

**Nebraska Central Telephone Company  
Burwell City Limits Underserved Application Business Plan  
Attachment G**

In evaluating the viability of the Burwell City Limits Underserved Broadband Bridge Act (the “Act”) grant application submitted by Nebraska Central Telephone Company (NCTC), the proposed project was scrutinized from a legal, technical, and cost standpoint. That evaluation is bolstered by years of successful deployment and maintenance of financially viable broadband networks in the State of Nebraska by NCTC and its soon-to-be owner, Hamilton. As with the existing broadband networks maintained by NCTC and Hamilton, the Burwell City Limits Underserved Application makes good sense in all aspects.

**Project Overview**

The geographic area of the Burwell City Limits Underserved Act application is all within the city limits of Burwell, Nebraska. Burwell, which has a population of approximately 1,200 residents and is the county seat of Garfield County, is located in the Sandhills at the intersection of Highway 91 and Highway 11. NCTC supplies fiber to Burwell Public Schools. NCTC has an existing buried fiber network serving some homes and businesses in city limits, as well as fiber in the rural areas surrounding Burwell. The proposed project, if approved, would deploy fiber broadband internet to every serviceable location in Burwell. In order to complete fiber buildout to all serviceable locations in the community, nearly five miles of new buried fiber will be buried and connected to NCTC’s existing fiber network.

**The legal challenges of the Burwell City Limits Underserved Application are well understood and manageable.**

NCTC has an existing broadband network, including fiber, in and around the city of Burwell and does not believe that there are any remaining legal challenges there. NCTC has already obtained all necessary permissions and approvals to bury fiber in the city’s right of way. Additionally, there is existing fiber that runs along Highway 11, which is a north/south state highway that bisects Burwell on its east side, there may be a need to obtain additional permitting from the Nebraska Department of Transportation. NCTC and Hamilton are well-versed in obtaining the requisite permits and approvals to deploy a broadband network and are prepared to build out the serviceable locations in this project legally and efficiently.

**NCTC has maintained a broadband network for decades and maintaining the infrastructure that is part of this application would be status quo for NCTC.**

Both NCTC and Hamilton understand what it takes to build and maintain a broadband network. Both companies have technical staff capable of maintaining the existing broadband network and the project area for its expected life. Because there are in-house technicians monitoring and maintaining the network on a day-to-day basis, the fiber that would be part of this grant application would be expertly maintained for its useful life. NCTC will be burying all fiber which ensures the highest level of reliability and lowest ongoing maintenance costs when compared to aerial and wireless technology solutions.

**The expected costs and revenue make this project feasible from a financial perspective and would serve to meet the broadband demands of consumers in the Burwell area for years to come.**

NCTC will have funds available for all project costs that exceed the amount of requested support to be received for this project. The cost of the project for all locations is estimated to be \$1,229,850, whereas the amount of requested support is \$245,970, which is 20% of the total projected cost. NCTC has funds available in operations to fund this difference of \$983,880 and will not need to borrow funds to complete the buildout obligations for these service areas. In addition to available funds currently in operations, NCTC expects to generate enough cash flows going forward from providing service to these currently unserved locations to support the maintenance of the infrastructure on an ongoing basis. Below is a summary cash flow statement for the first 10 years of the project.

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