PSC REF#:200899

GRANT APPLICATIONS MUST BE UPLOADEDTO THE COMMISSION'S ELECTRONIC REGULATORY FILING (ERF) SYSTEM AT ITS WEBSITE <u>http://psc.wi.gov</u> :	A late application will be rejected. The application MUST be date and time stamped on or before the date and time that the application is due. If dated and time stamped in another office, the application will be rejected. The application is public unless otherwise specified. Records will be available for public inspection after issuance of the grant.				
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS		: u e 03 C			
THIS IS NOT AN ORDER	Applications MUST be UPLOADED to				
Applicant (Name and Address)	ERF by going to the Commission's website, entering 5-GF-237 in the box labeled "Link Directly to a Case," and selecting "GO."	mmission of Wis 21/14, 2:51:27			
	And must be uploaded no later than:	Wisconsin 27 PM			
ur.	4:00 pm Central Time	lisin			
	on MARCH 21, 2014	P			
	Name (Contact for further information)				
	Dennis Klaila, Policy Analyst, Division of Business & C Services	Dennis Klaila, Policy Analyst, Division of Business & Communications Services			
	Phone e-mail				
	608-267-9780 dennis	klaila@wisconsin.gov			
	Description				

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is accepting applications for **Broadband Expansion Grants**. The Commission may award one or more grants that, in the aggregate, do not exceed an annual total of \$500,000 during Fiscal Year 2014 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the state.

In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or pa collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, infor and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a Broadband Expansion Grant as may be established in a Gran	opening of mation, and belief;
---	--------------------------------

Name of Authorized Company Representative (Type or Print)	Title Director of Development -	Villack of Weston Fax	(715)241-2638 (715)359-6117
Signature of Above	2 3/21/2014	Federal Employer Identification No. 39-1851994	Social Security No. if Sole Proprietor (Voluntary)
This form can be made ava	ilable in accessible formats upon re	quest to qualified individuals with disa	abilities.

# Village of Weston Broadband Expansion Grant Application 5-GF-237

Submitted: March 21, 2014



Weston Business and Technology Opportunity Areas

20 March, 2014



# Table of Contents: Village of Weston Broadband Expansion Grant Proposal

3.2.1.1:	Application Identification and Contact Information	2
3.2.1.2:	Description of Project	2
Phase I N	Ларs	5
Phase II	Maps	10
3.2.1.3:	Itemized Statement of Funding Request	15
Phase I P	Project Costs	17
Phase II	Project Costs	18
3.2.1.4:	Priority Factors Supporting the Application	19
Weston	Business and Technology Opportunity Areas	21
Letters of S	support for Village of Weston Broadband Grant Expansion Application	24
W.J. Higg	gins and Associates, Inc	25
From the	e Forest	26
PGA, Inc.		27

# Village of Weston: Broadband Expansion Grant Proposal

# 3.2.1.1: Application Identification and Contact Information

Village of Weston 5500 Schofield Avenue Weston, WI 54476 Phone: (715) 359-6114 Fax: (715) 359-6117

### **Contact Persons:**

Jennifer Higgins, Director of Planning and Development Daniel Guild, Village Administrator

### **Application Partner:**

The Village solicited formal partnership in this grant application from Charter Communications, a broadband provider in the Weston area and throughout the State. However, Charter was unable to partner at this time due to limitations established by their corporate office on applying for grants at this time, as well as a commitment of its resources to the roll-out of all-digital cable television transmission at this time.

Still, the Village views this proposed extension as a collaboration with Charter. Charter Communications cooperated in this effort through provision of the plan and cost estimates. Charter has indicated their commitment to being a part of a solution for the Village and has committed to being the provider if this grant is approved. The Village of Weston is committing funding toward the project, and proposes matching funds of 50% toward construction. Charter is willing to construct, own, and operate the facility.

## 3.2.1.2: Description of Project

### a. Description of the Project Area:

The proposed project area is located in the Village of Weston, Marathon County, Wisconsin. Weston is located approximately 10 miles east of the City of Wausau, and has a population of 15,052 residents (2013 estimate). The project area is located southwest of the STH 29/CTH J interchange. STH 29 is a four-lane freeway which bisects the Village and crosses central Wisconsin. The interchange area is an emerging location for business development. The proposed project will provide critical broadband service to the Villagedeveloped Business and Technology Park–South, the nearby Highview Business Park off of Service Lane, and surrounding planned development areas. There are 4 existing businesses in this area today, with capacity for many times more that in the future if the right ingredients are available. Letters of support from existing and potential business prospects are included as an exhibit at the end of this proposal. The Village is actively marketing and promoting the development of technology-oriented industrial and professional businesses in its 76-acre Business and Technology Park - South and the 40+ acre Highview Business Park. In these locations, there is unmet demand for high-speed internet service suitable for business use, which is not being fulfilled by existing service and providers. The Village has had discussions with both Charter and Frontier to extend fiber optic lines to this area. However, to date, both have determined that such extensions are not cost-effective without public support. This is primarily due to the need to bore under STH 29 in order to reach these lands to the south.

