

**Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Finding of No Significant Impact
DeKalb County Government,
DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority Broadband**

Summary

The DeKalb County Government applied to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) for a grant to install approximately 140 miles of dark fiber, as well as the necessary switching and routing equipment, to extend and build upon the existing network system in the DeKalb/Sycamore area in Illinois. The expanded service area includes DeKalb County and portions of LaSalle and Kane Counties. Five new networks will connect to anchor institutions and other end users representing the education and library, healthcare, agriculture, local government and emergency services, and private business/economic development sectors. The proposed action is called DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority (DATA) Broadband (Project).

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded a grant for the Project to DeKalb County Government, through BTOP, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The funding must be obligated and the Project completed within three (3) years. This timeline is driven by the laws and regulations governing the use of this ARRA grant funding.

BTOP supports the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas of the United States and its Territories. As a condition of receiving BTOP grant funding, recipients must comply with all relevant Federal legislation, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, which limits the types of activities that can be undertaken prior to completion of required environmental reviews. BTOP grant recipients, whose activities are not categorically excluded from further environmental review, must prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) that meets the requirements of NEPA. After a sufficiency review, NTIA may adopt the EA and use it as the basis for finding that the Project would not have a significant impact on the environment. Following such a finding, the BTOP grant recipient may then begin construction or other activities that could impact the environment.

An EA for the Project was completed by DeKalb County in July 2010, and reviewed, determined sufficient, and adopted by NTIA as part of the development of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The Project includes:

- Installing approximately 140 miles of underground dark fiber infrastructure and associated equipment such as routers and switches,
- Connecting to anchor institutions and other end users throughout DeKalb County and portions of LaSalle and Kane Counties,

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- Using plowing and directional boring to install the fiber line approximately three feet below the ground surface within existing roadway right-of-ways (ROWS) and utility easements,
- Installing hand holes along the length of the fiber route at intervals of no more than 5,000 feet in rural areas and 1,000 feet in urban areas, and
- Making repairs to any field tiles inadvertently damaged during construction operations.

Based on a review of the analysis in the EA, NTIA has determined that the Project will not result in any significant environmental impacts. Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. The basis for the determination is described in this FONSI.

Additional information and copies of the EA and FONSI are available to all interested persons and the public through the BTOP website (www2.ntia.doc.gov/) and the following contact:

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Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Project is to deliver a minimum of 100Mb and maximum of 10Gb Ethernet-based services to anchor institutions and other end users throughout DeKalb County and portions of LaSalle and Kane Counties, with possibilities to upgrade to 100Gigabit service if required. The Project will add infrastructure to leverage the existing network and extend service to underserved areas and three currently unserved population areas. Construction of the Project will connect 42 schools, 12 municipalities, 20 County sites including E-911 services, two hospitals, five clinics, 68 library locations, Northern Illinois University, Kishwaukee Community College, and several farms. The DATA plan will also provide high speed service alternatives to 3,600 businesses and more than 92,000 residents as local for-profit internet service providers take advantage of low-cost broadband services and fiber optic cable.

Project Description

The infrastructure necessary to support the proposed DATA network systems, expanding on the existing network in the DeKalb/Sycamore area, consists of approximately 140 miles of dark

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fiber, as well as the necessary switching and routing equipment that will be housed in existing structures. Fiber optic cable will to be installed in a micro-fiber duct package comprised of seven individual ducts.

Expansion of the system to the north along the preferred route will follow the IL Route 23 corridor from the City of Sycamore to the City of Genoa, then west along the IL Route 72 corridor to service the villages of Kingston and Kirkland. The network services expansion to the south will serve the communities of Cortland, Hinckley, Big Rock, Waterman, Shabbona, Sandwich, Somonauk, Leland, and Earlville. The southern route joins the existing system on the south side of Cortland, and proceeds south along Somonauk Road to Hinckley. From Hinckley, the preferred route follows US Route 30 east to Big Rock and west to the communities of Waterman and Shabbona. The preferred route continues south from Hinckley along Somonauk Road to service Sandwich and Somonauk. To reach the communities of Leland and Earlville, the preferred route for fiber installation will extend west from Somonauk along County Line Road, Leland Road, 44th Road, 1675th Road, and US Route 34 to Earlville. In addition to the major service extensions described above, several short extensions are proposed to strengthen the existing network and provide services to new end users in the DeKalb, Sycamore and Malta communities.

