



**TED STRICKLAND**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

March 25, 2010

Assistant Secretary Lawrence Strickling  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the *Connecting Appalachian Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium* (CAO-MMC) proposal for Round 2 Broadband Technology Opportunities Program funding. Southeast Ohio is the part of the state most critically in need of middle mile infrastructure. Of the 17,000 square mile area the CAO-MMC proposes to serve, 59 percent currently lacks even the most basic broadband services. Thirty of the 34 counties included in the project meet the NTIA's definition of underserved.

I believe the CAO-MMC is exactly the type of public-private partnership your agency is looking for to build and maintain sustainable Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) projects. As the lead applicant, Horizon Telecom is an independent telecommunications company located in the heart of Appalachian Ohio with an existing 13-county fiber broadband network and 115 years of service in the region. Horizon's sub-applicant is the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet), operated by the Ohio Board of Regents and serving the state's community colleges, universities, K-12 schools and many other community anchors. Horizon, OARnet and its partners have the experience and expertise to effectively bridge Appalachian Ohio's digital divide.

The CAO-MMC proposal will construct 1,952 miles of fiber-optic backbone and an additional 855 miles of smaller fiber-optic cable to connect hundreds of community anchor institutions, including 25 community colleges, 34 911 public safety answering points, 32 State of Ohio Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) towers, 212 health care facilities, 231 K-12 schools and 34 industrial parks. This proposal can improve public safety, educational opportunities and economic development in this important part of Ohio.

As the NTIA reviews the CAO-MMC application, I am confident that you will find its objectives are closely aligned with those of your agency as it effectively addresses all seven of the CCI priority criteria.

Page Two  
March 25, 2010  
Asst. Secretary Strickling

I respectfully request that NTIA give serious consideration to CAO-MMC's application for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Strickland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ted Strickland  
Governor, State of Ohio

cc: Bill McKell, CEO, Horizon Telcom  
Pankaj Shah, Executive Director, OARnet

## **BTOP Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Pro Forma Financial Projections**

Please complete the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flows, and NPV-IRR Table worksheets. Key assumptions used to formulate these financial projections should be listed in the Key Assumptions worksheet. Please note that these are **project-specific** projections, in contrast to the historical financial information which is provided at the organizational level.

**Please refer to the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Grant Guidance for detailed instructions on the completing this upload.**

Applicants are required to provide this upload as an Excel file, and not to convert it to a PDF prior to upload. Applicants may make adjustments to the format of the templates as necessary to provide the most effective presentation of the data for their specific project, but should not remove major headings (*e.g.* Revenues and Expenses on the Income Statement) or provide less detailed information than would be required to complete the provided templates.

7 Pages

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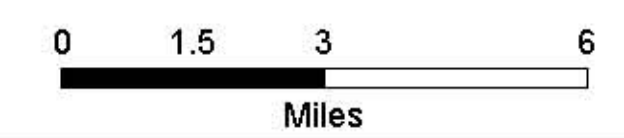
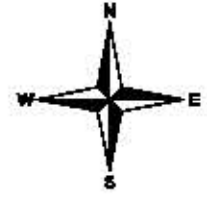
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- Fiber Flagged
- Fiber Routes
- Historic\_Sites
- Historic\_Sites\_Buffer
- Brownfields
- Critical\_Habitat
- Public\_Lands
- 100 Year
- 500 Year
- Wetlands



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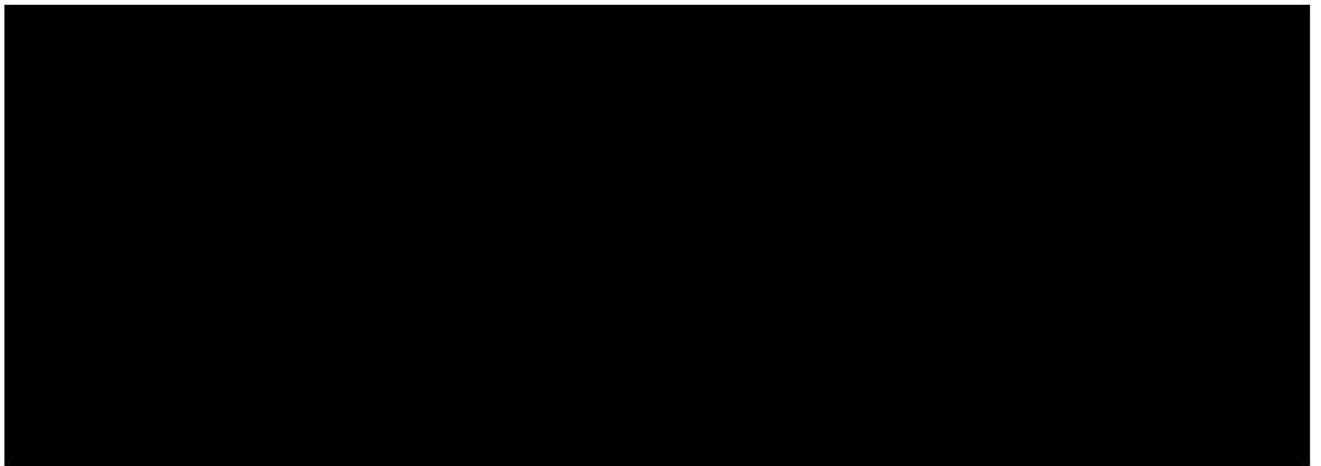