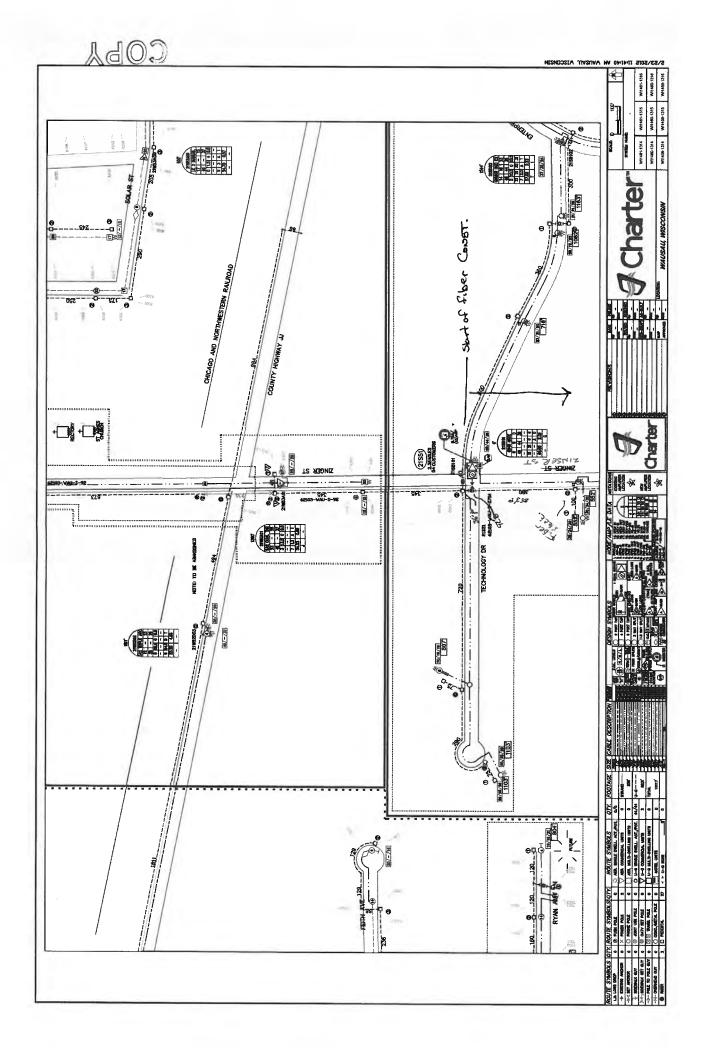
The Village has received inquiries from attractive new business prospects considering locating in Business and Technology Park – South, some with significant data transmission needs. (See attached letters.) However, the lack of high speed internet serving this area has proven a major obstacle to attracting these businesses. In Business and Technology Park – South there are eight lots, seven of which remain unoccupied. In addition, established businesses in the Highview Business Park have inquired about extension of fiber to this area based on their growth and expanding data needs. In addition, the Highview Business Park has 4 contractor condo buildings which can be divided into as many as 38 separate condos for business uses. There are 2 additional unoccupied sites. On the whole, the Village views high-speed internet service—with a minimum download speed of 30 - 60 mbps, but ideally higher—as an essential piece to continued economic development.

Charter, a leading provider of high-speed internet service in the area and state, has agreed to extend fiber optic service to the project area with public support for the boring under STH 29. If the Village and Charter are able to make the extension of service under STH 29 cost-effective, it could provide critical middle and last-mile infrastructure, opening up numerous economic development opportunities for technology-dependent businesses, as well opportunities to planned community growth beyond the immediate project area.

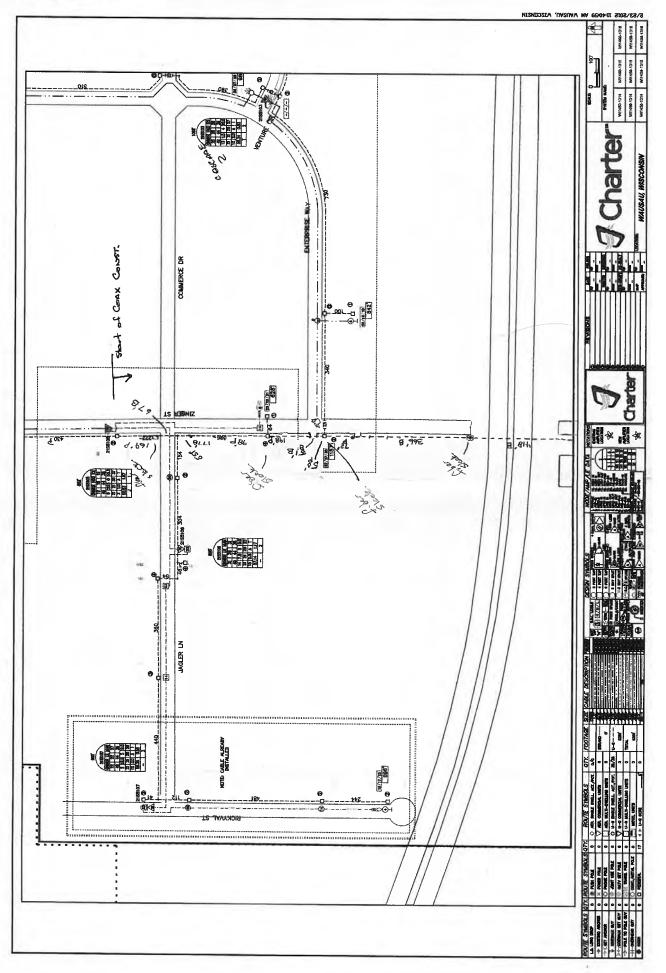
The proposed Phase I extension would extend fiber from its current terminus at Zinser Street and Technology Drive south along Zinser Street. Directional boring would be used to bring the line under STH 29 still following along Zinser St, following Service Lane west and Weston Avenue east to Progress Way. (Zinser Street dead-ends at STH 29 from both the north and south.) The proposed Phase II extension starts at the southeastern intersection of Progress Way and Weston Avenue, following Weston Avenue east past the CTH J interchange. See maps on the following pages.

