
C-2 | Establish a State of the Art Downtown WI-FI System and City-Owned Cable for Internet Access

DRI Funding Request/Total Project Cost

\$386,000/\$386,000

Project Description

This project comprises a build-out of backbone and “last mile” data delivery infrastructure. Infrastructure will include installation of fiber optic data lines, possibly with a combination of coaxial customer service drops to facilitate re-usage of large cable modem install base. The network will serve internet access at very high speed to both residential and commercial customers, while also supporting a public Wi-Fi network. Service costs will cover network maintenance, administration, and offset costs for expansion opportunities. The completed project will provide internet access with a speed high enough to attract major users of data services.



Project Location/Address

Initial rollout has two possible scopes. The first scope, addressing maximum potential customer density, will be along Main Street from Groton/Clinton Ave to Tompkins/Port Watson Street. The second phase will encompass a larger area (not a part of this project) and will expand to the east and west of Main St. to increase the user base.

Sponsor

City of Cortland

Strategies

- Invest in downtown destinations for residents, workers, and visitors, and to attract new businesses and residents;
- Create strong gateways, wayfinding and complete streets to strengthen connections between destinations and amenities and to make the downtown inviting and accessible to all; and
- Provide a connected, wireless downtown.

Public Support

Feedback from the community to the Cable Commission indicates a desire and need for competition in the area of internet service. Concerns of residents and property owners regarding the future of broadband access also necessitate the City becoming more active in service provision.

Project Ownership

City of Cortland, or a designated governance organization.

Project Partners

Assisting the City of Cortland: SUNY Cortland UPD IT, Chair of City's Cable Commission (Eamon O'Shea), Finger Lakes Technology Group, Thoma Development (Rich Cunningham). Partners will also include current internet service providers (ISPs) interested in service provision on Main Street. Every building within the DRI boundary area is a potential customer.

Capacity

The city has managed several large Public Works projects including a \$500,000 restoration of the Port Watson Public Parking lot and phase 1 of the reconstruction of the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant at a cost \$12.5 million dollars.

Project Budget

\$386,000

- \$40,000/mile (4 miles, \$160,000);
- Termination point work, \$20,000;
- Wireless headend, \$80,000;
- Portal, \$12,000;
- Outdoor Access Points, \$44,000;
- Access Point installation: \$50,000 (\$2,000 each);
- Overhead/contingency, \$20,000.

Funding Sources

This phase of the project will be fully funded through the DRI. Potential future funding sources for future phases include – the FCC, Appalachian Regional Commission, and private investors/building owners.

Feasibility and Cost Justification

Currently, ISPs typically combine projects in a piecemeal manner and work to provide service one structure at a time. Installing a trunk line that every building on Main Street could access will be a more efficient and effective method of providing broadband access. Having secure, high speed, cost efficient internet access will be attractive to businesses, residents, and visitors.

Regulatory Requirements

None

Timeframe for Implementation and Project Readiness

The initial phase will take place during the proposed infrastructure work on Main Street.

Project Reporting

Construction, testing and rollout benchmarks will be designated during the design phase. The City will actively work with current ISPs and property owners to establish a more efficient connection between customers and providers.