project.**

### **Community Adoption Strategy and Plan**

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. The following actions will also be taken in these efforts:

**Press Release:** As soon as an award announcement has been finalized and signed by the ORS staff and the legal team of PBT Telecom, Inc. a press release will be issued to local media outlets in Orangeburg County. These types of media releases will be used first, to make residents and businesses aware of planned upgrades in underserved areas of the service territory.

**Direct Phone Calls:** PBT Telecom, Inc. will generate a list of residential and business locations within the polygons that have been identified as underserved. Outbound phone calls will be made by the automated IVR (interactive voice response) system to notify customers upgrades are coming to their area.

**Email Marketing and Advertising Campaign:** Current DSL customers of PBT Telecom, Inc. have an email address on file with the company. Comporium Marketing personnel will be able to compose an announcement email and send it directly to email addresses of residences and businesses who will benefit from the fiber expansion.

**Direct Mail Postcards:** PBT Telecom, Inc. will implement a direct mail campaign to target locations within the underserved polygon to make them aware of the upgrades. These postcards will notify current DSL customers that their area has been identified and will be upgraded with newer fiber technologies.

**Community Engagement Events:** PBT Telecom, Inc. will hold events at various locations in Orangeburg County. These events will be open to the public, so that customers can come ask questions to staff. PBT Telecom, Inc. will reach out to various homeowner association (HOA) groups to notify them when these events will take place. The HOA groups can then send an email broadcast out to all homeowners in subdivisions to make them aware of these events.

## Woodford East Application Questions

### **Broadband User Training Plan**

Comporium will strive to train new customers by holding classes at local business offices. The company will also train customers at community centers where we will provide free Wi-Fi. New broadband users will be able to visit the Comporium website for a thorough frequently asked questions section that can assist users. Training videos will also be posted on our website to help with basic broadband questions. Broadband technical support can assist users with any broadband related question that they may have. New broadband users will have the ability to call or chat with broadband technical support. One important factor regarding Comporium broadband technical support is that all employees are all in house. This service is not outsourced. All employees work and live in the service areas.

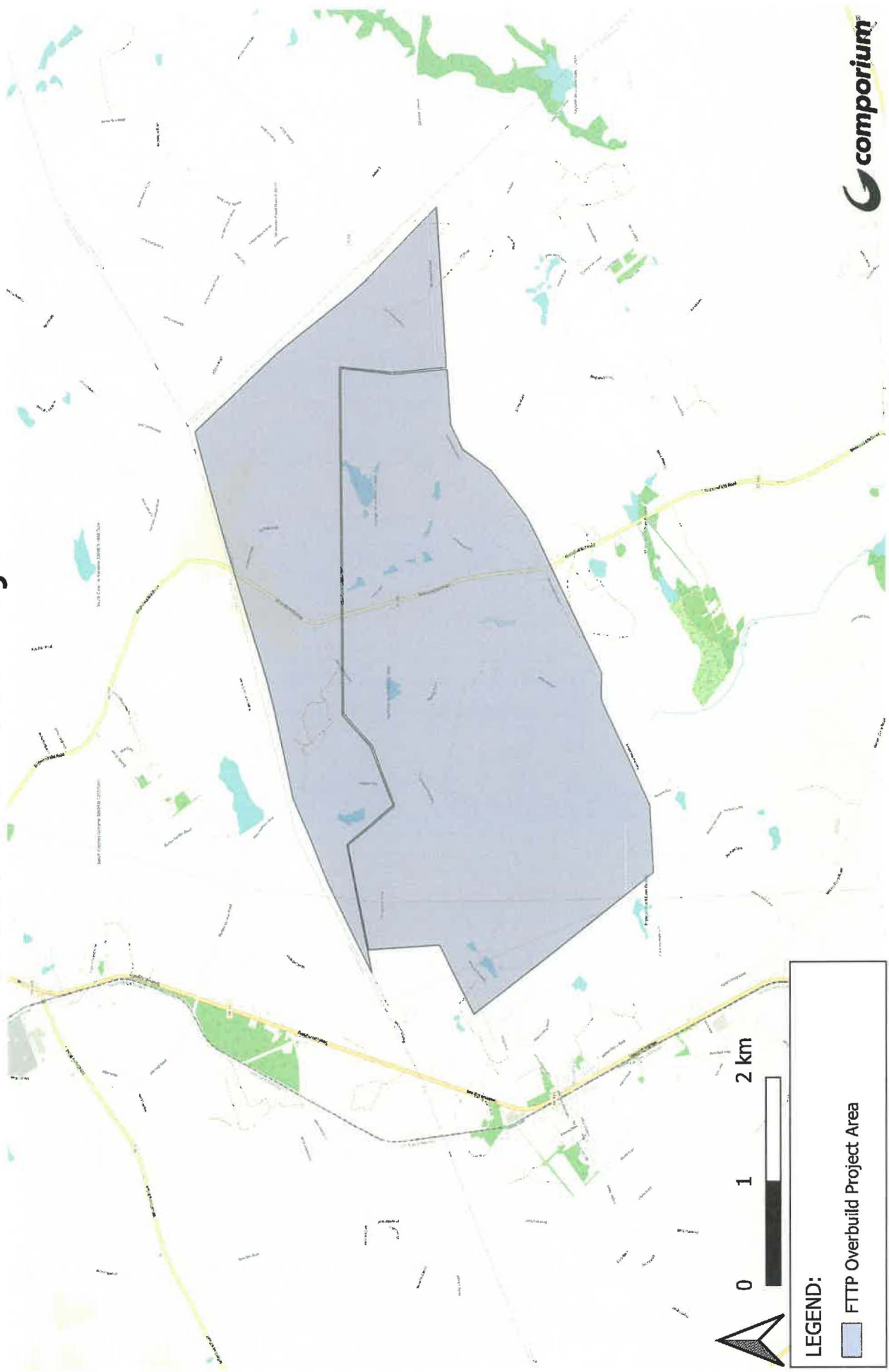
**Question 4) Provide documents that demonstrate your organization currently has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.**

