



Queen Anne's County

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March 6, 2014

Queen Anne's County Letter – Expression of Interest

VIA ECFS

Chairman Thomas Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Jonathan Chambers
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW 20024
Washington, DC

Re: Expression of Interest – Rural Broadband Trials Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners, and Mr. Chambers,

On behalf of the Queen Anne's County Commissioners, please accept this letter as an expression of Queen Anne's County, Maryland's interest in participating in the Rural Broadband Trials announced at the January 30th FCC Open Meeting. While we do not have a specific project to propose, we take this opportunity to document Queen Anne's County's need for high-speed Internet service especially in the County's rural areas. We respectfully ask the Federal Communications Commission to consider our area's need when making decisions regarding the Rural Broadband Trials and any future initiatives related to the Connect America Fund.

Background

Queen Anne's County, named for Queen Anne who ruled Great Britain and Ireland from 1702 to 1714, was created in 1706. The first county reached on Maryland's Eastern Shore after crossing the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, Queen Anne's County offers close proximity to metropolitan areas balanced with the relaxing lifestyle of a waterfront and rural community. The county is located within a one-hour drive to such major metros as Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Wilmington, DE and Philadelphia, PA utilizing US Routes 50 and 301. However, Queen Anne's County consists of 372 square miles of land with a predominantly rural landscape. According to the 2010 Census, the total population is 47,798. The average population density is 93.59 people per square mile. Eighty-five percent of the county workforce commutes out of the County to work in the medical field and in government agencies on the western shore resulting in a median household income of \$85,000 per year.

Geographic Territory

The landscape in Queen Anne's County is predominantly flat. Existing fiber lines installed along the major corridors have been placed underground. Installs within municipalities or unincorporated towns have transitioned to above ground and co-located on power or telephone lines. Areas Queen Anne's County would primarily like to see connected are focused north and east of Queenstown along with other small pockets without connectivity throughout the county.

Proposed technology

At this point we are not proposing any specific technology. Currently the County has multiple providers including ABB Cable, AT&T/Verizon 4LTE Mobile Wireless and Verizon DSL. While satellite service is provided by Hughesnet and Exede for the rural areas of the County, other providers indicate extending their infrastructure into the less densely populated areas is inconsistent with their financial models and goals as it does not provide the appropriate levels of return on investment.

With regard to minimum speeds, ideally a lower end of 10Mbps is the preferred target. However, new approaches leveraging digital technologies in classrooms, healthcare and other organizations will in all likelihood require 2-3 times this bandwidth, which will result in even more pressure to improve infrastructure performance. As it relates to target costs and acknowledging the range of household income is widespread; the County would like to see costs of \$20 for internet only and \$40-50 for internet plus basic TV in today's economy.

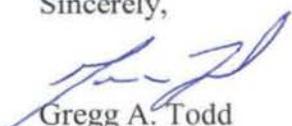
List of Anchor Institutions

Present connections include 15 schools, Board of Education headquarters and warehouse, one County office building (Commissioners, Finance, QACTV, Human Resources and IT), Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, Public Works, Sates Attorney, District and Circuit Courts, Maryland State Highway, Maryland State Police, Department of Social Services, Health Department headquarters, and three tower locations. Pending locations include Planning and Zoning, Department of Aging(Kramer Center), Sudlersville Senior Center, North Emergency Medical Services(EMS), South EMS, Kent Island EMS, Bay Bridge Airport, Sanitary Department, Water Treatment Plant, and Kent Island Library.

Future connections include but are not limited to Parks and Recreation, Queenstown EMS, Task Force, Other Health Services locations, two more Senior Centers(Grasonville and Stevensville), Centreville and Sudlersville Libraries, County Landfills, Sewer and Water Stations, Volunteer Fire Departments, Incorporated Towns, County Golf Course, and future County buildings (County Office Building, Courthouse, Renovated of Sudlersville Middle School(Potential Community Center) and future YMCA.

Thank you for considering our Expression of Interest in your decisions about the amount of funding that will be allocated in the Rural Broadband Trials. We commend you in this effort to connect rural communities and are ready to help you close the digital divide.

Sincerely,



Gregg A. Todd
County Administrator
Queen Anne's County