



PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

SUSTAINABILITY

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To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

Johnson County, Iowa, is applying in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone designation for the **SW Kansas Avenue Community**, which is a collection of rural areas generally immediately west and southwest of Iowa City limits.

The Johnson County Board of Supervisors investigated broadband adequacy in this area through commissioning the Johnson County Broadband Study. That study reviewed State of Iowa OCIO maps of broadband availability, FCC maps of awarded incentive funding, network maps from broadband providers, and other sources that in summary indicate inadequate broadband service in this area.

To validate its concerns that these residences and businesses are being impacted in various aspects of quality of life, Johnson County directly inquired about broadband adequacy at the specific addresses in this proposed zone. Most of the validated residents' testimonial responses report deficiencies, and many impact work, education, and remote health. These findings parallel those reported in stakeholder group meetings performed during the Johnson County Broadband Study.

The Broadband Study process also included receiving input from area broadband providers on their network extension plans. Johnson County appreciates they are making substantial investments in many areas of the county that are economically viable. It is also implementing the study's recommendations to facilitate more engagement between its agencies, developers, and broadband providers to streamline those investments.

The selection of this area for this application is primarily based on a high level of concern that it has particular geographic location and population density features that inhibit new broadband provider investment, without receiving programmatic public funding assistance. Written responses from community entities, residents' testimonials received, and other materials contained in this application validate the concerns contained in the Board's enclosed Resolution of Support with potential community broadband capital offerings.

Submitting this ITQ application on behalf of Johnson County is within my designated role of Director of the Johnson County Planning, Development and Sustainability Department to improve broadband access in Johnson County. Thank you for your consideration of the Johnson County ITQ applications. Please contact me at 319-356-6083 or jbusard@johnsoncountyiowa.gov with questions or concerns about the Board of Supervisors' Resolution of Support or other matters related to this application.

Sincerely,

Josh Busard, Director

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