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Organization: Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative

Project Name: Middle Mile Expansion for Eastern Virginia

Project Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

State: Virginia

Federal Award: \$10,023,247

ABOUT THE PROJECT

To address the need for broadband infrastructure in the economically distressed region of eastern Virginia including Franklin, Southampton, Isle of Wight, Surrey, and Suffolk, the **Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative** (MBC) proposes to construct 170 miles of new fiber to complement its existing network in southeastern Virginia, providing backbone speeds of up to 100 Gbps. The Middle Mile Expansion for Eastern Virginia project proposes to enhance education in the region by enabling schools to access upgraded, higher capacity services at affordable rates, offer expanded distance learning opportunities, and remote teaching, video conferencing, and testing. The network also plans to enable greatly improved telemedicine, especially radiological imaging and the improved use of electronic medical records.

The Middle Mile Expansion for Eastern Virginia project also proposes to:

- Connect as many as 66 community anchor institutions with speeds between 10 Mbps and 10 Gbps, including 17 K-12 public schools, 33 public safety entities, four libraries, Paul D. Camp and Tidewater Community Colleges and two other institutions of higher learning, four healthcare facilities, and four government buildings and centers.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to approximately 35,000 households and 340 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.
- Partner with Old Dominion University to bring educational, research, and other online interactive instructional opportunities to community colleges on the network.
- Leverage MBC's \$16M BTOP Round One award for southern Virginia by interconnecting the southern and eastern network builds in Emporia and Dinwiddie.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (MBC), a not-for-profit organization, was established in 2004 as an independent broadband cooperative to promote economic development in Southern Virginia. MBC has experience in bringing advanced broadband services to the region's residents, businesses, hospitals, and school systems. Currently, more than 55 telecommunications providers have joined MBC's cooperative. MBC, a recipient of funds in BTOP's first round, has agreements in place with several local companies certified under Virginia's Small, Women and Minority Certification program. The International Telecommunications Union recognizes MBC as a model open access network.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Old Dominion University
- Paul D. Camp and Tidewater Community Colleges

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa.

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov. For the general public, contact BTOP@ntia.doc.gov.

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