Grant Request Number	GRN-000506
Funding Program Name	Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program
Funding Request Name	BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC - Middle Mile - GRN-000506
Applying Organization	BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC
Applicant Name	Tim Bruny

Primary Applicant Type

Identify the primary applicant type:

Single Entity

———

Primary Entity Type

Type of entity: Primary entity type, (A) a State, political subdivision of a State, Tribal government, technology company, electric utility, utility cooperative, public utility district, telecommunications company, telecommunications cooperative, nonprofit foundation, nonprofit corporation, nonprofit institution, nonprofit association, regional planning council, Native entity, or economic development authority; or (B) a partnership of two (2) or more entities described in (A).

What is the primary applicant's entity type?

Telecommunications Company

———

Is parent/owner of applicant a foreign entity?

Yes

———

Please identify country.

Canada

———

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Jack Waters; BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC; Chief Executive Officer;
jack.waters@intrepidfiber.com
KeyPersonnel_Resume_Jack_Waters
———
Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Jeff Polachek; BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC; Construction and Operations Lead;
jeff.polachek@intrepidfiber.com
KeyPersonnel_Resume_Jeff_Polachek
———
Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Patrick Hildebrand; BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC; Business Development Lead;
patrick.hildebrand@intrepidfiber.com
KeyPersonnel_Resume_Patrick_Hildebrand
———
Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Tim Bruny; BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC; Chief Financial Officer;
tim.bruny@intrepidfiber.com
KeyPersonnel_Resume_Tim_Bruny
———
Organizational Charts

Each applicant shall submit any necessary organizational chart(s) detailing all of its parent companies, subsidiaries, and affiliates.

Org Chart-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506-08-20-2022 02-39-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf

———

Organizational Details

Each applicant must also provide a narrative describing the applicant's readiness to manage a middle mile broadband network. This narrative should describe the experience and qualifications of key management set to undertake this project, the applicant's experience undertaking projects of similar size and scope, recent and upcoming organizational changes including mergers and acquisitions, relevant organizational policies, and ownership information consistent with 47 CFR § 1.2112.

This narrative shall denote who will own the assets at the end of award period. This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Intrepid Fiber is a Fiber to the Home company funded by Brookfield Infrastructure Group. Brookfield is one of the World's Leading Investors with roughly $700 Billion in Assets Under Management (AUM). From a financial viability perspective, Intrepid Fiber is well funded with the backing of one of the World's largest investors.

. Brookfield Infrastructure Group/Brookfield Asset Management Group is Headquartered in Toronto, Canada and has offices and operations in many parts of the Globe. Brookfield Asset Management Group has ownership of Brookfield Infrastructure Fund, and Intrepid Fiber is part of the Brookfield Infrastructure Fund. Brookfield Asset Management and subsequently Brookfield Infrastructure Fund have 100% ownership over Intrepid Fiber Networks. Per 47 CFR § 1.2112(7), Brookfield Asset Management is a investment firm headquartered in Canada.

From an organizational readiness perspective, the collective Intrepid Leadership Team has well over 100 years of experience in deploying Fiber Optic Networks to communities including Residential Fiber Builds, Metro Fiber Builds for Enterprise, Middle Mile Network Builds, and Long-Haul Network builds connecting markets. All of the leadership has run projects of similar size and scope to Pueblo, CO. We all have experience in engineering, Construction disciplines (permitting, licensing, ROW Agreements, Aerial, Underground, etc.). We have all run projects with a total capital budget over what Pueblo Middle Mile will require. Intrepid has adopted a stringent compliance, health, and safety program, and we operate with integrity and inclusion. At Intrepid, we also strongly believe in community inclusion and have met with the Mayor, Chamber of Commerce, and have received our License Agreement from the City. At the end of the award period, Intrepid Fiber will own the Fiber Infrastructure supporting Middle Mile and Pueblo. Intrepid Fiber is a Wholesale Open Access Network, which means we are carrier agnostic, and will allow multiple to many Internet suppliers on our network. We believe this gives communities more choice, better rates due to competition, and is less intrusive to build in a community.

Our CEO Jack Waters has held numerous positions in both executive business roles as well as engineering and operations roles. He has led fiber construction projects totaling millions of fiber miles being deployed in North America. In his previous role as COO at Zayo Group, he oversaw the

company's global Network business, including the Fiber Solutions, Transport, Enterprise, and strategic networks businesses in addition to network operations and security. Prior to his Zayo role, Jack was CTO at Level 3 Communications, where he was one of the founding senior executives focused on global network technology, architecture, engineering, process, and security. He joined Level 3 in 1997 and held numerous leadership roles spanning global operations and engineering and was responsible for the original Level 3 network buildout.
Our Head of Construction and Operations, Jeff Polachek, has over 25 years of experience within the Telecommunications and Construction industry. He has held leadership positions within Engineering, Construction, Network Development, Network Operations, and Service Delivery. Jeff has led initiatives investing billions of dollars in infrastructure, resulting in hundreds of thousands of miles of fiber network.
———
Form CD-511 (Certification Regarding Lobbying)

The applicant must upload a completed form that certifies that Federal funds have not and will not be used for lobbying in connection with this request for Federal financial assistance. A fillable Form CD-511 can be found in the MMG ZIP folder.

CD511-09-27-2022 11-26-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf, CD511 Signed-11-04-2022 05-12-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf
———
Standard Form-LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities)

Standard Form-LLL must be completed and submitted for those applicants that need to disclose lobbying activities that have been secured to influence the outcome of a Federal action. A fillable Form SF-LLL can be found in the MMG ZIP folder.

SF-LLL Signed-09-27-2022 11-26-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf
———
SAM.gov Registration

Applicants are asked to upload a screenshot of their SAM.gov registration.

Sam-09-27-2022 11-27-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.gov Registration.pdf, Sam-11-04-2022 05-12-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.gov Registration.pdf
———
Executive Summary

Please describe how the applicant's proposal will advance the objectives of the MMG Program, as well as the specific objectives of outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO);

An overview of the proposed route or service area(s), including information regarding rurality and

socio-economic indicators in the area to be served by the proposed project.
This response is limited to 12000 characters as an open field narrative.

The NTIA Middle Mile Program was created to fund the construction of middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting areas that are unserved and underserved to the internet backbone. Intrepid Fiber has developed the Pueblo Middle Mile Project, which will lead to a last mile project that will connect 41,074 homes, MDUs, & small businesses. The project fully meets the NTIA's goal of promoting broadband connection resiliency. The double ring network created in this project will prevent single points of failure across Intrepid Fiber's broadband network.

The proposed network in this project will be able to provide direct interconnect facilities that will facilitate the provision of broadband service to anchor institutions that currently suffer from inadequate connectivity. This includes four local libraries, six government buildings, seven medical centers/hospitals, eight fire departments, twenty-one schools, and the police station. In addition to these 25 institutions supported by the Middle-Mile Grant, Intrepid will be supporting a broader roll-out of the network within Pueblo that will capture an additional 20+ Anchor Institutions.