See attached bank letter.

**Question 5) 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.

# Woodford East Project Area



LEGEND:

FTP Overbuild Project Area



# Woodford East WiFi Area

Target Area:  
Town of Woodford - Community Center



**LEGEND:**

 RBGP WiFi Access Point Coverage

# CUSTOMER EDUCATION

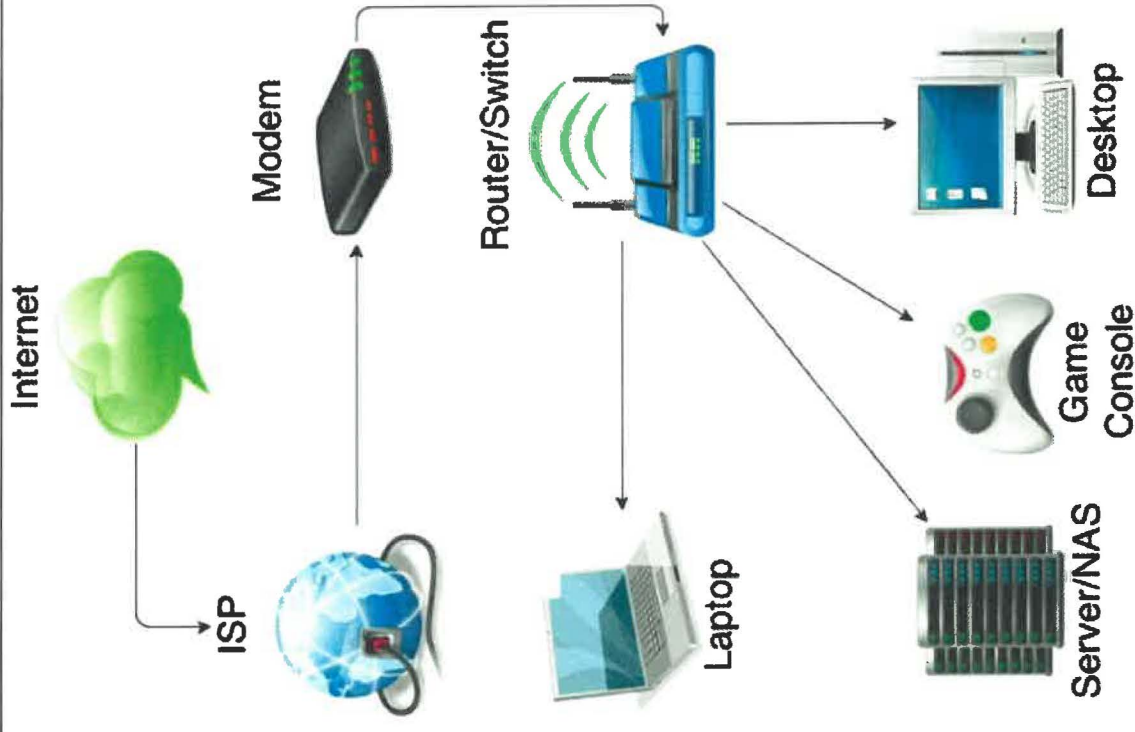
INTERNET SESSION



# HOW DOES THE INTERNET WORK??

## BASIC CONNECTION

- ISP Connection
- Modem at Customer location
- Switch/ Wi-Fi Router
- End-user Devices



## BANDWIDTH

The amount of data that can be carried in a given time period over a network. More technically, bandwidth is the width of the range of frequencies that an electronic signal occupies on a given transmission medium. In digital systems, bandwidth is usually expressed as bps, Kbps or Mbps. In analog systems, it's the number of cycles of change per second, or hertz.

