



Fort Robinson State Park – 3200 West Highway 20 – Crawford Nebraska 69339 – 308 665 2900

June 7, 2022

Nebraska Broadband Bridge Grant.

Dear Grant Committee,

Park staff at Fort Robinson are excited at the opportunity to upgrade our infrastructure. With this Grant funding, Fort Robinson, a very popular destination for people all over the nation, and a National Historic Landmark has an opportunity to secure an underground fiber network. The importance of this fiber network goes beyond an internet connection. We support Mobius Communications Company in their efforts to deploy fiber to our rural areas that include Fort Robinson State Park in western Nebraska.

With this connectivity the Fort becomes a state of the art business operation that includes receiving payments online for reservations, activity bookings, and various visitor services. The security and reliability of our business networks are more important than ever as the popularity of outdoor recreation is skyrocketing in these unique times. During this pandemic, fiber would allow educational classes to be held anywhere in the United States with a click of a button. This connectivity is also going to provide the thousands of visitors to the park the opportunity to stay in touch with the fast paced “real world” at their leisure. This grant will outreach to the entire footprint of the Fort. Preservation and anticipated future uses supplied by fiber are limitless.

Fort Robinson is located in a rural area that suffers from a lack of reliable connectivity to the rest of the state. Keeping the Fort profitable depends on the people that visit the Fort as well as our ability to do business with them in a timely and efficient manner. Fiber would also enhance educational opportunity at this historic and popular park.

Parks across Nebraska and the United States look for new and innovative ways to stimulate growth and drive increasing interest in their parks. This grant would enhance the park visitor experience now and into the future.

Please consider supporting the grant for Fort Robinson.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Morava". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Michael Morava
Northwest Regional Park Superintendent
Fort Robinson State Park
mike.morava@nebraska.gov
3086652900

TIME OUTDOORS IS TIME WELL SPENT

OutdoorNebraska.org



Preserving the past. Building the future.

24 June 2022

From:

RaNae Calder
Fort Robinson Site Manager
History Nebraska
3200 US Highway 20
Crawford, NE 69339

Re: Functional internet in rural Nebraska

To whom it may concern,

I have been with History Nebraska since 2019 and have been the site manager since 2020. We live in an extremely rural area, and typically we appreciate our slower paced lifestyle. People come to visit us to get away from the rush of everyday life. They come to relax, and to absorb our enormous history that we have to offer within our 22,000 acre park. The Historical Society here operates 13 of the 65 buildings that remain here. Only one of the History Nebraska buildings has internet access, even though two of our staff live in residences here, there is no internet availability for them. Our main museum and office has such a strained and slow internet that we often have to tether our computers to our cell phones or use a limited hotspot. One day last week I waited 17 minutes just to send an email with 4 pdfs on it. We absolutely cannot have two computers on the network at the same time. The biggest hindrance this causes is that our goal is to be virtual educators and reach schools that would never have a chance to learn about the place that Crazy Horse died. When everyone shut down for COVID the only option we had for any sort of virtual field trip was use a cell phone or a hot spot from a cellular provider, putting us much further behind many other historic sites that were able to adapt faster due to having internet availability. Living in one of the residences, I even looked into a form of satellite internet access and no provider was able to get a signal for our area. I have had Mobius internet before in a different location, they are fast and wonderful to work with. Being able to have an internet provider like Mobius would not only impact our ability to educate virtually, but would also impact our revenue source of how fast we can get our register operations to run with a credit card terminal. It would truly be invaluable, not only behind the scenes but for the 300,000 visitors that we have here every year.

I thus bring support to this grant application,

RaNae Calder

1500 R Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1651
P: 402.471.3270
history.nebraska.gov

10:05 AM Fri Jun 24



AA

speedtest.net

Gift Shop - Finances summary - Shopify

Shopify

SPEEDTEST

Apps Analysis Network Develop

HOW TO CLEAN YOUR MAC?

Clean your Mac. Start a system scan. Remove junk files found.

Start now

mackeeper

SHARE

Result ID 13324065578

RESULTS SETTINGS

PING ms

87

DOWNLOAD Mbps

9.04

UPLOAD Mbps

6.52



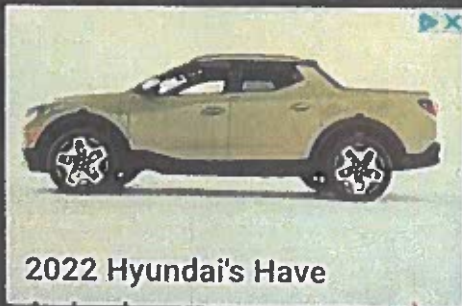
Connections
Multi

Fort Hays State Univ
Hays, KS
[Change Server](#)

State of Nebraska -
Office of the Chief
Informatio
164.119.177.237

HOW DOES YOUR NETWORK AVAILABILITY
COMPARE WITH YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

1	2	3	4	5
Much worse		As expected		Much better



Having Internet Problems?

