



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: 3/26/2010 9:59:54 PM	Easygrants ID: 5538
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: CARVER, COUNTY OF
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Randy Lehs

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A. General Application Information

Applicant Information	
Name and Federal ID for Applicant	
DUNS Number	003265407
CCR # (CAGE)	5F4M0
Legal Business Name	CARVER, COUNTY OF
Point of Contact (POC)	DONNA MEYER 9523611509 Ext. dmeyer@co.carver.mn.us
Alternate POC	NATHAN REINHARDT 9523611511 Ext. nreinhardt@co.carver.mn.us
Electronic Business POC	DONNA MEYER 9523611509 Ext. dmeyer@co.carver.mn.us
Alternate Electronic Business POC	NATHAN REINHARDT 9523611511 Ext. nreinhardt@co.carver.mn.us

Name and Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application:	
Prefix	Mr.
First Name	Randy
Middle Name	
Last Name	Lehs
Suffix	
Telephone Number	952-361-1494



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Fax Number	952-361-1582
Email	rlehs@co.carver.mn.us
Title	Technical Services Supervisor

Additional Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application:

Project Role	Name	Phone	Email
Secondary Point of Contact	Rhonda , Lynch	9523611519	rlynch@co.carver.mn.us
Other Contact	Mr. Steve , Taylor	9523611501	staylor@co.carver.mn.us

Environmental Point of Contact

Prefix: Mr. Name: Lehs, Randy Suffix: Telephone Number: 952-361-1494 Title: Technical Services Supervisor

Organization Classification

Type of Organization	County Government
Is the organization a small business?	No
Does the organization meet the definition of a socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern?	No



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Authorized Organizational Representative	
AOR Name	MEYER, DONNA
Result	Applicant Authorized

Project Title and Project Description

Project Title: Carver County Open Fiber Initiative (CCOFI)

Project Description: This project will create a fiber-based backbone infrastructure in Carver County Minnesota that will connect 86 entities to a fiber loop. These entities currently have low-connectivity speed coupled with high prices. Long-term planning for this project adds last-mile service providers that will promote and build fiber to the premise, enhance high-speed broadband and further economic development.

CCI Priority Checklist

The following items were selected from the CCI Priority Checklist:

1. This project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure to community anchor institutions.
2. The project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure and has incorporated a public-private partnership among government, non-profit and for-profits entities, and other key community stakeholders.
4. This project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure to community colleges.
5. This project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure to public safety entities.
6. This project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure and either includes a Last Mile infrastructure component in unserved or underserved areas or has received commitments from one or more Last Mile broadband service providers to utilize the Middle Mile components. Any Last Mile components in rural areas do not exceed 20% of the total eligible costs of the project.

Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Components

The following items were selected from the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Components:

Middle Mile



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BIP Applicants

Have you also applied to BIP for funding in the sample proposed funded service area?

- No

If Yes, please provide the project title and Easygrants ID number:

Title of Joint BIP Application:

Easygrants ID:

Other Applications

Is this application being submitted in coordination with any other application being submitted during this round of funding?

- No

Easygrants ID	Project Title

If YES, please explain any synergies and/or dependencies between this project and any other applications.

Individual Background Screening

Is the Applicant exempt from the Department of Commerce requirements regarding individual background screening in connection with any award resulting from this Application?

- Yes, Applicant is exempt because it is a unit of a state or local government

If the answer to the above question is "No," please identify each key individual associated with the Applicant who would be required to complete Form CD-346, "Applicant for Funding Assistance," in connection with any award resulting from this Application:

Name	Title	Employer



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B. Executive Summary, Project Purpose and Benefits

Essay Question

Executive Summary of the proposed project:

The Carver County Open Fiber Initiative (COFFI) is a project that was conceived by Carver County employees to help government run more efficiently. Since the beginning, the goal has been to adapt new ways this project could better serve the needs of the County, its communities and most importantly the residents. Though time has elapsed since the initial push to implement this project, the enthusiasm and drive of Carver County employees to complete this project has not waned. Their commitment and goal is to benefit all and have put in long hours to complete this application, not for their benefit but understanding the need to address the severe data shortages and the high costs associated with the limited available decent service that at this point is in very short supply and where available the high costs associated with this limited availability.. This project addresses the immediate needs of the county's internet and data transfer speed issues, connects all of the school districts and each individual school to the COFFI ring. Higher Education, both community college and university are connected allowing information to flow more freely and for these institutions to help broaden the horizons of the children of the area. The vulnerable populations, especially low income, rural and the young will be served by the connections to libraries. Medical facilities and volunteer organizations like the Red Cross will be connected for every need, from medical records exchange for healthcare to volunteer and donation needs for the support organizations within the county. Law enforcement and Homeland security will both benefit from fast, reliable, and most of all secure communications between agencies and departments. This addresses the greater Carver County community by bringing the fiber backbone through all of the 11 towns and 11 townships, connecting them with local, state and federal agencies with one hundred megabit per second speed bi-directionally. The anchor institutions in these towns will all have the opportunity to connect both during and after the build process. With over 55% of the counties land mass being rural, unfortunately there is not a lot of effort to bring this type of product into the area. Furthermore, RUS has not responded to an application that was prepared over two years ago. In



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the meantime, costs have increased and tax revenues have shrunk creating a double problem for funding this independently. This project was submitted in the first round to RUS under the ARRA BIP program where it was turned down. Between the shortage of private lenders, the unwillingness of the Department of Agriculture, and the long time that funding has been sought for this project, we believe this project shows the need for funding and the inability of this project to be completed with traditional funding.

