

Request for Information

IMPROVING BROADBAND IN CLEAR CREEK AND GILPIN COUNTIES

RESPONSES DUE:

May 10, 2017 prior to 4:30 p.m.

John Bottomley

Clear Creek County Information Technology Director

405 Argentine Street (delivery only; no postal service)

P.O. Box 2000 Georgetown, Co. 80444

303-679-2359

jbottomley@co.clear-creek.co.us

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION for IMPROVING BROADBAND SERVICES in CLEAR CREEK AND GILPIN COUNTIES - BROADBAND PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Clear Creek and Gilpin County have come together to form the Gilpin/Clear Creek Broadband Development Committee, for the purpose of studying the current broadband services available in the region and to study ways to improve broadband services. Specifically, we would like to hear from service providers that currently serve Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties. We would like to hear your suggestions on how we could collectively work together to solve broadband challenges. Additionally, we would like to hear from providers and companies that are not currently serving Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties on their ideas as well.

The Broadband Committee is committed to seeking partners in an initiative to bring world-class, high speed Internet infrastructure to homes, businesses and anchor institutions (“Last Mile Internet Services”) to the Clear Creek and Gilpin County region. The Broadband Committee seeks innovative private-sector business partners interested in co-investing, or building, operating and maintaining a high-speed network that will eventually be capable of offering up to Gigabit Internet services in the region.

Currently the Broadband Committee is undertaking a regional broadband planning effort that is funded in part by an Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF) grant awarded through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The broadband planning effort is still underway and the responses to this Request for Information will be included in the regional broadband plan to improve broadband services availability, abundance, redundancy, and affordability.

The purpose of this RFI is to extend an invitation to existing service providers, infrastructure owners, finance companies and other industry companies to collaborate with the Broadband Committee and its members in improving broadband services throughout Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties and the region. The primary questions posed within this RFI are – “How can we collectively work together to improve broadband services in Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties?” “What specific actions can the committee evaluate to improve services?” Also, “If key investments are made from various key stakeholder entities, grants, and potential other partners, what would your company provide for either Middle Mile or for Last Mile Internet Services? Specifically, what investments should be made?” and, “What Public Private Partnership arrangements and structure would facilitate more investment in Last Mile Internet Services?”

Proposals will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on 05/10/2017. Proposals must be emailed to the attention of John Bottomley, jbottomley@co.clear-creek.co.us and (2) hard copies shall be delivered via mail to the following address:

John Bottomley
Clear Creek County Information Technology Director
405 Argentine Street (delivery only; no postal service)
P.O. Box 2000 Georgetown, Co. 80444

Emailed proposals should contain the following in the subject line:

“Response to Improving Broadband Services in Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties.”

Only proposals received by the deadline will be evaluated.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. General/Background

The Broadband Committee is committed to seeking partners in an initiative to bring world-class, high speed Internet infrastructure to the participating communities in Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties. The Broadband Committee and its members are seeking to create Public Private Partnerships with service providers to improve Middle Mile and Last Mile Internet Services throughout the Region.

The members of the committee see the importance of having next generation broadband services to manage their respective operations, and perhaps more importantly, see the need for next generation broadband as a way to spur economic development. Other communities that have improved broadband services have already seen the tremendous economic impact of building broadband infrastructure. These communities have fostered an environment of innovation, economic development and growth, collaboration, and creative activities. Because access to advanced broadband services is a priority for businesses and entrepreneurs, the communities that have built advanced broadband networks have already benefited economically by attracting businesses and industries, in areas like manufacturing and technology, to re-locate to their communities.

Next generation broadband services offer many advantages. Having access to affordable, abundant, high capacity Internet is no longer a luxury. It is a necessity, like water and electricity. Having access to abundant broadband is critical for:

- creating more jobs,
- creating vibrant communities that are economically stable,
- providing for new opportunities,
- fostering an entrepreneurial-friendly environment,
- improving technology advancement,
- providing better access to educational opportunities and online learning applications,
- providing for better and less expensive healthcare,
- improving public safety and emergency management services
- better access to e-government services,
- facilitating more telework and telecommuting, and
- attracting the New Knowledge economy.

Advanced broadband networks are creating enormous shifts in local, state, national and global societies, as well as markets, business and in institutions around the world. Therefore, it is critical to have this infrastructure available to all citizens.

We want to receive input from the existing service providers that are already serving Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties and the neighboring counties. We also want to see what other potential partners may want to participate in this process.

From there, we will meet with key stakeholders within the community and look at options for key investments, partners, and strategies for improving broadband services.

SECTION 2: INFORMATION NEEDED FROM RESPONDENTS

Interested private and public sector businesses are encouraged to respond to this RFI. Responses from incumbent service providers, competitive service providers and public cooperatives will be considered. Responses will also be considered from all potential parties interested in offering innovative construction and operation financial models. Responses do NOT need to include offering services to all areas within Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties; however, preferences for responses are to address all communities and counties. We do realize that the technology solution or financial model may differ for various communities and parts of the county. It is also our intention to potentially select one or many providers and their respective solutions.

A. Objectives: There are several objectives central to the Broadband Committee's project. Respondents to the RFI should indicate how they can help the Broadband Committee meet these objectives:

1. Provide high-speed Internet network connectivity to business and residential customers to all communities/counties based on an architecture that will scale to meet access demands for the next twenty years and allow extension of the network to additional locations.
2. Offer appropriately scaled Internet services (i.e., transfer rates meeting the current and future needs as determined by the customer) to any customer connected to the high-speed Internet network.
3. Provide a highly reliable, scalable, and available network.
4. Provide competitive pricing for high speed Internet services to eventually include synchronous gigabit transfer rates.
5. Provide excellent customer service.