The project proposed by Intrepid Fiber will meet four of the five statutory purposes of the Middle Mile Grant Program. Intrepid Fiber commits to adhering to these purposes.

1) Fiscally Sustainable: Intrepid Fiber is committed to using fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies. As shown in the pro-forma, the anticipated revenues associated with the Pueblo project will be sufficient to allow long-term provision of service in light of reasonably anticipated costs. The financial history for Intrepid Fiber's parent company, Brookfield, substantiates the fiscal sustainability of this project. The leadership team at Intrepid has vast experience in managing budgets for expansive projects and knows how to anticipate and mitigate any financial obstacles that may occur during the construction and deployment period, once again ensuring the successful long-term provision of middle mile services.

2) Non-Discrimination: The open-access network that will be deployed will allow for interconnection on a carrier-neutral basis that is non-discriminatory. It will allow for interconnection to the public internet and the physical interconnection for the exchange of traffic. An open-access network such as this will increase competition in the area, which will lead to lower prices for end consumers.

3) ISP Interest: Intrepid Fiber has a Tier 1 internet service provider in place who wishes to utilize the proposed middle mile infrastructure. Due to privacy, the name of the provider cannot be shared at this time but can be made available upon award.

5) National Security: The double ring network is also a key component for ensuring national security benefits. Fiber is a secure telecommunications medium which can be deployed as a private Dark Fiber Network. A portion of Intrepid's Fiber network will include dark strands to allow secure private

networks for local, state, and federal governments. The redundancy that will be provided by the proposed network is also crucial for national security. The redundant network will mean that no essential agency will be without connectivity if a line is cut. This will ensure traffic signals, emergency response systems, and government records are kept safe, secure, and will continue operating as required.

Intrepid Fiber also commits to two of the three prioritizations–connecting middle mile infrastructure to last mile networks that provide or plan to provide service to households in unserved areas and offering wholesale broadband service at reasonable rates on a carrier-neutral basis.

The route of this network will run across the city of Pueblo, utilizing rights-of-way when possible and working over previously disturbed areas. The project involves the placement of 78,129 feet of aerial & 29,173 feet of underground fiber to provide a protected ring from the Pueblo datacenter to 6 remote CO cabinets.

The Pueblo project has been through initial review and approvals to move forward with construction by our parent company Brookfield. As mentioned in the application, Brookfield has roughly $700 Billion of Assets Under Management so the cash availability will not be an issue. Also, Intrepid has a Tier 1 Internet service provider (T-Mobile) that wishes to utilize the proposed infrastructure

This middle mile infrastructure will serve an area that currently faces high poverty levels and high unemployment compared to the state. Colorado currently has a 3.4% unemployment rate according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Pueblo currently faces a 5.2% unemployment rate. Pueblo also has a 22% poverty rate, more than three times that of the state. Many households in the area are underserved and unserved. The $4,631,407.01 total project cost outlined in this application will make great strides towards bringing economic prosperity to Pueblo, provide much needed redundancy to the area, increase competition amongst providers, and allow for this Colorado town to fully join the digital age. Intrepid Fiber is prepared to contribute 41.5%, or $1,920,436.04, of the total in a cash match.
———

Level of Need

A description of the level of need in the proposed service area(s), including but not limited to communities considered unserved and/or underserved in the proposed service area(s), discussion of the competitive landscape in the area, variations among service areas if there are any, or the general economic conditions in the proposed funded service area.

This response is limited to 12000 characters as an open field narrative.

Intrepid Fiber is looking to receive this grant to improve broadband infrastructure and access to Pueblo, Colorado. Currently this town has limited access to fiber infrastructure. What is available comes at a high price that may not be feasible to average homes. Depending on the number of devices

in one home, current cable streaming limits the quality of access, especially impacting how and when residents work or learn from home. The town of Pueblo has a population of 112,000+ (Pueblowas) and currently does not have the broadband capability to best serve its residents. According to the NTIA Indicator of Needs Map, Pueblo falls under the 'underserved' category with median Ookla speed test averaging 38.16/11.30mbps. Alongside these lacking upload/download speeds, 37.8% of households do not have internet connection. Currently CenturyLink does offer fiber/broadband connection but the lofty pricing, starting around $90, isn't feasible for budgeting around minimum wage jobs. This pricing is certainly untenable for those who are in poverty–almost 22% of all Pueblowas. This poverty rate is more than three times that of the state of Colorado. Pueblowas face certain hardships related to their current socio-economic state that a better broadband connection will vastly improve.

Broadband access will make major strides for health and wellness for the town of Pueblo. However much of the health data cannot be found at the town level, so county level data is used to assess the area. Reports from County Health Ranking show Pueblo having higher "poor or fair (mental and physical) health" than the state and national rates, including 46.19% of Pueblo County residents being enrolled in Medicaid. This means Pueblowas require access to resources that will provide them with better quality of life. According to the same County Health Rankings, 31% of the adults in the county were considered obese. Currently there are 1,450 patients per 1 primary care physician, which strains the quality of care available and accessible to each client. The reality of Pueblo County is more grim when looking into elevated levels of addiction/death related to drug overdose, teen birth, and 'preventable hospital stays' when compared to the rest of the state. Intrepid Fiber wants to provide better broadband access for a better, healthier Pueblo. Nearly 40% of Pueblowas aren't currently using the internet at qualifying broadband speeds, which impacts the capability to access or stream telemedicine calls with better/more health care providers. Residents could research and join teletherapy sessions to invest in their mental health or stream videos from health care providers anywhere in the world that discuss the benefits and methods to adapt to a healthier lifestyle.

Pueblowas' lack of economic prosperity is another cyclic side effect due to their lack of broadband access. The town of Pueblo is considered at the 250% federal poverty level but is still having trouble providing resources. The town residents' education levels and occupation type contribute to the lack of community engagement. American Community Survey (ACS) data shows that in the 7 most centralized Census tracts, roughly 20-29% Pueblowas over the age of 25 do not have high school diplomas. This level of education in turn impacts career opportunities and pay range. Still in the education realm, many children statewide are struggling to both afford school lunches and meet grade level proficiency. The Annie E. Casey Foundation reports that, in 2021, 37% of PK-12 students (329,600 students) qualified for free or reduced lunch; the largest portion of those students (31% or 273,688 students) eligible for free lunch, based on family income being less than 130% of federal poverty level. According to the same report, in 2019, 78% of fourth grade students who are eligible for free school lunches were not reading at grade level proficiency.

