



March 07, 2014

**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 Experiments
Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners, and Mr. Chambers,

This letter is to express Central Colorado Telecom’s interest in participating in the Rural Broadband Experiments announced at the January 30th FCC Open Meeting. We have specific projects and wish to take this opportunity to document our need for investment in broadband infrastructure. We respectfully ask the Federal Communications Commission to consider our communities’ needs when making decisions regarding the Rural Broadband Trials and any future initiatives related to the Connect America Fund.

Background

Lake County, Colorado is unserved in terms of broadband availability. A recent Broadband Assessment commissioned by the Lake County Government showed that only a handful of residents and small businesses located within a few blocks of the Leadville central office can access FCC-defined broadband via DSL/cable modem.

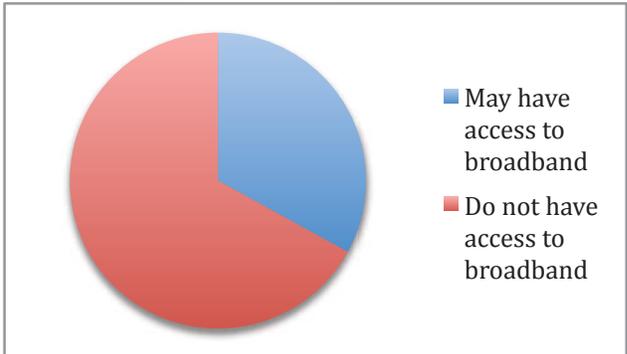


Figure 1 Two-thirds of Lake county residents have no access to broadband

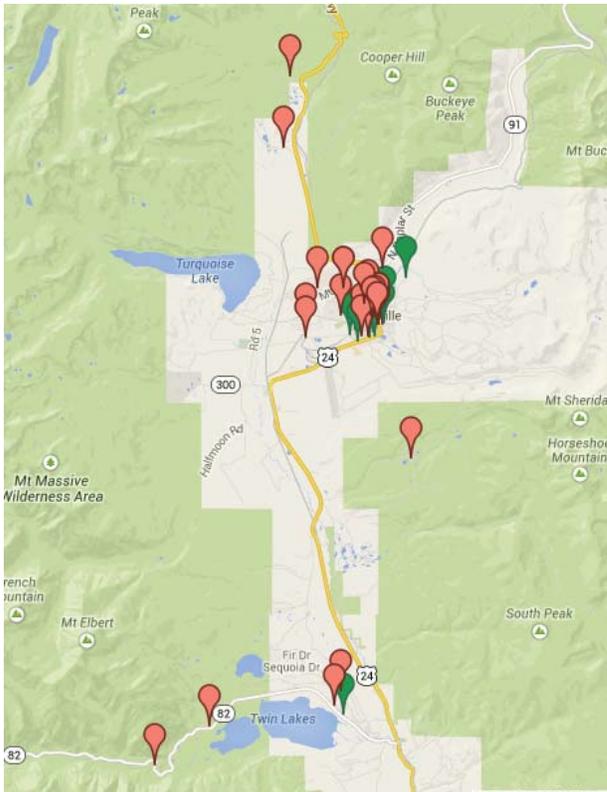


Figure 2 Results of a Speed Mapping for Lake County: broadband (green dots) is available only near the Leadville central office



Geographic Territory

The county seat of Lake County, Leadville, is the highest (10,200 ft. above sea level) municipality in the United States. It is over 100 miles from Denver and sits between two mountain ranges. There is a single middle mile serving the county's telecommunications needs.



Figure 3 Lake County is a 2-hour drive from Denver. County seat Leadville is the highest town in the US (10,200 ft. above sea level)



Figure 4 The most practical solution for Lake County is a microwave path into the county.

Proposed Technology: Microwave Route to Support/Fixed Wireless/VoIP

Central Colorado Telecom proposes to build an alternative middle mile into Lake County to ensure the Lake County broadband environment is “redundant, abundant and affordable”. Central Colorado Telecom will make its gigabit per second capable middle mile available to emerging last mile providers in Lake County who will in turn sell fixed wireless and voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services to residents, small businesses and community anchor institutions in Lake County.



Existing Providers in Southeast Colorado

CenturyLink (incumbent telephone company): federal High Cost Support totals \$36,481.89 per year for less than 100 lines.