There are 24,356 households and 2,735 businesses passed as well as the 86 anchor institutions with this project. These anchor institutions consist of 28 schools (k-12), 5 libraries, 1 medical and healthcare provider, 16 public safety entities, 1 community college, 1 public housing entity, and 1 institution of higher education, 10 community support organizations, and 23 other government facilities.

The initial proposed services are confined to high speed data. Please remember that data takes many forms in today's world, from high speed internet traffic and bi-directional data transfer to VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) Video that is encapsulated in IP and, security camera and monitoring systems, and even secure data storage and encryption. These IP services will be provide to the anchor institutions identified with future plans to connect even more anchor institutions as well as the businesses and residential customers in the area. Since it is an open network, the network is designed to have one or more private service providers selling services on this network. This will allow the largest number of potential users to connect in the shortest amount of time.

Since this is designed from the ground up as an open network, there will not be discriminatory or non-interconnection issues. All bona-fide requests for connection will be assessed and addressed with connectivity not being unjustly denied.

The proposed network is a fiber optic ring topology and the fallback routing technology which will allow for redundant delivery of traffic to each point on the ring. This redundancy makes the network extremely reliable allowing time sensitive traffic such as public safety to utilize the service. The fiber optic cable employed in the ring will be buried to further guard against loss of data during times of crisis as well as to prevent vandalism and animal intrusion. The fiber allows virtually unlimited speed at an extremely low latency making real time video and voice a reality. The nodes will each be served by their own redundant switch to guarantee the greatest amount of



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uptime possible. Each node will feed lateral paths of fiber that will connect more anchor institutions to that point. Aggregation will take place at this point and traffic will be delivered around the ring to its final destination or on to the internet peering point where it will be delivered out to the world.

All ring speeds will be at 10 Gbps and all lateral connections will be made at 1 Gbps. This will allow not only for the speed needs today of 100 Mbps but for flexibility going forward. The entire network will be deployed with Cisco gear to complement the existing Carver County equipment. It will also enhance the management of the network through common network monitoring and configuration tools.

Carver County is able to demonstrate its ability to build and manage a project like this from several directions. As can be noted on the management and contractor resumes, there are more than two hundred years of experience building, maintaining, and operating communication networks. There is also over one hundred years of experience designing, building, and operating fiber optic networks in particular. Coupling this experience together gives a team of dedicated professionals that can handle the unique requirements of both an inside and outside plant deployment and continue to manage the platform for users after completion. Financially, Carver County has a substantial reserve fund as indicated with the historical financials enclosed, one of the highest bond ratings available (AAA) and a skilled financial team. With over 700 employees, there is strength of purpose and a depth of understanding to implement even the most difficult task and to complete projects on time and on budget once they begin.

By partnering with Jaguar Communications, Inc. to help design and build this system, the county has shown that it understands the value of a strategic partnership to bring in the specialized knowledge that is needed for a project of this complexity.

Project purpose:

The purpose of this project is to construct a fiber ring to serve government entities, schools, libraries, healthcare providers, businesses and residents living in Carver County, Minnesota. This project will entail burying approximately 121 miles of fiber optic cable connecting 55 public sites – anchor institutions that encompass 86 entities – throughout the county and creating a redundant ring. This fiber ring will enable these public entities to function more effectively and efficiently, and it will set the stage for future economic growth and development in the county and enhanced communications, educational opportunities, and healthcare services for residents.



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As the third-fastest growing county in Minnesota, Carver County’s current population of 90,043 is expected to increase to 195,400 by 2030. In order to keep pace with this rapid population growth in times of shrinking budgets, public entities must find ways to operate as efficiently as possible and make the best use of data and communication strategies. This project supports that goal. It is an expansion of a proposal approved in 2008 to create a redundant ring from the county’s Government Center to a connection site in each of the county’s 11 cities. The county planned to use the savings from replacing its current T1 infrastructure to pay off the debt for the fiber ring. This proposal builds on that strategy and significantly increases the number of community anchor sites on the ring, including public entities that could not otherwise afford to connect to the ring. Anchor sites include county and city government facilities, buildings in all six school districts that serve county residents, all community libraries, the hospital serving the county, public safety entities, institutions of higher learning, and community support organizations that serve the economically disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. In addition, this project is designed to connect public security facilities, 800 MHz towers, law enforcement agencies, emergency dispatch centers, and disaster recovery sites. This project will provide broadband to un-served and underserved areas in rural parts of the county and enhance services in areas currently being served. As a county that was in the midst of a development boom that began in the 1980s when the economy soured, this project will bring jobs to the county, first in the construction phase of the ring, and later in the economic development that will happen as communities are revitalized by having access to high-speed broadband. This will help address the county’s rising unemployment (a five-percentage-point increase from 2000 to 2009), and its designation of having had significant trade-related job loss to qualify for the Economic Development Administration’s Community Trade Adjustment Assistance program.

As an outer-ring county in the seven-county Metropolitan Area of Minneapolis and St. Paul, we expect access to broadband services will help jumpstart projects that seem to have been napping during the economic downturn. For example, the City of Chaska received a “bioscience designation” from the state in 2008 and has been marketing the 800-acre project to a host of potential biomedical companies expected to generate 8,000-10,000 jobs at build-out. Access to high-speed broadband will also be seen as a plus in the development of a proposed Ed Campus, a “multi-versity” facility that will house a number of higher education campuses. The \$88 million project is expected to serve up to 6,500 students annually and employ 200 professionals. The County’s two existing institutions of higher learning, Crown College and Dunwoody College of Technology, will be connected to the proposed fiber ring and will benefit from enhanced services to their students and staff. Crown College offers more than 30 four-year



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programs and master’s programs in traditional classroom settings and online. Dunwoody, named one of the top ten technical schools in the U.S., is a community college headquartered in Minneapolis that began offering classes at its South Metro Campus at the Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative (CSEC) site in Chaska in 2007.