## BROADBAND

A type of data transmission in which a single medium (wire) can carry several channels at once. Broadband is a term that is being used interchangeably with high-speed. More specifically, it describes a wideband high-speed data transmission that employs only one wire, which is able to carry multiple channels at once.



# EQUIPMENT

# HOW MUCH INTERNET SPEED DO I NEED?



**Social media**



**Streaming music**



**Streaming video**



**File download and  
storage**



**Online gaming**



**Online video chat**

# WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WIFI AND THE INTERNET?

I'm sure you've heard of the Internet... right?

Well, simply put, it's a big huge network that's changing humanity. Does that Jog your memory?

Now the real question is this: Do you know the difference between the *Internet* and your *WiFi network*?

If you don't, stay calm and I'll explain. If I can get you to remember one thing, it's this: *WiFi* and the *Internet* are two completely separate beasts. If you can remember that moving forward, then half of my job is done.

# SO, WIFI IS JUST A RADIO SIGNAL?

Here is the differentiating factor between the *Internet* and *WiFi*. If Internet allows you to access information from other computers across the world using a specific language (protocol), then **WiFi** is just a way of connecting to that wire in your living room wall and out to the Internet, wirelessly. receive information to and from another computer. Without that protocol, even if two computers were connected with a cable, they wouldn't be able to understand each other. Like speaking with someone in Chinese on the phone - the connection is there - but if you don't understand the language, then there's no way you'll ever be able communicate.



## 2.4 Ghz

The 2.4 GHz band is a pretty crowded place, because it's used by more than just Wi-Fi. Old cordless phones, garage door openers, baby monitors, and other devices tend to use the 2.4 GHz band. The longer waves used by the 2.4 GHz band are better suited to longer ranges and transmission through walls and solid objects. So it's arguably better if you need better range on your devices or you have a lot of walls or other objects in the areas where you need coverage. However, because so many devices use the 2.4 GHz band, the resulting congestion can cause dropped connections and slower-than-expected speeds.



## 5 Ghz

The 5 GHz band is much less congested, which means you will likely get more stable connections. You'll also see higher speeds. On the other hand, the shorter waves used by the 5 GHz band makes it less able to penetrate walls and solid objects. It's also got a shorter effective range than the 2.4 GHz band. Of course, you may also be able to mitigate that shorter range through the use of range extenders or mesh Wi-Fi systems, but that will mean a bigger investment.



**WiFi Problems?**



HACKERS

WIFI  
INTERFEREN  
CE

LACK OF  
COVERAGE

# SAY GOODBYE TO DEAD ZONES WITH PREMIUM WIFI!

We know being able to enjoy your High Speed Internet from every corner of your home is important to you. Comporium Premium WiFi is the whole home solution for your wireless needs.

**Your Entire Home. Covered.** Connect to all of your devices, in every room.

**Professional Installation** Our technicians will personalize your installation according to your needs and the layout of your home.

**Easily Controlled.** See connected devices, test speeds and control settings right from the Premium WiFi app.

**Parental Controls.** Filter and manage content or set time limits on connected devices!





# EMAIL BASICS





## 5 WAYS TO STOP SPAM FROM INVADING YOUR EMAIL

- Train your filter
- Never respond to spam
- Hide your email address
- Use a third-party anti-spam filter
- Change your email address

# ONLINE SCAMS

- Money is Involved
- If It Sounds Too Good to Be True...
- Urgent! Act Now! Don't Wait!
- The Power of Fear
- We Need Some of Your Personal Information



# PASSWORD TIPS

1

Don't rely on passwords alone to protect anything you value. **Turn on multi-factor authentication wherever possible.**



2

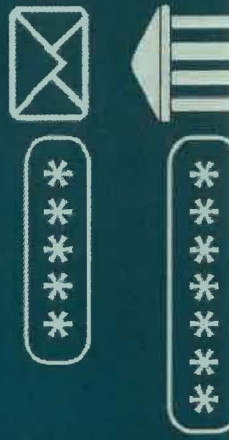
**Use a phrase with multiple words that you can picture in your head**, so it's difficult to guess but easy to remember.