Popular services with reported issues

DoorDash
Possible Problems

M&T Bank
Possible Problems

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA STATE MUSEUM



June 20, 2022

Nebraska Broadband Bridge Grant

Dear Grant Committee,

As part of the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM) network, Trailside is located at Fort Robinson State Park, attracting over 10,000 visitors each year. The impact of a robust fiber network would be enormous for both the museum's operation, as well as for our mission to promote scientific understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of Nebraska. UNSM strongly supports Mobius Communications Company's endeavor to deploy fiber in the panhandle.

Trailside is home to a special exhibit discovered nearby in the Little Badland formations. The "Clash of the Mammoths" exhibit captures the moment of death for two powerful beasts. With tusks intertwined, this exhibit is truly one of a kind in the world. Trailside museum has shared this exhibit with visitors in person from across the region. The pandemic has brought the ability to share this unique specimen to a halt. UNSM was able to pivot our educational programming to provide support and services virtually; however, the lack of reliable connectivity in the region meant that we were unable to provide similar programming from our Trailside site. We witnessed the success of this approach at our other locations, reaching over 110,000 people in all 50 states and Washington D.C., as well as in 56 countries worldwide.

A robust, stable service would allow Trailside to provide Virtual Field Trips and bring a unique exhibit to the world. Likewise, the opportunities to bring additional educational resources to the local rural community would also be enhanced. Collections managers and preparators regularly present programming virtually. The provision of improved connectivity in rural Nebraska would allow for more people to participate in this programming and interact directly with museum experts.

Heavily dependent on visitors to generate revenue for the museum, the lack of reliable internet service caused significant hardship at our Trailside location. Unable to pivot to the virtual environment, revenue streams quickly dried up during the pandemic. We continue to seek innovative ways to deliver learning opportunities, particularly among those not typically afforded this opportunity. An enhanced internet service would allow the delivery of high-quality programming to an underserved rural population, who would otherwise have to travel a considerable distance for the same opportunity.

Sincerely,

Adam Eakin
Assistant Director

University of Nebraska State Museum of Natural History – Morrill Hall | 645 North 14th Street,
Lincoln, NE 68588-0338
(402) 472-2637 | morrillhall@unl.edu

SHARE   

Result ID 13315964148

RESULTS  SETTINGS

 PING ms

77


 DOWNLOAD Mbps


3.25

 UPLOAD Mbps


0.68

GO

 Connections
Multi!

 ALLO - Scottsbluff
Scottsbluff, NE

[Change Server](#)

 Mobius
23.29.89.62

HOW DOES YOUR DOWNLOAD SPEED COMPARE WITH YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

1	2	3	4	5
Much worse		As expected		Much better




STARLINK



ORDER NOW

Having Internet Problems?

Popular services with reported issues

-  Outlook Possible Problems >
-  Southern California Edison Possible Problems >
-  Gmail Possible Problems >



MacBook Air



Preserving the past. Building the future.

June 7, 2022

Dear Grant Committee for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Grant:

Each summer, History Nebraska invites visitors to Fort Robinson State Park to experience the frontier and the American West. A National Historic Landmark, Fort Robinson is one of the most significant historic sites in Nebraska, and its interpretation illuminates stories of national significance. These topics include Native Americans, African-American Buffalo Soldiers, and the K-9 Corps during World War II. An underground fiber network would increase internet capabilities and allow us to use new technologies to improve our interpretation of the site for visitors.

Currently, Fort Robinson cannot provide stable and accessible internet connections for visitors. This makes it difficult for History Nebraska to offer cell phone tours or augmented reality experiences to enhance visitors' understanding of this large and complex historic site. In addition, the current lack of a fiber network makes it impossible for us to host live streams for K-12 classrooms.

I hope you will consider supporting the grant for Fort Robinson to receive funding to install this fiber network which will enhance the public's understanding and appreciation for Nebraska and America's history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Jones', written in a cursive style.

Trevor Jones
Director & CEO, History Nebraska

1500 R Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1651
P: 402.471.3270
history.nebraska.gov

POST *Est. 1967* PLAYHOUSE

June 8, 2022

Dear Grant Committee of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Grant,

Each summer, Post Playhouse, a professional repertory summer stock company, draws more than 12,000 visitors to Fort Robinson State Park to experience one or more of our five musical theatre productions. The theatre draws tourists and locals alike to the region. We take pride in our unique location on the grounds of historic Fort Robinson. This makes our productions especially appealing to families who will also have comfortable lodging available and a variety of other activities on the grounds of the park. We are proud to be a partner of the Nebraska Game and Parks, and we strongly support the opportunity to secure an underground fiber network that would increase internet and phone capabilities for the theatre.