The methods of cable installation include directional drilling and the use of a vibratory plow. The vibratory plow will create a slit trench and insert the fiber duct at a depth of approximately three feet, without the excavation of soil materials. Typical plowing installation crews consist of a truck and trailer to transport equipment and supplies, a vibratory plow machine, a reel containing the duct to be installed, and a pick-up truck for transporting crews and general use. At this time, it is anticipated that crews will work four ten-hour days per week. A vibratory plow crew is capable of installing approximately 1,800 feet of duct in one ten-hour day. For directional drilling, the installation crew will create a bore hole, fill the hole with bentonite slurry to prevent collapse of the hole, and then pull the duct through the opening. Because directional drilling is typically used at locations where there is an obstacle that must be avoided, the depth of installation will vary to provide adequate separation from the impediment. Directional drilling techniques will be used for installation at stream crossings, in urban areas to minimize disturbance of surface features such as roadways and sidewalks, at utility crossings and at locations where sensitive wetland features have been identified. A typical directional drilling unit consists of a truck and trailer for transportation of equipment, a directional drilling machine, a reel for containment of the fiber duct, and a pick-up truck. A directional drilling crew can install approximately 500 feet of conduit in one ten-hour day. It is anticipated that the Project will be completed by two directional drilling crews and one vibratory plow crew. In addition, a specialty crew consisting of a dump truck and trailer for equipment transport, a skid steer and backhoe for excavation, an air compressor, and a pick-up truck will be available as needed for installation of hand holes, repair of any field tiles inadvertently damaged during operations, potholing known utilities, and other miscellaneous tasks. Hand holes will be installed along the fiber route as dictated by the system design, but at intervals of no greater than 5,000 feet in rural areas and 1,000 feet in urban areas. The four crews will average approximately 2,800 feet of

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conduit installation per ten-hour working day. Based on this production rate, the anticipated construction schedule requires 47 weeks of active work and a total Project time of 63 weeks (accounting for potential winter shut down and other weather-related delays).

Installation will occur along existing roadway ROWs and utility easements. Because of this, it is anticipated that utility conflicts and crossings will occur. Illinois law requires that utility companies be notified and that the utilities mark the locations of their facilities prior to the start of subsurface construction. Once the utilities have been field located, a safe route for fiber duct construction can be determined. Where utility crossings are unavoidable, the existing utilities will be hand-excavated to determine the depth of crossing. Adjustments to the fiber cable depth will be made as required to avoid conflicts. In order to protect both workers and motorists, the installation contractor will follow standard Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) methods for construction work zone traffic control within affected ROWs. While the majority of the work will be off the roadway, adequate signage and barricades are necessary for the safe operation of equipment within the ROW. IDOT standards do not require a lane closure when work is more than two feet off the pavement, and interruptions to traffic should be minimal and only required when construction equipment is entering or leaving the work zone. OSHA standards for worker protection, including use of high visibility safety vests by construction zone workers, will be followed as needed throughout the course of the Project.

Alternatives

NTIA requires that an EA include a discussion of the no action alternative. The no action alternative provides a baseline against which the effects of the proposed action may be compared. Under the no action alternative, the proposed action would not be implemented and the site-specific impacts associated with the Project would not occur in the Project area. In addition, this EA evaluated the preferred alternative for underground fiber installation along both a preferred route and an alternate route. This EA also considered and eliminated alternatives related to use of non-fiber technology (i.e., wireless internet technology) and an alternate method for fiber installation (i.e., installing aerial fiber to create all or portions of the proposed networks). Installing underground cable along the designated preferred route was chosen as the preferred alternative and represents the proposed action, and this FONSI addresses the findings related to that alternative.

Alternative 1 – Underground Fiber Installation (preferred alternative). This construction method was evaluated in detail in the EA with regard to a preferred route (described previously in the Project Description Section) and an alternate route. The alternative route was identified as an option to be considered in the event that significant impediments were encountered along the preferred route. Both the north and south segments of the alternate route provide a centrally located, relatively direct connection between the east-west Project corridors at the north and south ends of the County. The installation method itself allows fiber to easily be rerouted in the event that an environmental concern is identified. The evaluation of a back-up route was done in order to minimize any potential delays if concerns with the preferred route had been identified.

