

## EXHIBIT 1

### **REGIONAL BROADBAND INITIATIVE** **PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

**THIS AGREEMENT** (“Agreement”) is made and entered into on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2022 (the “Effective Date”), by and between the parties defined below (collectively referred to as “Parties”).

#### **WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, the Parties have determined that there is an opportunity to improve the local community’s health, safety, and welfare by combining efforts, funds, and opportunities to improve access to broadband high-speed internet throughout the region served by the Parties.

**WHEREAS**, the Parties desire to continue these combined efforts through a Regional Broadband Initiative Board (“RBI Board”) and enter into this Agreement to provide for the terms and conditions necessary for the Parties to each participate in, and receive value from, the RBI Board.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Parties to the Agreement. The following entities are parties to this Agreement (in alphabetical order).

1.1 Christian County Missouri, by and through the Commissions of Christian County Missouri (“Christian County”).

1.2 City of Nixa, Missouri (“Nixa”).

1.3 City of Ozark, Missouri (“Ozark”).

1.4 City of Republic, Missouri (“Republic”).

1.5 City of Strafford, Missouri (“Strafford”).

1.6 City of Willard, Missouri (“Willard”).

1.7 Greene County Missouri, by and through the Commissioners of Greene County, Missouri (“Greene County”).

2. Purpose. The purpose of this Agreement is:

2.1 For the Parties to explore the possibility of jointly conducting, and cost sharing broadband feasibility analysis (“Analysis”) for extension of broadband services to citizens within the municipal limits of Nixa, Ozark, Republic, Strafford, Willard, and unincorporated areas as determined by Greene County and Christian County.

2.2 For the Parties to create the RBI Board which shall facilitate the Analysis by, among other things, selecting a Consultant for the Analysis; and in the event the Analysis finds expanding broadband into these areas is feasible under such conditions as are acceptable to the Parties, to then manage and direct such expansions.

3. Term of the Agreement.

3.1 The initial term (“Initial Term”) of this Agreement shall begin as of the Effective Date of this Agreement and shall terminate on March 31, 2026.

3.2 Upon termination of the Initial Term, the Agreement shall automatically continue thereafter on a year-to-year basis until terminated. Any party may choose to withdraw by giving at least one (1) year advance written notice to all other Parties of their intent to terminate the Agreement.

3.3 Termination for Cause. The RBI Board, as described below, may remove any party upon the party’s failure to pay any cost assessment approved by the RBI Board.

4. RBI Board. The RBI Board will consist of seven members. Each Member will appoint one (1) designated primary member to the RBI Board. In addition to the appointment of a designated primary member, each of the Members shall appoint an authorized designated alternative representative who shall be authorized to act in the absence of the designated primary member.

4.1 Each member shall have one (1) vote on the RBI Board.

4.2 A quorum shall consist of half the Members plus one (1).

4.3 Decisions of the RBI Board require at least four (4) affirmative votes of the Members, regardless of the size the quorum present at the time of the vote, except those decisions to expend funds will require five (5) affirmative votes regardless of the size of the quorum present at the time of the vote.

4.4 The Members shall select one of the Members to serve as chairperson, and one to serve as vice-chairperson (who shall serve in the absence of the elected chairperson), each for a term of one (1) year. The chairperson and vice-chairperson shall rotate among the Members. The chairperson and the vice-chairperson shall have the same voting rights as the other Members but shall have no other special voting rights additional to or different from the other Members.

4.5 The RBI Board’s responsibilities and authority shall include:

4.5.0 Establishing bylaws and administrative guidelines for the RBI Board, but limited to the scope of purpose and authority provided in this Agreement.

4.5.1 Selecting a consultant to perform the analysis.

4.5.2 Developing and approving the Analysis.

4.5.3 Determining appropriate actions in response to the results of the Analysis.

4.5.4 Scheduling and participating in meetings no less than four (4) times per year.

5. Consultant Selection.

5.1 The RBI Board will review qualified consultants to perform the Analysis which will be provided by City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri, pursuant to separate contract .

5.2 Should, after review of the consultants, the RBI Board approve proceeding with the Study, the RBI Board will select a consultant to assist it with the project and take appropriate action thereafter..

6. Cost Allocation.

6.1 For the work performed by the Consultant, and for the cost of the analysis, each of the Parties will pay a pro rata percentage identified in Exhibit A.

6.2 Termination:

6.2.0 Any Party may terminate their participation in this Board, and the fiber expansion project within thirty days of a cost analysis submitted to it by the Consultant (or any subsequent amendment to the cost analysis, if it feels, in its sole discretion, the cost exceeds its available funds for the project.

6.2.1 Non-Appropriation. In the event no funds are appropriated for this agreement, any member who is a public entity pursuant to Missouri Law, will have the right in any given fiscal year to terminate this contract without penalties of any sort. Notice of non-appropriate must be given to all other parties within fifteen (15) days of the failure to appropriate said funds. Said termination shall be effective on the first day of the member's fiscal year following notice of failure to appropriate.

6.2.2 Any such Party terminating participation will be responsible for all costs incurred prior to their termination.

6.3 In the event a Party to this Agreement terminates its participation pursuant to the terms of this Agreement permitting such termination, the amounts in Exhibit A will recalculated to reflect each remaining Party's pro-rata share. The parties understand that if a party terminates their participation, it is expected that the total cost of the project will be reduced, as the estimated cost of the project is consists of, at least in large part, a per household analysis basis.

