



City of Boardman

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April 2, 2024

Business Oregon - Broadband Deployment Program
Michael DeHart, Coordinator
775 Summer Street NE Suite 200
Salem, Oregon 97301

Mr. DeHart and the Grant Selection Committee:

The Boardman City Council is in full support of the PDTFast.NET proposal to establish reliable, modern fiber broadband services to unserved locations throughout eastern Oregon. PDTFast.NET is the only residential provider with a staffed office located in our community. Their operations started in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and they have since installed broadband to over 500 previously unserved or underserved Boardman households since 2020 with a combination of fiber to the premise and fixed wireless technologies.

Their broadband proposal for this area will address all unserved and underserved residences within the City of Boardman with new fiber deployments. Most of Boardman's housing stock was developed in compliance with our underground wiring control district which mandates underground utilities and until approximately five years ago only copper telephone lines were commonly installed in any residential construction. The remaining unserved and underserved homes in Boardman need financial support to offset the higher costs of underground fiber installation. This has left Boardman with a severe divide in digital equity, where only recently constructed subdivisions have benefitted from fiber broadband services.

Long term our community needs fiber to every home and business to stay competitive in an increasingly digital world and to continue to grow and meet the needs of our citizens. The City Council strongly encourages funding for the proposed project to develop broadband service infrastructure to unserved and underserved communities in Boardman, Morrow County and across eastern Oregon.

If this project were to be funded the City of Boardman would be pleased to market our community as the first city in Eastern Oregon to have fiber optic broadband available at every household.

Should you have any questions about this letter of support please reach out to Brandon Hammond, City Manager, at 541-481-9252 or HammondB@cityofboardman.com.

Cordially,

Paul Keefer
Mayor