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The use of plowing techniques will minimize the amount of soil to be disturbed, and directional boring will enable the Project to avoid potential environmental issues by routing fiber ductwork under identified sensitive areas and crossings. All existing cable is to be installed underground, primarily for protection from the elements.

The alternate route has a ten foot narrower right of way, reducing the area outside of the pavement available for installation of the fiber optic duct and limiting options for avoidance of sensitive natural areas. Use of the alternate would require a greater number of drilling and receiving pits needed to drill under obstacles, rather than work around them.

No Action Alternative. Under the no action alternative, DeKalb County would not extend the existing network in the DeKalb/Sycamore area and would be unable to provide dark fiber, 100Mb/100Gb service to its members and other entities throughout the remainder of DeKalb County and portions of LaSalle and Kane Counties. No installation of new fiber infrastructure and associated equipment would occur. The no action alternative served as the baseline for assessing the impacts of the alternatives.

Alternatives Considered But Not Carried Forward. DeKalb County considered installation of wireless internet technology, but determined that the level of service that such systems are capable of accommodating would be insufficient to address the purpose and needs of the Project and, therefore, is not a viable alternative. DeKalb County also considered aerial installation of fiber optic cable. The key to providing emergency 911 services through the Project is system reliability, and aerial cable is susceptible to outages during storm events due to falling tree limbs and branches, excessive ice buildup, or high speed wind gusts. In addition, the existing poles that would support the fiber optic aerial facilities are under the control of other utility companies and would require agreements that could restrict the rights of the fiber owner. For these reasons, aerial installation of fiber optic cable was determined not be a feasible alternative.

Findings and Conclusions

The EA analyzes existing conditions and environmental consequences of the proposed action (that includes installation along the preferred route), use of an alternative route, and the no action alternative within 11 major resource areas. Evaluation of the proposed action was completed with formal field evaluations for the preferred route and primarily desktop evaluations for the alternate route. The resource areas analyzed included Noise, Air Quality, Geology and Soils, Water Resources, Biological Resources, Historic and Cultural Resources, Aesthetic and Visual Resources, Land Use, Infrastructure, Socioeconomic Resources, and Human Health and Safety.

When comparing the alternatives that meet the purpose and need the alternate route would require more fiber to be installed than the preferred route due to fewer end users being located along the alignment, and would require installing the infrastructure within a narrower right of way, limiting impact avoidance flexibility. Using the minimum footage along the preferred route will result in less total noise and fewer total emissions generated during the construction process.

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The alternate route is also expected to have a greater number of utility conflicts, requiring more open cuts to navigate the fiber conduits around obstructions. The preferred route appears to have a greater number of stream and floodplains crossings than the alternate route.

Implementation of the proposed action along the preferred route in is not likely to result in any recognizable environmental impacts and will not involve any unusual risks or impacts to sensitive areas.

Noise

Installation of underground fiber optic cable along the preferred or alternate routes will not add to ambient noise levels during their operation (i.e., data transmission). Construction of the improvements will necessitate the use of construction machinery, such as vibratory plows, directional drilling equipment, and small excavators. Associated noise will be limited to the construction phase of the Project and mitigated through the use of restricted work hours. This noise would be avoided under the no action alternative.

Air Quality

The Project improvements will have no direct effect on air quality during normal operations. Required equipment such as vibratory plows, directional drilling equipment, and small excavators will produce emissions, such as ozone, particulate matter, and greenhouse gases during installation of the fiber optic cable. The specific installation methods proposed (directional drilling and vibratory plow) involve minimal soil disturbance, which will limit the potential for dust generation during construction. These impacts would not occur under the no action alternative.

It is further anticipated that the increased connection rates accommodated by the Project will result in significant emissions savings via vehicle trip reductions due to increases in e-commuting, distance learning, and other forms of online collaboration facilitated by increased bandwidth. This potential benefit would not be realized under the no action alternative.