The CSEC offers a wide variety of programs including alternative schools, a program for pregnant and parenting teens, behavioral health and restorative justice programs, an academy for chemically dependent students, vocational classes, remedial and adult basic education classes. Similarly, the ISD 112 Kindergarten Center site on the ring provides access to many other community programs as it is adjacent to a community action program, the CAP Agency, and to River Valley Nursing Center. The CAP Agency offers Head Start, WIC, housing and other emergency services to individuals with low incomes, and the River Valley Nursing Center, provides healthcare resources and referrals to uninsured and under-insured individuals. This fiber ring also has the potential to enhance other healthcare services throughout the county. The hospital that serves the county will be on the ring. The 12 medical clinics located in the county are potential sites, as is a new emergency medical center currently under construction.

The purpose of this project is make high-speed broadband access available to as many public entities, businesses and residents as possible. This funding will enable Carver County to overcome the downturn in the local economy, state aid un-allotments, and increased construction costs that have threatened to waylay Carver County’s fiber ring project. BTOP funding will make it possible for the Carver County project to move forward and significantly improve the operation of local government and community organizations. It will also provide a strong foundation for greater access to broadband services in rural and suburban areas that will improve public safety, spur economic growth and development, and enhance communications, educational opportunities, social services and healthcare services.

Recovery Act and Other Governmental Collaboration:

There are several road construction projects scheduled to happen during the 2011 construction season. To the extent possible, we are working with the MN Dept of Transportation and City of Chaska Dept of Transportation to install conduit on those routes during the time of this road construction. This will allow for a more efficient construction project for both entities. It is unclear at this time if ARRA funding will be released for these projects but meetings have been held with the principles to try to leverage the two programs to the fullest extent possible. The areas in question are approximately 5.3 miles of road construction at an anticipated cost of over 5 million dollars. By working together, both entities will save costs by not having to deal with



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preexisting utility construction and having to locate and or move the facilities. It will also reduce the need for duplicate restoration since the area will only have to be restored once.

Fit with BTOP CCI Priorities:

The project is designed to connect to as many of the area anchor institutions as possible. All of the types of the anchor institutions identified are included. The ring structure being created will fulfill the middle mile needs of this county, its communities, and the residents of the area. While not all anchor institutions could be included in this project, all of the ones that were most needy and ready for high speed data service have been included. With 100% coverage of groups like public safety, community colleges and higher education, K-12 schools, and all city and county government offices, this will truly be a complete middle mile and anchor institution driven network. With the addition of a private service provider in the future, the entire population of this area will benefit with increased services, high speed broadband availability and an enhanced dynamically driven economic environment.

Is the applicant seeking a waiver of the Buy American provision pursuant to section x.Q of the NOFA?

- No

Is the applicant delinquent on any federal debt?

- No

If Yes, justification for delinquency:

Are you seeking a waiver of any requirement set forth in the NOFA that is not mandated by statute or applicable law?

- No

Is the applicant a current recipient of a grant or loan from RUS?

- No

C. Partners

Are you partnering with any other key institutions, organizations, or other entities for this project?

- Yes

If YES, key partners are listed below:



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<p>Project Role: Contractor Name: Smith, Donny Phone: 5072141000 Email: dsmith@jagcom.net Address 1: 213 S. Oak Avenue Address 2: Address 3: City: Owatonna State: Minnesota Zip Code: 55060 Organization: Jaguar Communications, Inc. Organization Type: For-profit Entity Small business: Yes Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p>
<p>Project Role: Other Name: Furlong, Tom Phone: 9522271100 Email: tfurlong@ci.chanhassen.mn.us Address 1: 7700 Market Blvd Address 2: Address 3: City: Chanhassen State: Minnesota Zip Code: 55317 Organization: City of Chanhassen Organization Type: City or Township Government Small business: No Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p>
<p>Project Role: Other Name: Podhradsky, Matt Phone: 9522277523 Email: matt@chaskamn.com Address 1: 1 City Hall Plaza Address 2: Address 3: City: Chaska State: Minnesota Zip Code: 55318 Organization: City of Chaska</p>



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<p>Organization Type: City or Township Government Small business: No Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p>
<p>Project Role: Other Name: Uram, Don Phone: 9524434210 Email: duram@ci.victoria.mn.us Address 1: 7951 Rose St Address 2: Address 3: City: Victoria State: Minnesota Zip Code: 55386 Organization: City of Victoria Organization Type: City or Township Government Small business: No Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p>
<p>Project Role: Other Name: Douville, John Phone: 9524662064 Email: douville@ci.cologne.mn.us Address 1: 1211 Village Pkwy Address 2: Address 3: City: Cologne State: Minnesota Zip Code: 55322 Organization: City of Cologne Organization Type: City or Township Government Small business: No Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p>
<p>Project Role: Other Name: Lehrke, Roger Phone: 9524424182 Email: citycouncilmembers@waconia.org Address 1: 217 S Vine St Address 2: Address 3: City: Waconia</p>



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State: Minnesota
 Zip Code: 55387
 Organization: City of Waconia
 Organization Type: City or Township Government
 Small business: No
 Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Other
 Name: Wallner, Steve
 Phone: 9529552681
 Email: swallner@ci.watertown.mn.us
 Address 1: 309 Lewis Ave S
 Address 2:
 Address 3:
 City: Watertown
 State: Minnesota
 Zip Code: 55388
 Organization: City of Watertown
 Organization Type: City or Township Government
 Small business: No
 Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Other
 Name: Capaul, Chris
 Phone: 9526571502
 Email: mayermn@frontier.net
 Address 1: 413 Bluejay Ave
 Address 2:
 Address 3:
 City: Mayer
 State: Minnesota
 Zip Code: 55360
 Organization: City of Mayer
 Organization Type: City or Township Government
 Small business: No
 Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Other
 Name: Plekkenpol, Patricia
 Phone: 9524485353
 Email: pplekkenpol@ci.carver.mn.us
 Address 1: 316 Broadway



