

CDRPC Open Access Feasibility Study Bidder Questions 2/26/2024

1. Do you have an estimated budget for this project?

Answer: Yes

2. Will you have a question and answer session with respondents after the proposals are submitted?

Answer: No

3. Stakeholder Engagement: Could you provide more details on the expectations for stakeholder engagement throughout the feasibility study? Specifically, are there any priority stakeholders or community groups that the CDRPC aims to involve beyond the entities mentioned?

Answer: Identification and engagement of key stakeholders beyond those mentioned in the RFP will be coordinated between CDRPC and the vendor.

4. Previous Studies Utilization: Regarding the review and assessment of previous broadband studies mentioned in the RFP, how does the CDRPC envision integrating these findings into the new feasibility study? Are there specific aspects or data points from these studies that should be prioritized for reevaluation or update?

Answer: The goal is to leverage work of prior studies, ensure conformity with NYS plan objectives and avoid conflicts between the goals of existing studies and the OAN feasibility study.

5. Market Analysis Depth: Can you elaborate on the level of detail expected in the market outreach and demand analysis? For instance, are there particular metrics or indicators that the CDRPC considers critical for assessing the market potential and user demand for the OAN?

Answer: The level of outreach and analysis should be sufficient to determine if a customer base exists to make an OAN feasible in our region.

6. Technology Considerations: Given the rapid evolution of broadband technologies, does the CDRPC have any preferences or specific technologies in mind for the OAN that respondents should consider when developing their proposals? Or is the Commission looking for recommendations on technology selection as part of the feasibility study?

Answer: The preference is fiber.

7. Regulatory and Policy Framework: Could you clarify the scope of regulatory and policy analysis expected within the feasibility study? Are there specific local, state, or federal regulations or policies that the CDRPC is particularly interested in exploring for their impact on the OAN project?

Answer: The policies outlined in the NYS Digital Equity Plan and the 2023 Broadband Deployment Initial Proposal Volumes 1 and 2 shall be evaluated to inform the approach and goals of the feasibility study shall align with the same.

8. Partnership and Business Model Exploration: How open is the CDRPC to exploring non-traditional partnership models or innovative business models for the OAN? Are there any models or partnerships that have already been considered or are particularly favored by the Commission?

Answer: CDRPC is open to any business model that would be the most viable. CDRPC currently administers a local development corporation established by 6 municipal partners to share cost related to environmental infrastructure. In addition, we administer another intermunicipal not for profit established by Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties to share costs and provide administrative oversight to a regional juvenile detention facility.

9. Performance Metrics and Success Indicators: What are the key performance metrics and success indicators that the CDRPC will use to evaluate the outcomes of the feasibility study? Understanding these could help tailor the study's focus areas and deliverables more closely to the Commission's expectations.

Answer: Performance metrics may be established collaboratively between the vendor and CDRPC. A successful grant application to the Municipal Infrastructure program could be a measure of success.

<https://broadband.ny.gov/municipal-infrastructure-program> .

10. Funding Strategy Depth: Regarding the development of a funding strategy within the business plan, does the CDRPC have any specific requirements or preferences for the types of funding mechanisms or sources to be explored? Are there any known funding opportunities or constraints that proposers should be aware of?

Answer: It is likely that some combination of public, private and funding commitments from potential customers will be needed. There is currently a potential funding source which could provide some implementation funding. <https://broadband.ny.gov/municipal-infrastructure-program>

11. Community Impact Assessment: How does the CDRPC envision the feasibility study addressing the social and economic impacts of the OAN on the Capital Region? Are there particular impact metrics or community benefits that should be highlighted?

Answer: The Capital Region Digital Equity Coalition should be engaged as a stakeholder during the feasibility study process.

12. Data Privacy and Security Measures: Could you specify the expectations regarding data privacy and security measures within the Open Access Network? Are there existing guidelines or standards the CDRPC wishes the feasibility study to adhere to or recommend for the OAN's operation?

Answer: The feasibility study may include recommendations on data privacy and security measures for the OAN.

13. Environmental Considerations: How important are environmental considerations in the planning and deployment of the OAN? Are there particular environmental impact assessments or sustainability practices that the CDRPC expects the feasibility study to incorporate or evaluate?

Answer: CDRPC hopes to leverage existing infrastructure and existing rights of way in any proposed OAN routing.

14. Long-term Maintenance and Scalability: What are the CDRPC's expectations regarding the long-term maintenance and scalability of the OAN? How should the feasibility study address the network's adaptability to future technological advancements and expanding service demands?

Answer: The feasibility study should address scalability. The business plan should address long term maintenance.

15. Community Digital Literacy and Inclusion: Does the CDRPC expect the feasibility study to include strategies for enhancing digital literacy and inclusion among the Capital Region's residents? If so, what

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specific outcomes or programs are envisioned to ensure broad and equitable access to the OAN?

Answer: The Capital Region Digital Equity Coalition should be engaged as a stakeholder during the feasibility study process.

16. Integration with Existing Infrastructure: How does the CDRPC envision the integration of the OAN with existing broadband infrastructure within the region? Are there specific challenges or opportunities in leveraging current assets that the feasibility study should focus on?

Answer: Leveraging existing infrastructure is a goal of this project. Engaging stakeholder like National Grid, the Capital District Transportation Authority, and public agencies responsible for underground infrastructure may provide options for routing that leverages infrastructure.

17. Policy Advocacy and Regulatory Engagement: How should the feasibility study address potential needs for policy advocacy or regulatory engagement to support the OAN's development and success? Are there specific policy barriers or opportunities that the CDRPC is already aware of?

Answer: The feasibility study should address the benefits of an OAN for potential community anchor institution customers, municipalities and elected officials.