

DATE: March 7, 2014
FROM: Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Assoc.
TO: Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
SUBJECT: Expression of Interest – Rural Trials / Docket No. 10-90

Company Background

Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Assoc. is a small rural telecommunications provider founded in 1923. Head quartered in Brandon, Minnesota. Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Assoc. serves over 8,600 broadband, video and phone subscribers in small communities and the surrounding rural areas in the Minnesota counties of Douglas, Kandiyohi, Stearns, Todd, Morrison and Pope. Approximately 125 miles west Minneapolis, Minnesota and 80 miles East of Fargo, North Dakota, these areas are located in the very rural, agricultural region.

Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Assoc. current management team has a combined total of over 100 years of experience in cable television, telephone and internet plant construction, operation and management with select team members exceeding 30 years plus in the telecommunications industry.

Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Assoc. existing network consisting of a combination of copper exchange, fiber to the home (FTTH), and wireless technologies, in certain areas this technology is designed to provide broadband connections speeds of up to 50 Mbps down and 50 Mbps up. We continue to invest in our wireless technology to offer fixed wireless service to areas currently not served or underserved. With investments in new technologies our network will allow for broadband service down load speed offerings in excess of 100 Mbps.

Geographic Territory

Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Assoc. is proposing to serve portions of Douglas, Kandiyohi, Todd, Stearns, Morrison and Pope Counties; with a combination of fiber backhauls and fixed wireless broadband service in the following census tract / block areas.

<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Tract ID</u>	<u>Block Groups</u>	
MN	Todd	7906	MN1537906001 – MN1537906003	http://www.usa.com/MN153790600.html
MN	Todd	7903	MN1537903001 – MN1537903003	http://www.usa.com/MN153790300.html
MN	Todd	7904	MN1537904001 – MN1537904004	http://www.usa.com/MN153790400.html
MN	Todd	7907	MN1537907001 – MN1537907004	http://www.usa.com/MN153790700.html
MN	Douglas	04501	MN0414501001 – MN0414501003	http://www.usa.com/MN041450100.html
MN	Douglas	04506	MN0414506001 – MN0414506003	http://www.usa.com/MN041450600.html
MN	Stearns	109	MN1450109001 – MN1450109004	http://www.usa.com/MN145010900.html
MN	Stearns	106	MN1450106001 – MN1450106003	http://www.usa.com/MN145010600.html
MN	Pope	9701	MN1219701001 – MN1219701003	http://www.usa.com/MN121970100.html
MN	Pope	9702	MN1219702001 – MN1219702003	http://www.usa.com/MN121970200.html
MN	Morrison	7801	MN0977801001 – MN0977801003	http://www.usa.com/MN097780100.html
MN	Kandiyohi	7801	MN0677801001 – MN0677801002	http://www.usa.com/MN067780100.html

This construction would provide broadband access to over 50,400 potential customers in the listed census blocks.

List of Anchor Institutions

City of Alexandria	Douglas County Courthouse	Alexandria Police dept.
City of Garfield	Todd County Courthouse	Centra-Care Hosp. Long Prairie
City of Brandon	Brandon Fire dept.	Pope County Courthouse
City of Millerville	Long Prairie Fire dept.	Minewaska Public School Dist.
City of Miltona	Miltona Fire dept.	BBE Public School District
City of Evansville	Alexandria Fire dept.	Sauk Centre Public School Dist.
City of Nelson	Nelson Fire dept.	Alexandria Public Schools Dist.
City of Osakis	Douglas County Sheriff's dept.	Alexandria Technical College
City of Long Prairie	Todd County Sheriff's dept.	Long Prairie Police dept.
City of Swanville	Pope County Sheriff's dept.	Glacial Ridge Hosp. Glenwood
City of Grey Eagle	Grey Eagle Fire dept.	Centra-Care Hosp. Sauk Centre
City of Sauk Centre	Sauk Centre Fire dept.	Sauk Centre Police dept.
City of Elrosa	Elrosa Fire dept.	Osakis Public School District
City of Belgrade	Belgrade Fire dept.	Belgrade Police dept.
City of Brooten	Brooten Fire dept.	Brooten Police dept.
City of Glenwood	Glenwood Fire dept.	Glenwood Police dept.
City of Carlos	Carlos Fire dept.	LPGE Public School Dist.

Proposed Technology

Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Assoc. proposes to utilize fiber to the home (FTTH) and gigabit passive optical network (GPON) for fiber to the business and anchor institutions. This fiber to the home and business construction, along with an advanced fiber and point to point wireless backhaul design will cover the proposed service area. The network will also utilize wireless point to point and multi-point equipment along select locations of the fiber build route to extend broadband internet and voice over IP to potential customers that fall just out of the financially feasible reach of the fiber to the premise construction. Final determination will be made depending on cost, viability of links, and conditions that may affect Quality of Service (QOS) and stability of network.

Using the FTTP technology will allow Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Assoc. to leverage existing investments in its Cisco Serent and Genband C15 technologies and fiber network. It will also allow future compatibility for enhancements of the of gigabit passive optical network (GPON) to the residential customers as the demand arise.

In the fiber to the home service area the offerings would include internet, phone and video service. Initial bandwidth speed offerings would start at 6 Mbps, 10 Mbps and 20 Mbps. The internet service would be priced at \$39.95(6 Mbps), \$54.95(10 Mbps) and \$69.95(20 Mbps).

Businesses and anchor institutions would have access to broadband service that could be symmetrical in nature with bandwidth speeds in excess of 100Mbps.

Construction of the network will be a combination of Fixed Wireless and plowed fiber build.

State and Local or Tribal Government Participation of Project

Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Assoc. is currently internally funded. At this time we do not receive any type of government funded support to extend broadband in to new service areas.

Existing Providers

In some of the proposed service area census tracts there is a combination of DSL and/or wireless, but coverage and bandwidth of these technologies is variable and distant dependent. The large corporations appear to be centered on key highway infrastructure and high density areas; the technology Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Assoc. is proposing is to provide that same service to areas within the census tracts that the large providers will not invest in due to technology, cost and population.

Project Timeline

Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Assoc. proposes to have all construction completed and service activated within a 36 month time period. Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Assoc. would perform construction in phases, securing land or easements as necessary, central office optical transmission electronics as needed, fiber construction and splicing, preceded by subscriber activation as the fiber build progresses.

Total Operator Investment

Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Assoc. has currently invested over 2 million dollars in existing fiber plant and Wireless technologies that border these proposed build locations that would be utilized and leveraged to provide the building blocks to help serve these rural and low density areas.

One Time Capital Investment Needed

Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Assoc. would be requesting 1 million dollars of funding the construction of approximately 100 miles of fiber and multiple point to point wireless backhaul towers to meet the needs of our rural homes and business over a period of three years.

Total Estimated Costs

Total estimated cost of requested funding and in-kind investment would be 3 million dollars