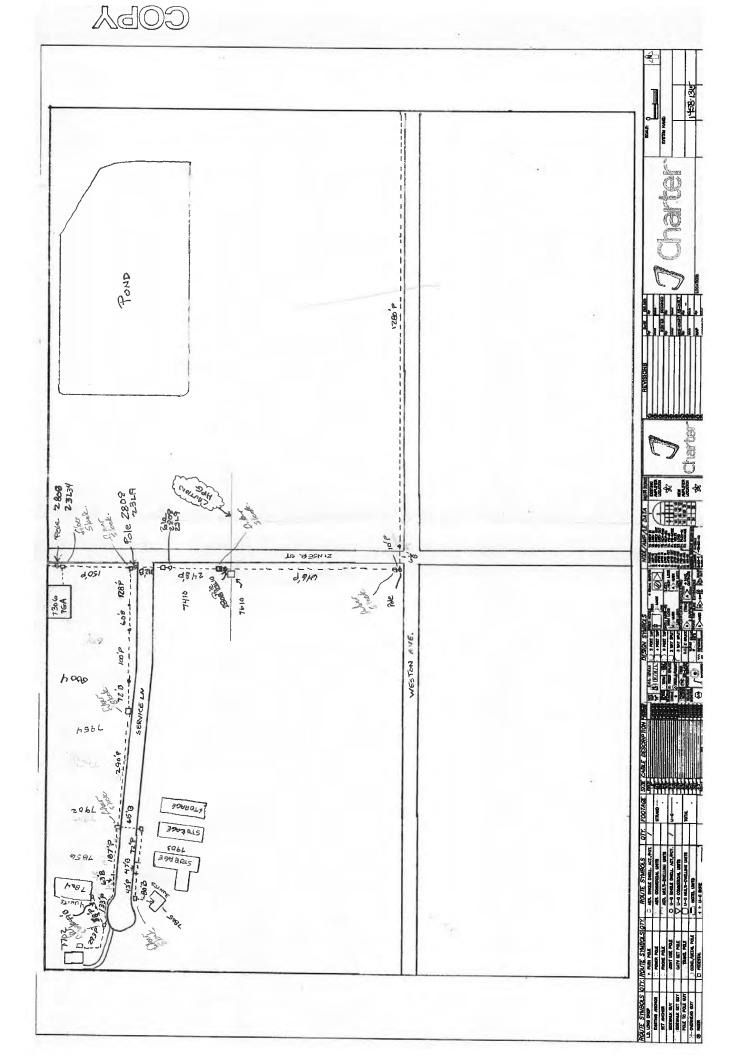
The PSC through the LinkWISCONSIN mapping effort used data at the Census block level to describe the broadband service available in the project area. Although the Census blocks in the project area are noted as served (greater than 3 mbps download, 768 kbps upload), this data fails to describe the limited availability of adequate broadband service in the project area and does not reflect the demand of businesses in the area. The Census block of which this area is a part extends from Weston Avenue north to STH 29. Indication of being served is likely due to the large area of the Census blocks and the low threshold of service. Fiber optic cable service is not available in the area. DSL is available through Frontier, but at lower transmission speeds (generally 3 mbps) than businesses in the area require. In any case, 3 mbps service is far too slow to serve data transmission needs of technology-based businesses.

