



Keokuk

Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Fort Madison • Keokuk



Fort Madison

March 23, 2023

Iowa OCIO

Des Moines, IA

RE: Lee County ITQ

Please accept this letter of support and demonstration of need for all Lee County ITQ submittals. Essentially, the entire unincorporated area of Lee County has a need for standard broadband services. This is evidenced by the Iowa OCIO broadband map of underserved and unserved areas.

Large, private companies have not invested in rural Lee County broadband service. Lack of investment has resulted in rural Lee County having fewer overall opportunities to connect with modern broadband infrastructure. The limited availability therefore limits rural Lee County residents' ability to connect with healthcare, education, economic, and other resources made possible by broadband connection.

Lee County has committed 30% (\$1.9 million) of its ARPA allocation to expanding broadband in the county. The commitment was made to the Southeast Iowa Regional and Economic Port Authority (SIREPA) which entered into agreement with Danville Mutual Telephone Company (Danville).

The agreement formed a private-public partnership to work together over the foreseeable future to expand broadband availability in Lee County by leveraging the ARPA funds for direct connectivity improvements and leveraging grants.

Lee County invests in economic development to secure and diversify its economic and job base. Broadband investment is included in economic development because it is simply indispensable and required in our daily working, school, and personal lives.

The OCIO's work is appreciated and needed in Lee County, and we look forward to working with you to expand broadband connections in Lee County into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garry W. Seyb".

Garry Seyb, Chairman

Iowa OCIO

Des Moines, IA

March 29, 2023

RE: Lee County ITQ

Please find this letter of support for the need for all of Lee County ITQ submissions. The Keokuk Economic Development Corporation fully supports broadband investment in areas of Lee County that have poor or no internet access.

Unfortunately, large broadband companies have not seen the need to invest in broadband access to all areas of Lee County, especially those less populated rural areas. This shortage of internet access has hindered the availability to rural Lee County residents who wish to connect with healthcare, education, and economic resources.

Keokuk Economic Development is very happy to see a partnership between the Southeast Iowa Regional & Economic Port Authority and Danville Mutual Telephone Company to expand broadband in Lee County.

The partnership of these two entities will work together to expand broadband availability in Lee County by leveraging ARPA funds for broadband connectivity improvements and leveraging grants. Broadband is required in our daily lives, no matter if we are working from home, which is so common since the pandemic, studying for school, or just enhancing the lives of residents in Lee County.

Reliable Broadband is critical to economic development Keokuk, Fort Madison, and all of rural Lee County.

The OCIO's work is much appreciated and needed in Lee County, and we look forward to working with you to expand broadband connections in Lee County in the future.

Sincerely,



Kerry L. Klepfer, President

Keokuk Economic Development Corporation



Chamber of Commerce • Beautification Foundation • Economic Development Corporation • Regional Riverboat Commission

March 24, 2023

Iowa OCIO

Des Moines, IA

RE: Lee County ITQ,

Please accept this letter of support and demonstration of need for all Lee County ITQ submittals. The Fort Madison Partners Organization and its Affiliates: Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation fully support broadband investment for unserved and underserved areas of Lee County.

Large, private companies have largely not invested in rural Lee County broadband service. Lack of investment has resulted in rural Lee County having fewer overall opportunities to connect with modern broadband infrastructure. The limited availability therefore limits rural Lee County residents' ability to connect with healthcare, education, economic, and other resources made possible by broadband connection.

We are very pleased to see a public-private partnership between the Southeast Iowa Regional and Economic Port Authority and Danville Mutual Telephone Company to expand broadband in Lee County now and into the future. The agreement formed a private-public partnership to work together over the foreseeable future to expand broadband availability in Lee County by leveraging the ARPA funds for direct connectivity improvements and leveraging grants.

Broadband investment is critical to future economic development and quality of life in the Fort Madison, rural Fort Madison, and total area of Lee County. Broadband is simply indispensable and required in our daily working, school, and personal lives.

The OCIO's work is appreciated and needed in Fort Madison and Lee County, and we look forward to working with you to expand broadband connections in Lee County into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Gobble".

Tim Gobble

Executive Director, Fort Madison Partners

Board of Directors

Angela King,

Chairperson/Chamber

Ryan Wilson,

Chamber

Bob Huffman

FMEDC

Mike Culbertson

FMEDC

Jody Schulte

FM SIRR

Chuck Kempker

FM SIRR

Mayor Matt Mohrfeld

Ex-Officio

Executive Director

Tim Gobble

Chamber Director

Savanna Collier

Contact

Fort Madison Partners

614 7th Street

PO Box 277

Fort Madison, IA 52627

P: (319) 372-5471

F: (319) 372-6404

www.fortmadison.com