The same American Community Survey report also shows that roughly 23% of Pueblo residents have occupations in sales/retail or some version of administrative support. These job sectors took huge hits during the Covid-19 pandemic across the country. The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment recorded a 3.3% unemployment rate as of July 2022, with a minimum wage of $12.56 per hour. In an

attempt to recover from the pandemic, “The Pueblo Chieftain” article claims that retail/administrative support jobs are not able to find a stable workforce in Pueblo County. While Pueblo continues to struggle with this lack of workforce in person, remote work will offer people the chance to earn more money from home. Also indicative of the economic state, the current median household income is approximately $49,000 per year, compared to the state average of $75,231. Better broadband connection for the town of Pueblo would mean that more residents would have the chance to invest in their continued education, leading to different opportunities including but not limited to hybrid or fully remote careers. Considering this would also mean a change in lifestyle and personal priorities, Pueblowas would have more time to invest and give back to their communities. Broadband speeds provided in downtown areas like civic centers would mean abilities to stream and contribute to local town hall meetings. Both virtual participation and increased financial capabilities would mean time and money back into public works projects too.
The community of Pueblo would benefit from better quality broadband access. Intrepid is partnering with a Tier 1 carrier to provide service on an open access network. For privacy reasons, Intrepid can’t disclose who this partner is at this time. With better access to quality broadband, current and future Pueblowas will continue to invest in their communal well-being. Telehealth medicine and remote job/educational opportunities would catapult the current residents into a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle. Telehealth medicine would alleviate the “in person” medical professionals and concurrently provide better quality healthcare to the residents of Pueblo in the privacy of their homes. Remote access to other job and educational opportunities lead to higher pay and wider networks. Pueblowas would have autonomy over their own schedule and lifestyle choices that would improve (individual) quality of life. Empowered with quality broadband access and better choices, Pueblo would come together as a community to more frequently participate in town hall meetings, modernize town legislation, and improve the town’s quality of life for ‘future’ residents.

———

State Collaboration Acknowledgement

NTIA strongly encourages prospective non-state applicants to coordinate and consult with the State Broadband Office or other coordinating body located in the jurisdiction in which the eligible entity proposes to deploy middle mile infrastructure to ensure that the proposal is consistent with the state’s broadband plan and priorities. Please confirm collaboration and consultation.

Do you confirm collaboration and consultation with the appropriate organization?

Yes

———

State and Local Collaboration Narrative

Please provide information on the applicant’s coordination with applicable State, Territory, Tribal, and local governments, including their awareness of the proposed project and any potential impact to respective service areas; and

Information regarding the applicant's involvement and coordination with community organizations or other relevant partners in the proposed service area.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Intrepid Fiber has been in communication with Pueblo May Nick Gradishar, Liz Pinz who serves as the IT Manager for Pueblo, the City Manager Andrew Hayes, and members of the Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo. The Mayor, the previously listed individuals, and members of the chamber are in full support of the proposed Pueblo Middle Mile Project, which will eventually lead to a fiber to the home network that will support all citizens.

There have been successful discussions with the mayor of Pueblo but no letters of support at this time. As the project begins, Intrepid Fiber will continue communicating with the government leaders of Pueblo and begin coordinated efforts to inform community organizations and anchor institutions.

Intrepid Fiber's leadership team has been in communication with the Colorado Broadband Office. We have had productive meetings discussing the Pueblo project and the need for digital equity in the unserved communities. The project designed is in line with the state broadband goals.

———

Will the project connect middle mile infrastructure to last mile networks that provide or plan to provide broadband service to households in unserved areas?

Yes

———

Is the project connecting non-contiguous trust lands?

No

———

Do you commit to offering wholesale broadband service at reasonable rates on a carrier-neutral basis?

Yes

———

The eligible entity adopts fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies. This strategy should be described in the Budget Narrative.

Do you attest to this?

Yes

———

The eligible entity commits to offering non-discriminatory interconnect to terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers and any other party making a bona fide request. This policy will be described in the Interconnect Policy.

Do you attest to this?

Yes

———

The eligible entity identifies specific terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers that have(i) expressed written interest in interconnecting with middle mile infrastructure planned to be deployed by the eligible entity; and ii) demonstrated sustainable business plans or adequate funding sources with respect to such interconnection. This may be demonstrated in the Level of Need narrative of the Exec Summary.

Do you attest to this?

Yes

———

The eligible entity has identified supplemental investments or in-kind support (such as waived franchise or permitting fees) that will accelerate the completion of the planned project. Such acceleration may be described in the Project Timeline narrative.

Do you attest to this?

No

———

The eligible entity has demonstrated that the middle mile infrastructure will benefit national security interests of the United States and the Department of Defense. The benefits may be explained in the Benefitting National Security Interests Narrative.

Do you attest to this?

Yes

———

Please describe:

Funding the Pueblo Middle Mile Grant will provide this community with a state of the art, high speed, fiber network. This network will be redundant and diverse, where a community might have a fiber cut but only a small percentage of the population might feel an outage. This redundancy and resiliency will meet national security interests by protecting broadband services in this rural area in the case of an emergency or outage. A fiber network that we are proposing will be a resilient network that should last in the community over 20 years. The fiber infrastructure built will also be built with enough strands of

fiber to support Enterprise, Wireless, and Government operations in the City over time. Providing backup for government operations–such as police departments and traffic systems, is of critical need in the event of an outage, so public safety is not at risk. IFN's ability to provide a Wholesale Open Access Network will ensure that multiple ISP's can utilize this network reliably and securely. IFN will not deploy any foreign equipment or optronics that are on a Federal Exclusion List such as Huawei. The IFN Fiber Network will be monitored 24/7 by a Network Operation Center. The redundancy and resiliency of the Fiber Network should keep material outages and downtime to a minimum within the Pueblo community.

———

Project Duration

Number of Years

2

———

Project Timeline Narrative

The narrative requires the Applicant to describe a project with critical path, including key milestones for implementation of the project, preparations, and risk factors; and a capital investment schedule evidencing that the applicant will complete build-out and the initiation of service within five years of the date on which the entity receives the grant and will meet interim buildout requirements set forth herein and in any other binding document.
If the project is able to be accelerated with supplemental investments or in-kind support to meet a statutory purpose, this should be explained.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

The Pueblo fiber to the home project includes 78,129FT of aerial construction, 29,173FT of underground construction & the placement of 6 remote CO cabinets designed in 3 protected rings along with 2 aggregation routers located in a central Pueblo datacenter. This network is designed to support 41,074 homes, MDUs, & small businesses. The critical paths for the network to provide service are the completion of the backbone rings between the 6 remote CO cabinets & the Pueblo datacenter, as well as the connection from the Pueblo datacenter to the Denver core routers.
The middle mile backbone portion of this project involves the placement of 78,129FT of aerial & 29,173FT of underground to provide a protected ring from the Pueblo datacenter to the 6 remote CO cabinets. The cost for this backbone construction is $4,181,073.16. The portion of this backbone that will be designed & built prior to the end of March 2023 is 14,599 FT aerial & 3,719 FT of underground, at a combined cost of $689,645 (not requested in the grant budget). The total construction during this grant period with a 12% contingency is $4,682,801.94.
The portion of the project which will be funded by the Middle Mile Grant Program will begin on April 1,

2023 and complete by September 30, 2024.
The spend forecast for the project begins in the third quarter of 2023, with a spend of $3.7m, ramps to peaks of $8.5m & $9.6m in the second & third quarters of 2023 & slowly tapers down through the second quarter of 2025 where it ends.
The biggest risk to the project is to continue securing the human resources to construct & manage the project. It is more difficult to find these resources in rural communities such as Pueblo.
The key milestones for this project include completed milestones: capital funding of $57,663,100, high level design of the market, locating & ordering material, signing pole attachment agreements with pole owners, the purchase of a GIS and other tracking systems. The following milestones are in progress and should be completed before grant award: colocation agreement for the Pueblo datacenter, transport from the Pueblo datacenter to the core routers in Denver, low-level design of the Pueblo network and a contract for network monitoring. The following milestones are critical paths that are slated to begin over the next few months and continue for 34 months: submit permit applications (April 2023 – December 2023), construction of the backbones between the datacenter & the remote CO cabinets (April 2023 – August 2024), installation & turn-up of the network routers, placement & turn up of the remote CO cabinets & the construction of the neighborhood distribution network that provides service to the homes, MDUs, & small businesses(April 2023 – September 2024).
———

Project Timeline File

Applicants are asked to upload a timeline which will denote key milestones for implementation of the project, including but not limited to field survey, network design, equipment/material procurement, environmental assessment, permitting, construction, network testing, network activation and completion.