Currently, the Post Playhouse is one of the only buildings at Fort Robinson that has wireless internet available. While this important internet connection is vitally important to our work, an underground fiber network would enhance our organization's technology. The Playhouse relies on connectivity not only for the personal and professional use by our 45 employees each summer, but most importantly for the efficiency of our ticketing system which we depend on for our earned revenue stream. Additionally, as a small and intimate theatre space, the set and lighting designs require technical creativity such as digital set pieces and virtual reality to enhance the use of our physical space. By having a strong underground fiber network we would have the ability to offer internet to our patrons, enhance our product, and produce more sophisticated art onstage and off.

Lastly, Post Playhouse is deeply committed to the community and to enriching the lives of local students and children in the region by providing opportunities for them to participate both onstage and behind the scenes in our productions. As we look to expand further into the educational realm, a fiber network would allow us to provide new opportunities including, but not limited to, possible live streams of productions and virtual classes.

I hope you will consider supporting the grant for Fort Robinson to receive funding to install this fiber network which will benefit not only the Game and Parks and the Playhouse, but also the entire Panhandle community as an improved amenity to this region.

Sincerely,



Tom Ossowski
Producing Artistic Director
Post Playhouse
tom@postplayhouse.com

Educational Needs written by Moni Hourt

This Story was prepared by one of our customers; she is currently on Wild Blue Satellite. Her story depicts her years living in the very rural area of western Nebraska. This area is included in our Community Connect Grant Application. This opportunity with buried fiber to her home propels her teaching to a level that gives her connectivity without, fragmented service or dropped connections.

My journey with the internet began in 1992 before most of the area had internet access. I was in my second year of teaching at a small rural school in southern Sioux County, Nebraska. This was the year before I earned my teaching degree at Chadron State College---at the age of 40. By that time, I had owned a computer for nearly 10 years starting with the Apple II, so obviously I was a computer "nerd." However, I did not use the internet at Chadron State and certainly didn't have access to it at my home.

AS I began teaching the internet opened worlds for my students. I DEMANDED a research paper from every student. The internet gave us access to the Library of Congress, government sites, and JSTOR (JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary sources). We learned how to examine and evaluate sites, to use information from them, and to disdain information that we found not credible. I was teaching grades 3-8 at that time. The first year my four 6-8th grade students did a History Day project on the people who once lived in our tiny community. They bested students from dozens of "town schools" all over the state and earned a berth at the National History Day contest in Washington DC. None of my students, and most of their parents had not even been out of our state. What an incredible experience!! From 2006 until 2008 I worked at Chadron State College, teaching student teachers the importance of including agriculture in their classrooms. I was also named the Western History Day director for the National History Day program. That meant, although I didn't have a classroom in which I taught History Day, I traveled across our district, an area of about 150 miles, to help students and teachers with History Day projects. My internet gave me access to information from libraries and research centers across the world. I shared that information with my students.

In 2015, because of health issues; I was diagnosed with Cancer, I was forced to give up full-time teaching, but I wasn't willing to give up History Day. I continued to work with teachers and students in schools across the Panhandle. January to June; up to 12 students a night and on the weekends worked at my house on projects. By that time, I had Wild Blue Satellite and amped my bandwidth up as far as possible, but there were times when six or seven students at a times would be jockeying for internet time on the chrome books the school provided for each student. Sloooooooow internet speeds were countered with cookie and cake breaks. We staggered snack time and internet time. We made it work. The internet was a vital component to our continued National History Day Finals recognition. It was much more difficult for me to load up students to go visit a college library or a museum, but we could find a plethora of information---good and bad---on the internet. From the beginning students learned to evaluate the internet and use it effectively. One student did a project about a Polish soldier. Google allowed her to translate the documents she found at a Polish library. The Library of Congress became our go-to information site. We watched dozens of historical videos that we could find online. The only problem we had was what we all called "internet freeze" time. My satellite internet didn't shut down completely; it just reverted to the slowness of dial-u, phone-access internet.

This fall, I've been able to work in the classroom and visit students in their schools until this last two weeks when my doctor advised me to stay home. So we're back to zoom again. Yesterday I worked with 15 students from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., all on zoom. By the end of the day, my internet was doing its best "glitching" maneuvers: freezing kids' faces and I'm sure mine in mid-sentence, creating wildly dancing pixels, and of course producing maddening speech lag-time. However, there's always Plan B. I'm learning to read lips and interrupt student's part of the time. I increased my bandwidth again this morning and will buy the largest package until the state contest in April. I'm in the process of creating schedules with every History Day in our district. I hope to be back in the classroom when I can, and hopefully in the near future, with parent and school permission, students will again be able to work on History Day projects at my house on weekends and evenings.

For me the internet is a vital educational tool. For over 25 years, I've used the internet as a key that my rural northwest Nebraska students can use to open the door to the world. With this grant and fiber Broad band it would make that such a reality with speeds not controlled by data caps for usage.

"Thank you" for time in reading my thoughts on the internet as a teacher.