

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public)	Application No. NUSF-92. _____
Service Commission, on its Own Motion)	
to Administer the Nebraska Universal)	
Service Fund Broadband Program:)	
Application to the Nebraska Broadband)	
Program Received from United States)	
Cellular Corporation.)	

**PETITION OF UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION REQUESTING
SUPPORT FROM THE NEBRASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND
BROADBAND PROGRAM**

United States Cellular Corporation (hereinafter referred to as “USCC or U.S. Cellular”) by and through its counsel hereby submits this Petition to the Nebraska Public Service Commission (“Commission”) to receive support from the Nebraska Broadband Program (“NEBP”). This Petition is being submitted pursuant to the Order entered in NUSF-92, Progression Order No. 12 on June 29, 2021.

USCC respectfully files this Petition requesting NEBP support to bring improved wireless service to ten (10) rural areas in Nebraska that are presently unserved or underserved. The locations are identified on the map attached hereto as *Public Exhibit 1* and would improve service near the towns of **Brownville, Funk, Guide Rock, Hazard, Odell, Prosser, Reynolds, Taylor, Tobias, and Wolbach**. The approximate longitude and latitude coordinates of the sites are confidential and are included in *Confidential Exhibit 2*. In support of its Petition, USCC submits the following:

1. APPLICANT

The companies associated with this Petition are United States Cellular Corporation, d/b/a U.S. Cellular and its FCC licensed operation entities USCOC Nebraska/Kansas LLC and USCOC of Greater Iowa Inc. which will provide the broadband service to consumers

proposed by this Petition. U.S. Cellular operates in predominantly rural states, including Nebraska. Its federal license does not include the panhandle of western Nebraska, but encompasses the remainder of the state. U.S. Cellular has been certified as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) annually by the Commission since 2007. The point of contact for this Petition is:

Stephanie Cassioppi
United States Cellular Corporation
8410 W. Bryn Mawr
Chicago, IL 60631-3486
(773)399-7940
stephanie.cassioppi@U.S. Cellular.com

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECTS

USCC’s Petition consists of bringing improved wireless voice and broadband service via ten (10) new towers distributed across the U.S. Cellular service area in the state, as shown in *Public Exhibit 1*. Each project is separate and can be funded at the Commission’s discretion. U.S. Cellular commits to meeting or exceeding broadband speeds required by the program at each location. All of these locations need improved wireless service, but absent NEBP support will not be prioritized for construction.

3. “UNSERVED” AND “UNDERSERVED” ANALYSIS

U.S. Cellular identified “served” areas by researching publicly available network coverage maps. As a result of its review, USCC believes all the projects are in underserved and/or unserved areas.

4. POLYGON SHAPE FILES

Confidential Exhibit 3 provides the polygon shape files showing households where coverage will be delivered via the above-named towers. This exhibit is confidential.

5. HOUSEHOLD AND TRAFFIC COUNT DATA

Confidential Exhibit 2 contains information on traffic count data and household density. In addition, *Confidential Exhibit 4* provides census blocks and household coverage information for each site. This exhibit is confidential.

6. DEPLOYMENT TIMELINE

U.S. Cellular commits to completing construction within 24 months from the date of Commission approval. Should any unforeseen consequences occur, such as delays experienced due to weather, flooding, zoning or site acquisition, U.S. Cellular commits to keeping the Commission informed and to seek approval for extensions that exceed the 24-month timeline.

7. BUDGET

The proposed budget is included as a part of *Confidential Exhibit 2*. The budget includes estimated costs for construction of new towers. This exhibit is confidential.

8. LIST OF EQUIPMENT

The list of equipment to be purchased and used in the construction and deployment of any sites awarded funding is contained in *Confidential Exhibit 2*. U.S. Cellular has never used Chinese-manufactured equipment, such as Huawei products and will not do so going forward. This exhibit is confidential.

9. RETAIL PRICING AND RATES

Up-to-date retail pricing for U.S. Cellular can be found on U.S. Cellular's website at <http://www.U.S. Cellular.com>. Customers have the option to purchase a wireless router or hotspot for use on laptops or other WiFi-connected devices; cellular-connected devices

including smartphones and tablets do not require a router or hotspot. USCC does not charge a subscriber line charge.