Pueblo Milestones-09-27-2022 02-33-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.xlsx, Pueblo Milestones Timeline_Revised 1-26-23-01-26-2023 04-45-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.xlsx
———

Is an extension being requested?

No
———

Special Rules for Tribal Governments and Native Entities

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act permits the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with Tribal governments and Native entities, to waive, or specify alternative requirements, in connection with most directives governing the MMG Program if the Assistant Secretary finds that waiver or modification of the requirement is necessary for (a) the effective delivery and administration of middle mile grants to Tribal governments or (b) the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure on trust land.

Is a waiver or alternative requirements requested?

No

———

Fair Labor Practices

Applicants must have a demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws as described in III.H in the NOFO. This will help ensure that projects are carried out in accordance with the law, assist NTIA in ensuring that a prospective awardee is capable of carrying out activities funded by an award in a competent manner in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws; and promote the effective and efficient completion of high-quality middle mile broadband infrastructure projects by ensuring a reliable supply of skilled workers and minimizing disruptive and costly delays.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Intrepid Fiber has a clean record as it relates to compliance with federal labor and employment laws. With that said, Intrepid Fiber was Incorporated in late 2021, so our compliance history is short. Intrepid's leadership has a long history of adhering to Labor and Employment Laws, Safety, and commitment to hiring appropriate individuals through their tenures with Level 3 Communications, Centurylink, Lumen, and Zayo.

For Pueblo, we are using one main General Contractor who has a stellar record in Occupational Safety and Health Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, etc. Our main General Contractor is CNS Networks LLC. Since Intrepid's inception, there have been no instances of violating laws such as Occupational Safety and Health Act, Fair Labor Standards or any other applicable law violations in the preceding 3 years. Intrepid is also not aware of any instances of violation of these laws with our main General Contractor CNS Networks LLC.

Intrepid plans to adhere to Federal and State Wage Scale laws including Minimum Wage and anti-discriminatory wage practices and hourly employees will have access to Overtime in accordance with State and Federal Laws. This adherence is also observed by our General Contractor. Intrepid plans to pay prevailing wages as does our General Contractor. Intrepid and our general contractor are already in the process of hiring local individuals to oversee this project.

From a Workplace Safety perspective, Intrepid Fiber promotes a safety culture based on the following principles; We believe that every accident is preventable, Company leadership is responsible for, and actively participates in, the management of health and safety. Every employee is responsible for, and contributes to, safe work performance. Safety programs consider our employees, contractors, and the population potentially affected by our operations. Transparency and learning from experience are promoted to continuously improve safety performance. Our priority is identifying the high-risk factors

involved in our operations and eliminate the energy out of control that can produce a Serious Safety Incident (SSI). We believe in the use of job planning and barriers to eliminate the risk of exposure to forms of energy that can cause severe injuries. We should gain from the knowledge and learnings resulting from High-Risk Incident investigations that are shared through the organization. Intrepid has a hotline for all direct and subcontracted employees to utilize to report safety concerns, compliance concerns, or workplace hazards. Our general contractor CNS Networks LLC has similar Safety protocols, training, and a hot line.

Intrepid and our Contractors have a commitment to hire appropriately skilled labor who are recruited through experience, vocational training, and registered apprenticeships. These employees and contractors are screened for the appropriate credentials, training, and certifications.

The Fair Labor policy at Intrepid includes the following categories:

- Health and Safety
- Anti-Harassment and anti-bullying
- Work Hours, Wages and Benefits
- Working conditions
- Elimination of Child labor
- Elimination of Forced Labor

Additionally, many of these areas are also addressed in the Code of Conduct, Responsible Contractor policy and Positive Work Environment policy

All company and compliance policies (including Fair Labor) are reviewed quarterly as part of Intrepid's Board of Directors meetings. These reviews include a readout of all incidents from the prior quarter, any actions plans resulting from the incident, as well as, any changes required for to the go-forward policy. Intrepid and our parent company Brookfield are committed to operating in compliance with all of the aforementioned policies.

———

Officer Certification

In order for NTIA to evaluate an applicant's demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws, each applicant must provide examples of items described in III.H in the NOFO. Applicants are asked to upload a Certification from an Officer/Director-level employee (or equivalent) of the applicant evidencing consistent past compliance with federal labor and employment laws by the applicant, as well as contractors and subcontractors.

Fair Labor Certification Signed-09-27-2022 02-36-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf

———

Highly Skilled Workforce

To ensure that applicants have the technical and operational capacity to carry out the project,

applicants must submit a plan for ensuring that the project workforce will be an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce (including by the applicant and each of its contractors and subcontractors). The plan for a highly skilled workforce should include the information described in III.I in the NOFO.

This response is limited to 6
000 characters as an open field narrative.

Intrepid Fiber will ensure appropriately skilled workforce by partnering with our General Contractor who will perform background checks, drug screening, and criminal history checks. Our General Contractor will also ensure that any subcontractors are appropriately insured for general liability, disability and other insurance which is required to be on a job site. Intrepid and our General Contractor will ensure that the employees will be appropriately trained on the various disciplines that this type of project will require. Disciplines such as underground construction, aerial construction, appropriate permitting and engineering, inspectors, & project managers, will all have the appropriate amount of training and previous experience to justify their inclusion on this project. Intrepid Fiber and our General Contractor incorporates training subjects such as safety, new construction techniques, operation of equipment, appropriate use of yard space, tracking of materials, customer service when dealing with residents, and new permitting guidelines within Pueblo. Currently, Intrepid Fiber and our General Contractor are not unionized, but we are supportive of workers' voice if/when they choose to implement a union philosophy.

The constructing of a large city like Pueblo will require Intrepid to have both direct employment and subcontracted employment. Currently, we are working with one general contractor whose business name is CNS Networks LLC. They have extensive experience in large projects in the telecom space and specifically in Colorado. They have many contracts with the largest telecommunication companies in the US.