7. Force Majeure. In case any of the Parties to this Agreement should be delayed in or prevented from performing or carrying out any of the covenants or obligations made by and imposed upon said party by this Agreement by reason of Force Majeure, then in such case or cases, the Parties shall be relieved of performance under this Agreement except for the obligation to pay for services already received under this Agreement, and shall not be liable to any other party for or on account of any loss, damage, injury, or expense resulting from or arising out of such delay or prevention; provided, however, that the party suffering such delay or prevention shall use due or practicable diligence, to remove the cause or causes thereof; and provide, further, that neither party shall be required by the foregoing provisions to settle a strike except when, according to its own best judgment, such a settlement seems advisable. The term "Force Majeure" shall be any cause not reasonably within the control of the party claiming Force Majeure, not attributable to such party's neglect, including, but not limited to, the following: strikes, stoppages in labor, failures of contractors or suppliers of materials, unavailability of a fuel or resource use in connection with the generation of electricity, riots fires, floods, ice, invasions, civil wars, commotion insurrections, military or usurped power, order of any court granted in any bona fide adverse legal proceeding or action, order of any civil or military authority explosion, act of God or the public enemies, sabotage, or orders or permits, or the absence of the necessary order or permits, of any kind which have been properly and timely applied for from the government of the United States of America, or any political subdivision thereof.

8. Choice of Law and Venue. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with Missouri law. Venue shall be proper in accordance with Missouri law.

9. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between the Parties relating to the subject matter hereof and supersedes any other agreements, written or oral, between the Parties concerning such subject matter.

10. Modification. No modification of the terms and provisions of this Agreement shall be or become effective except by written amendment executed by the Parties.

11. Notices. All written notices under this Agreement shall be deemed properly sent if delivered in person, registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid to the persons specified below:

Christian County:

Attn: Christian County  
Commission  
100 W. Church # 304  
Ozark, MO 65721

City of Nixa:

Attn: City Administrator  
715 W. Mt Vernon Street  
Nixa, Mo 65714

City of Ozark:

Attn: City Administrator  
205 N/ 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Ozark, Mo 65721

City of Republic:

Attn: City Administrator  
213 N. Main Street  
Republic, Missouri 65738

City of Strafford:

Attn: City Administrator  
126 Washington St  
Strafford, Missouri 65757

City of Willard:

City of Willard  
Attn: City Clerk,  
224 West Jackson Street,  
Willard Missouri, 65781

Greene County:

Attn: Greene County,

Commission

1443 N. Robertson Ave.

Springfield, Missouri 65802

12. Authority. Each party represents that it has the necessary corporate, legal, and regulatory authority to enter into this Agreement and to perform each and every duty and obligation imposed therein. Each individual affixing a signature to this Agreement represents and warrants that he or she has been duly authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf of the party he or she represents, and that by signing the Agreement, a valid, binding and enforceable legal obligation of said party has been created.

13. Public Body. The Parties recognize that the RBI Board is a public governmental body subject to the Missouri Sunshine Law. All records created by the RBI Board shall be provided to Greene County and the Greene County shall be appointed custodian of records shall be the custodian of records for the Board.

**REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY  
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SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, each of the Parties has caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representative.

**Christian County**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Christian County**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Christian County**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Christian County Auditor**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved as to Form (Christian County)  
Christian County Counselor**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**City of Nixa**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved as to Form (City of Nixa)**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**City of Ozark**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved as to Form (Ozark)**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**City of Republic**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved as to Form (City of Republic)**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**City of Strafford**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved as to Form (City of Strafford)**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**City of Willard**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved as to Form (City of Willard)**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Greene County Commissioner**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Greene County Commissioner**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Greene County Commissioner**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Greene County Auditor**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved as to Form  
Greene County Counselor**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXHIBIT A**  
Cost share

For costs incurred by the RBI Pursuant to section 6.3 above, Each Party shall have the costs share of all costs:

- Christian County will also be responsible for paying the shares of the following cities: Fremont Hills, Sparta, Saddlebrook, Highlandville, Clever and Billings; and
- Greene County will also be responsible for paying the shares of the following cities: Walnut Gove, Ash Grove, Fair Grove, Rogersville and Battlefield.

County	Address (Count)	% of total
Greene County	41,717	42.42%
Christian County	16,972	17.26%

Municipalities	Address (Count)	% of total
Willard	2,174	2.21%
Walnut Grove	379	0.39%
Ash Grove	717	0.73%
Fair Grove	820	0.83%
Rogersville	48	0.05%
Strafford	1,119	1.14%
Republic**	7,482	7.61%
Battlefield*	2,437	2.48%
Fremont Hills	458	0.47%
Nixa	10,441	10.62%
Sparta	908	0.92%
Saddlebrooke	160	0.16%
Ozark	10,218	10.39%
Highlandville	484	0.49%
Clever	1,210	1.23%
Billings	589	0.60%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>98,333</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\* A part of Battlefield is already served by City Utilities for broadband services

\*\* A small part of Republic is in Christian County