10. SERVICE COMMITMENT

USCC commits to offering broadband service to all households within the coverage area for at least five (5) years.

11. FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL COMPETENCE

Originally formed as TDS Cellular Communications Company in 1983, the company changed its name to United States Cellular Corporation on January 26, 1984. The company is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois and is led by an experienced leadership team consisting of the following:

- Laurent Therivel, President and Chief Executive Officer
- Douglas W. Chambers, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
- Michael S. Irizarry, Ph.D., Chief Technology Officer
- John C. Gockley, Senior Vice President, Legal and Regulatory Affairs

U.S. Cellular uses a state-of-the art mobile switching center in Omaha which has a full power back-up system for redundancy. Field teams are based in Nebraska enabling quick dispatch of personnel if on-site repair is required. U.S. Cellular's financial qualifications, including its audited financial statements can be accessed at <http://www.investors.U.S.Cellular.com>

12. FINANCIAL MATCH

While a financial match is voluntary, U.S. Cellular has identified four (4) locations where a match is feasible. U.S. Cellular will provide a ten percent (10%) match to lower the costs of construction at the Brownville, Funk, Odell and Prosser sites. Full funding is

requested at the remaining sites, as these locations are not economically feasible to build without complete support from the NEBP.

13. TRUTH AND ACCURACY AFFIDAVIT

An Affidavit attesting to the accuracy of the information herein is attached as *Public Exhibit 5*.

14. FURTHER SATISFACTION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In further support of its Petition U.S. Cellular states:

- a. USCC offers a voice grade service to customers and commits to continue to do so;
- b. USCC offers access to emergency services throughout its service area and commits to continue to do so;
- c. USCC commits to offering broadband service to all households within the coverage area for at least five (5) years;
- d. USCCSC commits to offer its services at reasonably comparable rates for comparable services in urban areas;
- e. USCC commits to provide broadband mapping data to the Commission and its vendors as requested;
- f. USCC commits to use support from the NEBP only for the purposes intended and which have been approved by the Commission;
- g. USCC commits to fulfill all reporting and audit requirements by the Commission related to the NEBP program; and
- h. USCC commits to abide by all applicable Commission Rules, Regulations and Orders, including requirements established in NUSF-92, as well as in in prior Dedicated Wireless Fund Orders pertaining to infrastructure sharing, roaming, Phase II 911 capability and reporting requirements

Conclusion

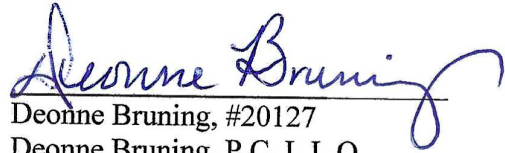
Constructing towers at the proposed locations will improve public safety and economic viability in rural areas where wireless service is presently inadequate. USCC's Petition

meets the criteria and objectives of the NEBP and furthers the Commission's goal of making broadband service available statewide. USCC respectfully requests the Commission enter an Order approving support for the projects described herein.

Respectfully submitted this 1st day of September, 2021.