Geology and Soils

Installation of the fiber optic cable and associated equipment will not adversely affect geology or soils along either the preferred or alternate routes, which will be located within existing road ROWs or existing utility easements that been previously disturbed. The alternate route could result in increased drilling because of the narrower area for avoidance of impacts. Any increased drilling would increase the area of soil disturbance. The improvements will generally follow the topography of the land with few grading revisions needed. However, both the preferred and alternative routes may cross buried field tiles that are not apparent from surface features or markings. The fiber optic cable installer will notify township authorities prior to construction so that they are able to mark the locations of known field tiles. If an unmarked tile is broken, the fiber optic cable installation contractor will repair the damage to reinstate drainage.

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Aesthetic and Visual Resources

Aesthetic impacts for most areas will be limited to the short-term presence of construction equipment during the installation phase of the Project. Permanent aesthetic impacts will be avoided as the conduits to be installed will be located underground and optical splice enclosures will be located below grade in vaults and hand holes.

Water Resources

Both the preferred and alternate routes contain several crossings of streams and rivers. Impacts to these resources will be avoided with the use of horizontal directional drilling equipment for installation of the fiber conduits. The preferred alternative requires directional drilling to start and end at a distance of 30 feet outside the limits of the wetland or riparian environment. Typical short term impacts are expected to include: presence of equipment in the vicinity of the stream, resulting in some minor turf disturbance; soil disturbance due to trenching operations upstream of the stream banks; minor soil compaction due to equipment; and exploratory trenching to confirm the presence of existing utilities and other infrastructure.

Both the preferred and alternate routes also contain several crossings of wetlands of varying quality. The specific construction methods to be employed will vary depending on the quality and current conditions of the wetland. For wetlands that are intermittently dry, a vibratory plow will be used for installation of the conduit to avoid splices and their associated surface disturbance. For wetlands that are normally wet or are more susceptible to damage, horizontal directional drilling will be used to cross beneath the wetlands without impacting them adversely. Any impacts to wetlands will be temporary and not of a permanent nature.

An assessment of water resources, a discussion of the proposed construction activities, and a permit application for stream, river, and wetland crossings were submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on May 14, 2010. Because there are no permanent impacts to jurisdictional wetlands, the Project falls under Nationwide Permit 12 – Utility Line Activities. DeKalb County is currently waiting for USACE to review the permit application, concur with their conclusion that the Project meets the terms of Nationwide Permit 12, and issue a permit. Provided that the construction methods described above are implemented appropriately and in accordance with permit requirements, installation of fiber optic cable under the preferred alternative would have negligible adverse environmental impacts.

The preferred and alternate routes both contain crossings of floodplains. These crossings will be made in accordance with the requirements of Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Statewide Permit No. 8 “underground pipeline and utility crossings” for work outside of Kane County and Regional Permit No. 3 within Kane County. USACE has also been asked to confirm that Nationwide Permit 12 will apply to floodplain crossings. Construction associated with the Project will not result in any increase in ground elevations and will not require placement of above ground structures in the floodway. The top of newly installed conduit will be at least three feet below the stream bed. Disturbance of streamside vegetation will be minimized, and all

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disturbed areas will be restored to their original contours and revegetated. Thus, no significant adverse impacts to floodplains along the Project corridor are anticipated.

Construction along the preferred or alternate route will have negligible impact to groundwater supplies due to the construction methods to be employed. Installation via vibratory plow preserves the in-situ soil profile and will not adversely affect groundwater flows. Horizontal directional drilling will be used in areas where vibratory plows would cause excessive disturbance. During horizontal directional drilling, the bore hole will be stabilized by a bentonite slurry grout pumped under pressure. Although the grout is inert and would not act as a pollutant, it can affect groundwater flow by filling voids adjacent to the borehole and reducing the overall permeability of the formation. The magnitude of this potentially adverse effect is expected to be negligible due to the shallow depth of underground fiber installation (approximately three feet) under the preferred alternative. Significant groundwater sources (aquifers) are not present at such limited depths along the Project corridor and will not be impacted by installation of the improvements.

