



ONEIDA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

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ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.
County Executive

JAMES J. GENOVESE II
Commissioner

Re: Q & A on Broadband RFP released in February 2023 (answers are in red)

Asked on February 20, 2023

1. Page 5 – Project Scope and Deliverables – construction not to exceed a 1-year period – It is understood that ISPs building new fiber will require to go through a make ready permit process with other utilities on the existing pole lines – based on the amount of make ready work and the amount of utility companies that will need to perform work this process may exceed the one year period. Will the County provide extensions beyond the 1 year limit if the delay is caused by others **Yes – document the permitting time period and the 1 year construction limit will start when permitting is complete.**
2. General question – Understanding the goal of this project is to provide broadband to those that do not have it available to them and that the County is not intending on building network over an existing network what should be the process to make the County aware of areas that already have broadband available? If a road is found to be served today, should we remove that road from our response and make note of that? **Yes and email Jeff Quackenbush of that finding.**
3. Some of these areas are a bit more remote and some may be found without commercial power. If a road is found to be without commercial power can we leave that out of the bid response as that will be required for the solution? **Yes if power is needed note that, and leave that out of the bid.**
4. Can you provide clarity around the statements regarding prevailing rates and if this would be considered a public works project subject to prevailing rate. **We also do Planning work for Herkimer County. When they queried the Department of Labor the response was that this would be considered “utility work” and would not be subject to prevailing wage.**
5. Will applications for reimbursement of costs be allowed throughout the project, upon completion of tasks deliverables? **Upon completion.**
6. Are we able to use fiber and other construction materials currently in inventory, or will all project items need to be purchased after award date? **You can use current inventory as long as price charged for that inventory is what was paid at the time of purchase.**
7. For some areas, the “# Addresses” seems to combine multiple areas. For example, Lee2 and Annsville2 seem to have 151 combined addresses. Can you confirm this is the case, which areas are combined, and if address counts by area are available? **This is a data error, use the address points also provided on the web app to verify number of addresses.**

Asked on February 14, 2023

1. It is our experience that projects such as these, can be completed in a 2 year time frame consistent with the County's project plan. Can the County clarify the 2 year project plan with a 1 year construction timeline? (see page 5, item 1: "The scope of this RFP is to build a Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTX) broadband access network in one or more of the defined service areas over a 2-year period (Construction not to exceed a 1-year period).") May providers plan for construction to take place throughout the 2-yr. period? If not, would you consider amending the RFP to remove that parenthetical? **See number one above regarding permitting time period and no, actual in field construction cannot be spread over 2 years.**

Asked on February 23, 2023 at 1:53pm

Executive Summary:

- With 39 project areas of 25+ homes, does an ISP have to submit for each area as an individual project, or could 2 (or more) project areas be combined in one application if they are contiguous/adjacent? **Yes each area needs an individual cost, but you could also propose a cost if they were combined that showed some cost savings.**
- What pot of funds is this initial \$2M in funding coming from (ARPA? General fund?) – and are there restrictions on what this can be spent for or timelines to be spent emanating from the source of that funding (independent of the 2-year timeline for grant awardees set forth elsewhere in the RFP)? **This is ARPA money and must be spent by 2026 – broadband is one of the specific allowed uses of the money.**
- Is there a % threshold or target that Oneida County has in mind for local governments to contribute? **No – the more the local government contributes as a % the higher the project will score**

Evaluation Criteria:

- How will these criteria be scored – what weight of points are given to each? Will the scores be made public once awards are announced? **We will have a scoring team that will assign the weight ranges on these criteria.**
- Since the RFP states that ISPs are NOT responsible for determining local contributions, can Oneida County comment on how a submitted application will be judged/evaluated when this factor may be out of the ISP's hands? For example, what if a Municipality has agreed to support Frontier's project with a \$20K contribution, but another ISP's application for \$10K – is Frontier's scored higher? What if the lower dollar support serves more homes? Is Oneida County seeking a blanket commitment from a Municipality regardless of which project is awarded for their area? An ISP would want to know the local contribution (if any) before submitting their proposal in order to put together the best and most viable project possible. **We've already reached out to the municipalities and whether they come to the table or not is up to them. No local interest will force the project to score lower. There is nothing stopping you from asking them yourself. This just helps the County prioritize areas where there are high amounts of local interest.**
- Please elaborate on what is meant or intended by "Revenue share." Is this a requirement for all submissions? How would this be weighted in scoring? **Revenue sharing is the ISP giving the County a portion of the subscription fees over time. The scoring team will decide the weight range. It is not required.**

Project Scope and Deliverables:

- With the RFP stating that "Construction not to exceed a 1-year period," what allowances are made for permitting delays or material/supply chain issues? **See the February 20, 2023 number 1 response. Same premise would apply to supply chain issues.**
- Can you provide additional clarification on the build timeline of the 2-year period vs. the Construction not to exceed a 1-year period? **The two year timeline allows for permitting and administrative processes to occur prior to being in the field for no more than a year actually installing the system.**

- The RFP calls for “*Technical support assets within 90 miles of the service area.*” Could you please define what qualifies as Technical Support – a building? A retail customer office where a customer can exchange equipment or pay a bill? Is it the distance from which a technician lives from a customer? **It could be all of these, the better you make your case, the higher you will score.**
- Is the “*Information Session Q&A Meeting on 02/24 @ 10 a.m.*” open to ISPs and available online? **Yes** Will questions submitted by ISP’s the day prior be answered during this Q&A Meeting? **Yes**

Asked on March 3, 2023 at 3:02pm

Can you provide some clarity on what is meant by Sec. E, “Project approach – including proposed schedule, stakeholder participation process, proposed visits to Study Area”? Is this meant to be a description of the ISP’s schedule including when we’d be there for physical surveying? I think the “stakeholder participation process” is what has me stymied. **Yes it is meant to be a description of the ISP’s schedule including when physical surveying was intended. The stakeholder participation process is meant to be any meetings or field visits you would intend to have with us as the County and the local township if they show interest.**

Asked on March 7, 2023 at 9:22pm

j. Billing rate schedule. The ISP must provide at least one tier of service that has a cost not to exceed the National Broadband Index as published by USTelecom in any given year of service.

Jeff – I was just looking for some clarity on the above provision. How long is this requirement intended to be in place for? **The ISP can have as many service offerings as they choose, however the ISP must offer that minimal tier of service in perpetuity. The whole notion of using the index allows the minimal rate to change over time as the market changes.**

Asked on March 10, 2023 at 2:30pm

Jeff,

We are still confused of what the minimum speed and price rate that is required using the US Telecom document that was provided. We had gone as far as sharing the document and your statement in the RFP with our contacts at US Telecom and they didn’t did not understand the question as it is in the RFP. Can you tell me what our lowest pricing offer should be and the corresponding bandwidth speeds for that? Thanks **Below is the table taken from 2022 USTelecom report on BPI. Since we are taking about a 100Mbps symmetrical service we are using the BPI: SPEED index which in 2022 was \$58.12.**

2015-2022 COMPARISON BROADBAND PRICE INDEX: SPEED

WEIGHTED AVG PRICE <i>(inflation-adjusted)</i>	DOWNLOAD SPEED (MBPS)	REAL PRICE PER MBPS <i>(download)</i>
2015 \$122.94	2015 141	2015 \$0.87
2022 \$58.12	2022 259	2022 \$0.22
CHANGE -52.7% 	CHANGE +84.6% 	CHANGE -74.4% 