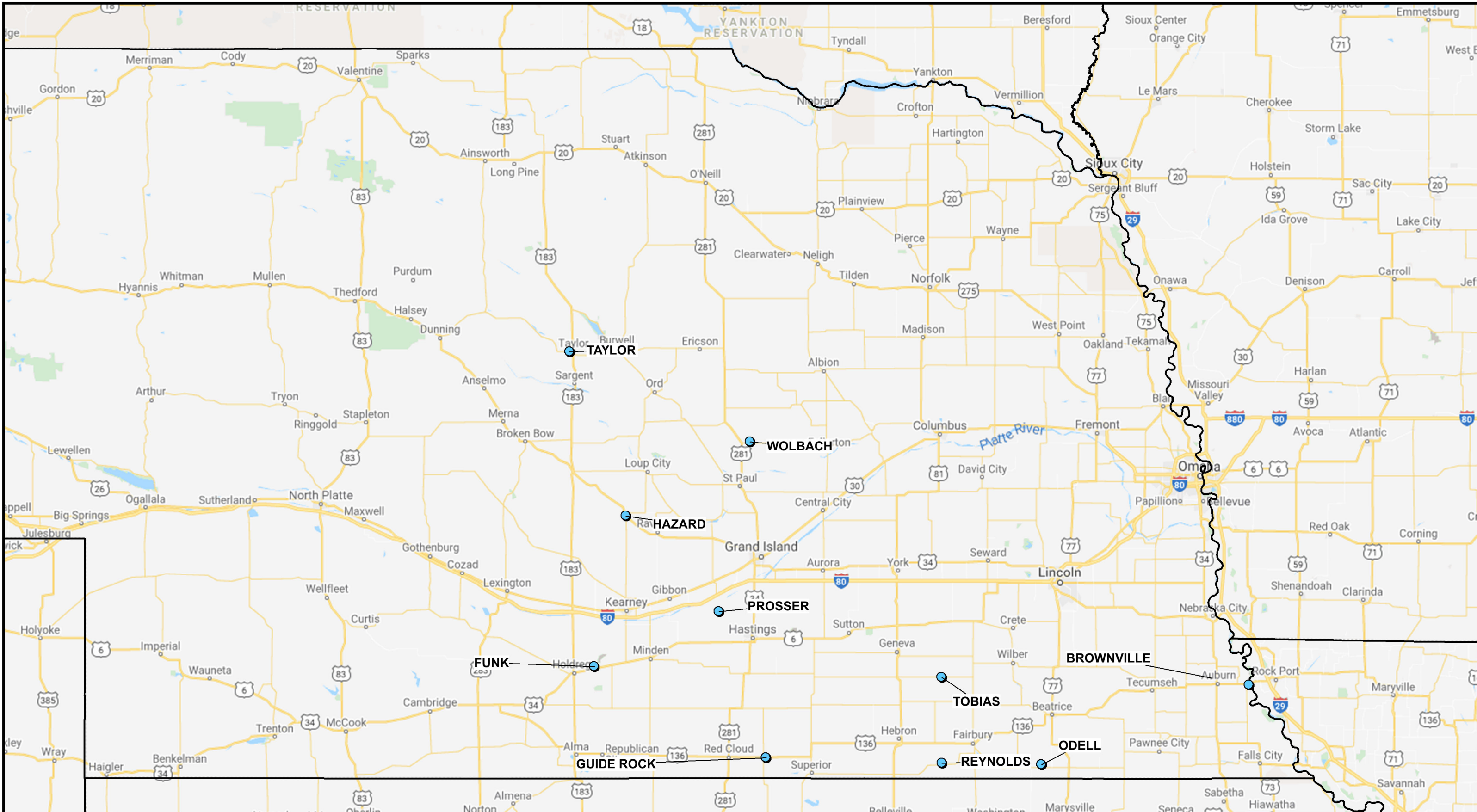
United States Cellular Corporation

By:



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Proposed Sites



LEGEND

● Proposed Sites

Notes:



File: ...\



GIS Services
Data · Analytics · Mapping

AFFIDAVIT OF UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION

Nebraska Broadband Program

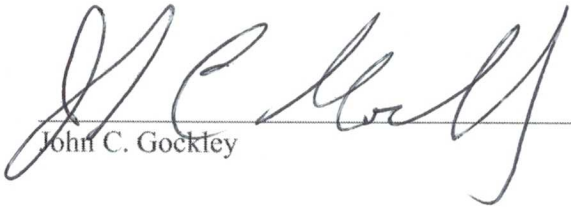
NUSF-92

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) ss.
COUNTY OF DUPAGE)

I, the undersigned, being duly sworn, state as follows:

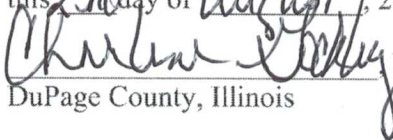
1. I am the Senior Vice President, Legal and Regulatory Affairs, of United States Cellular Corporation, FCC service area number 379019.

2. I have read the foregoing Application seeking funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program and state the information provided herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.


John C. Gockley

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 23rd day of August, 2021.


Notary Public
DuPage County, Illinois

My Commission Expires 10-30-21