Password: sunwalkraindrive

3

Protect your most important accounts, like banking and primary email, by giving each a **unique passphrase**. A password manager can help.



# WHY TREND MICRO?



## ANTIVIRUS PROTECTION

Keep your computer safe and protected with your free download of Trend Micro. The best in Internet security, Trend Micro protects your computer from harmful viruses. Install Trend Micro by simply selecting 'Manage Anti-Virus Software' through 'My Account.'



QUESTIONS ???

## Brad Hutto

Senate Office Address:  
510 Gressette Senate Office Building  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202  
Telephone: (803) 212-6140  
Email: bradhutto@scsenate.gov

Home Office Address:  
Post Office Box 1084  
Orangeburg, South Carolina 29116  
Telephone: (803) 534-5218  
Fax: (803) 536-6544



Committees:  
Banking and Insurance  
Education  
Ethics  
Fish, Game and Forestry  
Judiciary  
Legislative Oversight  
Medical Affairs  
State Regulation of Public Utilities  
Review Committee  
Joint Citizens and Legislative  
Committee on Children

May 10, 2021

Jim Stritzinger  
Broadband Coordinator  
SC Office of Regulatory Staff  
State of South Carolina  
1401 Main Street  
Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

**RE: Letter of Support for South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Project**

Dear Mr. Stritzinger:

It is my understanding that PBT Telecom, Inc. d/b/a Comporium has applied for funding through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Funding Initiative. This grant will allow them to provision fiber optics in areas of Orangeburg County.

Due to the rural nature of Orangeburg County, there are many areas that are underserved and unserved broadband locations, and fiber optics are the lifeblood of our 21st century economy. The availability and the capability to receive symmetrical high-speed internet service will serve as a catalyst for small business development and industrial growth in rural and sparsely populated areas.

PBT Telecom, Inc. d/b/a Comporium has served portions of Orangeburg County since 1903 with telecommunications services. The Company has worked diligently to upgrade their infrastructure with a combination of private and public funding over the years. I would respectfully request that the Office of Regulatory Staff look favorably and award this grant funding such that they build on past successes and deploy fiber facilities for future growth.

Thank you for your consideration of my support of this project on the behalf of our citizens of Orangeburg County and District 40.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Hutto".

Brad Hutto



<b>Communications</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
	<b>Long Distance</b>
	<b>Wireless</b>
	<b>Cable TV</b>
	<b>Internet</b>
	<b>Security</b>

1660 Juniper Springs Road  
Gilbert, SC 29054  
803-894-3121

This is to certify that Representative Russell Ott sent a letter of Support for this Project to the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff directly to them for their consideration.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
L.B. Spearman

May 1, 2021

Jim Stritzinger  
Broadband Coordinator  
SC Office of Regulatory Staff  
State of South Carolina  
1401 Main Street  
Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

**IN RE: Letter of Support for South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Project**

Dear Mr. Stritzinger:

It is my understanding that PBT Telecom, Inc. d/b/a Comporium has applied for funding through your state agency to provision fiber optics in areas of Orangeburg County through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Funding Initiative. Many underserved and unserved locations within the County can be difficult to provide service to due to the rural nature of Orangeburg County. Fiber optics are the lifeblood of our 21st century economy. Individuals will have the capability to receive symmetrical high-speed internet service approaching 1 GB X 1 GB if they choose to do so. In addition, the availability of these services will serve as a catalyst for small business development and industrial growth in rural and sparsely populated areas.

PBT Telecom, Inc. d/b/a Comporium has served these parts of our County since 1903 with telecommunications services. The Company has worked diligently to upgrade their infrastructure with a combination of private and public funding over the years. If your agency chooses to award this grant funding, this will allow them to build on past successes of deployment of fiber facilities in order for the quality of life to be enhanced in the County.

Thank you for your consideration of my support of this project on the behalf of our citizens of Orangeburg County and our local area.

Sincerely,

Sam Anthony  
Mayor  
Town of Woodford

*Sam J. Anthony*



May 5, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger  
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Stritzinger:

This is letter of understanding is between PBT Telecom, Inc. dba Comporium Communications and The Town of Woodford. This document supports the efforts of PBT Telecom, Inc. establishing a Wi-Fi access point within the town limits. This Wi-Fi access point will provide citizens broadband in a public area owned by the town. Both PBT Telecom, Inc. and the Town of Woodford will work together to install and make a Wi-Fi access hotspot operational.

Sincerely,

Sam Anthony  
Mayor

*Sam J. Anthony*