

Marathon County Response to Vendor Questions

1. What is the estimated cost of the overall Broadband project?

The county has not estimated the total cost of expanding Broadband access nor has it allocated funds to improve broadband access at this time. The current project is to understand the current state of broadband availability, price, speed and quality; the choices available to improve broadband; and the advantages, disadvantages, and costs (including potential funding sources, such as grants and loans) of the various different solutions.

2. Has the Department allocated funding for the Broadband project yet? If so, through which source (budget, CIP, state/federal grant, etc.)? If no funding is secured, which sources will be sought and when? If utilizing a grant, would you be able to specify which one?

The county has not allocated funds to improve broadband access; however, it has allocated funding for completion of the current feasibility study project. The current project is to understand the current state of broadband availability, price, speed and quality; the choices available to improve broadband; and the advantages, disadvantages, and costs (including potential funding sources, such as grants and loans) of the various different solutions. With that information the county will assess its next steps.

3. What procurements does the Department anticipate will be released as part of the overall Broadband project?

The only procurement we are currently pursuing relative to our Broadband expansion effort is the engineering and feasibility research expected as part of this RFP. With that information the county will assess its next steps.

4. When does the Department anticipate the Feasibility study to be completed?

As soon as possible, but final acceptance of all deliverables within the RFP is required no later than December 20, 2019.

5. When does the Department want to have Broadband to be implemented by?

The county would prefer to have significantly expanded access to broadband as soon as possible; however, any determination on what next steps Marathon County government will take relative to its role in Broadband expansion will be made upon review of the Feasibility Study.

6. Are there any external factors driving this project (Mayor's initiative, legislative backing, etc.)?

Expanding access to broadband has been identified as a top priority in the County's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.

7. Who is the technical contact and/or project manager for the Broadband project?

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8. Does the Department anticipate any professional or consulting services may be needed through separate procurements to accomplish this effort? (i.e. project planning/oversight, PM, QA, IV&V, staff augmentation, implementation services etc.)? If so, what services does the Department desire and how do they anticipate to procure?

No. The county does not anticipate directly securing any additional professional or consulting services in connection with this current Feasibility Study. The study, however, will help us understand what additional services or procurements may be needed in the future to accomplish our broader Broadband expansion goals.

9. If our firm is awarded the feasibility study work, does that preclude us from any further engineering work on the project, if a project moves forward by the county?

No. In the event a firm is awarded this contract said firm is neither automatically excluded from any future engineering work deemed necessary by the county, nor would said firm be exempt from the county's established procurement policy.

10. In section 5 - Requirements of Submittals, under item 'h' it says: "Provide a statement that the consultants have no conflict of interest with past, present, or known future policies, plans, or programs of the County". We don't expect to have any conflicts, however since you have provided such a wide and all-encompassing statement, we will need access to your past, present, and known future policies, plans, and programs to be able to provide this statement. How can this best be provided, or accessed by our firm. If this is not a reasonable request, is there any chance that this item 'h' could be removed or restated in a manner that can actually be addressed?

An appropriate response to section 5(h) would be to answer the following question and provide any required additional information:

Do you have any knowledge or information that leads your firm to believe it has or may have a conflict of interest relative to this project? If so, please summarize that knowledge or information and our two organizations will then engage in further dialogue if deemed necessary.