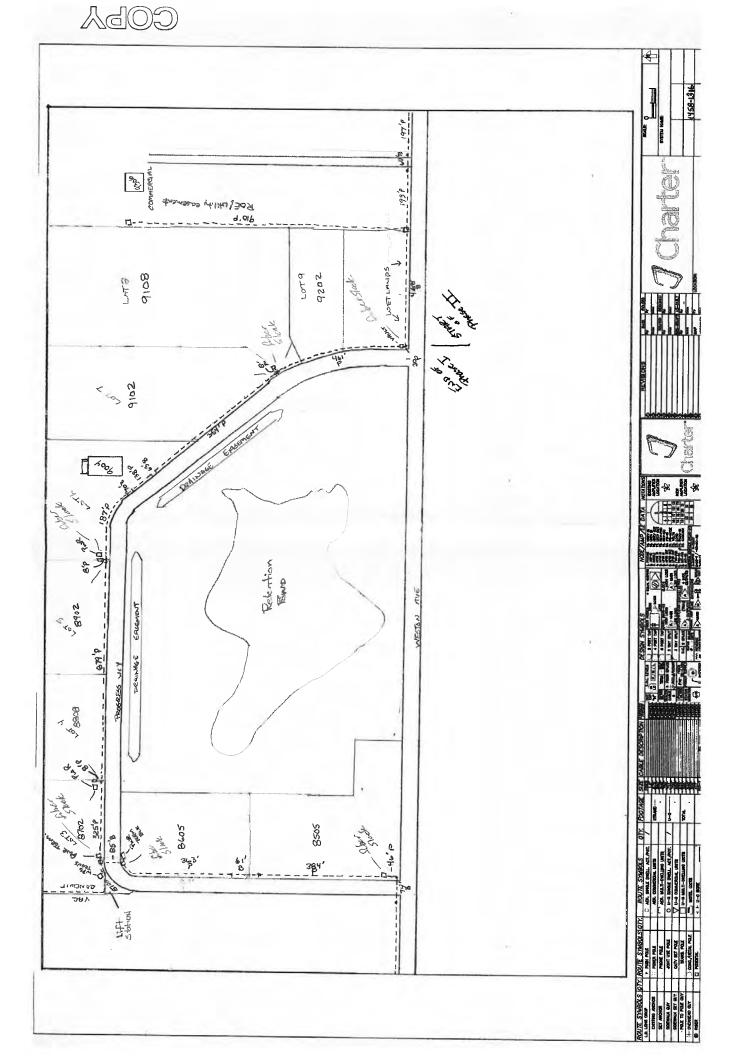




COBA



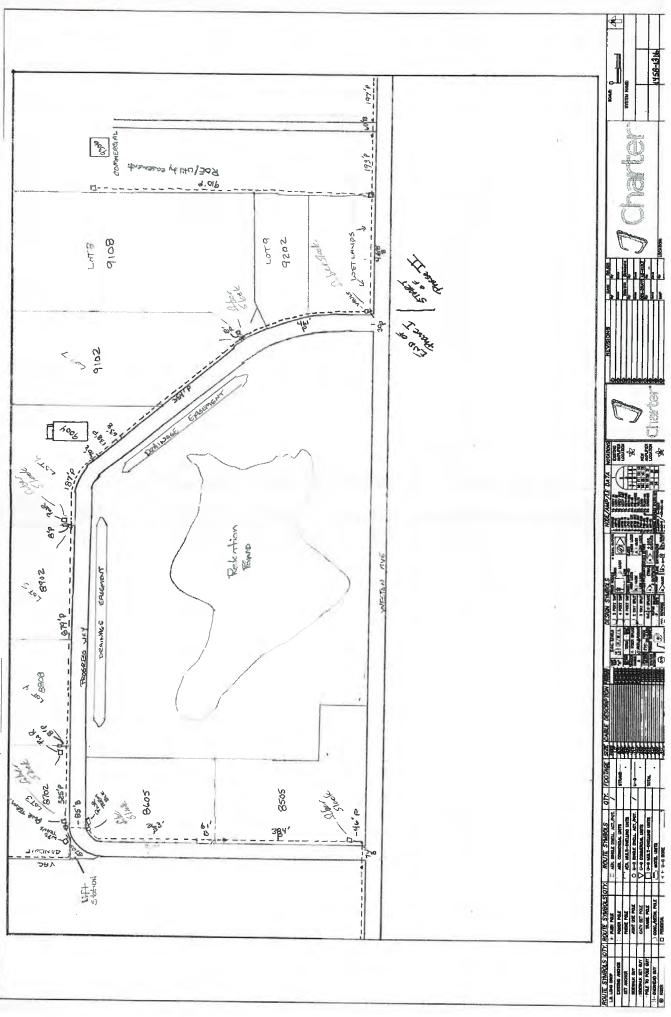


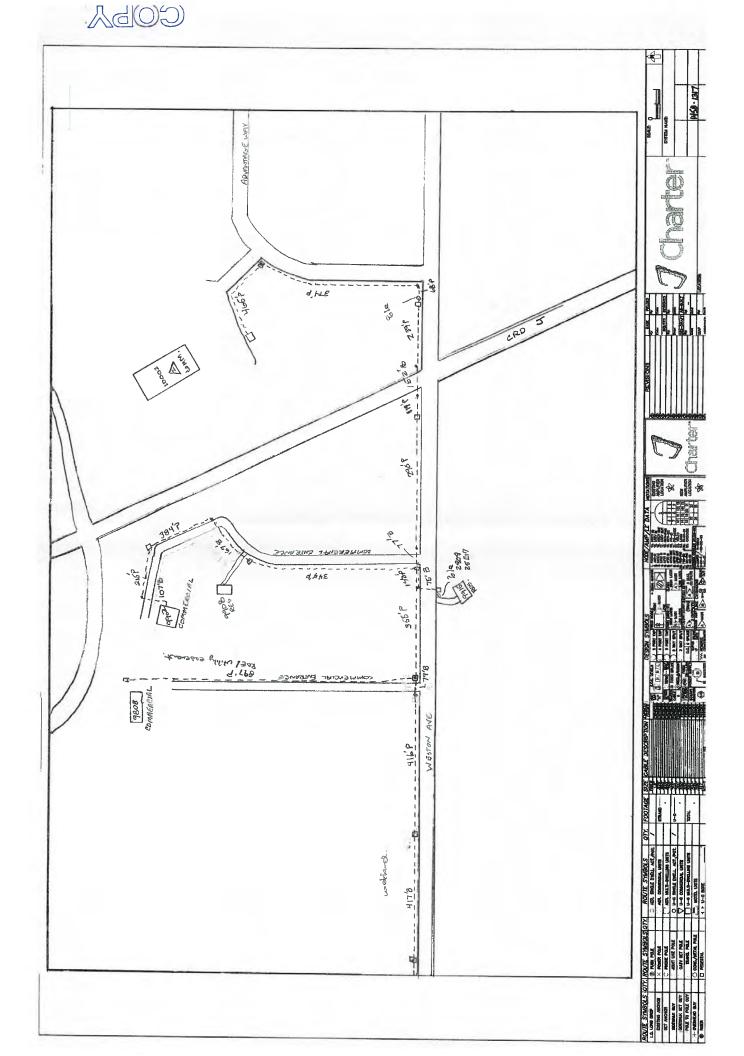












b. The proposed project will extend middle and last-mile fiber network to an unserved area within the Village of Weston. The proposed Phase I extension will be approximately 1.8 miles, from the northwest corner of Zinser Street and Technology Drive south down Zinser Street to Weston Avenue, with extensions along Service Lane and Progress Way. Phase I is the highest priority of the Village. Phase I will be accomplished through boring and placement of conduit and fiber under STH 29. The infrastructure installed in Phase I will serve the Village's Business and Technology Park – South and the Highview Business Park.

Phase II is .88 miles in length extending from the intersection of Progress Way and Weston Avenue, eastward along Weston Avenue to Adventure Way. The line would branch off to serve commercial properties west of CTH J and at Adventure Way. This component serves the broader STH 29 / CTH J interchange area; and future business, residential, and recreational developments envisioned around and south of this area.

Both Phase I and Phase II are proposed to be funded to provide middle and last mile infrastructure to bridge distribution gaps, which will enable cost effective extensions to all of these areas without the need for further public support. This critical infrastructure completes the puzzle of attract desired companies to these locations, which otherwise have exceptional access to and visibility from STH 29 and public utility service.

In addition, the Village is introducing "Dig Once and Joint Trench Use" policies to promote active communication between the Village and all communication and utility providers to share facilities, avoid future disruptions, and keep costs down. These will ensure the most efficient, cost effective opportunities to supply necessary utilities and infrastructure in the future. With this project featuring the boring under STH 29, the Village intends to provide excess conduit diameter to provide room for other utilities and communication providers in the future, provided they do not interfere with Charter's high speed internet service.

c. The proposed project would provide "middle mile" and "last-mile" infrastructure, consisting of very large capacity fiber optic lines connecting to multiple fiber-optic lines capable of transmitting large amounts of data extending from its current location, in addition to hybrid fiber coax (HFC) connecting fiber to individual businesses. The total number of strands provided would support building an adequate fiber distribution network to supply the businesses in the area. It provides a path for the exchange of information that local or regional networks can connect with for long distance data transmission. These data routes and backbone connection would be owned by Charter, and operated by the service provider. There is existing UW Extension / Wausau Community Area Network (WCAN) fiber along STH 29, although these lines are restricted to serving participating public and non-profit institutions, and are not available to private entities.

