

Kandiyohi County Broadband Projects in Planning

- 1. Four-Township Border-to-Border Project includes Arctander, Dovre, Mamre and St. Johns Townships (755)**

The provider for this \$9,990,951 fiber-to the-premise project is Federated Telephone Company, Kevin Beyer, CEO

Our plans are to apply for 48 to 50% of the funding in a state Border-to-Border grant application, for approximately \$4,995,000.

Other funding proposed as follows:

Provider	\$ 2,500,000	25%
County ARPA	\$ 1,314,386	13%
County Funds	\$ 100,000	1%
Township ARPA funds	\$ 200,543	2%
Townships/constituents	\$ 883,000	9%

This project is nearly shovel-ready with all four townships having made plans for tax levy, use of existing funds or a subordinated service district tax levy plan.

A challenge for this project has been to not include all locations within the townships. Two reasons exist. Federal Rural Digital Opportunity Funds (RDOF) awards were tentatively announced for some locations in some of the townships, excluding them from eligibility for state funded projects. In addition, portions of Dovre Township are already served according to state definition, making those locations ineligible for state grant funds.

The current barrier is waiting upon DEED's Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Border-to-Border program to be released. The RFP is typically released in September each year. The funds have been legislated, however, the funding source for the state grants, is federal ARPA funds. A determination is still under consideration that would allow local areas to use federally disbursed ARPA funds as a match for the state grants in the project funding plans.

A grant application for NTIA funds has already been submitted for this project in addition to three other townships located in northwest Kandiyohi County.

- 2. Three-Township Border-to-Border Project to be submitted in the year following the Four-Township project proposal (1305)**

The Three-Township project includes Colfax, Lake Andrew and Norway Lake Townships in NW Kandiyohi County. The total cost is estimated to be around \$19,000,000. The area includes lakes and hills as well as farm sites. The population is greater in the lakes areas and sparse in the farmland

areas. The provider for this fiber-to the-premise project is Federated Telephone Company, Kevin Beyer, CEO.

Plans include applying for approximately \$5,000,000 in state Border-to-Border grant funds, more if the state allows a greater grant for such remote rural areas. Plans are to also secure County and Township ARPA funds and conduct township-level tax levy for the project. Planning has just begun.

3. Arvig Fiber Broadband Project for the City of Prinsburg (210)

A fiber-to-the-premise project is planned for all businesses and residences in the City of Prinsburg. Arvig is the provider for this project. The total cost is projected to be \$1,000,000

All funding has been allocated and approved for the project as follows:

Provider	\$ 450,000	45%
County ARPA	\$ 330,000	33%
City of Prinsburg ARPA	\$ 45,000	4.5%
City/Tax Levy	\$ 175,000	17.5%

An informational meeting for constituents was conducted on Tuesday., Nov. 2nd, 2021. A subrecipient agreement has been approved and signed by both parties. An agreement between Arvig and the City of Prinsburg has also been completed and signed by both parties. Construction will begin in 2022 and be completed by December 2022.

4. Charter Project 141st Avenue in New London Township (37)

Charter Communication will provide cable broadband infrastructure with near gigabit speeds to 141st Avenue NE in New London Township.. Funding has been approved as follows:

Provider	87%
County & Township ARPA	13%

A subrecipient agreement is currently under review by Kandiyohi County and Charter.

5. Charter Project Riverwood Circle in New London Township AND Burbank Township (84)

Charter Communication will provide fiber broadband infrastructure to Riverwood Circle in New London and Burbank Townships. Funding has been approved as follows:

Provider	68%
County & Township ARPA	32%

6. Charter Project for a portion of New London Township (32)

Charter Communication will provide cable broadband infrastructure with near gigabit speeds to 199th Avenue in New London Township. Funding has been approved as follows:

Provider	77%
County & Township ARPA	23%

A subrecipient agreement is currently under review by Kandiyohi County and Charter.

7. Charter Project for an area in portions of Dovre and Willmar Township (23)

Charter Communication will provide cable broadband infrastructure with near gigabit speeds to 30th Ave NW which is on the north border of Willmar Township conjoining the south border of Dovre Township. Funding has been approved as follows:

Provider	59%
County & Township ARPA	41%

8. Charter Project for the remaining premises in New London Township (32)

Charter Communication will provide Fiber broadband infrastructure with up to gigabit speeds to the remaining premises in New London Township. The total cost is \$710,238. Funding has not yet been recommended by the EDC Broadband Committee. Further information is being sought.

Provider	63%
County & Township ARPA	37%

9. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Seven-Township Project includes Arctander, Dovre, Mamre, St. Johns, Colfax, Lake Andrew and Norway Lake Townships (2060)

Kandiyohi County has joined efforts with Federated Telephone Cooperative as partner organizations that understand the challenges and are united and steadfast in efforts to bring world-class, future-proof fiber optic networks to the rural areas of Kandiyohi County. The County has applied to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for funds covering 88% of the cost to deploy fiber to the premise infrastructure to eligible locations in seven rural townships including Arctander, Colfax, Dovre, Lake Andrew, Mamre, Norway Lake and St. Johns. The total project cost is \$32,618,662.

The grant application proposes the following for financing for this project:

NTIA Grant	\$ 28,695,623	88%
Provider	\$ 3,823,039	11%
Kandiyohi County	\$ 100,000	1%

The Kandiyohi County Commissioners have authorized the \$100,000 for the project.

10. Vibrant Project for the East side of Kandiyohi County includes Burbank, Roseville, Irving, Harrison, Genessee, and East Lake Lillian Townships (1698)

Past: This project has received a high-level proposal from Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association/Vibrant Broadband. Meeker Cooperative is requiring 50% funding from sources other than the provider to deploy fiber/fixed wireless technology that will provide speeds of between 100/10 Mbps and symmetrical gigabit (1,000/1,000). The estimated total cost for the project is \$3,750,000. A full fiber project is an option but would cost substantially more, as high as \$18,000,000 and would require an 80% injection by the county/townships. Kandiyohi County will consider ARPA funds for this project in the future. Current language in ARPA requires the build to provide at least 100/20 Mbps to all locations. Inquiries have been made to Vibrant Broadband about meeting this requirement.

Current: Vibrant Project for the East side of Kandiyohi County includes Burbank, Roseville, Irving, Harrison, Kandiyohi, Genessee, Fahlun, Lake Elizabeth and East Lake Lillian Townships (# of premises unknown at this time)

Vibrant Broadband, a component of Meeker County Power and Light Cooperative, is working with Kandiyohi County to apply for a ReConnect grant for eligible portions of the nine townships listed. For this phase-one buildout, if the ReConnect grant is awarded, no local financial support will be needed in addition. Non-eligible homes and businesses in the townships will not be left out. Vibrant Broadband is considering a phase-two build out of high-speed fiber broadband for the additional structures. Phase-two build out will require local financial support from Kandiyohi County and the Townships. The funds could be APRA funds and/or township level bonding.