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Address 2:
Address 3:
City: Carver
State: Minnesota
Zip Code: 55315
Organization: City of Carver
Organization Type: City or Township Government
Small business: No
Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Other
Name: Simmons, Tom
Phone: 9524671805
Email: tsimmons@cityofnva.com
Address 1: 102 Main St E
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: Norwood Young America
State: Minnesota
Zip Code: 55397
Organization: City of Norwood Young America
Organization Type: City or Township Government
Small business: No
Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Description of the involvement of the partners listed above in the project.

The township and city partners have all committed to expediting any of the normal rights-of-way applications that they may have. There is a general level of support that extends throughout the area in more tangible ways such as cooperation with permitting. Permitting tasks have already begun with several of the entities listed here.

Jaguar Communications, Inc. has committed to leading this project through its initial construction phase and to develop a locating and maintenance contract after construction to keep the network maintained and operational.

D. Congressional Districts



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Applicant Headquarters

- Minnesota

Project Service States

Minnesota

Project Service Areas

Minnesota - 2

Will any portion of your proposed project serve federally recognized tribal entities?

- No

Indicate each federally recognized tribal entity your proposed project will serve.

Have you consulted with each of the federally recognized tribal entities identified above?

- Yes

E. Service Area Details

Is the applicant seeking a waiver for providing less than 100% coverage of a service area?

- No

Project Details

Service Area Type:

Middle Mile



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Service Area Name: Carver County
Rural Classification of the Last Mile Service Area: Non-Rural
Service Status of the Last Mile Service Area: Underserved

If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.
 The rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded service area is 40% of households or less.

Total Square Miles in Service Area: 372
Total Population in Proposed Service Area: 90,043
Total Number of Households in Service Area: 24,356
Total Number of Businesses in Service Area: 2,735
Total Number of Community Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities in Proposed Funded Service Area: 700
Unemployment Rate in the Service Area: 8
Median Income in the Service Area: 65,540
Estimated Percentage of Households with Access to Broadband: 83
Estimated Percentage of Households Subscribing to Broadband: 38

F. Community Anchor Summary

Community Anchor Summary	
Schools (k-12)	28
Libraries	5
Medical and Healthcare Providers	1
Public Safety Entities	16
Community Colleges	1
Public Housing	1
Other Institutions of Higher Education	1
Other Community Support Organization	10



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Other Government Facilities	23
TOTAL COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS	86
Historically Black colleges and Universities	0
Tribal Colleges and Universities	0
Alaska Native Serving Institutions	0
Hispanic Serving Institutions	0
Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions	0
TOTAL MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS	0

G. Project Benefits

Demographics

Jobs	
How many direct jobs-years will be created from this project?	35
How many indirect jobs will be created from this project?	17
How many jobs will be induced from this project?	29

Methodology used to estimate jobs:

Simple Rule for Estimating Job-Years Created by Government Spending
 \$7,494,500. Carver County Open Fiber Initiative Budget
 \$92,000 of government spending creates 1 job-year
 64% of the job-years represent direct and indirect effects



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36% of the job-years are induced effects

2/3 of direct/indirect jobs are indicted as direct.

Total 81 Jobs

35 Direct

17 Indirect

29 Induced

Project Impact:

This project is designed to meet the comprehensive needs of the entire Carver County community. It has an immediate direct impact on updating the anachronistic communication system of the County itself. At the same time, it connects all local, township, city, and county offices together and to the internet at a speed of 100Mb or greater now with the capacity for 1Gb and even 10Gb without having to do more than upgrade the smallest parts, the optical transmitters. By putting in a proper amount of fiber currently, 72 strands, the project costs are minimized while creating a robust redundant network that will last for many years. all of the school buildings in the Carver County school districts will be connected allowing for administrative and educational use. Data will flow between the schools allowing for the secure connections required for sensitive administrative documents while access to the internet will be assured at speeds well beyond anything that is available in the county today. Higher education facilities will be attached as well allowing for distance learning, direct higher education classes into the schools and allowing for further educational opportunities for our youth, as well as making more opportunities available for many other vulnerable segments of the population that would not normally have had access to these resources. Libraries will be an integral part of this network and the public will be welcomed at these and certain other government sites to partake of the high speed broadband that will be available. Hospitals will be encouraged to use the higher speed connections to interact with patients and each other. By utilizing these high speed connections, Electronic Records Interchange will be advanced. Connectivity will be offered to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester through the interconnection with Jaguar Communications. This will help to connect the medical centers in MN to leverage all medical research and records in the area. In addition to the benefits to the anchor institutions, by having an open network, the county is making an environment that will benefit all residents and businesses in the county. The network is envisioned to be home to service providers that offer all types of services, telecommunications, data - both internet and private networks, video - both commercial



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Submitted Date: 3/26/2010 9:59:54 PM	Easygrants ID: 5538
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: CARVER, COUNTY OF
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Randy Lehs

programming and video conferencing, transport between areas and the collocation huts and the ability to allow wholesale services for multiple providers. Planning is being done to encourage last mile development off of this fiber ring to provide fiber to the home and business in the towns and townships of the area. Without the ring to begin with, there is not enough transport to even make such an idea feasible while with it, the transformation can be realized through agreements with private service providers such as Hiwathata Broadband Corporation and Jaguar Communications. Together these providers have more than 20 years of providing last mile services to small and medium sized communities such as the ones in Carver County. A fiber project like this will light the way to the future for this area.