## d. Descriptions of service proposed to be provided:

Estimated download and upload speeds: With this technology installation, Charter could offer very high speed service, with download and upload speeds of 1 Gb. Services are scalable to customer demands. Customers will have options of connecting to their business with fiber or HFC, depending on their data needs.

Dedicated or shared bandwidth: A combination of both would be available, depending on customers' needs

Technology used: Fiber optic, and Hybrid Fiber Coax (HFC), wide area networks (Wan). See Capital Appropriation Request (CAR) on following pages.

e. Schedule for completion of proposed project: Phase I is prioritized for completion as soon as possible. Ideally construction would commence upon award of the grant funds in June 2014, with timeframe for completion over the following months. Phase II is projected to occur following the completion of Phase I. Charter has indicated that project could be completed by the end of November 2014 at the latest.

# 3.2.1.3: Itemized Statement of Funding Request

a. Itemized Statement of Investment and Construction Costs of Proposed Project: See budget information on following pages.

b. Funds received via this grant application will be used for construction of facilities only, not to subsidize operational expenses of a service provider. The itemized budget presented on the following pages shows that the project costs include only labor, materials and supplies.

Any grant money awarded will not subsidize operating costs, add to profit, or subsidize customers' monthly bills. Staff/ labor and equipment/materials for this project will be tracked.

c. Summary showing a separate listing of itemized expenditures to be covered by each source including grants and matching funds.

The facilities would be owned by Charter. The Village is committed to provide a match of at least 50% of project costs. Cable Franchise Fees and Tax Increment Finance are two possible sources from which the Village may satisfy this commitment, along with the Village's general fund.

Based on the above cost-share of 50/50, itemized expenditures of grant and matching funds to the project are as follows:

	Total Cost	Proposed Village Share (based on 50% match)	Proposed Grant Fund Share*
Phase I	\$95,982.68	\$47,991.34	\$47,991.34
Phase II	\$51,973.16	\$25,986.58	\$25,986.58
<b>Total Phase I and</b>	\$147,955.84	\$73,977.92	\$73,977.92
II			

\*The Village is willing to consider alternate cost sharing arrangements. In addition, the Village is willing to accept funding for Phase I of this project, only, if grant funds are limited.

d. Grant funds requested will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure. Please see the Phase I and Phase II Project Costs. These demonstrate that all funded activities include labor, materials and equipment, and freight toward construction of broadband infrastructure.

