

PROJECT PROPOSAL - FOR PUBLIC POSTING



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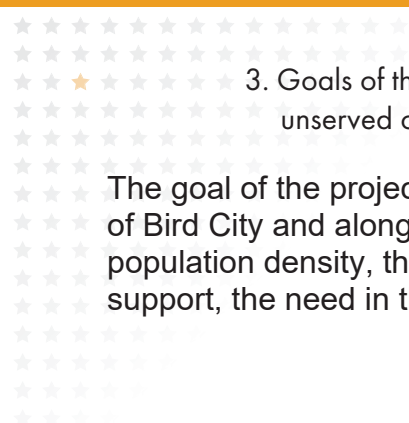
Please include:

1. An executive summary of the project:

Nex-Tech is excited to propose this project which focuses on bringing broadband to up to 429 underserved residents and businesses of Bird City, Kansas located in Cheyenne County in northwest Kansas. Headquartered in Lenora, Kansas, Nex-Tech has been providing telecommunications services to northwest and central Kansas for nearly 70 years and has been an Internet Service Provider since 1996. Nex-Tech's fiber to the premise footprint encompasses 52 different communities across Kansas. Nex-Tech also provides fixed wireless Internet service to thousands of customers in rural areas of Kansas. This fixed wireless technology has evolved and grown over the course of almost 20 years into what it is today. Nex-Tech provides a wide range of services some of which are Internet, Voice, Video, Cloud Phone, Managed IT, Security and Surveillance, Advertising, and NOC services. Nex-Tech recently completed five Kansas CERG grants on time and within budget. Nex-Tech strives to promote economic growth, investment in and ultimately, the repopulation of rural Kansas. One of the ways we as a company do this is by continually providing new services in areas that are unserved or underserved. High speed broadband is an essential utility that ultimately is a conduit, that provides quality of life amenities needed and wanted by the residents and businesses in the communities we serve.

2. A description of the location (City(s), County(s), etc.), proposed service areas, partners involved and anticipated improvements.

The fiber coverage areas will provide up to Gigabit symmetrical speeds for locations adjacent to Highway 36 from Oberlin to Bird City, and along Bird Avenue and 4th Streets in Bird City. The wireless coverage areas will provide speeds from 25mbs/6mbs within a five-mile perimeter of Bird City up to 100mbs /10mbs within the city limits of Bird City. Nex-Tech will be partnering with RVW Engineering for this project.

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3. Goals of the project and community need to address including whether the proposed area is unserved or economically distressed or what the compelling need is, if served.

The goal of the project is to deploy a hybrid fiber and fixed wireless infrastructure to the community of Bird City and along Highway 36 from Oberlin to Bird City. Due to its rural location and low population density, this service area is currently underserved. As evidenced by the letters of support, the need in this community is great, especially for business services.

4. The proposed infrastructure and access improvements planned, including the number of proposed connected premisees and community anchor institutions, businesses, or other organizations and the recipients to be served by the project.

Within this community, there are 43 businesses and 386 potential residential customers that will be connected to their premises. Fiber to the premise will be deployed to approximately 12 locations within the community including two schools and six anchor institutions. We will provide free 50Mbps service to the library in Bird City. Fixed wireless will be deployed to the remaining locations in the town and perimeter of the town. In addition, fiber to the premise will be available to approximately 30 locations in unserved areas along Highway 36. Approximately 42 fiber customers are expected to take service using an initial fiber adoption rate of 100% and approximately 194 wireless subscribers are expected to take service using an initial wireless adoption rate of 50%.

5. The short and long-term investment benefit to the community and service area proposed.

Short and long-term investment benefit to the community and service area proposed includes positive contribution to economic and community development of this area in a variety of ways. Due to the increase of service in areas that are lacking infrastructure, this area will be able to offer remote work opportunities to current residents as well as new residents. This will lead to job retention and recruitment activities that currently are untapped. This will also contribute to improved broadband service to existing businesses as well as educational access for students living in this area to be able to access on-line schooling no matter what age or level of education. With the nearest hospital 18 miles away, the opportunity for tele-health allows options for customers in this area with this service deployment to their homes, as they will be able to access and take advantage of remote healthcare from the comfort of their home. These opportunities are needed and desired for the aging population in Cheyenne County. Having access to high-speed broadband in rural and remote areas of Kansas showcases to people the opportunities how to learn, work, and live healthy in their chosen community!