Vulnerable Populations:

This project will benefit county programs that serve vulnerable populations including children and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities, individuals with mental health and chemical dependency issues, the economically disadvantaged and aged, and those who face communication barriers. Through Carver County Community Social Services, the county's Long-Term Care Team, Developmental Disabilities Unit, and Adult Mental Health Units are currently providing assessment and case management services to 558 adults in the county who have experienced a traumatic brain injury (TBI), are on significant medical supports or life-sustaining supports in groups homes, or are receiving services for mental illness in community-based facilities. In addition, the Long-Term Care Team also works with the Adult Mental Health Unit to provide a Community Alternatives for Disabled Individuals (CADI) program, and the Adult Mental Health Unit provides services to persons experiencing serious and persistent mental illness including case management, socialization groups, and supports for civil commitments. Following a significant increase in the number of clients who entered the Adult Mental Health system in 2009, Social Services now serves 232 adults through CADI and other mental health services. The county's Behavioral Health Department provides mental health crisis intervention, and individual and group therapy and psychiatry through outpatient services. A Crisis Team that serves Carver and Scott counties had 4,400 telephone contacts and 1,600 face-to-face contacts in 2009. Of the number served, 45% were categorized as seriously emotionally disturbed children and adults experiencing serious and persistent mental illness. The county's Children's Mental Health Unit is currently serving a total of 525 vulnerable youth through School-Based Social Workers, Child Protection, Child Welfare, and Minor Parents programs. The county's Developmental Disabilities Unit currently has 350 open and active cases ranging from mild developmental disabilities to profound or severe disabilities that require 24-hour monitoring. It serves 105 individuals who have autism, including 29 cases through a school-based unit. The county's Income Support Department reported 2,787 financial assistance cases in 2009, the



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highest number of cases ever experienced. Community organizations that serve the economically disadvantaged also report significant increases in the use of food shelves and other types of assistance. By 2030, the county's population is expected to more than double, and the number of residents age 65 and older is expected to quadruple. The county is also expected to become increasingly diverse as it grows, and the number of residents with limited English proficiency will increase. The challenges Carver County will face in serving these vulnerable populations will be better met with improved operational and communication strategies made possible by access to broadband services.

Level of Need:

While Carver County is part of the seven-county Metropolitan Area of Minneapolis and St. Paul, it is also a rural county with an agriculture-based economy. The western part of the county consists for farmland and small rural communities, and the eastern part of the county consists of rapidly growing suburbs. For this reason the county is a contrast in demographics. The suburbs are home to highly educated individuals and young families who have a high socio-economic standing and to a population that is becoming increasingly diverse. In the more rural areas, incomes tend to be lower, and there are fewer businesses, community services, and other amenities. The county's cost-of-living, and housing costs in particular, are higher than other parts of the metropolitan area, and that puts an extra burden on the economically disadvantaged who live in the county.

Carver County has experienced a dramatic increase in population, and more growth is expected. From 2007-2008, Carver County was the third-fastest growing county in Minnesota. The county's population is expected to more than double by 2030, and this will place an extra burden on the county's resources. County staff, finances, and all other resources will be stretched to meet these increased demands.

It is clear to Carver County that, while the county's diverse and growing population is placing new and increased demands on the county's data and communications systems, these demands can't be met with existing systems. These increased demands for communications and data are driving Carver County to modernize and update all aspects of the county, including broadband access and data storage and retrieval. As Carver County has attempted to make these upgrades, an unforeseen problem has arisen: The extremely high cost of connectivity and complete lack of connectivity in some parts of the county are stymieing these efforts. There are portions of the county that can only receive sub-rate (meaning less than 30K) dial-up services. In areas of the county where higher speeds are available, they are often limited to expensive T1s that often cost



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in excess of \$1,000 per month per circuit. This high cost has contributed to a county data budget that has expanded so rapidly it is forcing the county to cut back other critical community services.

The current communications infrastructure of both Carver County and the county as a whole are under an enormous stress due in part to the recession, with its shrinking tax base and increased unemployment rates, and un-allotments of state aid. While county department budgets continue to face cuts, these same departments are at the same time expected to serve a growing number of residents. To meet that goal of continuing to do more with less, county government needs to run as efficiently as possible. The expanded communications network that will result from this proposed project will enhance data services and create a more efficient method of operating the government, while at the same time removing the cost of the current antiquated systems.

The immediate need for this project is immense. A fiber optics ring to serve Carver County has been discussed for three years, but we have been unsuccessful in obtaining the additional funding required to complete building this ring so it can best serve our community. Carver County originally partnered with a private company to obtain funding under the Rural Utilities Service Broadband program in 2008. However, no rules have been enacted in that program yet since the passage of the 2008 farm bill. We also submitted a project very similar to this under the round one NOFA, but it was rejected by RUS. This leaves us in a situation where we absolutely need to begin this project, but the funding required to do so is unavailable.

When the Carver County Board of Commissioners in 2008 approved funding for a fiber ring in 2008, the idea was to connect the county's Government Center with sites in 11 cities in the county. This proposal expands that original idea to 55 community anchor sites that encompass 85 entities. Since the fiber ring project was first conceived, the county has seen \$1.38 million in state aid un-allotments, and the county fully expects to see further reductions in state aid. The anchors sites on the proposed ring all face similar economic challenges. And while the county's commitment to financing a fiber ring remains consistent and fulfills the required match for this project, there is no way that county funding could make this proposed ring a reality: BTOP funding is needed to fully leverage the benefits of this ring for our community.