See Phase I and Phase II Project Costs on the following pages.

#### **CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS CAPITAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST (CAR)**

3/3/2014

Version Date 62101 DATE: 3/3/14 GLID Scott Olson-2406350 -CONSTRUCTION COORDINATOR: Scott Olson-2406350 DISTRICT NAME: FDL and SWI Management Areas SITE NUMBER 8245/1100/ Weston, Vill - 3020----WIWES Ŧ Weston, Vill - 3020----WI WES **PROJECT ID#** CITY OR TOWN - CSG AGENT#: PROJECT NAME: Weston Business Park Zinser St Progress Way Phase I FILE NUMBER: Carryover Proj ID FRANCHISE REQUIRED: Start Date • YES NO **PROJECT AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$95,982.68 **Completion Date** JOINT TRENCH (Y/N)?: Ν **Basic Penetration** 48.60% **HSD** Penetration 114.60% JOB TYPE: NegwBuildd Exp Penetration 89.50% Phone Penetration 62.30% Ŧ **Dig Penetration** 84.50% STATISTICS: 0.0000 AERIAL MILES \$51,963.99 COST PER MILE 1.8471 UNDERGROUND MILES \$3,839.31 COST PER TOTAL PASSINGS 1.8471 Total Miles 25 TOTAL PASSINGS \$4,173.16 COST PER ACTUAL HOME/UNIT PASS 13 Total empty lots \$8,586.75 COST PER PROJECTED CUSTOMER Total homes/units-include in construction \$18,165.61 BLENDED MATERIAL PER MILE 23 49% Basic Penetration \$33,798.38 BLENDED LABOR PER MILE 11 PROJECTED CUSTOMERS ROI - Years (0.00=Over 10 Yrs.) 0.00 COST: MATERIAL LABOR TOTAL **Design Labor** 0.00 \$0.00 0.00 Aerial Labor 0.00 \$25,674.69 25,674.69 UG Labor Aerial Materials, Less Actives & PS 0.00 0.00 UG Materials, Less Actives & PS 6,912.59 6,912.59 Materials, Actives & PS 5,662.97 5,662.97 (REIMBURSEMENT/OTHER) 33,499.70 16,475.26 49,974.96 SUBTOTAL 29,050.82 59,174.39 88,225.21 SALES TAX 1,597.80 3,254.59 4,852.39 FREIGHT 2,905.08 2,905.08 TOTAL \$33,553.70 \$62,428.98 \$95,982.68

**EXPLANATION OF PROJECT:** 

This is the estimate of cost to build weston Business Park on Zinser St snd Progress Way. This is Phase I of two phase project.

#### CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS CAPITAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST (CAR)

Version Date

3/3/2014

DATE: CONSTRUCTION COORDI DISTRICT NAME:	<u>3/3/14</u> NATOR:		stolfonsationations anagement Areas	-		GLID	62101
SITE NUMBER	V	/eston, Vill - <b>8949</b> 7	7100/ <sup>WES</sup>	<b>T</b>			
CITY OR TOWN - CSG AG	ENT#:	Weston, Vill - 302	20WI WES			PROJECT ID#	
PROJECT NAME:		Weston Business Par	k Weston Ave to Adventu	e Way Way Phase II			
FILE NUMBER:					Carryover Proj ID		
FRANCHISE REQUIRED:		• YES	● NO		Start Date		
PROJECT AMOUNT REQU	JESTED:	\$51,9	73.16		Completion Date		
JOINT TRENCH (Y/N)?:	N		Basic Penetration	48.60%	HSD Penetration		114.60%
JOB TYPE:	NewvEBuilded	<b>•</b>	Exp Penetration	89.50%	Phone Penetration		62.30%
			Dig Penetration	84.50%			
STATISTICS:		AERIAL MILES			<u>\$59,090.96</u>	COST PER MILE	
		UNDERGROUN	D MILES		<b>*</b> 4 004 40		D4000100
0.8795 Total Miles   12 TOTAL PASSI   6 Total amptula			<u> </u>			COST PER TOTAL	L PASSINGS
		Total empty lots				-	CTED CUSTOMER
		Total	5			BLENDED MATER	
		Basic Penetratio	on		¥ -)	BLENDED LABOR	
		PROJECTED CL			0.00	ROI - Years (0.00=	
		<u>-</u>				(	,
COST:		r	MATERIAL		LABOR		TOTAL
Design Labor		_			0.00	_	\$0.00
Aerial Labor		-			0.00	-	0.00
UG Labor		_			\$12,225.68	-	12,225.68
Aerial Materials, Less Actives & PS		_	0.00			-	0.00
UG Materials, Less Actives & PS		-	3,291.61 2,696.57			-	3,291.61 2,696.57
Materials, Actives & PS (REIMBURSEMENT/OTHER)		_	8,435.09		21,247.57	-	2,696.57
	N)	-	0,400.00		21,247.07	-	20,002.00
SUBTOTAL			14,423.27		33,473.25		47,896.52
SALES TAX		-	793.28		1,841.03	-	2,634.31
FREIGHT		-	1,442.33			-	1,442.33
TOTAL		_	\$16,658.88		\$35,314.28	-	\$51,973.16

#### **EXPLANATION OF PROJECT:**

This is the estimate of cost to build Weston Business Park from Weston Ave to Adventure Way. This is Phase II of two phase project. Phase I will need to be completed prior to building this phase as Phase I is the signal source.

