

Attachment G_1 – Business Plan

ATC has provided internet services to rural homes and farm industry in the proposed project area surrounding the community of Brule, NE since 1998. Even though the facilities have evolved over the decades, the current technology is unable to provide modern broadband services of 25 DL and 3 UL or greater to all locations.

ATC intends to replace existing DLC technology with fiber regeneration cabinets. Transport cards will be installed in the fiber regen sites to backhaul data from a new central office transport platform. From the fiber regen site, ATC will leverage Active Ethernet and GPON fiber technology to provide broadband services to all homes, farms, and ag industry locations within the given geography. ATC will contract the construction of underground mainline fiber and fiber drops. ATC employees will oversee this construction, ensure permits and variances of ROW are obtained, ensure locates of existing infrastructure occur, and complete the installation of all components at the customer premise. Improvements planned within the study area will collapse aging equipment and facilities. This will streamline the ability of the company to support the rural locations while also modernizing the services offered. One advantage of fiber service delivery will reduce the number of remote electronic cabinets. Having fewer remote cabinets will improve the company's ability to ensure service uptime.

The project area is within ATC Communications Exchange boundaries and has been partially funded by the ACAM II model. Census blocks within the project area forecast investment costs that significantly exceed ACAM II model funding, if the given census areas were funded at all. Through this application, ATC proposes to deploy fiber to the home throughout the project area with the assistance of LB388 grant funds, matching ACAM support, and internal financing.

The project area is approximately 212 square miles. Existing copper-based facilities will be retired. Locations within the project area will have access to broadband connections capable of 100 Mbps DL and 100 Mbps UL or greater. Within the project boundary are census blocks that constitute a high percentage of build costs per location. ACAM-II Capped Locations are referenced in attachment letter L-1. Additionally, 36 High-Cost census that are completely unfunded by the ACAM II model. ATC has outlined the highest cost census areas and approximately 52 locations that are currently served with less than 25 Mbps DL and 3 Mbps UL. Twenty locations within the census had access to services of at least 25 Mbps DL and 3 UL but less than 100/20. If awarded, ATC intends to complete this project in the next 18 months, accelerating the current timetable of the project to completion in 2023 by employing additional contracted construction.

ACAM II model allowed discretion in determining deployment technology. ATC Communications enacted policy in the redesign and subsequent construction of an all-fiber network for our broadband network in the Brule Exchange. LB388 grant funds will be used to fulfill this vision and leave no rural location without service as outlined by the many unfunded rural ACAM II census blocks nor with technology that cannot meet modern broadband service demands.