The Pueblo project is currently anticipated to have 80-100 full time employees both subcontracted and direct hires. This headcount is an estimation and there will be different disciplines supporting the project at various times. Intrepid will employ Project Management, Inspectors, and a material management overlay. Our safety/OSHA program includes training, a hotline anonymous phone number to report any safety concerns, and a robust Safety Manual that must be read and accepted within weeks of employment. Our General Contractor CNS Networks will employ field crews who specialize in underground conduit and fiber placement, aerial fiber placement, the placement of 'flower pots' and splitters in a community, yard managers and personnel and construction project managers to oversee the Pueblo build. CNS Networks has a similar Safety/OSHA compliance as Intrepid, and they have other monthly trainings on traffic control, electrical seminars, and other training programs. Both subcontractor and direct employees will have appropriate certifications in their specific fields such as Fiber Optics Technician (FOTC), Fiber Optic Installer (FOIC), Certified Fiber Optic Splicing (CFOS), and others. Both companies will require work experience of 1-5 years minimum depending on discipline of

construction and will review certifications before hiring.

———

Advancing Workforce Development

A skilled workforce is critical to meeting infrastructure buildout timelines under the Infrastructure Act and connecting households across the country to reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband. A well-trained workforce will also allow for the safe deployment of sustainable networks. To meet the workforce needs of the MMG Program, applicants must make appropriate investments to develop a skilled, diverse workforce. Each applicant must provide as part of its application examples of items described in III.J in the NOFO.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Intrepid Fiber will be building a Middle Mile and ultimately a Fiber to the Home network in Pueblo which will require skilled workforce labor. Our safety training and our General Contractor's safety programs should ensure a workforce free of safety concerns. Our General Contractor is working within the Pueblo boundaries to find qualified talent to build this network. Qualified employees will understand underground, aerial, yard and material management, project management, engineering, and permitting. Intrepid will be hiring inspectors, project managers, business and community development, network engineering, Finance and accounting, and network development. Our general contractor currently engages in workforce training and apprenticeships through vocational schools and colleges in the Denver Metro area. They also incorporate Safety and on the job training to further develop their workforce. In order to keep our workforce engaged, we offer a very competitive annual or hourly salary, and there are performance bonuses which will have a safety component as well. There will be internal growth as Intrepid grows and our leadership team has shown a propensity in previous roles to promote internally. Intrepid and our General Contractor offer quality benefits such as PTO, Health, and Insurance.

Currently, Intrepid Fiber and our General Contractor are not unionized. The skill set gained by working with Intrepid or our General Contractor could be viewed as a springboard into many other Construction and Telecom ventures. This type of project in Pueblo will provide our workforce with the ability to on-ramp into other broadband related jobs with Cable Companies, Long Haul providers, Wireless Providers, and FTTH. Employees are also able to move into other industries such as utilities and energy/pipeline construction. Job quality will be of utmost concern and training and on the job coaching will ensure that our workforce is engaged, committed, continuously learning, and ultimately grows within our industry. Intrepid Fiber continuously engages with our peers to understand trends,

issues, and safety concerns. When we are moving into a City to deploy fiber, we engaged with the Mayor, City Manager, and the Chamber of Commerce to gain their perspective. All of the Pueblo Government is excited to have high speed fiber coming into their community and believe it will support education, growth, and a healthy society. Intrepid will strive to create a diverse workforce within Pueblo and will also strive to train underrepresented populations. We will also work with local communities to engage in programs that are supportive and embrace the community. Intrepid is a relatively young company, but we have a diverse labor pool as a top priority. Both companies will be working with the communities to find diverse labor and will also seek to hire veterans.

———

Climate Resiliency

Please demonstrate that the applicant has sufficiently accounted for current and future weather- and climate-related risks to new MMG Program infrastructure projects. In particular, each applicant should clearly demonstrate how it is conducting the items listed in III.K in the NOFO.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Intrepid Fiber is building a Fiber Network in Pueblo, CO, which will be resilient and should be future proof for decades. Fiber in general is a more resilient product as it pertains to many climate scenarios that would be felt in a community. Typically, fiber networks have exposure to fire, flood, earthquakes, ice, tornadoes, and occasionally wind. In Pueblo, these climate dangers are mitigated as there have been no earthquakes or major fires in the Pueblo Metro area. Pueblo will have roughly 30% of the network buried, which further 'hardens' the network from Climate impacts. Typically, a city will experience climate related exposure in a part of the city, and not the whole city. Thus, a redundant/protected network like we are building will allow us to reroute traffic around a ring in the event of a climate force majeure scenario. Furthermore, an aerial network (which Pueblo will have 70% of aerial) will be easier to fix in the event of a climate situation based on accessibility to the fiber.

Intrepid Fiber consulted NOAA's Colorado state climate summary to determine that wildfire risk and flash flooding would be the most prominent weather/climate related risks to this network. Addressing wildfire risk, we have planned a Middle Mile that is protected and redundant. If a part of the network were to go down due to wildfire, we would be able to reroute traffic around the network to keep Internet connectivity stable. In the case of flooding, our fiber should be safe, and our biggest concern would be the equipment that is deployed to support Internet connectivity. Based on data from FEMA Risk Index, Intrepid recognizes the possibility of riverine flooding and will follow the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and Implementing Guidelines. The Climate Informed Science Approach (CISA) is

one way we will measure/use 'hydrologic and hydraulic data' periodically. Intrepid also recognizes that FEMA has identified hail and cold waves as high risks. However, these events would not have a negative impact on the infrastructure, nor would the infrastructure contribute to these climate concerns. Our mitigation plan for this equipment is to keep spares locally in Pueblo, and to have on call staff to maintain or install new equipment or cabinets in the Datacenter or Remote CO's if the need arises. Intrepid Fiber will also have Business Continuity Disaster Recovery plans as part of our quarterly review to assess and implement plans to address climate concerns. The Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and Implementing Guideline will be periodically consulted to ensure best practices. Intrepid Fiber will also carry insurance for such force majeure events in the form of property insurance.

This project will take place in the Southwest region of the United States as defined in the 2018 National Climate assessment. This region is subject to extreme heat—climate models predict an 8.6 degree increase in annual average temperatures by 2100. This increase in temperature would also contribute to lower soil moisture, reduced snow cover, earlier and slower snowmelt, and efficiency of snowmelt. Hydrological drought, water shortages, and loss of ecosystem are some of the pressing climate challenges, all of which contribute to an increase in wildfires. New published research determined future vulnerabilities include floods, post-wildfire effects on ecosystems—such as degraded drinking water--and a reduction in hydropower and fossil fuel energy.

All physical assets are designed to be installed in outdoor elements and are hardened to perform during weather events. All active electronics are either installed inside a residence or in weather hardened cabinets with resilient power. All field electronics are protected by bollard posts to protect against traffic or other events.

All Intrepid Core networking equipment and remote optical line terminal equipment have backup power sources which are either generator or battery based in the event of climate or weather events.

———

Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance

Prior to distributing any MMG Program funding to a prospective awardee, NTIA will require the prospective awardee to agree, by contract or other binding commitment, to abide by the non-discrimination requirements set forth in III.J in the NOFO.

Do you agree to abide by the non-discrimination requirements?

Yes

———

Certification of Technical Capability

Each applicant must supply a certification attesting that it is technically qualified to complete and

operate the proposed project.