# 3.2.1.4: Priority Factors Supporting the Application

**a. Matching Funds and Village Commitment:** The Village is committed to advancing this project, which it views as an important economic development initiative. The Village is committed to funding this project, by contributing matching funds of at least 50%. The Village has worked diligently to engage Charter Communications in this project, and is willing to continue to partner with them on the installation, ownership, and operation of the service.

The Village is currently in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan. As a component of that planning effort Weston invested in the preparation of a Broadband Technology Plan chapter. Weston's Broadband Technology Plan chapter both emphasizes the importance Weston is placing on becoming a "wired" community and includes as specific recommendations partnerships with private service providers and state agencies on obtaining grants to overcoming hurdles to achieving broadband service goals. This planning effort has helped position the Village to create opportunities to enhance high speed, broadband technology. This is one of the more comprehensive of such efforts undertaken by a municipality in Wisconsin as part of their community-wide planning, and will be one of the first such chapters in any comprehensive plan in Wisconsin. This document is provided as an addendum to this grant application and can be viewed online at <a href="http://www.westonwi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1638">http://www.westonwi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1638</a>.

**b. Public –Private Partnership:** The Village worked diligently to engage Charter Communications as an official partner in this grant application. The Village has an ongoing relationship with Charter Communications, as a provider of high-speed data transmission within the community. Charter provides cable service to the community, and is committed to continue to serve the Village. Given limitations imposed by its corporate office at this time, Charter was unable to participate officially in this grant application. Charter in Wisconsin is committing its resources to the roll-out of all-digital cable television transmission, another stated reason for its in ability to participated fully in the grant application at this time. However, the local representatives from Charter worked closely with the Village to provide project plan and cost information.

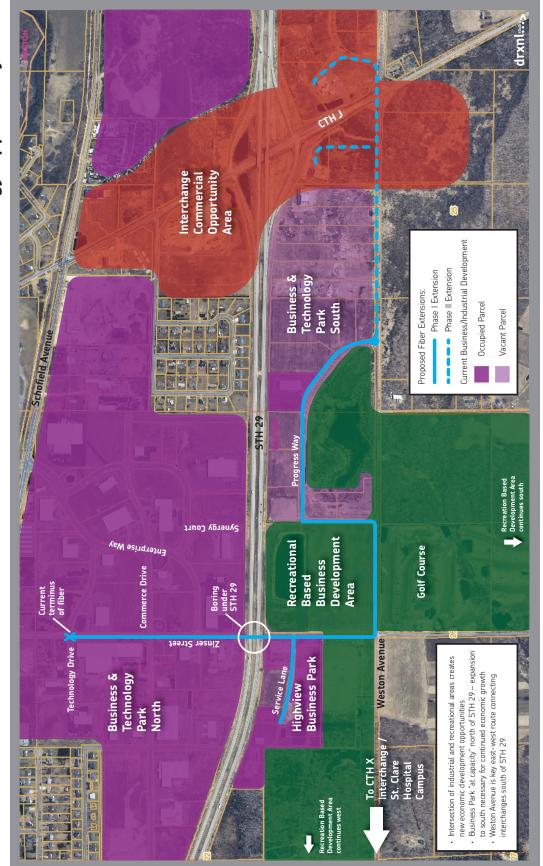
c. **Area Service Providers:** Portions of the Village of Weston are served by Frontier (DSL) and Charter Communications (Cable), Sprint, AT & T Mobility, CellCom (Wireless, cellular providers); and Level 3 Communications (Business Fiber). Most of these providers have limitations: gaps in service area, lower service options, or offer only cellular coverage.

The specific area to be served as part of this proposal has limited wired service options, primarily DSL provided by Frontier offering maximum speeds of an estimated 3 mbps. There is one company in the area that is known to be using satellite wireless technology.

Village of Weston: Broadband Expansion Grant Application

# d. Description of geographic area and the population, both in terms of absolute numbers and likely users, served by the proposed project.

The proposed project is to extend fiber optic infrastructure from the Village's original Business and Technology Park, north of STH 29 along Zinser Street and Weston Avenue to open up opportunities to serve businesses, community facilities and residents located south of STH 29. This expansion will extend service to an area that is significantly underserved and cannot adequately serve modern business development in its current state. This expansion of service would have significant economic benefit to the Village. A vision for the Village's growth and economic development in this area is shared on the following page.



