

**Recommendations to the
United States Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

**State of Alabama
Alabama Broadband Initiative
ConnectingALABAMA**

Submitted October 14, 2009



ALABAMA BROADBAND INITIATIVE

ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL, EB-09

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130



To the extent that the following projects meet all NTIA/RUS requirements for eligibility, viability and sustainability as laid forth in the NOFA and BTOP/BIP programs, the Alabama Broadband Initiative (ALBI) BTOP Review Committee recommends the following applications receive consideration for stimulus funds.

This recommendation signifies that the BTOP Review Committee deems (1) the project will meet a broadband infrastructure need within the State; (2) the project will increase the use of broadband technology within the State to better serve our citizenry; and/or (3) the project will provide public access to computers within underserved areas of the State.

Although the projects under each category are listed in no particular order, infrastructure projects within the State are our number one priority.

Last Mile (BTOP only)

City of Mobile (Mobile, AL) - \$7.4M for wireless project in urban central Mobile

Knology Total Communications, Inc. (Westpoint, GA) - \$5.1M to upgrade existing cable service in East Houston County

Contact Network Inc. d/b/a InLine (Birmingham, AL) - \$11.3M for fiber cable and wireless service to 6 counties in Northwest Alabama, including Fayette, Lamar, Marion, Tuscaloosa, Walker, and Winston counties

City of Bessemer (Bessemer, AL) - \$13M for wireless project in Bessemer

Last Mile (Non-remote)

Utopian Wireless Corporation (Bethesda, MD) - \$1.9M grant / \$1.9M loan for Wi-max project in Piedmont and Attala

Utopian Wireless Corporation (Bethesda, MD) - \$1.1M grant / \$1.1M loan for Wi-max project in Muscle Shoals



Last Mile (Non-remote) continued

Utopian Wireless Corporation (Bethesda, MD) - \$743K grant / \$743K loan for Wi-max project in Ashford

Utopian Wireless Corporation (Bethesda, MD) - \$337K grant / \$337K loan for Wi-max project in Parrish

Utopian Wireless Corporation (Bethesda, MD) - \$265K grant / \$265K loan for Wi-max project in Demopolis

Utopian Wireless Corporation (Bethesda, MD) - \$705K grant / \$705K loan for Wi-max project in Hamilton

Reliable Link (Dothan, AL) - \$2.4M for wireless project in outer areas of Houston County

Anniston Fiber Optics, Inc. (Anniston, AL) - \$5M for Broadband East Alabama Region (BEAR) project; mix of fiber and wireless in Calhoun, Talladega, eastern Clay and Cleburne Counties

City of Sheffield (Sheffield, AL) - \$4M for wireless project in Sheffield

Advanced Computer Solutions LLC DBA Advanced Broadband (Cullman, AL) - \$231K grant / \$238K loan for wireless project in parts of Hartselle, Danville, Falkville, Speake-Oakville, Gurley, New Hope, Owens Cross Roads, Arsenal, Eva, Laceys Spring Valamoroso Springs and Somerville

City of Eutaw (Eutaw, AL) - \$992K for cable project in Eutaw, Boligee and Union (all in Greene County)

Last Mile (Remote)

Utopian Wireless Corporation (Bethesda, MD) - \$3.9M grant / \$3.9M loan for Wi-max project in Winfield

Rabbit Internet Services, LLC (Clanton, AL) - \$976K for wireless project in Billingsley (north Autauga County)

Middle Mile

Troy Cablevision, Inc. (Troy, AL) - \$34.9M grant / \$34.9M loan for SmartBand-Rural Broadband for Economic Development and Energy Independence to serve 16,500 energy consumers in 4 unserved/underserved rural counties

Tower Cloud, Inc. (St. Petersburg, FL) - \$21.9M for network to extend new fiber laterals from existing fiber backbones to connect cell sites and construct new fiber rings in Huntsville, Decatur, Athens, Dothan, Fort Rucker, Montgomery and Wetumpka



Middle Mile continued

Department of Finance, Information Services Division

(Montgomery, AL) - \$20.9M to upgrade state's data network to provide robust, converged voice and data network access to state agency and public safety offices throughout Alabama.

ART Leasing, Inc. dba FiberTower Broadband Corp.

(San Francisco, CA) – \$51.3M to expand middle mile connectivity in areas around Huntsville, Montgomery, Mobile, Gadsden, Birmingham

Tombigbee Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Guin, AL) - \$599K grant / \$599K loan for fiber ring throughout Lamar and Marion Counties

Communications Infrastructure Group, LLC (Atlanta, GA) - \$4M for broadband in 7 Black Belt Counties (Perry, Dallas, Marengo, Wilcox, Butler, Covington, and Coffee)

Broadband Interstate Telecom Services (Cumming, GA) – broadband expansion throughout Macon County

Sustainable Broadband Adoption

City of Mobile (Mobile, AL) - \$3.3M for telemedicine services and education project

Snead State Community College (Boaz, AL) - \$3.6M for equipment and training on 6 Alabama campuses (Snead State in Boaz, Bevel State in Sumiton, Bishop State in Mobile, Central Alabama in Alex City, Faulkner State in Bay Minette and Trenholm State in Montgomery)

Alabama Department of Mental Health (Montgomery, AL) - \$5M for tele-psychiatry and tele-training for psychiatrists throughout the state

Alabama Department of Homeland Security (Montgomery, AL) - \$12.3M for Alabama Next Generation Emergency Network (ANGEN) that will break down barriers to broadband for safety, healthcare, and related organizations, unlocking sustained demand by anchor institutions all over the state.

City of Bessemer (Bessemer, AL) - \$6.6M for CyberLearning project in partnership with the National Education Foundation – provides online courses and on-site instructors

City of Sheffield (Sheffield, AL) - \$2.2M for CyberLearning project in partnership with the National Education Foundation – provides online courses and on-site instructors

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (Montgomery, AL) - \$3.08M for the state's 22 community action agencies and over 100 satellite offices, acquiring high speed connectivity where needed, updated equipment, regular training, and at least one client access computer in each location.

City of Anniston (Anniston, AL) - \$200K to expand library's computer center with laptops and add teleconference equipment

Public Computer Centers



The Valley Garden Activities Center, Inc

(Huntsville, AL) - \$57K for wireless access and equipment for community center in economically depressed area

Housing Authority of the City of Prichard

(Prichard, AL) – \$975K for new computer technology center

City of Mobile (Mobile, AL) - \$1.6M to equipment, education and training at 13 existing computer centers

Ready for College, Inc. (Talladega, AL) - \$372K for public computer center that will include an educational health and fitness program for senior citizens and after-school programs

City of Enterprise (Enterprise, AL) - \$387K for new public computer center

City of Montgomery Public Library (Montgomery, AL) - \$93K for new public computer center at Rosa Parks Avenue Library

Boat People SOS, Inc. (Bayou La Batre) - \$203K for computer center for Southeast Asian population for educational and broadband access

BlackBelt Technologies, Inc. (Birmingham, AL) – \$500K for public computer center in Selma

City of Eutaw (Eutaw, AL) - \$89K for new public computer center in Eutaw