If Carver County receives BTOP funding, county government's need for access to broadband service will be met, and the county as a whole will benefit. This funding will enable a host of local government, education, health care and social service entities to connect to the ring, public



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service entities that would not otherwise be able to take advantage of this opportunity to access broadband services. These carefully chosen sites are primarily tax-supported local government entities and community organizations that are dealing with ongoing budgets cuts, reductions in revenue and reallocation of funds. Without the funding from this proposal, these sites would not be able to gain access to broadband services, or reap the savings from switching from their current T1 systems to this broadband system.

H. Technology

Technology Type

Indicate the technology that will be used to deliver last mile services. The following items were selected:

Wireline - Fiber-optic Cable

Other:

Technology Questions

Methodology for Area Status:

The "underserved" classification was defined by survey and individual interviews. These surveys were conducted on the census block level confirming that each block was either served or underserved or unserved. This information was then recorded on our GIS mapping software. There is subscribership rate, which we considered underserved, of 38% of the households in the County to broadband services. We then looked at the communities that we were going to be serving with the middle mile fiber project and determined that at least one of them was underserved.

Description of Network Openness:

General and specific statement of openness and how it relates to the network, the area, and the NOFA This is a collaboration project between a public entity (Carver County) and a private entity, Carver County Fiber Collaboration, Inc., a subsidiary of Jaguar Communications, Inc. Carver County will connect public sector entities (schools, libraries, cities, public safety agencies etc.) on a non-discrimination basis and provide connectivity to meet their need. The County will not service residences or businesses.



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Carver County Fiber Collaboration, Inc., – the private sector partner will provide connectivity to users for a fee on a non-discriminatory basis. There will be no policing of traffic and pricing will be based on the level of capacity provided.

Furthermore, as can be seen in our pricing schedule, all county connections will be made at a discounted rate that is equal to 25% or more of standard wholesale pricing.

All service providers will be welcome to purchase available services from this network.

System Design:

Description of Proposed Network Service and Synopsis of Network Infrastructure.

The proposed network infrastructure is designed as a fiber optic transport network. There will be both SONET and IP connectivity, switching and routing available at each network node as shown in the network diagram. The equipment used to provide these network services are all standards based and from reputable name brand (and listed) companies such as Cisco for routing, Foundry for switching and routing, ADC and Metal Tech Partners for the metal work, Force 10 (formerly Carrier Access) for mux and demux hardware, SEL (Sumitoma Electric Lightwave) for the fiber optic cable itself, Carson for vaults, and many other smaller companies that make exceptional gear. The network being built here is an open area transport network based on a collaborative partnership with Jaguar Communications, Inc. and The County of Carver, a governmental entity in the state of Minnesota. Carver County has agreed to be our anchor tenant on this project. This tenancy will provide the required operating funds for the first five years of expenses. Furthermore, Jaguar has agreed to be our second anchor tenant on this project and plans to begin construction of a FTTH network in the following years. Any other providers that desire access to the network will be allowed and even encouraged to provide other services. Internet services provided by Jaguar Communications, Inc. over their FTTH network would be served through backbone connections to Qwest and Level3. Jaguar will also provide both Class 4 and Class 5 telephony switching through its soft switches with either TDM or SIP for any of the anchor tenants that request such service. This area will be operating on a state of the art routing and switching backbone as provided for in this application. All of these connections will be made at the main Carver County Collaboration Collocation site, presently planned for Cologne. Carver County Collaboration main collocation space which will have battery backup, a backup generator and interconnection space for all collocates, again as provided for in this project. Eventually, a second main regional collocation site will be developed and utilized, whether by Jaguar, ourselves, or a different partner or provider but that is beyond the scope of this project. Furthermore, the network will run laterals to each of the 86 anchor institutions that are provided for in this plan. They include public safety, libraries, government units, schools, fire, and law



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enforcement centers. As the success of this project grows, we will have the capacity to serve other anchor institutions and the ability to provide other services. This system is designed to create a ring structure that will cover the entire county. The locations of the buildings make it possible to serve every person in the county by just adding the proper network gear and outside plant. All anchor institutions provided for will receive switching gear, installation, and training as needed to utilize the new network. All of the buildings constructed by this project will be constructed out of concrete and they will have high availability backup generators as well as 8 hours of battery backup.halls. Additional middle mile segments are deployed off of the ring to connect concentration points at schools, community centers and public safety locations (e.g. fire stations, 800 MHz towers). Electronics will be deployed at the anchor institutions and concentration points to connect to last mile segments to deliver services. The backbone ring will provide redundancy as well as gateways to the internet as well as access to other services.

Is the applicant seeking a waiver pursuant to section IX.C of the NOFA so as to sell or lease portions of the award-funded broadband facilities during their life?

No

I. Project Budget

Project Budget		
	Federal Grant Request	Match
Last Mile	0	0
Middle Mile	5,995,600	1,498,900
Total	5,995,600	1,498,900

Project Budget Total: \$7,494,500

Match Percent: 20.0%

Projects Outside Recommended Funding Range:

- This project is in compliance for the “updated” size compliance between \$5,000,000 and \$150,000,000 dollars.



