

To: Mayor Good
From: Dodd Snodgrass, CEDA
Date: June 14, 2021
Re: Background on north-south broadband project

In recent changes to the Idaho State Broadband Grant Program, the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board is seeking non-CARES Act eligible projects to be considered for future funding.

The Port of Lewiston is going to submit an application for non-CARES Act funds through the Idaho State Broadband Grant Program. We are asking you for a support letter (sample provided) for the construction of the Grangeville to New Meadows segment, which has been featured in the Governor's Broadband Task Force Report and promoted by District 2 Interoperability Governance Board (DIGB2) for north central Idaho. This is a statewide need and the Port's request will not include "local match"

Status

- **Grangeville – Riggins – New Meadows Planning Project (\$150,000):** Idaho County received notification of a \$120,000 award. It is being matched with \$24,000 GEM Grant (verbally told there is award) leaving \$6,000 to be match by the five counties. This study will provide the basis for funding the construction of middle mile dark fiber.
- **Grangeville – Riggins – New Meadows Construction Project (\$16 million):** Subject of the request. The Port of Lewiston has been working on getting cost estimates and concept designs for this project in anticipation that they might be able to apply for broadband funds as they come through.

I will need the attached letter pdf'd back to me this week

Thanks!

New Meadows Letterhead

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board
c/o Idaho Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Re: Grangeville to New Meadows Fiber Backbone Project Support

Dear Idaho Broadband Advisory Board:

The City of New Meadows supports the Port of Lewiston's construction of a fiber segment that will connect Grangeville (Idaho County) and New Meadows (Adams County). This letter will be included with the Port of Lewiston's grant proposal that is being submitted as a non-CARES Act project. This project is recognized as a statewide need and critical infrastructure for telecommunication for public safety as well as education, healthcare, and industry. As a dark fiber, open access network it will provide internet service providers lease options to address customer needs; it will provide telecommunication directly connecting northern Idaho and southern Idaho.

In 2009, this need was recognized in Idaho House Concurrent Resolution No. 21 by Environment, Energy, and Technology Committee. It was signed by then Speaker of the House Lawrence Denney and Senate President Robert L. Geddes and certified by then Idaho Secretary of State Ben Ysursa. This north-central Idaho "open access" fiber network is high-priority action item recommended in 2019 to Governor Little by the Idaho Broadband Task Force.

Although each of these documents identify the need between Grangeville and Riggins, it has since been determined that an open access fiber connection is needed between Riggins and New Meadows. This expansion is supported by the District 2 Interoperability Governance Board (DIGB2) for north central Idaho. New Meadows supports the work of DIGB2 to have a direct north-south connection within the State of Idaho.

We see this as a statewide need to connect private and public telecommunication activity and will directly benefit state agency, industry, education, public safety, and healthcare.

Please fund this project.

Sincerely,

City of New Meadows