Biological Resources

A review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) technical assistance website for federally-listed threatened and endangered species indicated that five vulnerable species may be present in the counties where the Project will take place. These species include the Indiana Bat, Sheepsnose Mussel, Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, Decurrent False Aster, and Leafy-Prairie Clover. In addition, the IDNR identified six occurrences of five state-listed threatened and endangered species near the Project corridor. These five species are red-berried elder, slippershell, Blanding's turtle, wooly milkweed, and black sandshell. Construction of the Project is not expected to have adverse impacts on the identified threatened or endangered species based on the following:

- **Indiana Bat** – To avoid direct or indirect impacts to the Indiana Bat or its habitat, no trees will be removed as part of the Project. Subsurface directional drilling will be completed where conflicts with wooded areas cannot be avoided.
- **Sheepsnose Mussel** – To avoid direct or indirect impacts to the Sheepsnose Mussel, crossings of water bodies will be directionally drilled, placing the cable below the habitat of this species.
- **Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid** - To avoid direct or indirect impacts on the potential Orchid wetland habitat, conduit beneath the wetland areas will be directionally drilled.
- **Decurrent False Aster** - This species is found in the floodplains and wetlands along the Illinois River which is outside the limits of the Project. Therefore, the Project will have no effect on the Decurrent False Aster.
- **Leafy Prairie Clover** - This species is found in prairie remnants along the Des Plaines River which is outside the limits of the Project. Therefore, the Project will have no effect on the Leafy Prairie Clover.
- **Red-Berried Elder** - The northern portion of the fiber optic cable route (Kirkland to Genoa) was surveyed for the red-berried elderberry on May 5, 2010. Potential habitat exists, but red-

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berried elder was not observed. Furthermore, removal of trees is not planned as part of the proposed construction.

- **Slippershell/Black Sandshell** – Although a survey for these mussel species was not conducted, the fiber optic cable will be installed with directional-boring methods under all streams and rivers.
- **Blanding’s Turtle** - The Blanding’s turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) has been recorded near DeKalb, but not near the Project corridor.
- **Wooly Milkweed** – The Project corridor near the local sighting location for this species consists primarily of cool-season turf grasses that are regularly mowed, with occasional stream crossings. Adjoining habitat includes agricultural row crops; cool-season pasture; narrow riparian corridors with primarily reed canary grass; homesteads with turf grass and old field conditions; and cool-season grass near the Camelot Christmas Tree Farm lake. The Project ROW is not likely to contain wooly milkweed. The best opportunity to find wooly milkweed is at Merritt Prairie or the privately-owned hillside prairies immediately south of Merritt Prairie. Merritt Prairie is located approximately one mile east of Somonauk Road along Keslinger Road and is not expected to be impacted by proposed construction activities.

DeKalb County Government concluded that the Project will have no effect on Federal or State listed threatened or endangered species for either of the fiber routes considered. This “no effect” determination was submitted to the USFWS for concurrence, and the agency responded on May 6, 2010, indicating no objections to implementation of the Project.

Historic and Cultural Resources

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency has reviewed the Project and determined that no historic properties are affected. A letter documenting this finding was issued to the NTIA on April 17, 2010. Therefore, no adverse historical or cultural impacts are anticipated along either the preferred or alternate routes.

Land Use

The infrastructure necessary to complete the Project will be located within existing roadway ROWs and existing utility easements. These improvements are consistent with normal uses of ROWs and easements. No adverse impacts on land use are expected for either the preferred or alternate routes.

Infrastructure

Communications infrastructure will be extended to those locations served by the Project. Other than these improvements, the preferred alternative (following either route) is not expected to adversely affect existing infrastructure.

Under both the preferred and alternate routes, construction equipment may occasionally impede traffic flow as they enter and leave the roadway. IDOT standards require traffic control signage, but do not require lane closures when work is off the pavement, as proposed under the preferred

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alternative. Thus, delays to motorists are expected to be minimal, temporary, and limited to working hours and specific work locations.

Because the Project improvements are to be constructed along existing ROWs and utility easements, there is the potential that construction of the fiber optic facilities would overlap with future improvements to the roadway system or other utility infrastructure within public ROWs. The current Illinois State Plan indicates only minimal anticipated conflicts between their multi-year roadway improvement plan and the Project activities. This overlap occurs along US Highway 30 from Hinckley to Big Rock. However, the roadway improvements include resurfacing only. Coordination will be required to ensure that work schedules do not coincide. Any potential conflicts will be resolved when a ROW construction permit is issued.