## **Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium**

**Government & Key Partnerships**

**Letters of Partnership**

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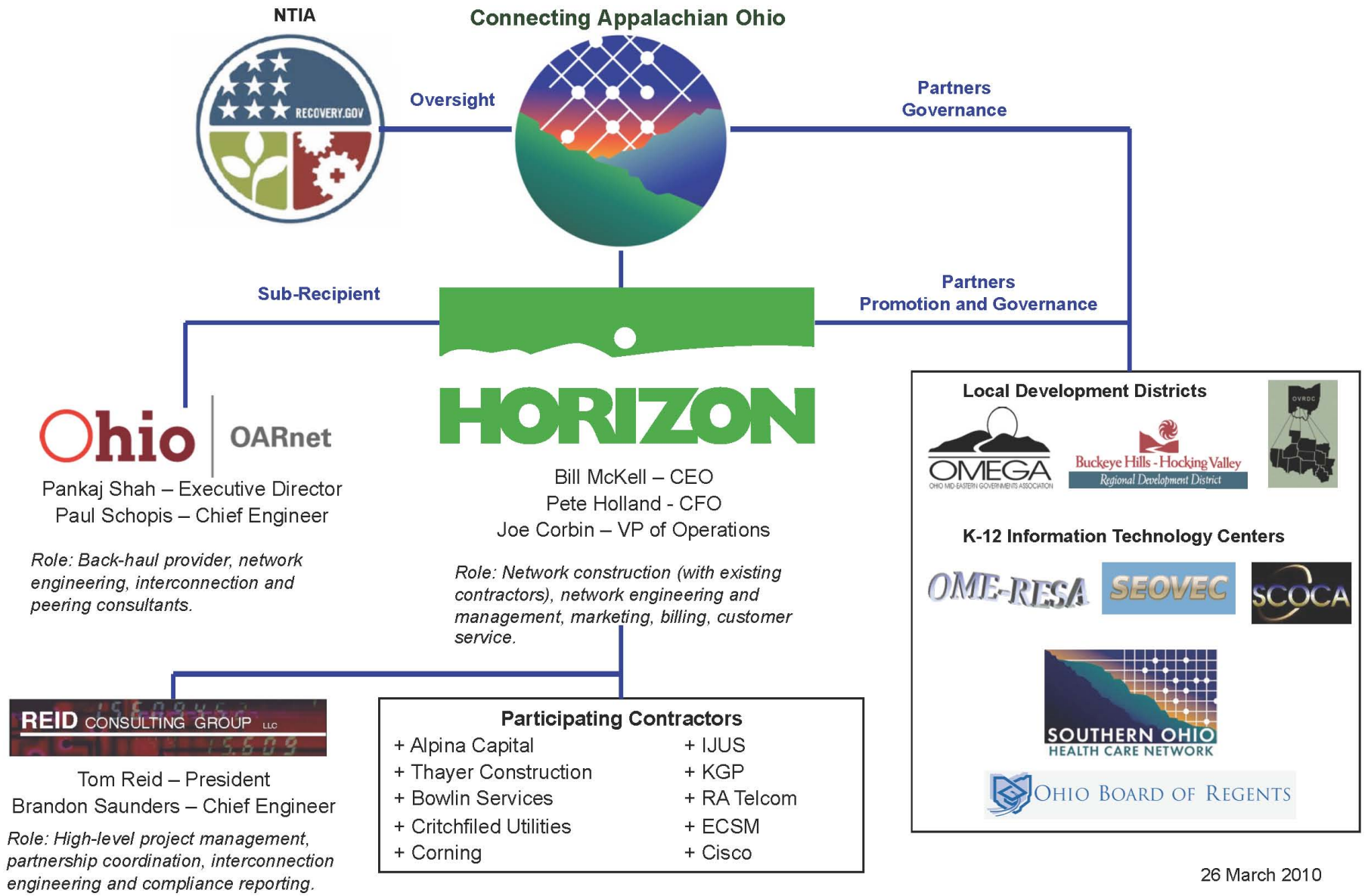




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# Connecting Appalachian Ohio – Middle Mile Consortium Organizational Plan

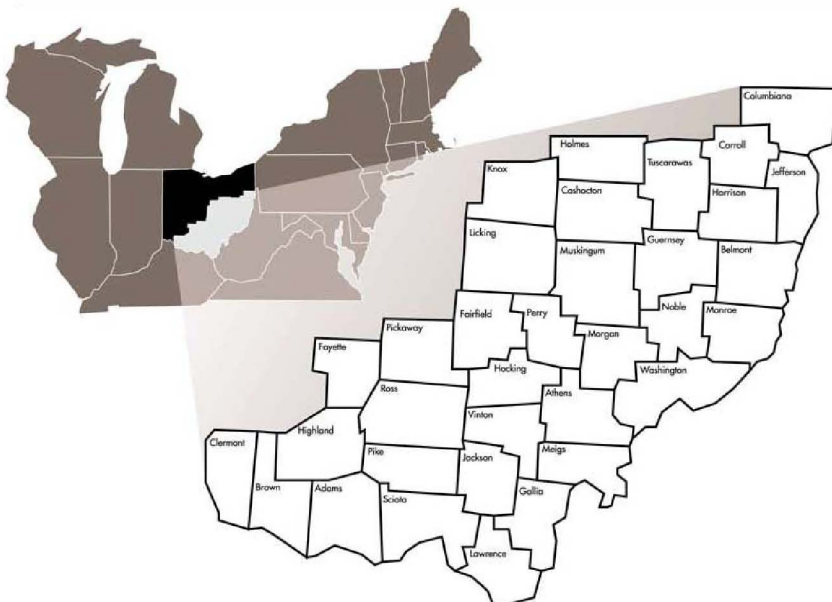




# The Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium

## Network Maps

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
National Telecommunications & