

**Fixed Wireless Broadband Expansion in Targeted Ohio Counties  
ITB-CO-ODOT-20180702**

1. How was the unserved population data calculated?

**The population counts were estimated from the household calculations, using the average number of persons per household in Ohio according to the Census (2.45).**

2. It appears that project goal is to have service provided surrounding the assets listed on the spreadsheet? That unserved population is in place around these sites?

**The primary goal is to help improve the communications, scheduling and dispatching of the rural transit authorities (RTA) serving the 10 Target Counties. Such connectivity eliminates the gaps in base-to-vehicle communications and supports the scheduling and dispatching software/hardware (e.g. the tablets in the RTA vehicles). Improved scheduling and dispatching leads to more efficient operation of vehicles and will permit rural transit operators to respond to emergency situations more rapidly when involved in an accident or emergency thereby also improving safety.**

**The secondary goal is to fill broadband gaps within the same 10 Target Counties. Providing mobile or fixed wireless service need not stop with just the RTA(s) alone; many households in these rural counties remain unable to receive conventional broadband service. Therefore, service is anticipated to be offered to households surrounding the assets.**

3. What band(s) were modeled to approximate coverage to these populations?

**Only 2.4 GHz was modeled as it was the most applicable to meeting the needs of the RTAs. However, proposals can include any band that you believe is practical and meets both the primary and secondary goals as described in # 2 above.**

4. I've reviewed 49 CFR 661. "Manufactured products" appears to cover electronics as well, so no foreign radios. Is this your interpretation as well?

**The Buy America provisions, under this project, require a methodical "walk-through" process to determine if equipment, manufactured outside of the United States, does or does not meet certain litmus tests. Respondents should complete the "Capital Purchases" tab of the *ITB-CO-ODOT-20180702 Required Budget Template* and then consider the following:**

**Excepted Articles, Materials, and Supplies [49 CFR Part 661, §661.7 (App. A)(a)]  
Title 48 of the CFR, Part 25, Section 104 (Federal Acquisition Regulation; Foreign Acquisition, "Excepted Articles, Materials, and Supplies") establishes articles, materials, and supplies exempt from the Buy America requirements and may be amended from time to time. This waiver falls under the waivers set forth in STAA, §165 (b)(1) and (b)(2).**

**Microcomputer Equipment [49 CFR Part 661, §661.7 (App. A)(d)]  
Microcomputer equipment, including software, from a foreign source is exempt from the Buy America requirements. This waiver falls under the waiver set forth in STAA, §165 (b)(1) and (b)(2).**

**FTA's Buy America statute requires that the steel, iron and manufactured products used in FTA-funded transit projects must be produced in the United States. In 1995, FTA issued a general public interest waiver to exempt from Buy America requirements purchases of \$100,000 or less. With the adoption of the Super Circular,  
[http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text?idxtpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200\\_main\\_02.tpl](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text?idxtpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl), in**

**December 2014, the small purchase waiver was tied to the simplified acquisition threshold in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), and increased the small purchase waiver to \$150,000.**

5. What are the required coverage routes/areas for Pike and Scioto counties?  
**There are no “required” coverage routes (per se). The current roadways, that remained unserved by mobile coverage at the end of April 2017, can be viewed in the attached KMZ titled “ITB-CO-ODOT-20180702”.**
6. Who negotiates the lease rates and terms with the tower owners?  
**Each respondent will be required to negotiate their own lease rate terms with the respective tower owners. Should you elect to bid on a tower owned by MARCS or American Tower, Connected Nation can provide a list of contacts.**
7. Can grant funds be used to build towers in the coverage area?  
**No.**
8. What are restrictions in the agreement concerning ownership change and encumbrance of the assets purchased with grant money?  
**Please specify the document name, page, section, addendum and/or other specific reference.**
9. Are you looking for candidates to install ODOT provided equipment to ODOT provided towers?  
**No. Connected Nation is seeking mobile or fixed wireless broadband providers, interested in receiving grant funds, to install broadband transmission equipment and operate broadband networks on the assets referenced in the “T2O Potential Asset List”.**
10. Are the vertical assets being provided rent free?  
**No. It should be assumed that there will be rental and/or lease fees associated with all vertical assets.**
11. Is there a trade-for-service expected with ODOT or would they be purchasing services?  
**ODOT will not be purchasing or trading equipment. Each of the RTAs, within the 10 Target County area, may reasonably expect to receive service (for a nominal fee or “no charge” fee) as reciprocity for distribution of grant funds.**
12. Is there any delivery of service requirements? (Speed, Latency, Caps, Coverage)  
**Expected speeds would be no less than 10 Mbps x 1 Mbps (at the residential level) and could be less for each respective RTA depending on the limitations of the frequency used, its respective channel width, fluctuations inherent to mobility, gain of receive antenna on the RTA vehicle(s), etc.**
13. This appears to be a wide-open approach suggesting partnering? Is this an accurate portrayal?  
**Any and all reasonable approaches, including partnering, will be considered.**
14. Is there a wireless standard that is required so that ODOT can effectively communicate?  
**Based on research conducted during the initial phase of the hardware/software installation, it appeared that the daily data consumption of each RTA vehicle was roughly 2,083,333 Mbs per day.**

**WiFi on the 2.4 GHz band would be the preference; the desired data rate would be 10 Mbps x 1 Mbps with latency  $\leq$  300 ms.**

**Also see answer # 12.**

15. Have Commercial Terms/Approvals been granted or agreed to with any of the Potential Private and Government Assets?

**No. Each respondent will be required to negotiate their own lease rate terms with the respective tower owners and/or private assets. Discussions were held and pre-approval and vetting was conducted by MARCS and American Tower. Representatives of each county provided information for locally owned assets.**

16. What does it mean to say Approved American Tower locations? Has American Tower agreed to commercial terms for this project if so what are they?

**American Tower provided a “pre-approved” list of assets with certain contingencies (i.e. no guarantees of availability of access at specific heights). Commercial terms are to be negotiated directly between each respondent and asset owner.**

17. Is it possible to get GIS files for all unserved broadband address points in the target counties.

**No such data is known to exist. Connected Nation is not in possession of GIS layers containing specific address points.**

18. What is the grading scale for this grant program?

**Grading is discretionary and, first and foremost, subject to the completeness of each bid submission.**

19. ODOT Fixed Wireless Broadband Expansion ITB states "a separate bid must be submitted for each site". Does that include a bid for each site not listed in the Potential T20 assets? Furthermore, can a bid that is all inclusive for all counties be included in one bid or does it still need to be separated?

**Bids for any site, not specifically included in the “T20 Potential Asset List”, will be immediately rejected. All-inclusive bids will be immediately rejected. A vendor may propose to serve multiple counties but must submit multiple bids in those multiple counties. Please review the “Procedures” section of the Fixed Wireless Broadband Expansion in Targeted Ohio Counties**

20. What is ODOT/Connected Nations view point on in kind contributions.

**In-kind contributions will be considered as a portion of each overall bid; although such contributions are not required.**

21. We are deploying a large program that will facilitate this Tiger Grant program.

**Connected Nation and ODOT would consider executing a standard non-disclosure agreement with each respondent.**