SECTION 3: PREPARATION AND SUBMITTAL OF PROPOSALS

Anticipated Schedule

- Request for Information available Friday 04/14/2017
- Inquiry deadline, no questions after this date 04/28/2017 by 4:30 p.m. MST
- Final addendum, responses to questions 05/03/2017
- Submittal deadline for proposals 05/10/2017 by 4:30 p.m. MST

Submission: Each proposal shall include **Two (2) hard copies** placed in a sealed envelope and marked clearly on the outside **“Improving Broadband in Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties”**. **And shall be sent** to the following address:

Attention: John Bottomley
Clear Creek County Information Technology Director
405 Argentine Street (delivery only; no postal service)
P.O. Box 2000 Georgetown, CO 80444

and **one (1) electronic copy** emailed to John Bottomley at jbottomley@co.clear-creek.co.us.

The electronic copy shall be an exact reproduction of the original documents provided. All sections shall be combined into a SINGLE ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT (pdf format preferred).

Please provide the following information in your response.

- A. Cover Letter:** Cover letter shall be provided which explains the Firm’s interest in the project. The letter shall contain the name/address/phone number/email of the person who will serve as the firm's principal contact person with Owner’s Contract Administrator and shall identify individual(s) who will be authorized to make presentations on behalf of the firm.
- B. Company Background and Overview.**
- C. Specific Actions Recommended by Your Firm:** Please provide a response from your company to the following questions.
 1. Describe the current network facilities your company currently has in Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties if any.
 2. What investments or upgrades, if any, does your company plan to make in the next two years within Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties?
 3. What services, service levels and pricing does your company offer for residential and business/commercial users?
 4. What key investments should the Broadband Committee consider to help your company improve its broadband services within Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties? Please provide description of your company’s plans to upgrade and/or improve broadband services within the Counties. Detail any capital costs and improvements your company is planning to make with or without the collaboration with the stakeholders of this project. Provide detailed information regarding the technology, capacity and capabilities of these improvements.

5. What other initiatives should the Broadband Committee consider to help improve broadband services within Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties?
6. What would your company provide, or further do if these key investments and other initiatives were implemented?
7. How would your company propose working with the members of the committee in a public private partnership?

D. Network Maps. Provide a description and maps of your company's existing fiber optic facilities, tower locations, microwave, wireless access points and and/or conduit located within the Counties and region. Provide a description of and maps of your company's existing facilities. An electronic .kmz file is preferred. Maps and other proprietary information presented in the proposal can be marked as "Proprietary and Confidential" and will not be available to the public.

E. Additional Data (optional): Provide any additional information that will facilitate the committee's goals.

SECTION 4: EVALUATION CRITERIA AND FACTORS

The Broadband Committee will review and consider all responses in terms of how, when and what expense to the Counties and customers the proposals meet the objectives.

SECTION 5: REQUIREMENTS

Altering Proposals: Any alterations made prior to opening date and time must be initialed by the signer of the proposal, guaranteeing authenticity. Proposals cannot be altered or amended after submission deadline.

Exclusion: No oral or telephonic proposals shall be considered.

Questions and Addenda: If your Firm has questions, all questions shall be submitted in writing to the Broadband Committee by email to jbottomley@co.clear-creek.co.us no later than 04/28/2017 at 4:30 p.m. MST. Responses to the questions submitted will be posted on Bid Net at www.rockymountainbidsystem.com. Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda in their proposal.

Confidential Material: All materials submitted in response to this RFI shall ultimately become public record and shall be subject to inspection after contract award. Only submittal information clearly identified with the words "*Confidential Disclosure*" and placed in a separate envelope will be treated as such. If a request for disclosure of the response is requested under

the Colorado Open Records Act or Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act, or is subpoenaed, the proposer promptly will be told and given an opportunity to defend its contention at its own expense. Proposer will indemnify the Broadband Committee and the respective counties from any all expenses, costs, attorney's fees, penalties, arising from or relating to proposer designating information as a "Confidential Disclosure."

Response Material Ownership: All proposals become the property of the Owner upon receipt and shall only be returned to the proposer at the Owner's option. Selection or rejection of the proposal shall not affect this right. The Owner shall have the right to use all ideas or adaptations of the ideas contained in any proposal received in response to this RFI, subject to limitations outlined in this section under "Confidential Material". Disqualification of a proposal does not eliminate this right.

Open Records: Proposals shall be received and publicly acknowledged at the location, date, and time stated herein. Offerors, their representatives and interested persons may be present. Proposals shall be received and acknowledged only so as to avoid disclosure of process. However, all proposals shall be open for public inspection after a contract is awarded. Trade secrets and confidential information contained in the proposal so identified by offer as such shall be treated as confidential by the Owner to the extent allowable in the Open Records Act.

Public Disclosure Record: If the bidder has knowledge of their employee(s) or sub-Bidders having an immediate family relationship with an Owner employee or elected official, the bidder must provide the Purchasing Representative with the name(s) of these individuals. These individuals are required to file an acceptable "Public Disclosure Record", a statement of financial interest, before conducting business with the Owner.