Town	Providers
Leadville	CenturyLink Charter AT&T Verizon Amigo net
Twin Lakes	CenturyLink AT&T Verizon

Table 3 Service providers in Lake County

Project Timeline

Central Colorado Telecom is its own construction company and can begin work upon grant award (we assume late 2014), mountain weather permitting. We estimate this tower site could be constructed in the 2015 construction season (April through November)

Investment Needed

Item	Cost
Microwave route: Methodist Mountain to Leadville including microwave radios and tower construction in lake County	\$131,000
TOTAL	\$131,000

Total Estimated Project Cost

\$131,000



Local Government Participation and List of Anchor Institutions That Could Be Served by Grant Funds

K-12 Schools

Leadville School District

Board of Cooperative Education Services

Mountain BOCES

Community Colleges

Colorado Mountain College – Leadville Campus

Hospitals

St. Vincent's Hospital

Towns/Cities

Leadville

Twin Lakes

County Offices

Lake County

Law Enforcement/Fire Departments

Lake County Sheriff's Department

Lake County Fire Protection District



Location	Address	Provider	Download Mbps	Monthly cost	Would Like to Buy Mbps
Lake County Courthouse	505 Harrison St. Leadville CO	Charter	30	132.8	50
Lake County Courthouse	505 Harrison St. Leadville CO	Charter	30	132.85	50
Lake County Courthouse	505 Harrison St. Leadville CO	Charter	30	53.25	50
Lake County Courthouse	505 Harrison St. Leadville CO	Century Link	1.5	805.87	
Lake County Aquatic Center	1000 W. 6th St. Leadville CO	Charter	15	53.25	15
6th street gym/maintenance	124 E. 6th Street Leadville CO	Century Link	7	106.58	15
Road and Bridge	429 E. 12th Street Leadville CO	Century Link	7	255.2	15
Road and Bridge	429 E. 12th Street Leadville CO	Charter	30	132.85	50
Build a Generation	711 Harrison St. apt 1b Leadville	Charter	15	50.3	20



	CO				
Lake County Landfill	1501 CR 6 Leadville CO	Century Link	7	106.58	10
Lake County Airport	915 County Road 23 Leadville CO	AmigoNet	12	49.95	50
Leadville Race Series	316 harrison Ave Leadville CO				50
USPS	130 West 5th St Leadville CO	CenturyLink	10		
CO Dept of Transportation	Hwy 24 Leadville CO	CenturyLink	1.5		
CO Mountain College	901 South Hwy 24 Leadville CO	Charter	30	75	50
St. Vincent Hospital	822 West 4th Street Leadville CO	CenturyLink	40	\$1,000	
Ski Cooper	232 County Rd. 29, Leadville, CO 80461	WildBlue	15	\$160	40
Wells Financial	130 W 5th St Leadville CO 80461	CenturyLink	15	\$70	15

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Cloud City Victorian Cottage and Silver Rush Inn	211 East 4th St Leadville CO	Charter	10	\$50	10
Mt Massive Golf Course	259 CR 5, Leadville CO 80461	CenturyLink	4		
KW Construction	1001 poplar, 617 hwy 24 Leadville CO 80461	Charter	15		1000
Kirk's Coffee	752 Turquoise St Leadville 80461	CenturyLink	0.85	\$45	50
Governor's Mansion Guest Suites	129w 8th St Leadville CO 80461	Charter			100
ReMAX	318 West 4th - Leadville, 80461	CenturyLink	10	\$50	10
Peoples National Bank	400 Harrison Avenue, Leadville, CO 80461	CenturyLink	1.54	\$450	
Peoples National Bank	400 Harrison Avenue, Leadville, CO 80461	Charter	30	\$60	30
CO Dept. of Labor and Employment	115 W. 6th St. Leadville, CO 80461	CenturyLink	1.54		100
Mountain BOCES	1713 Mount Lincoln Drive West Leadville	Charter	10	\$100	100



	CO 80461				
Colorado Insurance	500 McWethy Drive, Leadville 80461	Wild Blue	15	\$80	
Tabor Opera House	308 Harrison Ave, Leadville CO 80461	Century Link	7	\$30	
Erickson Property Management Twin lakes Roadhouse Lodge	6411 E. Hwy 82 Twin Lakes 81251	WildBlue		\$85	
Cabbott	48 Lang Street Twin Lakes CO 81251	Starband		\$69	
High Peaks Payroll	616 Harrison Ave Leadville CO	Charter		\$85	
Mt. Elbert Lodge	15904 Highway 82 Twin Lakes Colorado 81251	WildBlue	5	\$130	10
Twin Lakes General Store	6451 e hwy 82, Twin Lakes CO 81251	Verizon		\$20	
Healing Through Care and Touch	616 A Aspen AVE TWIN LAKES COLORADO	Verizon		\$135	



	81251			
The Bicycle Brewing Co. The Double J Trust Barbed Wire Enterprises	10356 Highway 82, Twin Lakes, CO	WildBlue	10	\$75

Table 4 Results of Demand Mapping (aggregation of demand) for Lake County. Note community anchor responses.



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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph', is displayed on a dark grey rectangular background.

Ralph Abrams
Chief Executive Officer
Central Colorado Telecommunications, LLC