

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Urbana-Champaign • Chicago • Springfield

Office of University Counsel
258 Henry Administration Building
506 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801

August 14, 2009

Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium NTIA BTOP Proposals/Legal Opinion

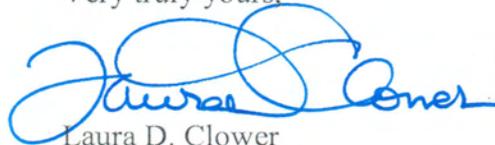
Dear Sir:

The Office of University Counsel acts as legal counsel for the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois (the "Applicant.") In such capacity, I, as an Associate University Counsel, acted as counsel to the Applicant in connection with its ability to apply to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program and in the review of the grant agreement, as referenced in the Notice of funds Availability.

The Office of University Counsel is of the opinion that:

- (a) The Applicant is duly organized and existing institution of higher learning constituted under the laws of the State of Illinois.
- (b) The Applicant has legal authority and power: (1) to execute and deliver the grant agreement; and (2) to perform all acts required to be done by it under said agreement.
- (c) No legal proceedings have been instituted or are pending against the Applicant, the outcome of which would adversely affect the Applicant's ability to perform the duties under the grant agreement, and there are no judgments against the Applicant which would adversely affect the Applicant's ability to perform the duties under the grant agreement.

Very truly yours,



Laura D. Clower
Associate University Counsel

ATTACHMENT H - Broadband Subscriber Estimates

Instructions: Using the table below, please estimate the number of subscribers for each distinct type of service offering on a quarterly basis over the five year forecast period. Combine all service pricing tiers of broadband data services into a single service offering. The subscriber projections must be described separately by the type of services offered, and by type of entity (households, businesses, "strategic institutions" i.e., critical community facilities, community anchor institutions, and public safety entities) to which services are offered. For last mile subscribers, please also provide, on a separate sheet, your estimated take rate (the percentage of total customers passed who will subscribe to your service), along with a brief description of the methodology used to forecast these subscribers/take rates. Middle mile applicants should indicate their subscriber forecasts in terms of the entities served via the last mile service providers, community anchor institutions, or public safety entities that are connected to their middle mile network. Middle mile applicants should also provide a reasoned basis for these subscriber forecasts (e.g., agreements in principle with existing or planned last mile service providers, market studies, etc).

Household Subscribers	YEAR 0	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3				YEAR 4				YEAR 5			
		Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4																
<i>Service Type #1</i>																					
Net add-ons																					
Cumulative subscribers																					
<i>Service Type #2</i>																					
Net add-ons																					
Cumulative subscribers																					
<i>Service Type #3</i>																					
Net add-ons																					
Cumulative subscribers																					

Business Customers	YEAR 0	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3				YEAR 4				YEAR 5			
		Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4
<i>Service Type #1</i>																					
Net add-ons																					
Cumulative subscribers																					
<i>Service Type #2</i>																					
Net add-ons																					
Cumulative subscribers																					
<i>Service Type #3</i>																					
Net add-ons																					
Cumulative subscribers																					

Strategic Institution	YEAR 0	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3				YEAR 4				YEAR 5			
		Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4
<i>Service Type #1</i>																					
Net add-ons																					
Cumulative subscribers																					
<i>Service Type #2</i>																					
Net add-ons																					
Cumulative subscribers																					
<i>Service Type #3</i>																					
Net add-ons																					
Cumulative subscribers																					

We are predicting that roughly 54% of the households that are passed by the UC2B pilot FTTH system will subscribe to the UC2B Community Network Service (UC2B CNS). Having done the door-to-door research to determine if these neighborhoods qualify as underserved, we know that slightly fewer than 40% of the households already have some form of broadband access.

From looking at the local competitive offerings, we know that the UC2B CNS will be faster and less expensive than anything else available in the market, so we believe there is a good chance converting upwards of 75% of the existing broadband subscribers in these neighborhoods to Big Broadband. That alone would give UC2B a just under a 30% market share.

Of the remaining 61% that did not have broadband at the time of the survey, we believe that we can sign up roughly 41% of that group. Big Broadband will be a social movement in this community. The Ministerial Alliance has discussed having a Big Broadband Sunday in the spring, where each of the ministers will devote some of his or her sermon to promoting Big Broadband. The UC2B Sustainable Broadband Adoption proposal will have field workers called "cybernavigators" working in these neighborhoods and promoting Big Broadband adoption.

Installing fiber to the curb in these low-income underserved neighborhoods will be a very visible event. Every resident will know what is going on, and information on signing up for UC2B service will be readily available. Every property owner will be solicited for an easement to build from the curb to the premise, so again awareness of this project should be very high.

We are proposing that all installation costs in low-income households be paid for by the BTOP grant, so barrier to entry will be very low. We are working with the University and the State of Illinois to streamline a process for recycling surplus University and State-owned computers into low-income homes. From our survey, we know that more than 60% of all homes in our proposed funded last mile service areas have at least one working computer. Getting most of those people to subscribe to Big Broadband is a reasonable goal.

After the BTOP grant has run out, we are looking to expand the areas of UC2B Last Mile FTTH coverage, but other ISP's may beat us to the punch in some areas of town. The UC2B Middle Mile fiber rings will create the possibility for any ISP to get significant bandwidth very close to its potential customers. On average there will be interconnection points every 800 feet on the UC2B Middle Mile rings. While that facilitates future UC2B FTTH build outs, it also presents hundreds of places for local ISP's to attach their customers and their networks.

The logo consists of the text 'UC2B' in a blue, sans-serif font, centered within a white rectangular box. This box is part of a larger orange-outlined structure that resembles a stylized building or a grid. Below the 'UC2B' box, there are several horizontal and vertical lines forming a series of rectangular compartments, with a central section containing three horizontal lines.

UC2B

Urbana-Champaign
Big Broadband -
Above & Below Ground
Letters of Support

Letter ID	Sector	Organization/Individual	PCC Site	Page
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Financial Support

001	State	Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity		4
002	University	University of Illinois, CITES		6
003	City	Urbana City Council resolution		7
004	City	Champaign City Council resolution		9
005	School District	Champaign Unit 4 School District		11
006	Business	Champaign Telephone Company		14
007	Mass Transit	C-U Mass Transit District		16
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009	Libraries	Lincoln Trails Library System		20
010	School District	Urbana School District 116		22
011	University	Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement		24

Government Support

100		UC2B Intergovernmental Agreement		25
101	U.S. Representative	Tim Johnson		37
102	State Representative	Naomi Jakobsson		38
103	County Administration	Champaign County Board		40
104	Contiguous City	Village of Savoy		41
105	City Services	City of Champaign		42

Community Partners and Support

201	Library	Champaign Public Library	Yes	43
202	Library	Urbana Free Library	Yes	47
009	Libraries	Lincoln Trails Library System		20
211	Community center - youth	Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club	Yes	49
212	Community center	Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center	Yes	50
221	Community Coalition	CU Open Access Coalition		52
222	Community coalition	CU On the Net		54
223	Community coalition	CU Area Project		55
224	Community non-profits	United Way		56
231	Faith-based CC	Bethel Church	Yes	57
232	Faith-based CC	Central Illinois Mosque & Islamic Ctr		58
233	Faith-based CC	Muslim American Society Comm Ctr	Yes	60
234	Faith-based coalition	Ministerial Alliance		61
105	City Services	City of Champaign		42

Vulnerable Populations

301	Physically/Mentally Challenged	Developmental Service Center	Yes	62
321	Women	A Woman's Place	Yes	64
322	Women	Center for Women in Transition	Yes	66
331	Low-income, women	Sisternet		67
332	Low-income	Ted Adkisson		69
333	Low-income	Christian Social Action Forum		70
334	Low-income	Urban Planning, Ken Salo		71
011	Low-income	Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement		24
341	Youth – Latino	New Horizons		72
211	Youth – low-income	Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club	Yes	49
351	Diasporian – Chinese	Hui Yan		73
352	Diasporian – Latino	Latino Partnership		74
353	Diasporian – Japanese	Aiko Takazawa		75
354	Diasporian – Korean	Korean Cultural Center of Champaign		76
361	Seniors	Champaign County Nursing Home	Yes	77
		Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC) Skelton Place	Yes	78
362	Seniors	HACC Columbia Place	Yes	78
362	Seniors	HACC Steer Place	Yes	78
362	Seniors	HACC Washington Square	Yes	78
363	Seniors	Clark-Lindsey Village	Yes	80
364	Seniors	Prairie Winds of Urbana	Yes	81

Job and Business Development

401	Apprentice Program	Champaign Telephone Company		82
402	Job Training	Parkland, Digital Divide CTC	Yes	83

Public Safety

501	Emergency Response	METCAD		84
502	Fire	Urbana Fire Department		85
007	Transportation	C-U Mass Transit District		16

Healthcare Services

601	Hospital	Carle Foundation Hospital		86
602	Consumer Group	Champaign County Health Care Consumers		87
008	Sanitary District	Urbana Champaign Sanitary District		18

Education

701	University - lead institution	Graduate School of Library & Information Science		88
702	University	Community Informatics Initiative		90

703	University	Office of the Provost		91
711	University	Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs		92
712	University	Illinois Promise Student Services		93
713	University	Office of Minority Student Affairs		95
721	Community College	Parkland Community College	Yes	98
005	K-12 Schools	Champaign Unit 4 School District	Yes	11
010	K-12 Schools	Urbana School District 116	Yes	22

Media, Arts and Business

801	Television/Radio	WILL		99
802	Radio	WEFT		100
811	Arts – Music	UIUC Mo’ Betta Music Program		102
812	Arts	Arts Editor, Justine Bursoni		103
813	Arts	Regional Inquiry Studio		104
821	Bank	Busey Bank		105
822	Business	Ploughman Analytics		106

Service Providers

901	IP Service	Consolidated Communications		107
902	IP Service	Champaign Telephone Company		108

Could not be implemented “but for” federal assistance

1000	University	Office of the Provost, Budgets & Resource Planning		109
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Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Pat Quinn
Governor

Warren Ribley
Director

August 11, 2009

Mr. Michael Smeltzer, Director of Networking
Board of Trustees, University of Illinois
1304 W. Springfield Ave., DCL Room 2129 MC-256
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Mr. Smeltzer:

The State of Illinois recognizes the need to bring world class broadband to every community. As part of this effort, the Illinois Broadband Deployment Program provides grants and loans to expand and strengthen broadband network infrastructure, health information technology, distance learning, and public safety. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is pleased to commit \$3,500,000 for Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Project based on the following conditions.

- State funding is contingent upon your federal application being approved and the execution of a grant agreement with DCEO. Please note that this commitment letter does not constitute an enforceable agreement and does not confer any property, equitable or legal rights.
- State funding commitments are valid for projects that are awarded federal funding under the July 1, 2009 Notice of Funding Availability for the Broadband Initiatives Program and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (application due August 14, 2009).
- State financial commitments will be made based on the information provided in the state application. Any significant change to the project scope of work and budget must be agreed upon by DCEO for the state funding commitment to remain valid.
- Upon the approval of the federal broadband proposal, please contact DCEO regarding a state grant agreement that will include the project scope of work and budget. Please also note that issuance of state matching funds is contingent on the cash available in the Build Illinois Bond Fund and valid state appropriations.

Internet Address <http://www.commerce.state.il.us>

620 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1615

217/782-7500
TDD: 800/785-6055

James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 3-400
Chicago, Illinois 60601-3219

312/814-7179
TDD: 800/785-6055

2309 West Main, Suite 118
Marion, Illinois 62959-1180

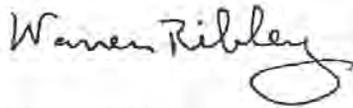
618/997-4394
TDD: 800/785-6055

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Page 2
August 11, 2009

As Illinois' lead economic development agency, DCEO recognizes the potential of this program to support economic growth for the citizens of Illinois and the state's economy. I look forward to seeing your project move forward in Illinois and wish you the best as this project proceeds through the federal application process. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Warren Ribley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Warren Ribley
Director

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Campus Information Technologies
and Educational Services (CITES)
1102 Digital Computer Laboratory, MC-256
1304 West Springfield Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801



August 11, 2009

Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Dear BTOP Program Officer:

I write as Chief Information Officer for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to commit the resources of my organization to the UC2B proposal submitted in response to the July 2009 Notice of Funding Availability. With this letter, I affirm that Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services (CITES) will contribute \$930,971 to the total cost of the project.

CITES is responsible, among other things, for providing state-of-the-art network capability to the campus. By way of meeting this responsibility we have become heavily invested in regional optical networks, and that has allowed us to play an increasingly active role in providing network access to the community. We are strongly committed to advanced networking as an enabler of research, education, and economic growth. Our proposal to BTOP, if funded, will allow us to partner with the adjacent municipalities to introduce leading-edge technologies to the entire community and to provide unparalleled service to currently underserved districts.

We are excited by this opportunity for many reasons. Working as a local consortium, and supported by federal funds, we can accomplish something for the community that would not be possible under any other circumstances. We have what we believe to be an innovative concept for public partnership in management of telecommunications infrastructure, and we have exceptionally strong social science expertise engaged in designing methods to speed household adoption of broadband technology.

Thank you for offering this opportunity and for considering our proposal.

Sincerely,

Sally Jackson
Chief Information Officer and Associate Provost

telephone 217-333-1637 • fax 217-244-7089
url <http://www.cites.uiuc.edu>

RESOLUTION NO.**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SUBMITTAL OF GRANT REQUESTS IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF CHAMPAIGN
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
FOR THE URBANA-CHAMPAIGN BIG BROADBAND (UC2B) PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana is committed to the expansion of broadband capabilities to the community and has demonstrated this commitment through its support of the projects and programs of the C-U Cable and Telecommunications Commission; and

WHEREAS, the United States government is promoting the expansion of broadband capabilities to certain areas through a local grants program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois is offering financial support to cover a portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded broadband project matching costs; and

WHEREAS, the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) Project has been formed in a collaborative effort of the City of Urbana, City of Champaign, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to prepare a grant application to pursue development of broadband capabilities, including the construction of infrastructure for the larger community, the installation "fiber to the home" capabilities for underserved areas, and associated public education and training efforts; and

WHEREAS, successful participation in this grant program would benefit the City of Urbana and its residents and the larger community by providing for improved Internet access and capabilities and resulting in improvements in the lives of residents and in the overall economic development potential of the area; and

WHEREAS, participation in the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband project is consistent with the goals and policies of the City of Urbana; and

WHEREAS, the Urbana City Council desires to express its support for the grant application to be submitted by the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband Project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Urbana; do hereby endorse the "Urbana Champaign Big Broadband Project" and will work to ensure compliance with the grant requirements, including the City's equitable share of the local match required by the granting agencies in the form of both financial commitment and in-kind services in an amount up to but not to exceed \$567,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, shall be sent to the granting agencies as evidence of City of Urbana support of the grant applications.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of August, 2009

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of August, 2009

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

AMENDED

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2009 – 160

A RESOLUTION
APPROVING A GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the United States Government has, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, has provided for the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program, which includes funding to deploy broadband infrastructure in underserved areas, to enhance broadband capacity at public computer centers, and to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois is offering financial support to cover a portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded broadband project matching costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, and the University of Illinois have taken steps to apply for state and federal funding for projects that would enhance economic opportunities within the City of Champaign and provide a public benefit by providing high-speed connections to underserved areas as well as the possibility of high-speed connections to the rest of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Champaign-Urbana community is the home of the University of Illinois, which is among the preeminent institutions in the world related to automation and computer progress.