Technical Capability Certification-09-27-2022 11-28-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf

———

Interconnect Policy

The Applicant must describe in detail the nondiscrimination, interconnection, and network management practices that would be adopted for the project facilities. The Applicant should describe how it will comply with nondiscrimination and interconnection obligations, particularly with connectivity to the public Internet and physical interconnection for the exchange of traffic. In addition to describing network management practices, the Applicant should disclose any practices in place to block access to illegal or harmful content.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Intrepid Fiber is building a Wholesale Open Access Network in Pueblo. This network will be able to serve multiple ISPs who would like to serve residential homes but might not be able to afford the upfront capital to build a greenfield market in Pueblo. A Wholesale Open Access Network allows multiple ISPs to offer 1 gig symmetrical services or greater on the same network. Intrepid Fiber will also offer traditional Wholesale and Enterprise services to small, medium, and large customers operating in Pueblo. Traditional services offered would be: High Speed Internet to businesses, Dark Fiber to Small Cell or Macro Cell Tower connectivity, potential wave services in Pueblo Metro, and Private Dark Fiber connectivity to Government and administrative offices. Intrepid will be building our network with additional strands of fiber to offer future services in a non-discriminatory fashion.

Intrepid will offer interconnections of our facilities to a requesting party's facility for the interexchange of traffic. As mentioned above, our network will support Dark Fiber, transmission services, transport such as Private Line and Waves, and Dedicated Internet Access. Feasible location types could be previously defined interconnection points, new connection points to meet the customer by providing a fiber extension, and our network will be located in a centralized Data Center where customers could meet Intrepid for future services. Intrepid Fiber will allow interconnection points where technically feasible, will not discriminate, and will negotiate in good faith. Intrepid will make best efforts for requests for access to public internet, will work with the City of Pueblo for their private network needs, and will work with the community on other programs such as 5G expansion if needed. Any network built by the NTIA Middle Mile Grant Program will be offered in perpetuity.

Intrepid Fiber will have policies and technology in place to block illegal or harmful content. We currently do not have a URL to our interconnection policy as we are still developing our Wholesale and Enterprise offerings. Over time, Intrepid will advertise the benefit of an open access network on our website. Our network will be resilient, so we will have diverse points to ensure maximum up time. Our Network Operation Center will be managed by one of the world's largest telecommunications

equipment manufacturer in Nokia. They will provide proactive monitoring, reactive break / fix callouts, sparing of equipment assistance, and isolation of network element causing any outage. Our terms and conditions will ultimately have provisions surrounding up/down time, cybersecurity provisions, and operation and maintenance windows during off peak hours. From the above-mentioned service offerings, Intrepid will offer interconnection services in perpetuity, but will still have a monthly charge and a term to the service.

Other items to note:

- Our standard slack is 50 feet at each splice point and 50 feet every quarter mile when no splices are present.
- Our colocation space is leased and has sufficient space for others to co-locate near our equipment rack.

———

Technical Overview

Please describe targeted last mile service objectives, including last mile service provider letters of commitment, agreements, or contracts; and a description of the proposed service offerings, including the pricing of the services to be offered over the proposed facility.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Intrepid Fiber is seeking to build a Fiber to the Home Network in Pueblo to connect a community that has had lower speed internet connectivity for years. Without this Middle Mile Network, it will be very difficult to construct and payback a network of this size. The last mile has the objective of passing over 41,000 homes in the Pueblo community, with the goal to pass every home over time (roughly 48,000 homes in the Pueblo municipality). The objective for last mile fiber connectivity is to future proof a community, bridge the technology divide, and provide Internet equity to all residents of this community. The need for fiber to the home is ever expanding when we think about the new applications coming to our communities. Applications such as work from home, virtual medicine, smart home technology to prevent common issues such as energy saving, food waste, and home security are all possible with fiber to the home and symmetrical 1Gig speeds. Traditionally, cable providers and DSL providers have offered Internet in the Pueblo community with lower symmetrical speeds than will be required in the coming years. These services range from 20Mbps to 940Mbps but have a very low Upload speed which impedes your ability to share information (virtual meetings for individuals working from home). The FCC 477 maps, referenced on 9/20/22, show the only provider with high-speed is Comcast. Comcast prices are often unaffordable for low-income households. All other providers in the area are wireless, satellite, or ADSL and do not offer qualifying broadband speeds as defined by NTIA. These lower speed services are typically sold for $65 to $80 per month. Intrepid's model is to sell access to our network with multiple ISP's, Intrepid will charge the ISP roughly $30 to $40 per month for access to our network. The ISP will have a residential charge for 1Gig

symmetrical service close to $65 to $85 per month. There will also be a lower speed option of 250Mbps symmetrical service would sell for roughly $60 to $75 per month.

Intrepid Fiber will also offer services supporting retail broadband services and certifies that these services will be available upon completion of the Pueblo Middle Mile Project. The most common of these services would be a Dedicated Internet Access service which will have different speeds offered for a monthly fee. We have not yet developed our pricing and offers for retail broadband services, but they will be close to what competitors charge in a similar market, but would offer greater symmetrical speeds than the current providers. Intrepid will also offer Wholesale services to larger customers and providers which will be Wave or Private Line, and we will sell Dark Fiber to Wholesale customers, federal and state government entities, and school/libraries where needed. All these will be negotiated in good faith and nondiscriminatory.

Intrepid has a very large ISP customer that we have contracted with and is committed to the Pueblo market. We are hesitant to provide the name of the customer as we have not received permission to use their name in public records. This ISP is one of the Tier 1 providers in the United States.
———

Competitive Landscape

The Applicant should describe existing middle mile offerings in the area, if any, including competitor data if applicable. This should include a description of the proposed service offerings, including the pricing and technology of the services to be offered over the proposed facility. Where possible, Applicant's project should be able to demonstrate a decline in middle mile costs that are likely to flow through to consumer broadband prices.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

There are no competitive middle mile services in the proposed project area. The ISPs who are in the area have their middle mile assets in Boulder, which does not provide redundancy or resiliency for those who are in Pueblo. Intrepid Fiber will offer competitive pricing for any interconnect services offered. These will include:

Dark Fiber: Will be available for interested parties and rates will be negotiated in good faith. Rates are not yet set but will be in keeping with local competition. It is anticipated these will be close to $3,000 - $4,000 per month.
Intrepid's model is to sell access to our network to numerous ISPs. Intrepid will charge the ISP roughly $30 to $40 per customer subscribed

Grant funding and the leasing of space and fiber will enable Intrepid Fiber to build at a lower cost to the company, and allow for income that can be put towards operations and maintenance. This will then allow lower prices for end consumers. In an area that has 21.8% poverty, these cost savings will

make a significant impact on closing the digital divide in this region. The network will also be open access, which increases competition and as a result often lowers prices for end-users.

Currently, the only claims of qualifying broadband options in much of Pueblo, as displayed on the FCC maps referenced on 9/20/,2022, come from Comcast (cable access) and CenturyLink (ADSL). Whether these telecommunications mediums can support qualifying broadband (100 Mbps/20 Mbps) with low latency for a household of three simultaneously engaging in digital applications is highly debatable. The remainder of the providers offer fixed wireless that does not reach the minimum 100 Mbps/20 Mbps to have served status.