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Outside Leverage	
Applicant is providing matching funds of at least 20% towards the total eligible project costs?	Yes
Matching cost detail	The Carver County Open Fiber Initiative (CCOFI) is submitting a funding application request for a total project cost of \$7,494,500.00 Carver County, which is the owner of this project, will be providing matching funds of \$1,498,900, which is 20% of the total cost of the project. Matching funds will be provided from two Carver County sources. First, Carver County will provide \$400,000 in cash funds that were allocated from the Carver County Information Technology operating capital budget for use in our ARRA stimulus funding requests. Second, the remaining \$1,098,900 will come from the sale of debt in the form of a Carver County bond sale. The payments on the bond sale debt will be paid utilizing the savings provided from the elimination of twenty-two T1 lines that Carver County currently utilizes for connectivity, at a combined cost of over \$230,000 annually.. Based on Standard and Poor’s Rating Services, Carver County has the highest bond credit rating of AAA.
Unjust enrichment	Since this is a governmental entity, there are no Federal support payments being received for this area by this entity and none will be sought for in the future by Carver County.
Disclosure of federal and/or state funding sources	There are no federal or state funding sources to be used in this project. Carver County does not receive monies from the Universal Services Fund. All matching funds will be provided by Carver County. There are not any other activities or projects related to this application.
Budget reasonableness	the budget is reasonable in every way possible. Every vendor and contractor has been contacted and understands the importance of the project. The owner and the engineer understand the need for this project and have reduced costs everywhere without sacrificing quality. With fiber calbe prices that are approaching a half cent per fiber foot there is a demonstration of nearly 30% lower cost for materials than normal. Additionally, with experienced local crews, it will boost the lcoal economy and have people working that are driven to produce a quality product as quickly and efficiently as possible.



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Demonstration of need	<p>This project would never have been accomplished without the federal matching sought in this application. Due to a sparse population with many miles of roads between population centers and a relatively high labor cost, the NPV of this project, -5,109,170, was so poor that no bank was willing to look at it and even the county was having difficulty getting it justified. With a grant of just over this value, it will allow the project to nearly breakeven. The IRR was a negative 25.72%. With the matching grant, the numbers are much more reasonable. With an IRR of 6.74, it still will not qualify for many private funds but it is in the realm of public justification. The current providers in this area are not willing to sell or lease dark fiber for any reason, much less for a comprehensive project like this. With T1 costs in the thousand dollar range and T3 costs (45Mbit) in the range of from 10 15 thousand dollars, using traditional providers is cost prohibitive. The project cost savings payback is over a period of 15 years for a bare minimum of service that is being currently received. For a full suite of services at the speed being proposed, the payback will come more quickly. The current state of the market simply leaves no room for doubt. There are many of these locations that can not be reached by anything faster than a T1 and there are some areas that even a T1 cannot reach. While it may appear that these services are discounted to highly, remember, many of the anchor institutions will be taking funds from one pocket to put in the other. The only purpose accomplished there would be a wasteful amount of time reconciling interagency books with no real purpose accomplished. The savings on this project will help the county and each agency involved to provide a higher level of service at a lower cost well into the future.</p>
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Funds to States/Territories

States	Amount of Federal Grant Request
Minnesota	5,995,600



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Funds to States/Territories Total: \$5,995,600

J. Historical Financials

Matching Funds			
	2007	2008	2009
Revenue	86,306,132	86,052,336	80,948,612
Expenditures	89,701,993	99,792,768	86,517,219
Net Assets	171,191,954	176,956,750	180,000,000
Change in Net Assets from Prior Year	11,594,494	5,764,796	3,043,250
Bond Rating (if applicable)	Aa3	Aa2	AAA

K. Project Readiness

BTOP Organizational Readiness

This project has been in the works for over 2 years. Due to the tight credit markets, additional funding to complete the project has been unavailable. However, despite this problem, Carver County and Jaguar Communications worked toward the goal of building this project. Since both the Carver County staff and commissioners and Jaguar Communications, Inc. employees have been dedicated to seeing this project to fruition, much of the prework has been completed. Environmental survey work has been finished, letters have been sent to all of the state and federal agencies that will need to approve the construction process and permitting has begun for structures and for the rights-of-way needed to install the fiber optic cable in. Pre-engineering has been completed to a level of detail seldom seen in most projects. Engineers and contractors are standing by as are equipment vendors and manufacturers. The matching funds have been allocated and the permits are in the works. The facts here are that the project is in a state of readiness that could actually begin turning dirt in as little as one or two weeks after final approval and paperwork is completed.

Construction and Vendor Contracts



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This project has been in development for a long period of time as noted in the rest of this application. The project management and engineering is to be provided by Jaguar Communications, Inc. There is a signed agreement included in this package. Construction of this project will not be awarded until after the project is approved. However, MP NextLevel, a large underground construction firm that is located within Carver County has committed to perform the services with a "not to exceed" price used in the preparation of this proposal. There is also a "letter of readiness" in the miscellaneous uploads from them. The materials commitments have been received verbally from Power & Tel, one of the larger distributors of outside plant and mechanical parts to the communications industry in the US, and other smaller companies as well. The fiber optics needed for this project were priced by Sumitoma and Drakka, two of the largest fiber optic cable manufacturers in the US. The electronics were sourced from Cisco and the pricing was obtained from Cisco distributors. There is an inherent problem with acquiring contracts before the approval of funds since the companies desire some type of firm commitment before they commit to utilize all of their resources. This is to prevent them from allocating their scarce resources to a project that might not occur. Since ARRA funding is needed for the project to proceed, contracts will be executed beginning with approval of this project.

Customer Base

From a standpoint of a traditional broadband network, there are not currently any customers. However, the county maintains a staff of 6 IT professionals that maintain and improve the county's network and electronic facilities. Additionally, the six largest towns also employ at least one person for the same purposes. When looking at it in this view, these 12 people service the hundreds of people employed in the governmental offices on their internal network.

Licenses, Regulatory Approvals and Agreements

All of the approvals needed for this project are already secured. There are no regulatory approvals required outside of the final environmental and historical agency approvals and letters of notification have already been sent to them.

Towns and Townships affected by the project are all working with the permitting process to quickly and expeditiously process any required permits. There are no license requirements. Building sites have all either been secured or are already in place. The land for these buildings all belongs to the county or to one of the towns or townships.