The City of DeKalb has also identified a potential conflict with construction under the preferred route. In the spring of 2012, the City will be widening and reconstructing the Bethany Road bridge over the Kishwaukee River. Installation of fiber optic cable will need to be coordinated with the City to avoid interference with bridge reconstruction work and avoidance of any areas where future construction is planned. Again, these issues will be addressed when a permit is issued for construction in the City ROW.

Socioeconomic Resources

No negative impacts on socioeconomic conditions within DeKalb County are expected as a result of implementation of the proposed action. Both the preferred and alternate routes will provide benefits associated with high-speed internet access to underserved populations, particularly within rural areas of the Project service area. These benefits include enhanced employment opportunities due to the potential for e-commuting and online collaboration, and educational opportunities via online education and connected classrooms. The Project will provide broadband access to communities occupied by 89% of all low income individuals and 94% of all minority individuals in DeKalb County. Census data from 2000 indicates that 72,339 of the 88,969 residents in DeKalb County, or 81% of the general county-wide population, live in the communities to be served by the Project. Based on this analysis, low income and minority populations in DeKalb County will receive the benefits of the Project at a higher rate than the population at large. The no action alternative would not provide the benefits identified above.

Human Health and Safety

A review of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) and Site Remediation Program (SRP) databases indicated there are 47 LUST sites and three SRP sites near the Project corridor. Consequently, areas of soil contamination may be present along the preferred or alternate routes of fiber installation. However, vibratory plowing preserves the existing soil profile in-situ and would not result in contaminated soils being exposed. Directional drilling also minimizes soil disturbance and would not be expected to significantly redistribute contaminated soils. Installation of hand holes for splices within areas of soil contamination may require appropriate offsite disposal if contaminated soils are encountered. To mitigate possible adverse impacts, LUST and SRP sites will be identified on

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the Project plans to alert workers of known areas of potential contamination. Soils will be identified as potentially contaminated if they appear visually different than surrounding soil, or if the smell of petroleum products is detected. Upon identification of potentially contaminated soils, work will cease in the area of concern, and a soil contamination consultant will conduct an investigation to determine the presence and extent of soil contamination. Workers will then be equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment in accordance with OSHA standards and follow the required regulatory procedures for mitigating the soil contamination in the manner identified by the consultant.

Much of the work will take place adjacent to high speed traffic, and IDOT traffic control standards will be used to establish and maintain a safe work zone. Workers are required to meet OSHA standards for worker visibility, and equipment driven on roadways must meet proper signage and licensing requirements. Also in accordance with IDOT standards, work within urban areas will maintain safe pedestrian routes. Work in and around school zones will be coordinated with school district officials to ensure that safe, functional routes are available for pedestrian and bus traffic.

By adopting the safety and coordination efforts described above, it is anticipated that either the preferred or alternate routes could be constructed with no adverse impacts to human health and safety or the environment.

The no action alternative would not result in any direct impacts to human health and safety. However, medical facilities within the Project area would forego the opportunity to provide richer, more diverse services throughout the region, resulting in an adverse impact to human health.

Cumulative Impacts

The no action alternate would have no adverse effects for the environmental criteria examined, but fails to meet the purpose and need of the Project. The preferred alternative would provide enhanced connectivity in underserved and unserved rural areas, and will have a major positive cumulative impact on medical services, education, and local economies over the long-term. Both the alternate route and preferred route will have effects on the environmental parameters considered, but these effects will be limited to the construction phase of the Project, and measures will be implemented to mitigate any potential adverse impacts. Based on the analysis above, the preferred and alternate routes will have no significant adverse impacts to any individual component of the environment, nor will they have a cumulative impact to the environment as a whole.

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Decision

Based on the above analysis, NTIA concludes that with the environmental protection measures identified for implementing the Project using the preferred alternative and the preferred route, the construction and operation of the Project will not require additional mitigation. A separate mitigation plan is not required for the Project. The analyses indicate that the proposed action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. NTIA has determined that preparation of an EIS is not required.

Issued:


Cynthia Schultz
Director of Compliance and Audits
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

August 5, 2010
Date