WHEREAS, successful participation in this grant program would benefit the City of Champaign and its residents and the larger community by providing for improved internet access and capabilities and resulting in improvements in the lives of residents and in the overall economic development potential of the area; and

WHEREAS, participation in the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Project is consistent with the goals and policies of the City of Champaign.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to take such steps to support applications for funding from the United States under the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program through the U.S. Department, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and with the State of Illinois, in conjunction with the University of Illinois and the City of Urbana, as are convenient and necessary,

Section 2. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to undertake such activities and execute such documents as are reasonable and necessary to support the application.

Section 3. That the local match requirements of \$920,000 in matching funds and up to 4,000 hours of City staff time is hereby authorized, if the grant applications are selected by the U.S. Department of Commerce and accepted by the City of Champaign.

Section 4. That a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, shall be sent to the granting agencies as evidence of City of Champaign support of the grant applications.

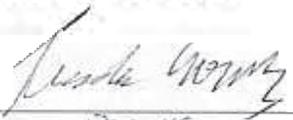
AMENDED
COUNCIL BILL NO. 2009 – 160

PASSED: August 5, 2009

APPROVED: 
Deputy Mayor

ATTEST: 
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

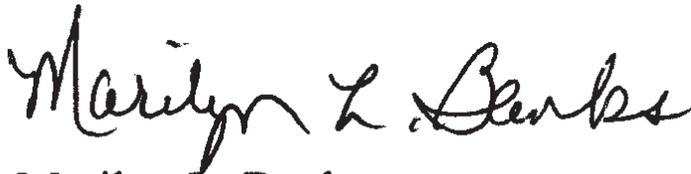

City Attorney

j:\leg\word\intergovernmental relations\big broadband\broadband - cb grant fed & state 8-3-09.rtf

CERTIFICATE

I, Marilyn L. Banks, duly Appointed, fully Qualified, and City Clerk of the City of Champaign, County of Champaign, State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of Council Bill 2009-160 "A Resolution Approving A Grant Application"

In WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Champaign, County of Champaign, State of Illinois, this 5th day of August, 2009.



Marilyn L. Banks
City Clerk



**LETTER OF INTENT
FOR PROVISIONING OF INDEFEASIBLE RIGHTS OF USE IN THE UC2B FIBER OPTIC
NETWORK**

The Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium [UC2B] and Champaign Unit 4 Schools ("Customer") intend to enter into a Definitive Agreement as outlined in this Letter of Intent. Customer intends to purchase an Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) for dark fiber on the UC2B network.

I. DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT

The parties to this Letter of Intent will endeavor to finalize and execute a definitive agreement defining the transaction, which shall include the terms below, and such other provisions as may be mutually agreed upon.

II. TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION

The transaction shall include the purchase of an IRU for the provisioning of fibers within UC2B's network (see Exhibit A attached), including installation, testing, and maintenance for the term of the IRU and any other requirements mutually agreed upon. The twenty (20) proposed Customer locations to be connected to UC2B fiber are itemized on page two of Exhibit B.

III. PRICING

Customer agrees to pay a one-time charge of \$622,556.51 which will include the installation and testing of four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #1, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #2, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #3, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #4, and the construction of single lateral fiber builds from the closest splice point on a UC2B fiber ring to the Customer's facilities. Of that total one-time charge, \$390,000.00 shall be for the construction of the single lateral fiber connections into twenty (20) locations and \$232,556.51 shall be for the 20-year IRU. Additionally, Customer agrees to pay an annual fiber maintenance charge of \$31,055.65 for the length of the IRU agreement.

IV. PAYMENT

The one-time payment may be made in three (3) equal payments of \$207,518.84 each. The first payment is due on January 10, 2010. The second Payment is due on October 10, of 2010, and the final payment is due on October 10, of 2011.

V. TERM

20 years from date of delivery.

VI. DELIVERY SCHEDULE

UC2B estimates the delivery of all the fibers identified in the IRU on or about October 15, 2011. Should any fiber rings be available before then, UC2B shall make Customer fiber strands available to Customer as soon as the ring and the lateral construction is completed and the fiber is tested.

VII. LEGAL EFFECT

This Letter of Intent is intended to be a statement of the mutual interest of the parties with respect to a possible transaction and is subject to execution and delivery of a mutually satisfactory definitive services agreement. Nothing herein shall constitute a binding commitment of either party except for the agreements in this section. The parties will become legally obligated with respect to the transaction only in accordance with the terms contained in the definitive services agreement relating thereto if, as and when such document has been executed and delivered by the parties.

VIII. EXPIRATION DATE

This Letter of Intent will be honored until the expiration date which shall be 12 months after execution.

Accepted this 10th day of August 2009.

Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium

Name (printed)

Accepted this 10th day of August 2009.

[Signature]
Customer Signature

David W. Tomlinson
Name (printed)

Board of Education
Champaign Unit 4 Schools

PRESIDENT
Title

LETTER OF INTENT**FOR PROVISIONING OF INDEFEASIBLE RIGHTS OF USE IN THE UC2B FIBER OPTIC NETWORK**

The Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium [UC2B] and Champaign Telephone Company ("Customer") intend to enter into a Definitive Agreement as outlined in this Letter of Intent. Customer intends to purchase an Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) for dark fiber on the UC2B network.

I. DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT

The parties to this Letter of Intent will endeavor to finalize and execute a definitive agreement defining the transaction, which shall include the terms below, and such other provisions as may be mutually agreed upon.

II. TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION

The transaction shall include the purchase of an IRU for the provisioning of fibers within UC2B's network (see Exhibit A attached), including installation, testing, and maintenance for the term of the IRU and any other requirements mutually agreed upon. The proposed seven (7) Customer locations to be connected to UC2B fiber are itemized on page two of Exhibit B.

III. PRICING

Customer agrees to pay a one-time charge of \$587,697.53 which will include the installation and testing of four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #1, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #2, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #3, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #4, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #5, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #6, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #7, and the construction of single lateral fiber builds from the closest splice point on a UC2B fiber ring to the Customer's facilities. Of that total one-time charge, \$210,000.00 shall be for the construction of the single lateral fiber connections into seven (7) locations and \$377,697.53 shall be for the 20-year IRU. Additionally, Customer agrees to pay an annual fiber maintenance charge of \$41,969.75 for the length of the IRU agreement.

IV. PAYMENT

The one-time payment may be made in three (3) equal payments of \$195,899.18 each. The first payment is due on January 10, 2010. The second Payment is due on October 10, of 2010, and the final payment is due on October 10 of 2011.

V. TERM

20 years from date of delivery.

VI. DELIVERY SCHEDULE

UC2B estimates the delivery of all the fibers identified in the IRU on or about October 15, 2011. Should any fiber rings be available before then, UC2B shall make Customer fiber strands available to Customer as soon as the ring and the lateral construction is completed and the fiber is tested.

VII. LEGAL EFFECT

This Letter of Intent is intended to be a statement of the mutual interest of the parties with respect to a possible transaction and is subject to execution and delivery of a mutually satisfactory definitive services agreement. Nothing herein shall constitute a binding commitment of either party except for the agreements in this section. The parties will become legally obligated with respect to the transaction only in accordance with the terms contained in the definitive services agreement relating thereto if, as and when such document has been executed and delivered by the parties.

VIII. EXPIRATION DATE

This Letter of Intent will be honored until the expiration date which shall be 12 months after execution.

Accepted this _____ day of _____ 2009.

Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium

Name (printed)

Accepted this 12 day of August 2009.

[Signature]
Customer Signature

Michael Hosier
Name (printed)

Champaign Telephone Company

pres.
Title

LETTER OF INTENT**FOR PROVISIONING OF INDEFEASIBLE RIGHTS OF USE IN THE UC2B FIBER OPTIC NETWORK**

The Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium [UC2B] and the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District ("Customer") intend to enter into a Definitive Agreement as outlined in this Letter of Intent. Customer intends to purchase an Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) for dark fiber on the UC2B network.

I. DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT

The parties to this Letter of Intent will endeavor to finalize and execute a definitive agreement defining the transaction, which shall include the terms below, and such other provisions as may be mutually agreed upon.

II. TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION

The transaction shall include the purchase of an IRU for the provisioning of fibers within UC2B's network (see Exhibit A attached), including installation, testing, and maintenance for the term of the IRU and any other requirements mutually agreed upon. The proposed twelve (12) Customer locations to be connected to UC2B fiber are itemized on page two of Exhibit B.

III. PRICING

Customer agrees to pay a one-time charge of \$339,102.53 which will include the installation and testing of four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #1, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #2, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #3, four (4) fiber strands on the entire length of UC2B fiber ring #6, and the construction of single lateral fiber builds from the closest splice point on a UC2B fiber ring to the Customer's facilities. Of that total one-time charge, \$112,500 shall be for the construction of the single lateral fiber connections into twelve (12) locations and \$226,602.53 shall be for the 20-year IRU. Additionally, Customer agrees to pay an annual fiber maintenance charge of \$24,910.25 for the length of the IRU agreement.

IV. PAYMENT

The one-time charge may be made in three (3) equal payments of \$113,034.18 each. The first payment is due on January 10, 2010. The second payment is due on October 10, of 2010, and the final payment is due on October 10 of 2011.

V. TERM

20 years from date of delivery.

VI. DELIVERY SCHEDULE

UC2B estimates the delivery of all the fibers identified in the IRU on or about October 15, 2011. Should any fiber rings be available before then, UC2B shall make Customer fiber strands available to Customer as soon as the ring and the lateral construction is completed and the fiber is tested.

VII. LEGAL EFFECT

This Letter of Intent is intended to be a statement of the mutual interest of the parties with respect to a possible transaction and is subject to execution and delivery of a mutually satisfactory definitive services agreement. Nothing herein shall constitute a binding commitment of either party except for the agreements in this section. The parties will become legally obligated with respect to the transaction only in accordance with the terms contained in the definitive services agreement relating thereto if, as and when such document has been executed and delivered by the parties.

VIII. EXPIRATION DATE

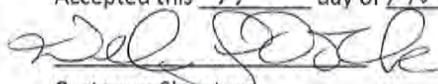
This Letter of Intent will be honored until the expiration date which shall be 12 months after execution.

Accepted this _____ day of _____ 2009.

Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium

Name (printed)

Accepted this 11th day of AUGUST 2009.


Customer Signature

W M L VOLK
Name (printed)

Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Title



**URBANA &
CHAMPAIGN
SANITARY
DISTRICT**

P.O. BOX 669 • 1100 E. UNIVERSITY AVE. • URBANA, IL 61803-0669 • (217) 367-344

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Chris Alix
Dianna Lenik
Jerry Lyke

Executive Director
Michael Little

LETTER OF INTENT

FOR INSTALLING FIBER CONECTIONS TO THE UC2B FIBER OPTIC NETWORK

The Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium [UC2B] and the Urbana & Champaign Sanitary District ("Customer") intend to enter into a Definitive Agreement as outlined in this Letter of Intent. Customer intends to purchase fiber connections to the UC2B network and to then purchase layer two transport services over that network.

I. DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT

The parties to this Letter of Intent will endeavor to finalize and execute a definitive agreement defining the transaction, which shall include the terms below, and such other provisions as may be mutually agreed upon.

II. TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION

The transaction shall include the fiber infrastructure between Customer locations and UC2B's network (see Exhibit A attached), including installation, testing, recurring maintenance, and any other requirements mutually agreed upon. The proposed nine (9) Customer locations to be connected to UC2B fiber are itemized on page two of Exhibit B.

III. PRICING

Customer agrees to pay a one-time charge of \$120,000.00, which will include the installation and testing of fiber strands between the Customer locations and the nearest splice points on the UC2B network. Of that total one-time charge, the entire \$120,000.00 shall be for the construction of the single lateral fiber connections into nine (9) locations. Additionally, Customer agrees to pay an annual fiber maintenance charge of \$2,400 for the length of the agreement.

IV. PAYMENT

The one-time charge may be paid in three (3) equal payments of \$40,000 each. The first payment is due on January 10, 2010. The second Payment is due on October 10, of 2010, and the final payment is due on October 10 of 2011.

V. TERM

To be determined by Customer and UC2B.

VI. DELIVERY SCHEDULE

UC2B estimates the delivery of all the fibers identified in the Agreement on or about October 15, 2011. Should any fiber rings be available before then, UC2B shall make layer two services available to Customer as soon as the rings and the lateral construction are completed and the fiber is tested.

● Page 2

August 10, 2009

VII. LEGAL EFFECT

This Letter of Intent is intended to be a statement of the mutual interest of the parties with respect to a possible transaction and is subject to execution and delivery of a mutually satisfactory definitive services agreement. Nothing herein shall constitute a binding commitment of either party except for the agreements in this section. The parties will become legally obligated with respect to the transaction only in accordance with the terms contained in the definitive services agreement relating thereto if, as and when such document has been executed and delivered by the parties.

VIII. EXPIRATION DATE

This Letter of Intent will be honored until the expiration date which shall be 12 months after execution.

Accepted this _____ day of _____ 2009.

Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium

Name (printed)

Accepted this 10th day of August 2009.

Michael R. Little

Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District (Customer)

Michael R. Little
Name (printed)

Executive Director
Title

by Kimberly A. Lytle

LETTER OF INTENT**FOR INSTALLING FIBER CONECTIONS TO THE UC2B FIBER OPTIC NETWORK**

The Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium [UC2B] and Lincoln Trail Libraries System ("Customer") intend to enter into a Definitive Agreement as outlined in this Letter of Intent. Customer intends to purchase fiber connections to the UC2B network and to then purchase Internet services and/or layer-two transport services over that network.

I. DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT

The parties to this Letter of Intent will endeavor to finalize and execute a definitive agreement defining the transaction, which shall include the terms below, and such other provisions as may be mutually agreed upon.

II. TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION

The transaction shall include the use of fiber infrastructure between Customer location and UC2B's network Ring #1 (see Exhibit A attached), including installation, testing, recurring maintenance and any other requirements mutually agreed upon. The proposed one (1) Customer location to be connected to UC2B fiber is itemized on page two of Exhibit B.

III. PRICING

Customer agrees to pay a one-time charge of \$30,000.00, which will include the installation and testing of fiber strands between the Customer locations and the nearest splice point on the UC2B network. Of that total one-time charge, the entire \$30,000.00 shall be for the construction of the single lateral fiber connections into one (1) location. Additionally, Customer agrees to pay an annual fiber maintenance charge of \$600.00 for the length of the agreement.

IV. PAYMENT

The one-time charge may be paid in three (3) equal payments of \$10,000 each. The first payment is due on January 10, 2010. The second Payment is due on October 10, of 2010, and the final payment is due on October 10 of 2011.

V. TERM

To be determined by Customer and UC2B.

VI. DELIVERY SCHEDULE

UC2B estimates the delivery of all the fibers identified in the Agreement on or about October 15, 2010. Should the fiber ring be available before then, UC2B shall make layer two services available to Customer as soon as the ring and the lateral construction are completed and the fiber is tested.

VII. LEGAL EFFECT

This Letter of Intent is intended to be a statement of the mutual interest of the parties with respect to a possible transaction and is subject to execution and delivery of a mutually satisfactory definitive services agreement. Nothing herein shall constitute a binding commitment of either party except for the agreements in this section. The parties will become legally obligated with respect to the transaction only in accordance with the terms contained in the definitive services agreement relating thereto if, as and when such document has been executed and delivered by the parties.

VIII. EXPIRATION DATE

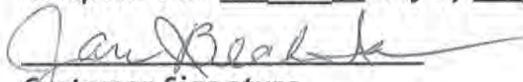
This Letter of Intent will be honored until the expiration date which shall be 12 months after execution.

Accepted this _____ day of _____ 2009.

Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium

Name (printed)

Accepted this 12th day of August 2009.



Customer Signature

Jan Ison

Name (printed)

Lincoln Trail Libraries System

Executive Director

Title



**Urbana School
District 116**

Jean F. Burkholder
Administrative Service Center
www.usd116.org

Preston L. Williams, Jr. Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools
217-384-3600
Fax 217-337-4973

205 North Race Street
P.O. Box 3039
Urbana • Illinois • 61803-3039

**LETTER OF SUPPORT
FOR THE UC2B FIBER OPTIC NETWORK**

The Urbana School District #116 (the District) has prepared this letter of support for the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Consortium [UC2B]. The District has been involved with a fiber optic collaborative project with the City of Urbana since April 2008. As part of the City Fiber Project, the District has purchased dark fiber as part of a fiber optic network connecting five school buildings by June 2009, with plans to reach two additional schools and two school administrative facilities by June 2010, and two additional school buildings by 2011.

Fiber connectivity is a critical aspect of the District's Technology Integration Plan. Prior to the City Fiber Project, the schools and classrooms have been served with a 1MB T-1 line that was insufficient to keep up with administrative requirements (e.g. online attendance and grade books). By increasing our connectivity exponentially, students, teachers, and administrators will transform technology integration with curriculum, instruction, assessment, and administrative decision-making. Teachers and students will be able to collaborate with peers and classrooms via video conferencing. The high school will have the opportunity to offer dual credit college level courses taught by college faculty in distance learning situations. The schools will be able to capitalize on their updated computer labs and media centers by publishing audio and video productions to the web. Increased bandwidth will also allow the implementation of a variety of new technology tools, like interactive whiteboards and individual student response systems. In the past year, the District has upgraded computer labs and media centers at all school buildings. Instructional use of technology has grown substantially in the past three years, but the historically low bandwidth has hindered the use of audio, video, and Web 2.0 technologies. The increased bandwidth is allowing automation, integration, and access to a variety of data systems, including the online library catalog, student emails provided by the district, and family access to student attendance and grade records. District administration will be able to take advantage of voice-over-internet phone systems, remote problem solving meetings, and access to student achievement data warehouses.

Urbana School District #116

The district has committed to paying the City of Urbana \$94,175.00 to complete the first phase of District's portion of the City Fiber Project. The District is currently working with the City on the second phase, which will cost the District an additional \$58,900. The District has spent an additional \$145,000 on handholds, network upgrades, and connectivity issues directly associated with upgrading to the fiber optic network. The District views the amount that they have committed to the City Fiber Project as an in-kind contribution to the UC2B project.

The advantage of the UC2B project for the District is that it would dramatically reduce the current fiber implementation timeline, and it would also provide additional integration with community partners, other governmental agencies, as well as parents who are served by the increased access to broadband.

This Letter of Support is intended to be a statement of support and mutual interest of the parties with respect to a possible collaboration. Nothing herein shall constitute a binding commitment of either party.

Sincerely,



Donald Owen
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement
Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



July 30, 2009

Mike Smeltzer
Director of Networking
Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services (CITES)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2101 Digital Computer Laboratory, MC-256
1304 West Springfield Avenue
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Dear Mike,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) proposal to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, National Telecommunications Information Administration, Department of Commerce, for stimulus funding to provide broadband access to underserved areas, including more than 15,000 low income households, of Champaign County. Expanded broadband access would be a tremendous asset for the community and will help foster further economic development in the county.

My office, with support from the Office of the Chancellor, will provide annual support of \$60,000 for this project for a period of five years, subject to availability of funds. Our budget decisions are made on an annual basis and availability of funds may change from year to year. The commitment is contingent upon funding being awarded to UC2B project. Further, if the proposal is funded at a level less than the requested amount our contribution will be reduced proportionally.

I wish you and the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) Consortium all the best for this important project.

Sincerely,

Steven T. Sonka
Interim Vice Chancellor

telephone 217-333-9525 • fax 217-244-4121



Government Sites

- 2 City of Champaign - C4
- 3 Champaign Public Works - B4
- 4 City of Urbana - D6
- 5 City of Urbana Public Works - D7
- 6 County Courthouse - D6
- 7 Champaign County Offices - D7
- 8 Regional Planning - C6
- 10 University of Illinois - C5
- 11 MTD - Main Offices - C7
- 12 MTD - Transportation Center - C4
- 13 Savoy Government - H4
- 14 Federal Courthouse - D6
- 17 Champaign Township - D4
- 18 Champaign Township - D1
- 19 Urbana Township - C8

Public Safety Sites

- 2A Champaign Police - C4
- 4 Urbana Police & Main Fire - D6
- 10 University of IL Police - C5
- 20 Champaign County Sheriff & Jail - C6
- 21 METCAD & Emerg. Services - D8
- 22 Champaign Fire Main - C4
- 23 Champaign Fire - Station 2 - E3
- 24 Champaign Fire - Station 3 - B4
- 25 Champaign Fire - Station 4 - D2
- 26 Champaign Fire - Station 5 - B3
- 27 Urbana Fire - N Lincoln - C5
- 28 Urbana Fire - Philo Road - E7
- 31 Savoy Police & Fire - H4
- 33 Willard Airport - G4
- 34 Youth Detention Center - D8
- 35 Edge Scott Fire District - C8
- 36 Carrol Fire District - B8
- 37 Eastern Prairie Fire Dist. - A5
- 40 Parkland Police - B2
- 100 Arrow Ambulance - C6
- 105 Pro Ambulance - C5
- 183 Champaign Fire - Station 6 - F1
- 188 Urbana Future Fire Station - B8

Medical Sites

- 15 C-U Public Health - B4
- 29 Carle Hospital - C6
- 29 Carle Clinic Main - C6
- 30 Provena Hospital - C5
- 102 Carle Clinic Champaign - E3
- 106 Christie Clinic Main - C4
- 107 Christie Clinic South Champaign - F2
- 109 The Pavillion - C4
- 110 Francis Nelson Health Center - B4
- 184 Carle Clinic SE Urbana - E7
- 185 Christie Clinic SE Urbana - E7
- 187 Carle Clinic South Champaign - G3

Senior Living Sites

- 2 Inman Plaza - C4
- 84 SunnyCrest Manor - E7
- 94 Urbana Senior Residence - D6
- 95 HACC Skelton Place - C5
- 96 HACC Steer Place - E7
- 97 HACC Washington Square - C4
- 98 County Nursing Home - D8
- 99 Florida House - E7
- 103 Windsor of Savoy - F4
- 108 Clark-Lindsay Village - F4
- 189 Canteberry Ridge - E8
- 190 Prairie Winds of Urbana - E8
- 193 Round Barn Manor - D2

Park District & Youth Sites

- 66 CPD - Douglas Center - C5
- 77 Moyer Boy's & Girl's Club - C5
- 81 CPD - Bresnan Center - D2
- 82 CPD - Leonard Center - D2
- 85 Stevick Center - C4
- 86 CPD - Springer Center- C4
- 87 UPD - Phillips Center- C6
- 88 UPD - Main - C6
- 89 Orpheum Science Museum - C4
- 92 CPD Hayes Center - C3

Pubic Computing Centers

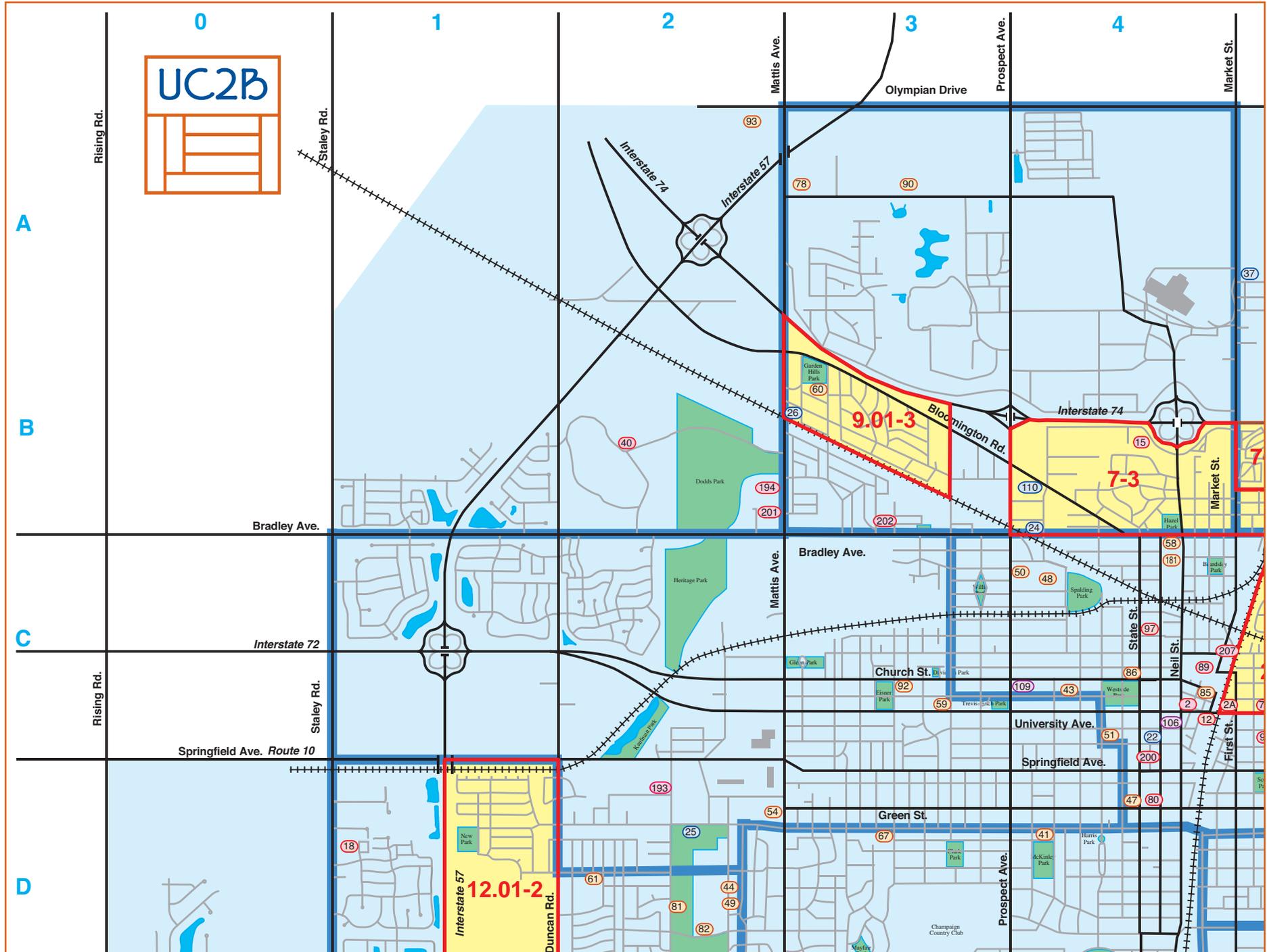
- 2 Inman Plaza - C4
- 15 C-U Public Health - B4
- 40 Parkland College - B2
- 55 Canaan Academy - C6
- 66 CPD - Douglas Senior Center - C5
- 66 Douglas Branch Public Library - C5
- 77 Moyer Boy's & Girl's Club - C5
- 79 Urbana Free Library - D6
- 80 Champaign Public Library - D4
- 84 Sunny Crest Manor - E7
- 85 Stevick Senior Center - C4
- 89 Orpheum Children's Museum - C4
- 92 CPD Hayes Senior Center - C3
- 94 Urbana Senior Residence - D6
- 95 HACC - Skelton Place - C5
- 96 HACC - Steer Place - E7
- 97 HACC - Washington Square - C4
- 98 Champaign County Nursing Home - D8
- 99 Florida House - E7
- 103 Windsor of Savoy - F4
- 108 Clark-Lindsay Village - F4
- 189 Canterbury Ridge - E8
- 190 Prairie Winds of Urbana - E8
- 192 Independent Media Center - D6
- 194 Job Training Center - B2
- 193 Round Barn Manor - D2
- 200 Catholic Worker House - C4
- 201 Restoration Urban Ministries - B2
- 202 Developmental Services Center - B3
- 203 Head Start - Savoy - G3
- 204 A Woman's Place - C5
- 204 Center for Women in Transition - C5
- 205 Bethel Church - C5
- 206 Salem Church - C5
- 207 TIMES Men's Emergency Shelter - C5
- 208 Muslim American Society Center - B8

Education & Library Sites

- 10 University of Illinois - C5-F5
- 10 University High School - C5
- 40 Parkland College - B2
- 41 Champaign Unit 4 Admin - D4
- 41A South Side School - D4
- 42 Urbana Unit 116 Admin - C6
- 43 Champaign Central HS - C4
- 44 Champaign Centennial HS - D2
- 45 Urbana High School - D6
- 46 Urbana Middle School - D6
- 47 Edison Middle School - D4
- 48 Franklin Middle School - C4
- 49 Jefferson Middle School - D2
- 50 Judah Grade/Mid/HS - C4
- 51 Holy Cross Grade/Middle - C4
- 52 St. Mathew's Grade/Middle - E3
- 53 Country Side School - E1
- 54 St Johns Lutheran School - D2
- 55 Canaan Academy - C6
- 56 Bottenfield School - E3
- 57 Carrie Busey School - E3
- 58 Stratton School - C4
- 59 Dr. Howard School - C3
- 60 Garden Hills School - B3
- 61 Kenwood School - D2
- 62 Marquette School - C5
- 63 Barkstall School - F2
- 64 Robeson School - E2
- 66 BT Washington School - C5
- 66 Douglas Branch Library - C5
- 67 Westview School - D3
- 68 King School - C5
- 69 Leal School - D6
- 71 Prairie School - D7
- 72 Thomas Paine - E7
- 73 Washington School - C6
- 74 Wiley School - D7
- 75 Yankee Ridge School - E7
- 78 Lincoln Trail Libraries - A3
- 79 Urbana Free Library - D6
- 80 Champaign Public Library - D4
- 90 U.S Army CERL - A3
- 93 St. Thomas Moore HS - A2
- 181 Unit 4 Early Learning - C4
- 182 WILL-AM/FM/TV - D5
- 191 Next Generation School - F3
- 194 Job Training Center - B2
- 195 New Savoy Grade School - H3

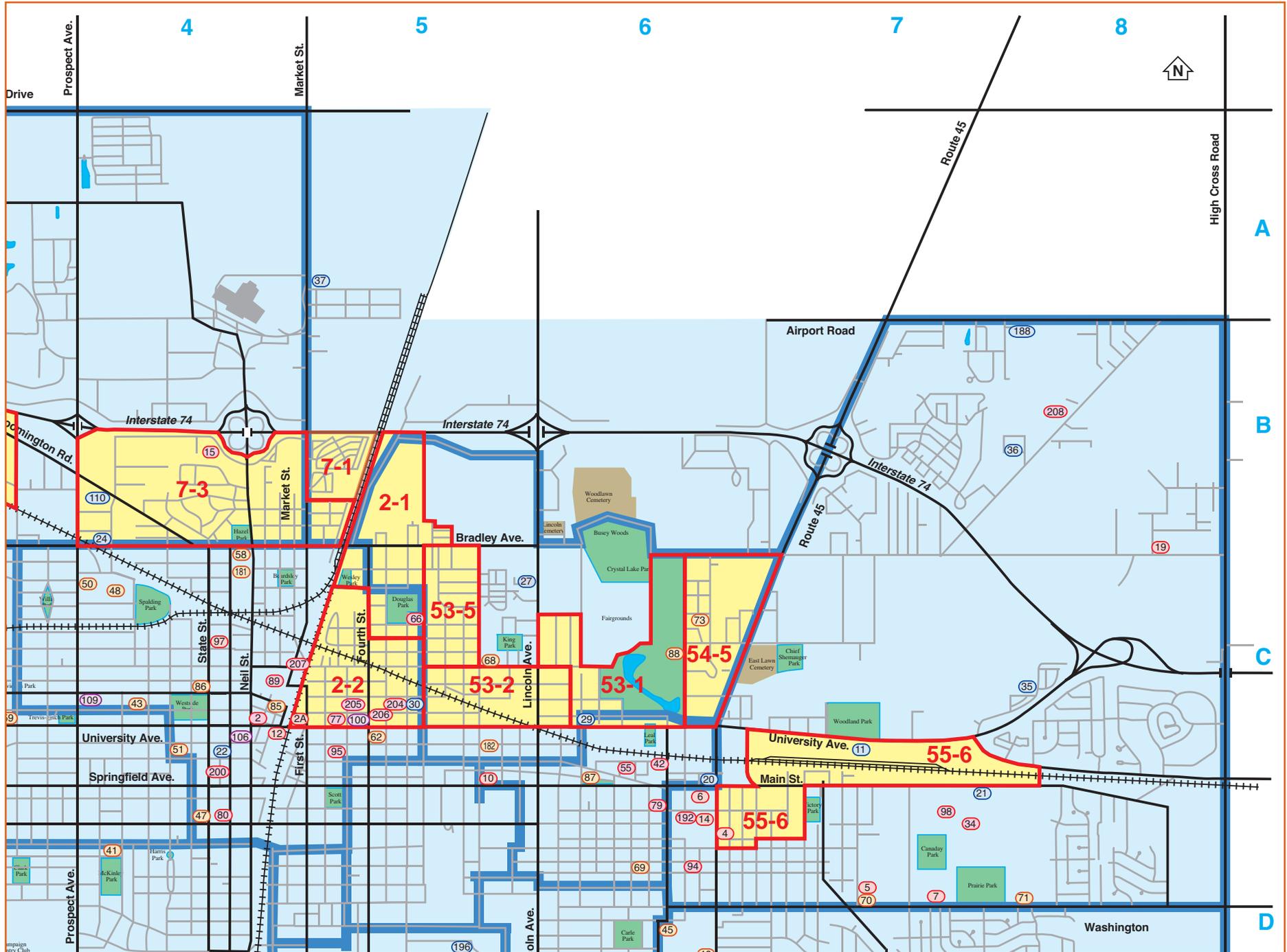
UC2B Middle Mile Proposed Funded Service Area Map

NW Quadrant



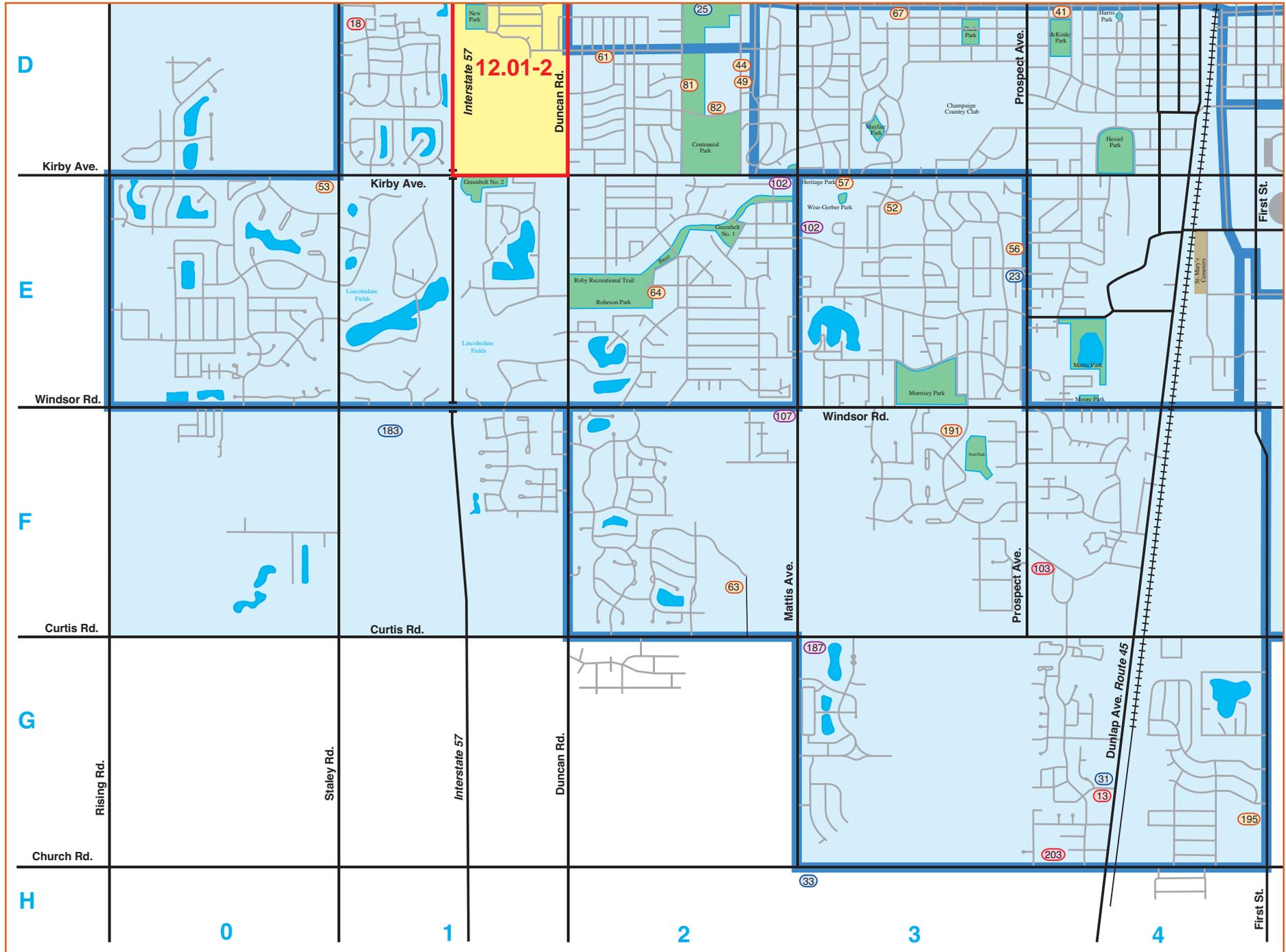
UC2B Middle Mile Proposed Funded Service Area Map

NE Quadrant



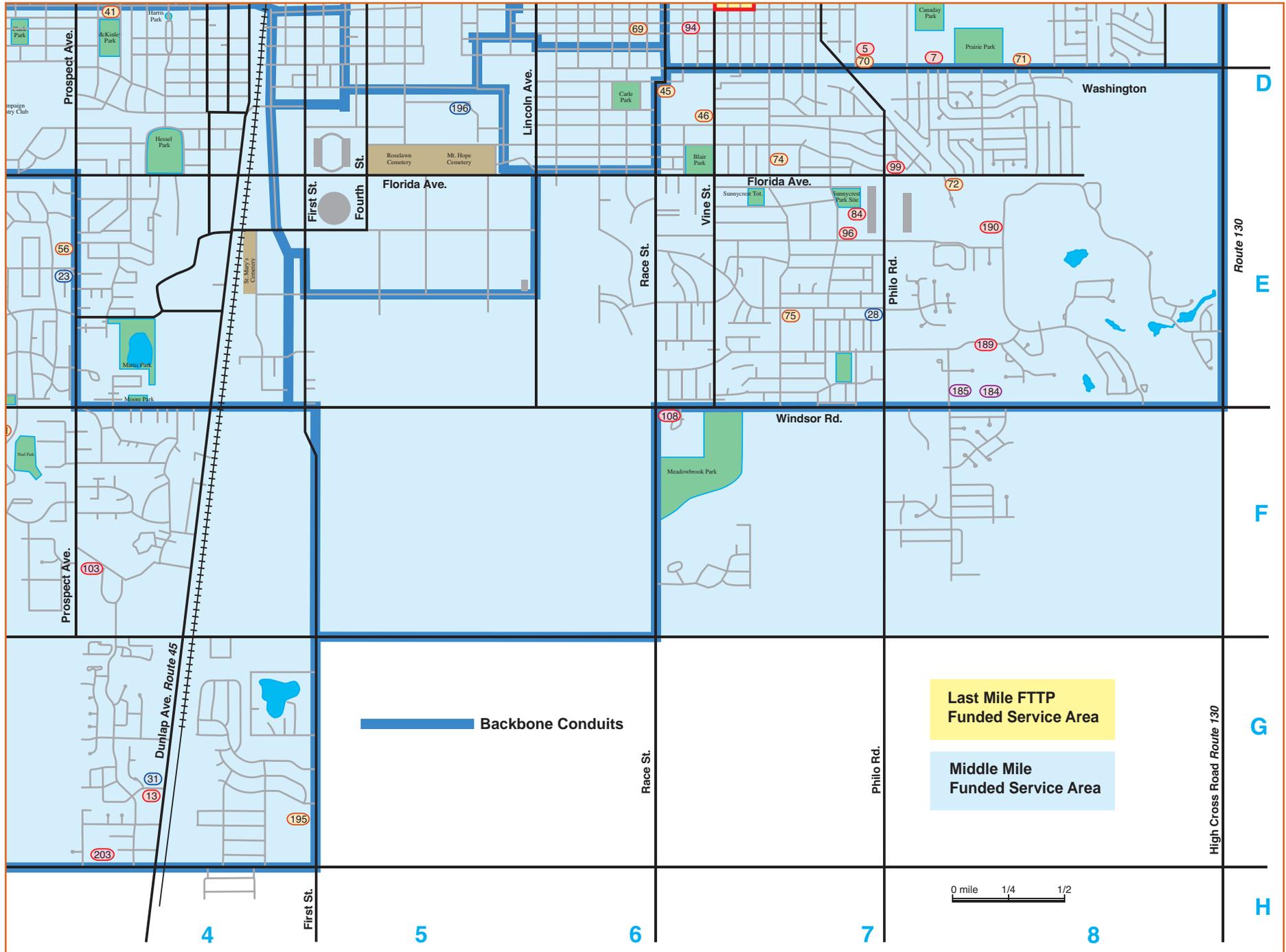
UC2B Middle Mile Proposed Funded Service Area Map

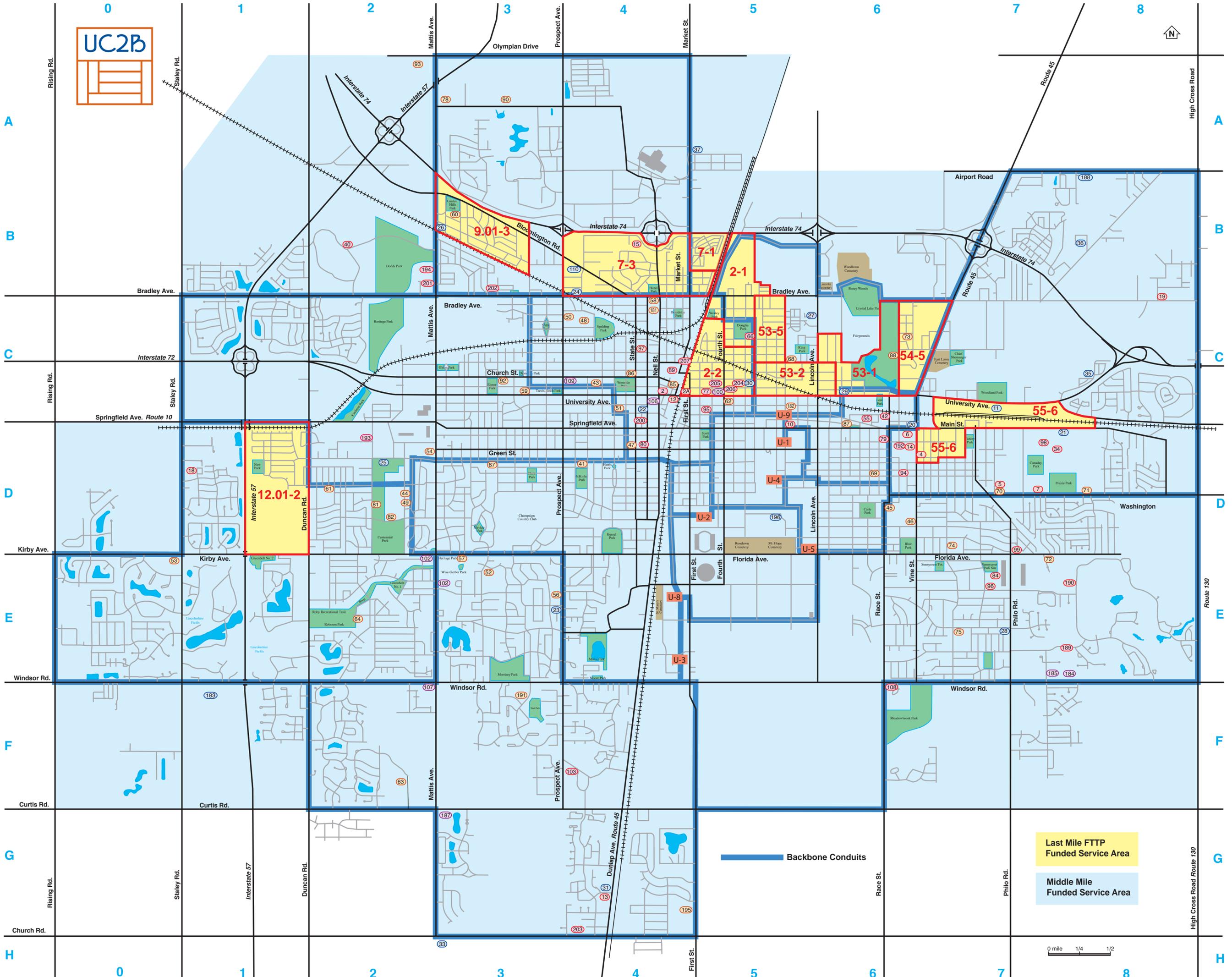
SW Quadrant



UC2B Middle Mile Proposed Funded Service Area Map

SE Quadrant





Last Mile FTTP Funded Service Area

Middle Mile Funded Service Area

0 mile 1/4 1/2

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT PROVIDING
FOR THE CREATION OF THE
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN BIG BROADBAND SYSTEM CONSORTIUM**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered by and between the City of Champaign, a municipal corporation, the City of Urbana, a municipal corporation, and the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois ("University of Illinois"), all with offices in Champaign County, Illinois, and collectively referred to as "Parties".

WHEREAS, Section 10 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 and the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, 5 ILCS 220/1 et seq. enables the parties here to enter into agreements among themselves and provide authority for intergovernmental cooperation; and,

WHEREAS, the parties find it to be in the best interest to the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, and the University of Illinois to develop and operate a coordinated countywide broadband system; and,

WHEREAS, the parties are committed to the principles of intergovernmental cooperation; and,

WHEREAS, the parties' intention is to seek grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA") for the development and construction of a broadband project to serve "underserved" areas within the Champaign-Urbana community as generally described in the "Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Proposal" dated July 21, 2009 ("UC2B Proposal"), attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein ("Proposal"); and consistent with the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Project Categories as set forth in the "Notice of funds Availability – Fact Sheet – July, 2009", which is attached hereto and the Notice of Funds Availability issued by the Department of Commerce for the for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program; and

WHEREAS, in order to develop and operate a coordinated broadband system, it is necessary to establish a system consortium; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of such a consortium is to:

1. Build multiple backbone rings identified in the Proposal;
2. Build a Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) infrastructure in the thirty-five (35) "underserved" census block groups identified in the Proposal;
3. Provide fiber and develop options for providing e Internet services to the FTTP customers;
4. Build the lateral fiber connections to schools, fire stations, senior living facilities, community technology centers and other private fiber locations;
5. Activate fiber services to the UC2B partners and investors;
6. Complete the construction of the physical elements of the project by November of 2012;
7. Operate the system developed pursuant to this Agreement for the benefit of the community.

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide generally for structure, operations and joint funding of the consortium; and,

WHEREAS, the parties desire that the system be operated and managed with clear lines of authority for implementing policies to achieve the mission and goals of a consortium as set forth and as articulated from time to time by the parties; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

- a) "Consortium" means the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband System Consortium (UC2B), consisting of the members, equipment, personnel, and programs established by and operating pursuant to this Agreement and created to perform the tasks necessary to establish and maintain the broadband system developed under this Agreement.
- b) "Consortium Coordinator" is an employee of the Lead Agency charged by the Lead Agency with the responsibility of administering, supervising, managing and directing the activities, programs, and employees assigned to the Consortium in order to successfully construct, maintain, and operate the system.
- c) "Consortium Staff" means staff of the Lead Agency who are assigned work on Consortium activities under the direction of the Consortium Coordinator.
- d) "Grant Agreements" means those agreements entered into pursuant to the ARRA grants made available under the general terms of the "Notice of Funds Availability – Fact Sheet – July, 2009", attached hereto.
- e) "Lead Agency" means the party designated by the members, pursuant to this Agreement as the party having overall responsibility for Consortium operations on an ongoing basis in accordance with the policies established by the Policy Committee and this Agreement. The parties acknowledge that the "Lead Agency" may be different for different parts of the overall undertaking.
- f) "Members" mean the City of Champaign, Illinois; the City of Urbana, Illinois; and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and such other members who become signatories to the Agreement.
- g) "Party (or Member) in Good Standing" means a member that has not delivered a notice of its intent to withdraw from this Agreement or for which the Policy Committee has not issued a notice of payment default.
- h) "Policy Committee" means the body created by this Agreement to approve the budget for the Consortium, to develop cooperative approaches regarding area wide broadband construction and operation and the concerns of each party, and to perform such other functions as are set forth in this Agreement.
- i) "Program" means the design, construction, and operation of a fiber optic system in the Bradley Avenue Corridor and adjacent areas designed and operated to serve underserved, unserved and vulnerable populations as required by the terms of the ARRA grant.
- j) "System" means a series of fiber optic rings constructed as an open network, and including all fiber connections to the premises constructed, operated by, or controlled by the Consortium, and includes broadband infrastructure, public computer center projects that expand computer center capacity at entities that permit public use of computer assets, and sustainable broadband projects that promote broadband demand.
- k) "Technical Committee" means the body created by this Agreement to provide technical advice and recommendations to the Policy Committee.

SECTION 2. CONSORTIUM CREATED

- a) The parties hereby create the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband System Consortium, an undertaking to operate a communitywide broadband system. The Consortium is created to construct, develop and operate a coordinated system. Service from Consortium and access to Consortium services shall be in accordance with this Agreement.
- b) The Consortium shall be a unit of the Lead Agency, subject to the Lead Agency's policies and procedures, except as otherwise specified in the Agreement. The parties hereby authorize and direct the Lead Agency to operate pursuant to this Agreement, and the Lead Agency hereby agrees to operate pursuant to this Agreement.

SECTION 3. CONSORTIUM MISSION

The mission of the Consortium and its members is to:

- a) Coordinate the construction of the Program and implement connections as required by the Grant Agreements;
- b) Lead development effort for connection to the system;
- c) Establish standards for quality of all connections;
- d) Maintain system records and make such records accessible to all members;
- e) Provide all members access to the system;
- f) Establish and maintain the system, including an operational budget;
- g) Provide system administration and ongoing system support, upgrades, and maintenance for Consortium-controlled assets;
- h) Provide services to members in accord with a work plan approved by the Policy Committee;
- i) Promote use of the system;
- j) Establish operational, administrative, and procedural policy as related to the system operations.

SECTION 4. POLICY COMMITTEE CREATED

The Policy Committee is hereby created in accordance with the following provisions:

a) Membership.

- (i) The Policy Committee shall be comprised of two (2) members to be designated by the Chancellor of the University of Illinois and by each of the Chief Administrative Officers of other members. Additionally, the Chair of the Technical Committee shall be an ex officio voting member of the Policy Committee. The designation shall be made in writing and sent to the

Chancellor and the Chief Administrative Officer of the other members. These shall be voting representatives.

(ii) Additionally, there shall be one (1) non-voting representative of the non-governmental sector, and one (1) non-voting representative of small or specialized governmental users. Both of these non-voting representatives shall be appointed by the Chair and approved by the Policy Committee and shall serve for a three-year term.

b) Voting. In those matters required by this Agreement to be decided by the Policy Committee, unless otherwise specified in this Agreement, the proposition voted upon shall not be considered approved unless it receives an affirmative vote from at least a majority of Policy Board members or such greater percentage vote specified in this Agreement of all voting members of the Policy Committee in good standing.

c) Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of voting representatives of the Policy Committee members in good standing.

d) Unanimous Vote. In those matters required by this Agreement to be decided by a unanimous vote of the Policy Committee, a proposition shall not be considered adopted unless it receives an affirmative vote from the voting representative of each and every member that is in good standing at the time of the vote.

e) Representative's Substitute. A member's designated representative to the Policy Committee may select a designated voting representative to serve in the designated representative's absence.

f) Regularity of Meetings. The Policy Committee shall meet at least monthly. Other meetings may be called at the request of the Policy Committee Chair or any two (2) of the voting members' representatives on the Policy Committee.

g) Open Meetings Act. The Policy Committee shall adhere to the requirements of the state's Open Meetings Act.

SECTION 5. POLICY COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Policy Committee shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

a) Mission/By-Laws/Committees. The Policy Committee shall have the authority to adopt a mission statement, to enact procedural by-laws governing or directing the activities of the Consortium, provided such mission statement and by-laws do not conflict with the terms of this Agreement, and to create such committees as it deems advisable.

b) Officers. The Policy Committee shall elect a Chair and such officers as it deems advisable from among the voting representatives of the members, said election to occur every two (2) years in June, unless a vacancy sooner occurs, in which case the election shall occur within thirty (30) days after the vacancy.

c) General Responsibilities. The Policy Committee is responsible for approving: policy, priorities, budget, work plan, and technical standards.

d) Budget.

i) The Policy Committee shall, by an affirmative vote of five (5) of the seven (7) voting members:

- 1) annually approve a budget; and
- 2) approve amendments to said budget and expenditures as from time to time deemed necessary by the parties.

ii) The tentative budget for each year shall be submitted by the Lead Agency to the Policy Committee during March of each year.

iii) Unless a new budget is approved by July 1st of any year, the last previously approved budget shall continue from year to year.

iv) The format of the budget shall conform to the format of the Lead Agency's budget unless otherwise directed by vote of the Policy Committee.

e) Funding Formula. The Policy Committee shall annually on or before February 1 of each year, by a unanimous vote, approve the funding formula to determine the parties' share of expenses for Consortium operations, provided, however, that the most recently approved cost-sharing formula shall continue unless amended by the unanimous vote of the parties.

f) Intergovernmental Agreement. The Policy Committee may approve contracts with other governmental entities to provide some or all of Consortium services on a contractual basis.

g) Purchases. The Policy Committee may approve contracts for the purchase of goods or services with units of federal, state and local units of government, private corporations, not-for-profit organizations, partners and individuals. All such purchases shall be made in accordance with the purchasing policies of the Lead Agency.

h) Gifts. The Policy Committee may approve the application for agreements for the receipt by the Consortium of grants, loans, gifts, bequests, funding, in-kind services from federal, state and local units of government, and from public and private sources.

i) Lead Agency. The Policy Committee may designate the Lead Agency by at least a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of all voting members, provided that no members shall be designated Lead Agency without its consent, and provided further that, unless the parties agree otherwise, no change in the Lead Agency shall take place without at least one hundred and eighty (180) days' prior notice prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year of the current Lead Agency.

j) Technical Committee. The Policy Committee shall appoint the Technical Committee. Each voting Policy Committee member, except the ex-officio Technical Committee Chair, may appoint up to two (2) persons to the Technical Committee, one of whom shall be designated as the voting representative of the member. The Policy Committee member may authorize an alternate Technical Committee voting representative to vote when its regular member is absent for the Technical Committee meeting.

k) Role of the Technical Committee.

- i) The Technical Committee shall make recommendations to the Policy Committee concerning:

- 1) Hardware requirements;
 - 2) Software requirements;
 - 3) Networking;
 - 4) Standards;
 - 5) Other aspects of the system as requested by the Policy Committee.
- ii) Recommendations of the Technical Committee shall be by majority vote, though consensus of all voting participants is desirable.
- iii) Prior to the purchase of equipment related to the infrastructure, software or hardware or the adoption of technical standards that has the potential to impact members' operations or the overall operation of the infrastructure, the Technical Committee shall seek input and concurrence from all members prior to recommending the purchase, or recommending a technical standard.

l) Fee Policies. The Policy Committee shall have the authority to set fees for usage of the system by a majority vote of voting members.

SECTION 6. LEAD AGENCY DESIGNATED

The initial Lead Agency for the purposes of applying for, receiving and administering any grant under ARRA shall be the University of Illinois.

The parties agree to meet to determine the Lead Agency for the purposes of administering or performing the operational phases of the grant, and ultimately the Lead Agency for the administrative and continuation of the Consortium activities.

SECTION 7. LEAD AGENCY DUTIES

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for, and is hereby empowered to take, all actions to support the overall operation of Consortium and its affairs in accordance with this Agreement and the mission, goals and objectives approved by the Policy Committee. These duties include, but are not limited to:

- a) Employing and supervising all personnel assigned to the Consortium in accordance with the Lead Agency's policies and procedures, including, but not limited to, hiring, firing, disciplining, establishing incentives, benefits, negotiations with unions, and all other employment decisions.
- b) Directing the management and supervision of all employees assigned to Consortium duties in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Lead Agency.
- c) Incurring and paying, on the behalf of the members and in accordance with this Agreement and Consortium's approved budget, all Consortium expenses.
- d) Entering into all contracts, lease and procurement agreements in accordance with this Agreement, the approved budget, and the policies and procedures of the Lead Agency, including the acquisition of interests in real property as necessary to complete the Project.

- e) Expending funds in accordance with the Consortium's approved budget. Purchasing shall be conducted in accordance with the Consortium approved budget and the purchasing policies and procedures of the Lead Agency.
- f) Providing all personnel administration, financial support staff, insurance, legal advice and management support and services in accordance with this Agreement and the approved Consortium budget and the policies and procedures of the Lead Agency.
- g) Billing and collecting from each member its share of the cost of Consortium's operations as provided in this Agreement and the approved annual budget and work plan of Consortium.
- h) Overseeing the establishment and implementation of policies and procedures at the Consortium staff level to implement the mission, goals, and work plan of the Consortium.
- i) Developing a proposed annual budget and work plan and administering the approved budget, expenditures, and work plan in accordance with this Agreement.
- j) Providing staff support, including the recording and distribution of minutes for the Consortium Policy and Technical Committee, and bringing policy/technical issues to the committees as appropriate.
- k) Providing necessary office space, furnishings, equipment, hardware, software, and technical support for the Consortium to operate.
- l) Providing generally for the audit, accounting for, receipt, and custody of consortium funds.

The Lead Agency shall be entitled to reimbursement for the costs it incurs in performing these functions, which costs shall be included in Consortium's budget, as amended from time to time in accordance with this Agreement. The formula for cost reimbursement shall be established as part of the funding formula.

SECTION 8. MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Each member shall:

- a) Utilize the system only in accordance with Consortium policies;
- b) Provide two (2) people to serve as active voting representatives on the Policy Committee;
- c) Provide at least one (1) staff person to serve as an active voting representative for the Technical Committee.
- d) Provide information on a regular or as needed basis to the Consortium in order to maintain current information necessary for the Consortium to fulfill its mission;
- e) Pay for Consortium activities in accordance with this Agreement.

SECTION 9. FINANCES

a) Contributions. Each party shall be responsible for contributing to the Consortium budget and expenses based on a cost-sharing formula established from time to time by the members. Any change in the formula may be made by a unanimous vote of the parties' voting representatives on the Policy Committee. The initial approved cost-sharing formula will be attached as Exhibit A" after approval of the Policy Committee as set forth in this subsection. The most recently approved cost-sharing formula shall continue unless amended by unanimous vote of the parties.

b) Records. The Lead Agency shall maintain financial records regarding Consortium operations and finances in accordance with generally accepted governmental accounting standards, which records shall be available at the Lead Agency's finance offices for inspection by any of the parties during regular business hours.

c) Invoices. The Lead Agency shall invoice each member on the first day of each quarter for the next quarter's service for its share of Consortium costs based on the approved cost sharing formula

d) Payment. Members shall pay said bills within thirty (30) days of receipt of an invoice for the same.

e) Audit. Consortium financial records shall be audited on an annual basis by the outside accountant used by the Lead Agency for its other audits and the cost of such audit shall be considered an operating expense of Consortium.

f) University. All commitments by the University are subject to constitutional and statutory restrictions and limitations binding upon the University and to the availability of funds which may be lawfully applied thereto.

g) Fiscal Year. Consortium's fiscal year shall be from July 1 to June 30.

SECTION 10. RIGHT-OF-WAY AND REAL PROPERTY ACCESS; CONSTRUCTION

a) Right-of-Way. Construction and the continued existence of the system network will require access to and a continuing presence on, over and under the public right-of-way and real property of the parties. The parties agree as follows with respect to right-of-way and real property usage:

i) Each party hereby agrees that the Consortium shall have a continuing license to utilize the right-of-way and real property of any of the parties in order to effectuate the purposes of this Agreement.

ii) Any use of the right-of-way shall be subject to all ordinances of general application concerning right-of-way, including right-of-way fees for construction, but not including franchise or rental fees which would otherwise require a continuing annual fee for right-of-way usage.

b) Construction. The Consortium shall either enter into contracts with each party to accomplish construction on right-of-way within the party's jurisdiction or the Lead Agency shall, on behalf of the Consortium, contract directly with a third party to accomplish the construction.

1. All construction shall be subject to all federal and state laws applicable, including all laws applicable to the project as a result of receipt of grant funds under the ARRA.

2. After the construction is completed, the conduits and fiber within the conduits, in addition to the license to utilize the right-of-way and real property for the operation of the system, shall be the property of the Consortium.

SECTION 11. TERMINATION BY PARTIES

a) Withdrawal. A party may terminate its participation in this Agreement as of July 1 of any year by giving written notice to each of the other parties. Such notice shall be given prior to December 31 of the year before the desired termination date.

b) Failure to Budget. Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, a member may withdraw by giving prior written notice thirty (30) days in advance to each of the other parties indicating its intent to terminate its participation in this Agreement as of the end of the month following the expiration of such thirty (30) days, provided, however, withdrawal under this section can only be invoked if the corporate authorities of such member, or the legislature in the case of the University, have failed or refused to authorize, appropriate or budget the funds necessary to pay such member's share of the costs, as such costs are determined by the Policy Committee pursuant to this Agreement. Each party will utilize its best efforts to appropriate and budget sufficient funds to meet its obligations under this Agreement in full.

c) Default. If a party to this Agreement is in default of its payment obligations, the Policy Committee may so declare and terminate system services to that member thirty (30) days after the date of mailing of notice of default and termination of services to the defaulting party, unless the defaulting party cures the default in full prior to the expiration of the thirty (30) days set forth in the notice. The notice of the default declared by the Policy Committee shall be issued by the Lead Agency. The defaulting party shall continue to be responsible to pay its assigned share of the cost of Consortium as determined in accordance with this Agreement for the ensuing nine (9) months following the termination of system services. If the defaulting party, within the nine (9)-month period, pays all amounts due and the costs incurred by the Consortium in updating the information in relevant databases, system services to the party shall be reinstated.

SECTION 12. DISSOLUTION

It is the intent of the parties to maintain Consortium as a continuing operation. However, should any of the parties elect to withdraw its participation in and support of Consortium, then Consortium may continue in operation for the benefit of the remaining parties if a minimum of two (2) of the parties elect to continue their participation.

SECTION 13. EQUIPMENT; USE AND OWNERSHIP; LOAN EQUIPMENT

All equipment purchased for Consortium shall be purchased, utilized and disposed of by the Lead Agency and held in trust for Consortium use. It shall be recorded and identified by the Lead Agency as Consortium Agreement property, separate from other Lead Agency property. Prior to dissolution of Consortium, all proceeds from the sale of any Consortium Agreement property or data shall be devoted solely to the operation of Consortium. In the case of a change in Lead Agency, all right, title, and interest to Consortium property shall be transferred with the Lead Agency function to the new Lead Agency.

Any member agency may, with approval of the Policy Committee, loan personal property or equipment to the Lead Agency for the use of Consortium. Such property shall continue to be owned by the member agency, and the Lead Agency shall keep written records of such loaned

equipment. If the party owning the loaned equipment wishes to withdraw it from Consortium service, that party may do so provided that, if in the opinion of the Consortium Director, the property is essential to Consortium and requires replacement to ensure consistency and proper functioning of Consortium, then such loaned equipment shall be withdrawn only after providing a reasonable notice of withdrawal to the other parties.

SECTION 14. RIGHTS OF TERMINATING PARTY TO CONSORTIUM ASSETS

A party terminating its participation in this Agreement shall continue to maintain its financial interest in all equipment purchased for the Consortium operation prior to the date of that member's termination. Such equipment or proceeds derived from the disposition of the equipment shall continue to be used for the continued operation of Consortium until Consortium is dissolved. The Lead Agency shall deliver to the terminating party a list of the equipment in which the terminating party has an interest within twenty (20) days after the effective date of termination.

SECTION 15. DISPOSITION OF CONSORTIUM ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of Consortium, unless the parties otherwise agree:

1. Within 30 days after the last of the parties to agree to dissolve or when 2 or 3 parties terminate participation in the Consortium, the parties shall each select a person technically qualified to evaluate the assets of the Consortium and suggest a manner and method of disposition in a written report. Said person shall, within 60 days after the last of the parties to select a representative, suggest the manner and method of disposition of the assets to the parties in their written report. The person selected shall be guided, but not be restricted, by the following principles, unless otherwise required by law:
 - a. The location of the asset, if the location is important to the usefulness of the asset;
 - b. Whether an asset would be useful only when used in conjunction with another asset;
 - c. The impact on any user who is, or may be impacted, by the disposition;
 - d. The replacement value of the asset;
 - e. The population served by the asset;
 - f. Any federal regulations which govern the disposition of the assets.

If the chief administrative officer of any party is not evidenced agreement within 28 days after receipt of the report, by notifying the Chief Administrative Officer of the other parties in writing, the parties shall be deemed to have not agreed on the disposition by this method and proceed to method 2.

2. All assets held in trust by the Lead Agency on behalf of the parties to this Agreement shall be sold at a public sale, and the proceeds, all assets held in trust by the Lead Agency on behalf of the parties of this Agreement will be sold at public sale and the proceeds, after deducting all costs of sales and any unpaid obligations relating to such assets or operating expenses of the Consortium, shall be divided among the parties to this Agreement in equal amounts.

Any one (1) or more of the parties shall have the right to purchase such assets at their fair market value prior to any public sale. Such fair market value shall be determined by unanimous vote of the Policy Committee. If any one (1) party wishes to purchase such assets or a particular asset for the fair market value, the matter will be decided by lot. Any persons purchasing assets in the right-of-way of a government unit, including the right-of-way of the parties, shall be required to enter into an agreement with that governmental unit for the use of

the right-of-way, and there shall not be any continuing right to use the righty-of-way of a governmental unit as an inherent aspect of the purchase.

SECTION 16. INSURANCE

The Lead Agency shall procure and maintain, during the term of this Agreement or any extension thereof, sufficient property insurance to cover the replacement value of the Consortium equipment and all equipment loaned to Consortium, against all direct loss or damage. The cost of any such insurance shall be a cost of operating Consortium, to be borne by the parties hereto in the same manner as other costs in accordance with this Agreement. The Lead Agency shall procure and maintain liability and worker's compensation insurance for Consortium operations in accordance with insurance purchase standards for its other operating departments. The insurance shall name each member agency as additional insured under the liability policy procured.

SECTION 17. LIMITATIONS OF PERSONNEL

No employee shall have authority to commit, obligate or bind any party hereto to any contract or obligation unless specifically authorized by said party, except as provided for in this Agreement.

SECTION 18. AMENDMENTS

This Agreement may be amended in writing at any time by mutual agreement of all of the parties to the Agreement. Amendments shall refer back to this Agreement and to subsequent amendments, if any, on the same subject and shall specify the language to be changed or to be added. The execution of any amendment shall be authorized by passage of an appropriate ordinance or other proper and lawful corporate action by the corporate authorities of each party.

SECTION 19. ADDITIONAL NON-VOTING MEMBERS

The Policy Committee may add new non-voting governmental members to the Policy Committee if such admission to membership would assist the Committee in the conduct of its business.

SECTION 20. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Agreement shall be effective as to each member on the date such member executed the Agreement.

SECTION 21. NOTICES

Notices hereunder shall be provided personally or by first class mail to the Chancellor of the University and to the Chief Administrative Officer of each party and to the attorney representing each party. The date of the notice shall be the third day after the date of mailing of notice is provided by mail. If the notice is provided by personal delivery, the date of personal delivery is the date of the notice.

SECTION 22. APPLICABLE LAWS

On performing the obligations hereunder, the parties shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and the terms of any grant agreement concerning ARRA funds.

SECTION 23. COUNTERPARTS

This Agreement may be signed in several counterparts, each of which shall be considered an originally executed agreement for all purposes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals to this Agreement as of the dates below indicated.

CITY OF CHAMPAIGN

CITY OF URBANA

By: _____
City Manager

By: _____
Mayor

Date: _____

Date: _____

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

City Attorney

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

By: _____
Comptroller

Date: _____

ATTEST: _____
Secretary

Chancellor

Business Office

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Campus Legal Counsel

j:\leg\word\intergovernmental relations\big broadband\big broadband i-g agreement 6-29-09.doc

TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON
15TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

AGRICULTURE

GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
AND RISK MANAGEMENT

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1315

- REPLY TO:
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1207 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2371
- DISTRICT OFFICES:
2004 FOX DRIVE
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820
(217) 403-4690
- 202 NORTH PROSPECT ROAD
SUITE 203
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61704
(309) 663-7049
- 655 WEST LINCOLN
UNIT 8
CHARLESTON, IL 61920
(217) 348-6759
- 1001 MARKET STREET
SUITE 102
MOUNT CARMEL, IL 62863
(618) 262-8719

Aug. 18, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
HCHB, Room 4812
Washington, DC 20230

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in enthusiastic support of the Champaign-Urbana Big Broadband application for grant assistance.

This groundbreaking effort is supported by a wide array of local government jurisdictions, business groups, civic groups and everyday citizens. Organizers have put forth a sophisticated and workable plan, backed by local resources, to bring this technology to people and places that are currently underserved.

The educational and economic benefits are incalculable. My hope is that this plan can be a model with the potential to be emulated throughout the country.

Please give every consideration to this plan and do not hesitate to call with questions.

Sincerely,

Timothy V. Johnson
Member of Congress

COMMITTEES

Human Services (Chairman)
Higher Education (Vice-Chair)
Approp. Higher Education
Adoption Reform
Public Policy & Accountability
Environmental Health
Election & Campaign Reform



NAOMI D. JAKOBSSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 103rd DISTRICT
E-mail: naomi@naomijakobsson.com

CAPITOL OFFICE:
257-S Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706
217-558-1009
217-557-4536 - FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE:
206 N. Randolph, Suite 120
Champaign, IL 61820
217-373-5000
217-373-8679 - FAX

July 31, 2009

Mike Smeltzer
Director of Networking
Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services (CITES)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2101 Digital Computer Laboratory, MC-256
1304 West Springfield Avenue Urbana, Illinois 61801

Dear Mike,

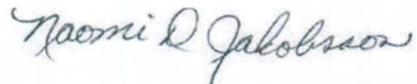
I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) proposal. Having talked with your team members several times, I know the depth of their commitment to not only bring Big Broadband to the “underserved” households in Champaign and Urbana, but to also provide high-speed fiber-optic connectivity to dozen of “anchor institutions” in the community.

The UC2B proposals for enhancing access to public computers and for increased education and technical training address real needs in the community and have the potential to create both educational and employment opportunities for our residents who need them the most.

We appear to be making good progress on finding a streamlined way to allow the University of Illinois to recycle its computers into the community, and by the time your grant funding is announced, we should have that process in place. Planning creative uses of computers and peripherals that can be recycled and rebuilt to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our community is precisely the kind of innovation we need. I feel confident that there is a track record of partnership between the University of Illinois and the non-profits that serve children, seniors and low-income families with technology, and I applaud your work. The State of Illinois can and should support this effort by eliminating obstacles. I believe we can make policy changes that allow us to make computers ubiquitous and accessible, and create greater technology inclusion and opportunity for our community. It is these kinds of efforts that foster greater digital literacy for those who are underserved in Champaign-Urbana.

Through my past experience, I am confident that UC2B and the University of Illinois have the capacity to implement the proposed project successfully. Best of luck to you and the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) Consortium as you finalize your grant applications. You have my full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Naomi D. Jakobsson".

Naomi D. Jakobsson
State Representative
103rd District

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

1776 EAST WASHINGTON
URBANA, IL 61802
(217) 384-3776
(217) 384-3765 – PHYSICAL PLANT
(217) 384-3896 – FAX
(217) 384-3864 – TDD
Website: www.co.champaign.il.us

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
DATA PROCESSING
MICROGRAPHICS
PURCHASING
PHYSICAL PLANT
SALARY ADMINISTRATION

August 10, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
HCHB, Room 4812
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) Proposal

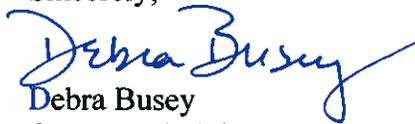
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Champaign County Board and citizens of Champaign County, to support the request for funding through the Federal American Recovery & Reinvestment Act through the NTIA BTOP grant and funding from the State of Illinois. The benefits to the various agencies and citizens of Champaign County that can be realized if this project is made possible through this funding are significant.

We are a community with a focus on technology and technology development, with a strong component of private sector representation in this area. This project brings an opportunity to enable public sector organizations to also become leaders in the development and utilization of technology, enhancing the benefits enjoyed by all organizations and private citizens. As our community focuses on emergency preparedness, this project provides an ability to develop inter-connectivity and back-up systems to enable seamless delivery of services, even in emergencies or unforeseen situations, by the numerous government entities delivering those services. Ultimately, this project will also work to bring technology to underserved citizens and families who do not currently have access to these services. This becomes a building block to enhance and sustain excellent educational and workforce development opportunities for our citizens and businesses.

We urge your positive support of the UC2B Proposal funding. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Debra Busey
County Administrator



August 7, 2009

Mike Smeltzer
 Director of Networking
 Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services (CITES)
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 2101 Digital Computer Laboratory, MC-256
 1304 West Springfield Avenue
 Urbana, Illinois 61801

RE: Support for Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B)

Dear Mike:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the citizens of the Village of Savoy, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) seeking funding for stimulus funding through the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the NTIA BTOP grant and funding from the State of Illinois. As our community continues to grow we see an increasing need to provide necessary opportunities for all families and local businesses in the area of internet, telephone and TV services that helps in communication capability and savings of funds.

As we understand the concept of the UC2B project we believe it will position Champaign-Urbana-Savoy and Champaign County to capitalize in many ways, particularly in community growth and economic development and will make the entire county a potential hotspot for technical and electronic opportunities in the Midwest.

We look forward to working with the consortium in the future to bringing all the benefits of Big Broadband to all citizens of Savoy and Champaign County. We urge the review committee to approve the UC2B application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. McCleary".

Robert C. McCleary, Village President

CC: Board of Trustees
 Richard Helton, Village Manager
 Billie J. Krueger, Village Clerk

PRESIDENT
 Robert C. McCleary

TRUSTEES
 John P. Brown
 Joan Dykstra
 Jan Carter Niccum
 Rebecca Pittman
 Arthur J. Skelton
 William A. Smith

MANAGER
 Richard Helton

TREASURER
 C. David Well

CLERK
 Billie Jean Krueger

**DIRECTOR OF
 PUBLIC WORKS/
 ENGINEER**
 Brent P. Maue

**ZONING
 ADMINISTRATOR**
 Daniel R. Davies

FIRE CHIEF
 Michael E. Forrest

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Department of Commerce

Washington, DC

Dear Broadband Technology Opportunities Program:

For over eight years the City of Champaign, has disposed of its old computers that are non usable by means of donating equipment to a non-for-profit organization. Non usable equipment can either be used for spare parts or given to recycling company for proper disposal.

Through the City recycling process we will continue to donate computer's that the City has retired to organization within the community, i.e. the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, Boys and girls club, Employment training center, Prairie net, and Parkland. We are bridging the gap with technology as a means of communication within our neighborhoods and communities. This program would open the doors for people and give people an opportunity to experience technology from a whole new prospective.

The community can provide the locations (churches, youth center, and community center) then UC2B could provide some full time staff, support technician and instructor. They would be responsible for the install, setup and maintains for the onsite computer lab center. UC2B would also provide user friendly computer and application classroom training. The local business would donate equipment.

The community has some sites that are used for Community center labs, after school center and summer labs with access to computer resources for some community. In the past these sites failed because that needed support technician to maintain the computers and provide instructors on hardware and software application on a regular basic. The funding from UC2B would be the glue that puts all the location, business organization, community and staff working together.



Brenda L. Reed

Network Technician

City of Champaign



August 4, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to explain our participation in the UC2B project. Developmental Services Center (DSC), located in Champaign, Illinois, is dedicated to the mission of enhancing the lives of persons with disabilities by providing services and supports which enable them to live, work, learn and participate in their communities. Formed through a 1972 merger of four community organizations, DSC provides multiple services in Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Piatt counties. Annually DSC serves over 1,400 children and adults with developmental disabilities such as epilepsy, cerebral palsy, autism, mental retardation, Down syndrome, or other disabling conditions.

Currently our technology is limited to the areas described below:

- Our main location has Internet access through a T-1 line.
 - Our Consumer (preferred term for individuals receiving services at DSC) Computer Lab has access through the T-1 line as well. This lab includes many computer assisted devices such as touch screens, enlarged mouse, Braille keyboards and printers, enlarged keyboards and adjustable computer tables to accommodate individuals who rely on a wheelchair for mobility as well as many different types of software.
- Our group homes and 24-unit apartment building, located throughout the community, have limited access through cable for staff members only.
- Our satellite sites, located in Champaign and Rantoul, have Internet access through a T-1 line.

The primary ways in which we use the technology currently available to us includes email, Internet browsing/information gathering/learning opportunities. In addition to our current uses, we would like to have the

capacity to create a better, more interactive website which can be used by those interested in learning more about DSC and our donors. Additionally, we would like to have greater compatibility between sites, the option for live video-conferencing and interactive conferencing.

In providing services and supports for individuals with disabilities, it is our goal to offer them the same technological resources that people who do not have a disability have come to enjoy. Often times, individuals with disabilities may have a greater need for technology due to lack of opportunities for socialization, family contact, information required for city bus routes, information gathering for where specific items are offered due to difficulty with mobility and lack of resources to get around town; coupled with this greater need, is often greater difficulty in accessing technology.

We are excited about the possibility of collaborating with the UC2B effort. This would provide additional resources and opportunities for the individuals we serve as well as many other under-served citizens in our community. The more inter-connected we become, the stronger the fabric of our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to collaborate on this project. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 217.398.7110 or jmcateer@dsc-illinois.org.

Sincerely,

Janice McAteer

Janice McAteer
Director of Development
Developmental Services Center
1304 W. Bradley Ave.
Champaign, IL 61821



A Woman's Fund
Ending Violence Everyday

July 30, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear BTOP:

I am writing to explain A Woman's Fund's participation in UC2B. A Woman's Fund provides services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. A Woman's Place, our domestic violence program, offers comprehensive assistance to victims of domestic violence. Adults and children in crisis are assisted in gaining control of their lives and in seeking a healthy environment free from abuse and violence. They are given information and counseling and are supported in making their own decisions about their lives.

One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. Adults and children escaping domestic violence situations may stay on an emergency basis, for a few days or up to 6-8 weeks, depending on their needs. This time is used to begin the healing process and to make decisions about the future. Some women need shelter and support for a longer period of time while they gather the resources or develop the skills needed to live independently. Qualifying women and children may participate in the Families in Transition program. Women and children in this program may live in our facility for up to two years.

Currently we have one computer available for client use. Clients utilize this computer to search for jobs, fill out job applications, hunt for apartments, check their credit reports, contact friends and family in their support system, and check email. Children are not allowed access to the client computer as we do not have the resources to limit their activity and monitor their actions. Ultimately we would like to have a computer lab with up to date PCs, printers, and high-speed internet access. This would reduce time limits imposed and give clients more opportunities to use a computer as needed.

We often have volunteer groups that come in and host resume writing workshops. It is difficult for them to work with a group of clients as we only we only have one computer workstation. A computer lab would benefit our clients in many ways. Potentially, the UC2B project could help us build a computer lab which would provide our clients with increased computer and high-speed internet access. Our IT staff member would be available to work closely UC2B staff to ensure that the computer lab is running smoothly and that all machines are functioning properly.

The UC2B project would directly benefit our clients. Increased computer access would provide them with resources (job applications, apartment applications, etc) to better their lives and stand on their own two feet. We are excited at the possibilities that this project can offer not only to our clients, but to the Champaign-Urbana community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Tara Bossert

Human Resources Coordinator



August 3, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C.

Re: Letter of Support for Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B)

Dear Friends:

On behalf of The Center for Women in Transition, I am writing in support of UC2B.

The Center for Women in Transition, located in Champaign, IL, is a transitional housing program providing shelter and supportive services to homeless women and their children to foster and sustain their self-sufficiency. We also have a Vocational Training Program at our off-site resale store, *Transitions*, for our residents and women on parole from the Department of Corrections. Both of these groups are disadvantaged, due to social, economic and educational background, as well as other factors, in their ability to access and utilize the internet.

As part of the individualized goal plan for each resident, the agency provides computers and access to the internet to enhance a resident's ability to access local resources, schooling and on-line job searches, as well as using e-mail to communicate with her natural support system. The Vocational Training Program also relies heavily on the use of computers and the internet for employability development and access to community resources.

The computers we provide to our residents for their use are donated equipment, several generations old, and we do not have adequate staff to train our residents on computer software which could be used for writing resumes, completing school projects and on-line searches for resources and jobs. Newer computers and improved broadband service as well as IT and support staff to assist residents in maximizing the internet as a resource would be invaluable.

Additionally, provision of IT and support staff to the agency for development of agency materials on-line, such as newsletters, brochures, website, would significantly improve our ability to reach out to more potential clients and to better educate the community on the issues of homelessness. The UC2B would also streamline communications between local agencies and service providers to ensure complete and coordinated service coverage for the disadvantaged in our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support.

Sincerely,

John Sullivan, Executive Director
(217) 819-4611 (DL)
johnsullivan@cwt-cu.org
The Center for Women in Transition
508 E. Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820



*"My parents were always philosophizing
about how to bring about change.
To me, people who didn't try to make
the world a better place were strange."
C.M. Braun*

August 10, 2009

Dear UC2B Proposal Team,

I am pleased to write to you in support of our community's application for broadband infrastructure, education and development funding. As a community-based African American women's network, we are particularly excited about the opportunity to work with you toward technological parity and expression at a time when "the least of us" might expect to be left in the dust.

SisterNet is a network of African American women committed to nurturing healthy lifestyles and community activism. We have envisioned a new model for Black women's organizing dedicated to creating wholeness and balance through physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual health. We see our efforts as an essential part of a political strategy to resist oppression and shape livable communities.

The promise of access to state of the art technology and training to create content reflective of our culture and priorities is critical in this time of grave health disparities. Consider:

- African American women are 2.2 times more likely to die from breast cancer than European American women, though the latter develop the disease at a much higher rate
- African American women are disproportionately at risk for and affected by cardiovascular disease (CVD) and Type II diabetes, experiencing 2 times the rate of European American women
- African American women have been found to have the highest rates of physical inactivity and suffer overweight or obesity at the alarming rate of 77%—a major contributing factor for excess morbidity and mortality from CVD, diabetes, hypertension, and multiple cancers

These realities are particularly poignant given another set of related socioeconomic realities:

- African Americans comprise 13.4% of the population, yet make up 24.7% of impoverished households
- 53% of African American children live in single mother households
- Confronting the chronic stressors of racism, sexism, and classism increases African American women's risk for mental and physical disorders

Given African American women's central role in the organization of family life and community engagement, we believe a marked improvement in our health and quality of life will be a key determinant in reversing other major ills crippling the African American community as a whole, such as high rates of academic underachievement and school dropout, under-employment and unemployment, and dreaded HIV infection.

UC2B's and our federal government's commitment to empowering vulnerable populations such as ours cannot come at a more important time. We stand ready to work with you in this comprehensive effort to reach, teach, and facilitate community growth and change. Please keep us informed of the progress of this initiative and feel free to otherwise contact us as need.

Keep Getting Up,

Imani Bazzell, Director

July 11, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Attn. Dear friends:

Re: Letter of support for the Broadband Project from: *Ted Adkisson & Associates*



1. I am a graduate of Eastern Illinois University and retired Human Resource Officer who was employed at the University of Illinois. In the past, I served as a volunteer resource person in the Champaign-Urbana schools where I taught students about their ancestry in history to help them build self-esteem and self motivation to achieve academic excellence. Likewise, I volunteered as a computer lab instructor to teach Basic Computer Literacy Skills to youth at the Urbana Boy/ Girls club and high school students who attended evening computer lab classes sponsored by the Urban League.
2. Currently I instruct, consult and inform people who are interested in learning how to bridge the historical and digital divide that is present in the underserved/unserved local community. My classes are taught at different times in the mornings, afternoons and evenings at several churches and the Douglass Center located in Champaign's Northeast community. More skills and resources would allow more people in the underserved/ unserved community access to more opportunities through the use of the Broadband to maximize their activity as well as creativity and leave no child offline.
3. My support and part of UC2B could be as Consultant, Independent Contractor, and Instructor with experience to teach basic computer skills to the underserved and unserved populations in the community. Also, part of UC2B with funding for Virtual Media Hub provide from an Access Point several hours programming for broadband channel. Having money/resources/tech. support with media I can teach and broadcast programs to citizens responsibly searching for plausible solutions to empower themselves in the community.
4. There are not enough print or electronic media outlets or facilities to formalize, disseminate and communicate important information addressing issues that empower the underserved and unserved populations to help themselves solve problems in the African-American community. Furthermore, there are not enough open media platforms that are accessible to conduct equally live expressions of the youth and elderly folks to address their issues concerning the disadvantaged in the African-American community.
5. By providing money and resources for media sites, classrooms, training, equipment and technical support UC2B can help my effort to develop skills necessary to solve problems of underserved and unserved people in the community. Also, the media sites, media hubs and media studios can be used as instruments of positive social reform to help ease or eliminate the historical and digital divide in the disadvantaged communities.

Christian Social Action Forum



August 7, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is a response to a request to endorse the establishment of a broadband network to increase the availability of the Internet to the underserved in our community. As Chairperson of the Christian Social Action Forum, Inc. a long standing participant in outreaches for the needy in Champaign County, I heartily give that endorsement, asking that the community stand behind this effort to give a service that is not readily available, but very valuable, to those who do not have resources. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vern Fein
CSAF Chairperson

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

111 Temple Buell Hall
611 Taft Drive
Champaign, IL 61820

August 11, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear Colleagues at BTOP:

I am writing as a member of the urban planning faculty at the University of Illinois to support the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) project. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning offers doctoral, master's and bachelor's degrees, supervised by about 20 faculty members. A key focus at all degree levels is community development. I teach a workshop annually that involves undergraduate and graduate students in addressing challenging local planning issues, such as environmental pollution in low income neighborhoods of color. In organizing this class, I partner with many local residents in identifying their concerns and exploring creative responses to issues that threaten health, housing, and learning. While the information technology available to me as a faculty member and to my students is adequate, our community partners are not nearly so fortunate. This lack underscores the unequal relationships between town and gown and hinders our promotion of citizen science, planning and journalism. With current resources, we are unable to provide the technical support for citizen activism.

A recent project is a case in point. A toxic waste site in a residential neighborhood in north Champaign has been the focus of several years' worth of study and activity. If the environmental reports, past news coverage, organizational responses, municipal records and other documentation related to the site had been easily searchable online, community members could have prepared better for meetings with the corporation charged with clean-up, and with state officials overseeing the process. Also communication among citizens and interest groups may have been more effective if folks were sharing information and gathering answers collaboratively. If meetings could have been streamed online to computers in people's homes, then elders who are less mobile but who have lived in the area for a long time could have been involved. With a volatile mix of politics, science and economics, finding good solutions for local residents is difficult. An infrastructure for speedy Internet access, combined with training and upkeep is crucial for tackling these sorts of complex problems.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken E. Salo', written over a white background.

Ken E. Salo
Lecturer and Community Projects Coordinator



1601 Parkview Avenue
Rockford, Illinois 61107
Tel: 815.395.5780
Fax: 815.395.5781

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C.

August 7, 2009

Dear Colleagues at BTOP:

As the Co-PI of the University of Illinois Nuevos Horizontes Media Initiative (NHMI) I am submitting this letter to strongly support the UC2B grant submission. Nuevos Horizontes (New Horizons) is a Spanish language educational outreach program using radio and the web to reach Latino immigrant families in the U.S. since 1993. The weekly radio program is produced through Illinois Media Services on the Urbana campus in the studios of WILL Radio the NPR station for the University of Illinois distributed to radio stations, high schools and libraries in 30 states in the U.S. The content of the program includes interviews on emerging topics of interest to the Latino population and health and culture sections. The New Horizons website www.nuevosshorizontes.org includes archives of past programs, podcasts and learning tools.

NHMI with support from the Office of the Chancellor at UIUC has expanded its efforts to greater involve Latina/o community members in Champaign Urbana who are recent immigrants to Illinois and connect them to students and organizations that are able to assist these families become more familiar with the schools, social services and local government programs designed to strengthen their resources and address their needs and concerns. New Horizons looks forward to working with the UC2B program to use broadband and media to better equip at risk families to address emergency preparedness and public safety issues such as severe weather warnings, epidemic related community programs and public safety warnings and instructions.

NHMI will continue to produce media products on family health topics and provide multiple venues of delivery that are appropriate to these vulnerable audiences. New Horizons looks forward to collaborate with UC2B in the implementation of this vital initiative in Champaign Urbana and strongly endorses this proposal

Sincerely,



Ben Mueller
Co-PI, University of Illinois Nuevos Horizontes Media Initiative
and Director, Northern Illinois AHEC
National Center for Rural Health Professions
University of Illinois

August 9, 2009

Hui Yan
Orchard Place 1806C,
Urbana, Illinois, 61801

To whom it may concern,

I'm Hui Yan, a PhD student from Peking University, Beijing, China. Currently I'm studying and working as a visiting scholar in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, UIUC.

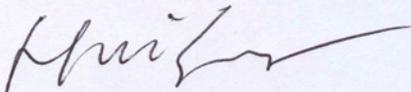
I hear from friends and advisors and also learn from some meetings that CU2B program plans to improve Internet access speed and provide more community public computing sites. I'm just writing to those officials who are in charge of deciding on the broadband budget to show my support of the CU2B plan.

As a resident in Urbana, I surf the Internet for everyday and frequently keep strong impulses to chat online with my family member and friends in China. Before I moved to Orchard Downs during the past two days, I lived in another apartment in north part of Urbana. The wireless service provided by the commercial agency (Comcast) was not very steady, and broke down nearly once in each hour. Sometimes I got mad because of the bad service and interruption of my virtual communications with the professors, relatives and friends in China. We international students don't have enough financial support and badly need high quality public internet access to keep our social ties close and effective.

During the past year staying in Urbana, I talked a lot in the form of video-conference. However, all the breakdowns of the Internet were caused by unsteady limited Internet services here, not because of Internet in China. According to the CNNIC (China Internet Network Information Center) latest report issued in July 2009, the number of netizens (or Internet users) who could access to broadband Internet has reached 320 million, and covers 94.3% of the netizen total number (338 millions). Even my mom and sisters who are living in SHANXI (an extremely slow-developed province located in the Middle North of China) could access to and enjoy high-speed internet.

I strongly appeal to both the state and federal government that CU2B should be funded immediately and in a sustainable way. I couldn't wait for that day when I could talk freely and with wife, family, friends and colleagues in China.

Respectfully yours,



hyan@illinois.edu



LATINO PARTNERSHIP of Greater Champaign County



Adán Chacon
President
Lucia Maldonado
Vice Chair
David Adcock
Treasurer
Viviana Pieretti
Secretary

*P.O. Box # 5164 Station A
Champaign, Illinois 61825*

August 6, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear Colleagues at BTOP:

On behalf of the Latino Partnership of Champaign County, NFP (LPCC), I am pleased to submit this letter to fully support the UC2B grant submission. Founded in 2002 the Latino Partnership is a clearinghouse agency of more than thirty members representing local government, health and cultural organizations, school districts and Parkland College, libraries and child care providers, social service and safety net agencies, as well as the United Way and businesses that advocate for the improvement of services offered to the Latino population of Champaign County. The Partnership seeks to be responsive to the need for human services among the growing Latino community in greater Champaign County and to decrease the barriers to reaching this population that are often experienced by local area organizations.

The LPCC has experienced from past TOP projects in partnership with Prairienet the benefits of how digital tools and resources have supported the Latino community in Champaign-Urbana. Members from LPCC have already participated with the UC2B in the preparation of a report that identify the Latino family needs related to Broadband Access in Champaign-Urbana.

The Latino Partnership of Champaign County fully supports the UC2B and looks forward to participating in its implementation. Given the urgent needs, we look forward to seeing it come to fruition in the near future.

Sincerely,

Adán Chacon
President

Aiko Takazawa
Doctoral student
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
501 E Daniel Street, Room 112
Champaign, IL 61820

August 11, 2009

To whom it may concern:

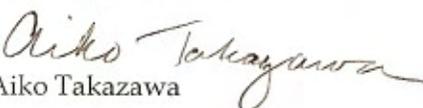
I am writing this letter to support a grant proposal, called Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B). My intention to write this supporting letter comes from various reasons. Foremost, the UC2B emphasizes community and economic development for general public to experience, empower, and facilitate their lives with public information resources and technology.

As a native of Tokyo, Japan, I have been disappointed by the US home computing. Before I came here, I anticipated that technology service for general public would be the best in the world. In fact, I was impressed by university's resources unlike those in Japanese universities. However, my feeling and experiences have become totally different, once I go and live off campus. I have recognized the reality of the United States. No matter where I live outside university residence halls, the choice for broadband is only one company that provides high speed internet. Sadly, the cost and technical performance for the information infrastructure are unbearable! In Japan, I have no fear to make internet calls with video camera and watch movies and TV shows online anytime of a day. In other word, it would be "shock" to see if someone's home does not have internet connection. As like water and electricity, internet connection in Japan is infrastructure. I even recall that someone joked to me "broadband" is outdated. Instead, people call it "fiber", referring to fiber-optic cable connection.

As like in Japan, I communicate with my family and friends, but not all the time. In the US, I feel like I cannot expect to do so. I have to obey the outrageous pricing for slow speed internet and machine-like customer service at a private company, which is the only choice for "broadband" services. Alternatively, I can rely on public libraries for computing, but their computers are very slow, and only thing that I can do with their computer is only browsing websites including online emails within a limited time. I am fortunate to go to on-campus facilities. But I have known the America where people still do not have computers at home with or without internet connection. And, those people live just nearby our campus. We have energetic students who have skills to facilitate the community as a whole to become productive in this information society together. As the plan emphasizes, we have to be sustainable in various ways, not only economic and developmental but also collaborative and enjoyable learning environment.

I strongly believe that the UC2B plan clearly demonstrates such innovative and inclusive opportunities for local people living in Urbana-Champaign. Furthermore, with UC2B plan, the US can demonstrate the power of people empowering themselves and others within and beyond their communities to advance our digital democratic society.

Sincerely yours,


Aiko Takazawa

**KOREAN CULTURAL CENTER OF CHAMPAIGN**

510 E. Daniel Street
Champaign, IL 61820

www.koreanculturalcenter.net

August 10, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear colleagues at BTOP:

I am writing on behalf of Korean Cultural Center to support the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) project. My organization was established since 2006 as a 501 c3 non for profit organization and it functions as a place to foster multiculturalism and inter-cultural exchanges in the United States.

KCC collaborates with various organizations to provide array of services to the community. Recently, we addressed issues of educating foreign adoptee children in our community including Korean adoptee children and their families and worked closely with local public libraries to provide services and programs such as story telling events, book fare, multi ethnic play group, etc. Every year, we hosted big ten Korean Ambassador Workshop for training undergraduate students to become global leaders.

Our current technology use is opening web interfaces to our program participants so that they can leave their feedbacks of participations and can download archived past event reports. However, there is so much more that we would like to do if we and our members had improved access to high-speed Internet and the accompanying computing and training facilities proposed in this submission. For example, our organization's goals would be supported by streaming video of our past events for those who missed this event and having easy access to our public documents we developed over years for sharing our knowledge of developing cultural programs. Real time online participation in big ten university workshop and international connections with our collaborative partners in Korea would be much beneficial. We also like to continue a media production project, which early studying abroad Korean students filmed their life stories and shared them at the annual workshop for further discussion and engagement toward social actions. By having this infrastructure and the social networks to support it, our project scopes can extend internationally as it should be in nature and we can make positive changes for our society.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Sunny Jeong, Ph.D.
Founder and Executive Director
Korean Cultural Center

Champaign County Nursing Home

500 South Art Bartell Rd
Urbana, Illinois 61802-2888

Phone (217) 384-3784
Fax (217) 337-0120

August 9, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

Dear colleagues:

I am writing on behalf of the Champaign County Nursing Home in support of UC2B. We serve 181 elderly nursing home residents who currently have limited access to the Internet. We support any community effort to improve technology access to the residents we serve, particularly as it relates to Internet use. Improving access to the Internet for our residents will enhance their ability to connect with people and organizations outside of the nursing home.

Loneliness is one of the key factors of depression in the elderly. Enhancing access to people and organizations outside of the nursing home will broaden our resident's involvement in our community, in their families, and enrich the last years of their lives.

The UC2B project will improve the lives of the residents we serve. Thank you for considering us within the scope of this project and we look forward to the expanded opportunities it brings our residents.

Sincerely,



Andrew Buffenbarger
Administrator



Housing Authority of Champaign County

205 W. Park Avenue – Champaign, IL 61820
Phone: (217) 378-7100 Fax: (217) 378-7113

“Champaign County Believes in Quality Public Housing”

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Executive Director
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August 5, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to fully support the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) initiative, which proposes to establish a community-wide broadband network that will connect anchor institutions such as the two hospitals, clinics, and the University of Illinois. I also understand that, in an effort to reach vulnerable populations, the broadband will be available to be connected to the senior residences in Champaign, Urbana and Savoy.

As the executive director of the Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC) I am very aware of the need for such resources in the HACC senior residences. Currently we do not provide access to the internet for our residents and most cannot afford/do not purchase internet access on their own. If our residents did have access to computers and the community broadband network I believe they would be very interested in the services that could be offered, such as informational videos and websites sponsored by the local hospitals, social networking sites or e-mail to communicate with their relatives, and access to the local public television archives.

If there is “above ground” support, for example on-site computer workshops or weekly technology visits, for this project I am quite sure the residents would be interested and if it would significantly enhance their quality of life.

I look forward to this project being funded and providing long-needed access to those vulnerable populations that really have no other alternatives and because of that are at great disadvantage and at risk of being cut off from many of the activities and people that matter so much to them. The Housing Authority of Champaign County welcomes this opportunity and will cooperate and contribute in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Edward Bland', is written over a faint, illegible stamp.

Edward Bland
Executive Director



August 5, 2009

Lisa Bievenue
Illinois Informatics Institute
501 East Daniel Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Lisa,

This letter is in support of bringing broadband internet service to our area of Urbana.

Although we have always had a core group of residents who used computers in their work and now enjoy them in retirement, computer use in our facility among residents has expanded since students from the INFO Club at the U of I began volunteering in our computer center. Most of the residents who have taken advantage of these student volunteers are folks who probably would not have used the internet but have become interested since moving here and having computer access so available. The INFO students provide assistance in a very supportive, encouraging way and the one-on-one approach to teaching works especially well for our residents. Even some of the "seasoned" computer users have come with questions, and the feedback on this program has been exceptional. There has been a waiting list each and every week!

Since our residents range in age from 62-99 years old, this is a perfect example of the saying "you are never too old to learn". Having access to broadband services would even further enhance the information that these folks and others like them could use to stay connected to their family members, their community, and to the world. And as long as there is an opportunity to learn, the residents at Clark-Lindsey Village will be among the first to step up and take advantage of the opportunity.

Thank you, Lisa, for your interest and involvement with this program.

Best regards,

Penny Porter
Sales Counselor





August 10, 2009

Abdul Alkalimat
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
University of Illinois
501 E. Daniel St.
Champaign IL 61820

Dear Abdul,

For over the past 25 years I have worked with older adults in different retirement communities, one of the most rewarding projects I was involved was to set up a small computer lab in the community. It was even more rewarding to watch a 98 year old woman learn how to utilize the internet and email her grandchildren all over the world.

The residents here at Prairie Winds Supportive Living have access to one computer which is connected to the internet, but has its limitations. By having broadband capabilities in the community, older adults would have access to such much more and would be able to share their experiences. Utilizing available material and developing programs that could be shared intergenerational would be both stimulating and rewarding for the residents. Prairie Winds is already wired to each apartment.

I support the expansion of broadband project in the Champaign Urbana area.

Sincerely



Timothy J. Boisseau
Administrator