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SPIN Number

Carver County does not have a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN).

L. Environmental Questionnaire

Project Description

The Proposed construction will consist of approximately 120 miles of shielded and insulated telecommunications cable. Fiber optic cable will be used for the entire 120 miles of construction. The cable will be placed in conduit at a depth of at least 36 inches below the surface. The method of installation is normally by direction insertion via cable plow, plus boring under obstacles such as culverts, concrete driveways or paved roads, and drainage structures. The construction will be placed within the public road ROW. Cable installed adjacent to road ROW will generally be 1 to 5 feet in from the edge of the ROW. Construction will occur in all 11 cities located in Carver County, MN, as well as the following townships in Carver County: Hollywood, Watertown, Camden, Waconia, Laketown, Chaska, Dahlgren, Benton, and Young America. Telecommunications huts will be constructed within the following municipalities: City of Mayer, City of Victoria, and Benton Township.

Property Changes

The three telecommunication hut construction sites are owned by city or county governments. None of the proposed construction sites are owned or managed by the federal government. Areas approximately 16' by 21' will be excavated to construct the telecommunication huts for the project. The sites with the City of Mayer and the City of Victoria are zoned as Residential-Other. The site in Benton Township is zoned as Municipal Public-Other.

Buildings

Three telecommunications huts will be built within the following municipalities: City of Mayer, City of Victoria, and Benton Township. These buildings will be reinforced concrete structures measuring 16' by 21' and 9 1/2' in height. The structures built in the City of Victoria and Benton Township will be built on parcels owned by Carver County. The structure built in the City of



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Mayer will be built on a parcel owned by the City of Mayer. Fiber optic cable to be buried in the proposed project will reside within previously disturbed and existing rights-of-way.

Wetlands

The three building construction sites are not located on or near wetland sites. The fiber optic cable line will be constructed in accordance with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources permitting process and ordinances for crossing protected areas. All crossings will occur within public road rights-of-way. A letter detailing our project has been send to the local DNR representative and the permitting process will commence in accordance with their requirements. The construction of fiber optic cable lines is considered low impact and is completed by boring underneath the protected crossings in accordance with DNR regulations.

Critical Habitats

The following threatened or endangered species are found in Carver County, MN: Arctic peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*). This species will not be affected by the construction of a fiber optic ring. Construction will take place within the public road rights-of-way, as such will not affect the habitat of the Arctic peregrine Falcon. The United State Department of Interior-Fish and Wildlife Service have been sent a letter detailing the proposed project.

Floodplain

None of the three telecommunication huts being built for this project fall within either a 100 or 500 year floodplain.

Protected Land

The State Historic Preservation Office has been sent a letter detailing the proposed fiber optic project. At this time we to not anticipate any sites on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places to be impacted by this project. Also the proposed project is not located on tribal lands.

Coastal Area

The project is not located within the boundaries of a coastal zone management area.



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Brownfield

The project is not located with a brownfield site.



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Uploads

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name	File Name	Uploaded By	Uploaded Date
Service Offerings and Competitor Data	CCI Service Offerings and Competitor Data Attachment.xls	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Network Diagram	Network Diagram Carver County - CCOFI.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Build Out Timeline	CCI Build-Out Timeline Attachment.doc	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
List of Community Anchors and Points of Interest	upload+template+-+CCI+-+Anchor+Detail+and+POI.xls	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Management Team Resumes and Organization Chart	Carver County Open Fiber Initiative Management Team.doc.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Historical Financial Statements	2007 Balance Sheet.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Historical Financial Statements	2007 Income Statement.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Historical Financial Statements	2007 State and Federal Funding.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010



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Historical Financial Statements	2453_001.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Historical Financial Statements	Balance Sheet 2008 CAFR.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Historical Financial Statements	Income Statement 2008 CAFR.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Historical Financial Statements	State and Federal Funding 2008 CAFR.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Budget Narrative	CCI Budget Narrative Attachment.doc	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Detailed Budget	CCI Detailed Budget Attachment.xls	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Pro-forma Forecast	Proforma V2.xls	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Subscriber Estimates	upload+template++CCI++Subscriber+Estimates.xls	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Dashboard Metrics	upload+template++CCI++Key+Metrics+Dashboard.doc	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Service Area Data	upload+template++CCI++Service+Areas.xls	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Network Maps	CCI_Network_Map_Upload.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010



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BTOP Certifications	Carver County Authentications.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/25/2010
SF-424 C and D	CCI SF 424 C and D Forms.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Supplemental Information	Carver County Open Fiber Initiative Support Letters.doc.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Supplemental Information	Carver County - Jaguar Communications Agreement 3.26.10.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/26/2010
Supplemental Information	USGS_7_5_min_Topo_Excelsior.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/25/2010
Supplemental Information	USGS_7_5_min_Topo_Hamburg.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/25/2010
Supplemental Information	USGS_7_5_min_Topo_Jordan_West.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/25/2010
Supplemental Information	USGS_7_5_min_Topo_Mayer.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/25/2010
Supplemental Information	USGS_7_5_min_Topo_Mound.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/25/2010
Supplemental Information	USGS_7_5_min_Topo_Norwood.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/25/2010
Supplemental	USGS_7_5_min_Topo_Shakopee.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/25/2010



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Information			
Supplemental Information	USGS_7_5_min_Topo_Victoria.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/25/2010
Supplemental Information	USGS_7_5_min_Topo_Waconia.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/25/2010
Supplemental Information	USGS_7_5_min_Topo_Watertown.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/25/2010
Supplemental Information	Sample_Environmental_Letter.pdf	Lehs, Randy	03/25/2010