



Shovel Ready Broadband Projects Submitted Via the Task Force Website or Forwarded To Staff by a Task Force Member

1. Municipal Projects. Use the stimulous money as revolving loan for bonds in those cases where cities are collaborating with the private sector for improving/building fiber systems.

2. Dakota County. There are at lease **three** projects in Dakota County that would qualify as "Shovel Ready" for 2009. they are in priority order:

1.) Provide a redundant data path for the Dakota Communications Center (DCC) to the east, going through fiber already installed from the DCC to Dakota County Technical College. Currently, Dakota County leases fiber connecting JDC to WSC. This fiber would no longer be necessary with this installation. The state of Minnesota, OET has given a verbal committment to pay for future maintenance costs of this installation, the terms of which will be spelled out in a joint powers agreement prior to installation. The anticipated cost of this project is \$400,000.

2.) Provide a redundant data connection for the Dakota Communications Center (DCC) at Empire by enabling data to route through the existing fiber ring at Farmington, and back to the Office of Enterprise Technology at the State of Minnesota. At this time, LOGIS has given a verbal commitment to providing the maintenance and support costs for this fiber installation, the terms of which will be spelled out in a joint powers agreement prior to installation. The anticipated cost of this project is \$150,000.

3.) Provide a redundant data path for the Dakota County fiber optic network to the south. Coordinating with Goodhue County to tie in to their Fiber network. This line would run from the Dakota County Government services building in Hastings, south to the Goodhue County boarder. The anticipated cost of this project is \$350,000.

3. Goodhue County. Goodhue County has a project looking for funding to run fiber from Red Wing to a handhole at the border of Goodhue County and Dakota County (about 10 miles). This would make available high-speed access to not only the County but numerous public and private entities in the Red Wing area currently using T1s.

4. Carver County. Carver County has a critically important "shovel ready" 85 mile public/private fiber optic loop project, with construction (burying of cable) to start in May 2009. The fiber ring will interconnect 11 cities, libraries, four school districts throughout the county and is expected to be completed in summer/fall 2010. The public/private partnership between the County and the private vendor will minimize one time and recurring costs for the County while allowing the



vendor to utilize its own fiber to provide internet, telephone and cable service for underserved, rural residential customers. The private entity will also make available broadband service to businesses thus enhancing the potential of economic development for the County. The County's capital cost is \$1.8 million. While the County planned to pay for this project over a 15-year period through savings by eliminating copper T-1 lines, significant additional State funding cuts (over \$760,000 was cut in December 2008) have been proposed by the Governor in 2009 and 2010. Further, serious revenue declines are expected in 2009 and beyond due to the economic downturn. Funding of this project would reduce the fiscal strain the County is incurring and greatly benefit the residents of Carver County.

5. Cook County. We (Cook County) will have a project ready for the financing stage by late May/early June. We are working on the governance structure, business plan and pre-engineering phases of a project to bring ultra-broadband up the shore to Cook County and if there is any way we could be considered for this list, I would like to make sure that I make the right connections.

6. MediaCom/Cities of Cook and Grand Marais. Mediacom Minnesota LLC operates broadband systems providing voice, video and data in almost 200 communities in MN. Mediacom Communications Corporation also operates broadband systems in 22 other States. We would like to submit two projects for consideration:

1. Fiber interconnect from existing Mediacom facilities to Cook MN, bringing broadband services to Cook.
2. Fiber interconnect from existing Mediacom facilities to Grand Marais MN to provide broadband service to the City of Grand Marais.

Both project's initial design plans are completed.

7. North Shore/Iron Range. I understand you are looking for "Shovel Ready" projects to expand broadband connectivity throughout Minnesota. We are a business class ISP operating in Duluth, Cloquet, Proctor, Hermantown, Virginia, Grand Rapids, and just recently added Hibbing. Our services are at minimum 20Mbps circuits and in Duluth we are presently building out a Gigabit Fiber network from downtown out. We are always considering expansion. Presently we are slated to add Carlton, Gilbert, Tower, Hoyt Lakes, Biwabik, Orr, Chisholm, Mahtowa, Moose Lake, and Barnum. These projects are all at various stages of planning and implementation, but all are ready to roll, especially if we can get financing to help speed up the financial end of things.

8. University of Minnesota. I am at the University of Minnesota and are encouraging the state to request federal stimulus funds to implement universal health information technology in the state. Part of this plan would include universal use of ultra high speed broad for every community in the state. I am wondering if this is the type of project that should collaborate with your task force.



9. Health Care.

Secure, reliable broadband connectivity is a critical resource for Minnesota's entire system of health care. Everything from exchange of patient records, to submission of medical insurance claims, electronic prescriptions, remote monitoring of patient status and telemedicine consultations are dependent on such a network. At the same time it is necessary for such a network to protect the privacy and confidentiality of patient information as required by state and federal law. The citizens of the state would greatly benefit from a statewide broadband network that provides the capability of connecting every health care facility in the state including hospitals, clinics, health centers, long term care facilities and other such sites where health care is delivered. Such a network would help to realize the state's mandate for interoperable patient records by 2015 and mandatory e-prescribing by 2011. I strongly urge the Task Force to consider supporting such a network as they formulate broadband network plans for the State of Minnesota. It will facilitate improved medical care, promote reductions in the costs of that care and help to grow the use of health information technology and the jobs that accompany it.

10. Minnesota Dept. of Health (see Attachment A). The Minnesota Department of Health requests three-year funding through the federal economic stimulus program to support the Greater Minnesota Telehealth Broadband Initiative (GMTBI), a consortium of health care providers that received authorization in late 2007 to access up to \$5.4 million in reimbursements under the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Rural Health Care Pilot Program. The Pilot Program is intended to build state and regional telecommunications networks to support rural health care. Additional program support is required to assist the GMTBI to fully leverage this \$5.4 million opportunity for the State of Minnesota.

Support is requested through a three-year grant to the Minnesota Department of Health and is intended to jump-start Minnesota's FCC pilot project, the GMTBI, and provide a mechanism to ensure State of Minnesota oversight and accountability for the remaining duration of this statewide project. This will be achieved through

- 1) A three-year grant to SISU Medical Systems, Inc., the Lead Organization representing the GMTBI to the FCC and the Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC);
- 2) Travel and meeting expenses for the Greater Minnesota Telehealth Broadband Initiative Task Force; and
- 3) A contract for services for meeting facilitation and planning for the Greater Minnesota Telehealth Broadband Initiative Task Force.

11. Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission (see Attachment B). Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission's situation relative to high-speed broadband. See the attached. The LMCC is requesting that the Task Force



forward the information provided
and the LMCC's need for support to the Legislature along others like this.

12. NESC. NESC is a MN state service cooperative that also operates as a public registered CLEC. We would like to propose a shovel ready project for all communities within our operating region. The project will at a community level create centralized connectivity for fire, police, city services, education and public libraries. Once local interconnection is completed they will have access to our highspeed Gigabit capacity network. In addition local emergency wireless services would be established for highspeed mobile response. With many communities having fiber connectivity into the schools it will allow local infrastructure sharing and cost sharing. Over 14 communities have recently reviewed munipcle projects. This project would not create a full over build but focus on community and government needs. This would ensure all such entities will have low cost high speed >100Mbps access and remove a large part of educations dependence on the eRate program. NESC would facilitate the project and operate it under our CLEC authority.