Intrepid has attempted to understand Zayo's BTOP project (acquired by the Zayo's Eaglenet acquisition). The research has included reviewing vendor fiber maps for both Zayo and Unite Private Networks as well as discussions with existing contacts at both companies.

Based on our research and review, we believe that any potential overlapping fiber with the Intrepid grant request was purchased from Unite Private Networks. This fiber would have been used to support the following services in Pueblo:

- To connect 2 anchor institutions (as defined in the Zayo BTOP grant)
- The fiber count would have been minimal (4 fibers or less) and not able to serve a much broader number of customers

The Intrepid grant is to serve a much broader base of the Pueblo community. The Intrepid grant money will be use for the following:

- Serve the entire community including over 45,000 total potential locations, inclusive of enterprises, small businesses, and consumer homes
- The fiber count being deployed is 144 count backbone and 3 spare conduits

We believe that given the Zayo lease of limited fibers and its limited coverage of 2 anchor institutions, that Intrepid Fiber Networks is planning to build a significantly larger count backbone, the Zayo network is not a duplication of federal funding in the proposed service area.

———

Type of technology to be used in proposal:

Fiber Optic Technology

———

Each applicant of an award to build middle mile infrastructure using fiber optic technology shall certify that the proposed project, upon completion, will include direct interconnection facilities that will facilitate the provision of lit broadband service, at speeds not less than 1 Gigabit per second for downloads and 1 Gigabit per second for uploads to anchor institutions located within 1,000 feet of the middle mile infrastructure, as detailed in the Template CAI below.

Do you agree to certify to the above?

Yes
———
Upload Template CAI. Required for Fiber Optic Technology, optional for Wireless or Other.

C-09-27-2022 11-30-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Community Anchor Institution Upload.pdf, C-04-07-2023 11-35-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Community Anchor Institution Upload (March 31st 2023).xlsx
———
An eligible entity applying for a middle mile grant may seek, and the Assistant Secretary may grant, a waiver of the requirements set out in the previous paragraph, in full or in part, to the extent the eligible entity demonstrates that the requirement is not technically or economically feasible.

Do you plan to apply for a waiver? If yes, please attach the waiver application in the Application Workspace, the Application Information section, Required Documents under Required Document Question 4 "Additional Waiver Upload".

No
———
Network Route Maps

Applicants should provide a physical network map that includes the following (if applicable):

The Project Area and those unserved and underserved areas which it will enable.
Applicant‘s pre-existing service area that demonstrates current service levels.
The physical path of the network‘s transmission medium (e.g., backbone and lateral cable routes, microwave links), transmission type, technology, operating bandwidth, capacity (e.g., dark vs. lit strand count), and cable placement (e.g., aerial, burial) should be displayed.
Points of interconnection (purely passive and non-environmentally controlled nodes, e.g., splice points are optional):Provider Facilities
Collocation Facilities
Private Interconnection Points with partnering service provider/private network

Wireless towers and associated coverage areas.
Anchor institutions within 1,000 feet, if desired.
Additionally, the maps should delineate between network and facilities that are:Part of the Applicant's/key partners' existing network;
Proposed as part of this project;
Leased from a third party;
Utilized under some alternative arrangement; or
Relevant to interconnection with either Last Mile or Middle Mile service providers.

PLEASE NOTE: Only ESRI Shapefiles will be accepted and uploaded.

Intrepid Shapefiles-09-27-2022 11-31-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.zip, pueblo-community-anchor-institutions-with-lon-09-27-2022 11-31-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.zip, Intrepid Shapefiles_Revised 1-26-23-01-26-2023 04-14-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.zip

———

Data Submission Specification

There is a template "Upload Template Data Submission Specification" which shall be uploaded. Applicants must complete the table with information for all interconnection points proposed for the network. This table has three required fields: Point Name, Latitude and Longitude. This should accommodate all of the points of interconnection (passive, non-environmentally controlled points of interconnection, e.g., splice points, may be excluded), collocation facilities, central offices, head ends, and other centralized facilities, network access points to Last Mile service providers, Internet peering points, and towers.

Interconnection Points Table Upload-09-27-2022 11-31-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf, D-11-07-2022 06-41-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Interconnection Points Table Upload_FINAL Revised 11-4-22.xlsx, D-01-26-2023 04-14-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Interconnection Points Table Upload_Revised 1-26-23.xlsx

———

Network Diagram

The Applicant must provide a high-level network diagram to be uploaded for the project that is a representation of the network, capacities, and facilities. The diagram must clearly denote which of the network elements already exist. The diagram should show:

The links between the network nodes. The types of facilities used in connecting the network elements (fiber, wireless microwave, etc.).

The points of interconnection and collocation facilities, including Internet peering points, access to local exchange carriers, central offices, or cable head ends.

The proposed aggregation node facilities that will provide the egress point(s) from the broadband backbone to the networks of the selected service provider(s), named Last Mile service providers, and the selected named Internet Service Provider(s) in the new infrastructure.

The Applicant should show which technologies are used and include bandwidth capacity constraints.

Network Diagram_v2-09-27-2022 11-32-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf, Network Diagram_v3-01-26-2023 04-17-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf
———

Environmental Narrative

Any project-related activity that may adversely affect the environment must not be undertaken prior to the completion of the environmental review process prescribed by NTIA. Doing so may jeopardize consideration of the application.

All Applicants for MMG projects must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Endangered Species Act, and other applicable environmental regulations.

Please provide a service-area environmental description that describes the physical project area and its surroundings (e.g., disturbed or developed land vs. open space; adjacent natural resources, such as rivers, wetlands, or forestlands; and any protected lands or resources in or near the project area), including site photographs and aerial photographs (e.g., Google Earth or Google Maps images), if the project includes construction and/or ground disturbing activities.

This response is limited to 12000 characters as an open field narrative with image files to be uploaded.

This project will take place in the area in and surrounding Pueblo, Colorado. Work will happen predominantly within the developed city areas. This area in south central Colorado has soil which is 31% shale, and will require 70,285 feet of boring and 7,809 feet of trenching. As aerial fiber will be on existing poles that do not need make-ready, no pole work will disturb the area. The construction crews will ensure that all proper procedures are followed to minimize impact on the area. Any ground holding shrubs that may be moved will be replanted.
No site work or land alteration will be done during this project.
The National Wetlands Inventory shows sporadic forested shrub and freshwater emergent wetlands in the surrounding Pueblo area–there is no anticipated impact on these regions. The Bureau of Land Management shows that there are no areas of environmental concern in this project area, nor are there any wilderness study areas.
Data has been pulled from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to assess any endangered species or plants in the area where work will take place. The gray wolf is the only endangered species and the project will not be in areas where the gray wolves may live. There are no critical habitats in this project area.
Intrepid Fiber does thorough analysis with environmental partners to ensure NEPA and state regulations and assessments are adhered to, as well as any historical regulations. Intrepid Fiber has

reviewed the categorical exclusions for the project area and are confident in the fact that there will be no adverse effects on the environment during this project. Attached are aerial photos of the project area.