Weston Business and Technology Opportunity Areas

20 March, 2014

Broadband expansion is critical to achieving this vision, and to Village economic development for several reasons:

- The Village's original Business and Technology Park (located north of STH 29 in an area with fiber infrastructure) is almost completely occupied. There are only three vacant lots remaining in this north Technology Park. Further, the STH 29/J interchange area is the only significant area in the Village where technology-based industrial development. Therefore, for the Village's economic base to grow as envisioned, it needs to facilitate business growth in these targeted locations south of STH 29.
- Phase I extension plans will have the added benefit of enhancing service parts of the Business and Technology Park North with the extension along Zinser St.
- In Business and Technology Park South, the proposed expansion would provide access to high speed download and upload transmission speeds that are currently unavailable in the area. Adequate transmission capacity is critical to immediate business prospects who are considering locating the Village, and will become more important with time and as the Village tries to attract "next-generation" companies. The Village's (and indeed all villages') ability to attract and retain businesses will be driven by access to high speed data transmission capabilities. There is a signed offer to purchase for a lot within Business and Technology Park South that is contingent on the Village's ability to get high-speed transmission service to the business.
- An immediate business prospect for which high-speed transmission is requisite to their location in Business and Technology Park South is a large production and drafting consulting business that would bring 18 high quality jobs to the community, with plans to hire 1 or 2 new employees annually. That business included a letter of support for this project, which is included as an exhibit at the end of this proposal. Additional prospects have inquired about lots in Business Park South, including a trucking company and sports training facility.
- Existing businesses in the area south of STH 29 have also inquired about enhancing service. Ultimately, the ability to have technology requirements met will drive whether these businesses are able to justify remaining in their location in the Village, or will need to relocate. Like many communities, business retention and expansion is the Village's economic development emphasis, but it needs to offer modern amenities to succeed in those efforts.
- The expansion of broadband service will serve up to 7 vacant lots planned for technology / industrial use located within Business and Technology Park South. The proposed expansion would make service accessible to these lots and enhance the Village's ability to attract high-quality companies.
- The expansion will also serve Highview Business Park. There are 4 contractor condominium buildings which can be divided into as many as 38 separate condominiums for business uses. These will present a great opportunity for business growth in the Village and could be marketed for tech-based start-up

businesses. There are additional vacant / underutilized lots within this business park.

- Population and housing counts are low in the project area. (51 residents, and 21 housing units based on 2010 Census counts). However, Weston has grown by 25% since 1990; these numbers will surely increase. In addition, as emphasized below, the area proposed to be served is not a residential area, so low population counts do not reflect the level of importance of this area to the Village. The area is a business and technology /industrial growth area critical to the economic development of the Village.
- Charter is able to provide the technology that is widely scalable to the demands of businesses and residents within the area. Download and upload speeds made available through the technology proposed to be installed is that are virtually "unlimited," with speeds in both directions of 1 Gbps being very feasible.

## Letters of Support for Village of Weston Broadband Grant Expansion Application

(1.) W.J. Higgins and Associates, Inc. is a business prospect for the Village, who purchased land in the planning area contingent on fiber being provided.

(2.) From the Forest and (3.) PGA, Inc. are existing businesses in the planning area that would benefit from higher speed broadband service and fiber connections.

6245 Packer Drive • Wausau, WI 54401 715.848.8677 • FAX 715.842.3767 www.wjhiggins.com

> W.J. Higgins & ASSOCIATES, INC.

March 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

We recently purchased land in the Village of Weston Industrial Park – South. We love the location and see massive potential for fellow businesses in that area. Currently, we are designing our building and hope to have it completed this fall.

W.J. Higgins & Associates, Inc. is a small service business. Our primary focus is architectural consulting and production drafting. We do much of our work throughout the Midwest and in several cities throughout the nation.

In the electronic age we live in it is critical for our business to have Charter business cable. Their superior bandwidth and speed is essential to transmit the files necessary on a daily basis. Access to this service is one of our primary reasons for relocating our business. The Village is doing what they can to get their service in this area; they recognize how crucial it is to attract businesses to the area. We appreciate any help that can be given to the good intentions of the Village.

Sincerely,

role

Jodie Higgins W.J. Higgins & Associates, Inc.



3-20-14

Re: Broadband Expansion Grant

To Whom It May Concern,

From the Forest is a manufacturer of wood flooring located at 9004 Progress Way, Weston, WI 54476. Our factory is in the Weston Industrial Park on the south side of Highway 29.

I am in support of the broadband expansion grant that the Village of Weston is applying for with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

Our only current option for the internet is a roof top receiver that communicates with a tower. It is a limiting option that would improve our business growth if the the broadband expansion grant is made available to the Village of Weston.

Sincerely,

Susan Lang Vice President, General Manager From the Forest



7306 Zinser Street ◆ Weston, WI 54476-4546 Phone: (715) 355-6717 ◆ FAX: (715) 355-4062 E-mail: pga@pgainc.net ◆ www.pgainc.net

March 21, 2014

To whom it may concern:

PGA Inc., well known for its expertise in residential plumbing and heating systems, over the years shifted their focus to the commercial industry. With this change, PGA Inc. has become a leader within the industry by incorporating high-tech heating and cooling systems such as Geothermal, VRF (variable refrigerant flow) and Photovoltaic systems. In order to stay aligned with the architectural industry, PGA Inc., through the use of BIM (building information modeling) 3d software, is able to design a plumbing and heating system within a structure and perform clash detection prior to the work being done on site. This approach is been being used successfully within the commercial construction industry and has proven to be a phenomenal tool to collaborate with all project stakeholders.

We employ 50 people and utilize very sophisticated software daily. Our current ability to communicate via the internet is basic at best. Our bandwidth demands continue to climb as our business continues to prosper. We support the Village of Weston and its quest to bring high speed internet to businesses like ours. We have expressed interest in upgrading our internet infrastructure before and are happy to give the Village our full support.

Sincerely,

William C Burton II Director

Sary Sweendt

Gary Guerndt Owner PGA Inc.