———

Upload Map Images:

Environmental Photos-09-27-2022 11-32-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.docx

———

Template Table of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators

List all funded and unfunded project collaborators, including partners, subrecipients, match providers, major contractors/supplies, details on role/scope of work for project. A fillable Template of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators can be found in found in the MMG ZIP folder.

Intrepid Template Table of Funded Part-09-27-2022 04-03-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. and Unfunded Collaborators Upload.xlsx, Intrepid Table of Funded Part-04-07-2023 11-15-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. and Unfunded Collaborators (March 31st 2023).xlsx

———

Certificate of Operational Capability

Each applicant must supply a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) attesting to the applicant's operational capability to complete and operate the proposed project.

If the applicant has provided a voice and/or broadband internet access service, it must supply a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) attesting that it has filed FCC Form 477s and the Broadband DATA Act submission, if applicable, to the extent required during this time period and otherwise complied with the Commission's rules and regulations. Alternatively, the applicant must explain any pending or completed enforcement action, civil litigation, or other matter in which it was alleged to have failed to comply with Commission rules or regulations.

If the applicant has operated only an electric transmission or distribution service, it must submit qualified operating or financial reports that it has filed with the relevant financial institution for the relevant time period along with a certification that the submission is a true and accurate copy of the reports that were provided to the relevant financial institution.

If applicable, the applicant must submit a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) that is has operated a middle mile broadband network for at least two years or that it is a wholly owned subsidiary of such an entity and must specify the number of years the applicant or its parent company has been operating.

Organization Readiness Certificate-08-30-2022 12-48-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf, Organization Readiness Certificate-09-27-2022 04-04-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf

———

Certification of Financial Capability

Each applicant must supply a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) attesting that it is financially qualified to meet the obligations associated with a project, that they will have available funds for all project costs that exceed the amount of the grant, and that they will comply with all MMG Program requirements, including service milestones.

Financial Certification Letter - BIF IV Intre-09-27-2022 04-04-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf

———

Letter of Credit

During the application process, each applicant must submit a letter from a bank meeting eligibility requirements consistent with those set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(c)(2) committing to issue an irrevocable stand-by letter of credit, in the required form, to the applicant. The letter shall at a minimum provide the dollar amount of credit offered and the issuing bank's agreement to follow the terms and conditions of NTIA's model letter of credit. NTIA shall publish on its website a model letter of credit substantially similar to the model letter of credit established by the Federal Communications Commission in connection with the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF - Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order, 35 FCC Rcd at 773-77, Appx. C.).

NTIA will ensure, prior to issuing a middle mile grant award, that each eligible entity obtains an acceptable, irrevocable standby letter of credit in a value of no less than 25 percent of the award amount.

Each eligible entity shall provide with its letter of credit an opinion letter from its legal counsel clearly stating, subject only to customary assumptions, limitations, and qualifications, that in a proceeding under Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. (the "Bankruptcy Code"), the bankruptcy court would not treat the letter of credit or proceeds of the letter of credit as property of the winning bidder's bankruptcy estate under Section 541 of the Bankruptcy Code.

BIF IV - LoC Commitment letter-09-30-2022 10-44-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf

———

Audited Financial Statement (Previous 3 Years)

Each applicant shall submit financial statements from the most recent fiscal year that are audited by an independent certified public accountant. If the applicant is not audited in the ordinary course of business, in lieu of submitting audited financial statements it must submit unaudited financial statements from the three prior fiscal years and certify that it will provide financial statements from

the three prior fiscal years that are audited by an independent certified public accountant by an NTIA specified deadline.

***You must provide 3 years of audited financial statements.**

Brookfield Infrastructure Partners (2018 Annu-09-29-2022 06-44-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf, Brookfield Infrastructure Partners (2021 Annu-09-29-2022 06-44-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf, Brookfield Infrastructure Partners (2019 Annu-09-29-2022 06-44-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf, Brookfield Infrastructure Partners (2020 Annu-09-29-2022 06-44-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf

———

Historical Financial Statements (Previous 3 Years)

Each applicant shall submit financial statements from the three prior fiscal years that are audited by an independent certified public accountant. If the applicant is not audited in the ordinary course of business, in lieu of submitting audited financial statements it must submit unaudited financial statements from the three prior fiscal years and certify that it will provide financial statements from the three prior fiscal years that are audited by an independent certified public accountant by an NTIA specified deadline.

***You must provide 3 years of historical financial statements.**

Historical Financials_Brookfield Infrastructu-09-27-2022 04-06-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf, Historical Financials_Brookfield Infrastructu-09-27-2022 04-05-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf, Historical Financials_Brookfield Infrastructu-09-27-2022 04-06-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf, Historical Financials_Brookfield Infrastructu-09-27-2022 04-06-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf

———

Budget Narrative

Applicants will create and submit a budget narrative that adequately describes all proposed activities and costs for their grant-funded project. Applicants must complete the file template, fill in all required information, and upload the file
. The file must be uploaded as a Word file, and not converted to a PDF. You can find additional guidance in the MMG Application Guidance.

F-09-29-2022 07-43-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Budget Narrative Upload_Update.pdf, F-11-07-2022 06-39-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Budget Narrative Upload_FINAL Revised 11-7-22.pdf, F-11-08-2022 04-10-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Budget Narrative Upload_FINAL Revised 11-8-22.pdf, ACTUAL FINAL Budget Narrative Upload_FINAL Re-11-08-2022 06-02-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506.pdf, F-01-26-2023 04-56-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Budget

Narrative Upload_Revised 1-26-23.pdf, F-04-07-2023 10-35-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Budget Narrative Upload_Revised March 31 2023.pdf

———

Template Detailed Budget Justification

The Detailed Budget Justification spreadsheet must reflect the cost categories that appear on the SF-424 and SF-424C and include itemized calculations for each cost placed under those categories. A fillable Template Detailed Budget Justification can be found in found in the MMG ZIP folder.

G-09-29-2022 07-33-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Detailed Budget Justification Upload Revised.xlsx, G-11-04-2022 05-24-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Detailed Budget Justification Upload Revised.xlsx, G-11-04-2022 05-25-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Detailed Budget Justification Upload FINAL Revised 11-4-22.xlsx, Copy of G-11-08-2022 06-03-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Detailed Budget Justification Upload FINAL Revised 11-8-22.xlsx, F-01-26-2023 04-54-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Budget Narrative Upload_Revised 1-26-23.docx, G-04-07-2023 10-37-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Detailed Budget Justification Upload (March 31st 2023).xlsx

———

Any other funding provided for this project?

No

———

Template Pro Forma

Pro forma financial projection and analysis related to the project's sustainability, inclusive of subscriber (e.g., last mile network connections, other wholesale services), across an eight-year forecast period. A fillable Template Pro Forms can be found in the MMG ZIP folder.

H-09-27-2022 03-55-BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC-GRN-000506. Pro Forma Upload (Pueblo Submission).pdf

———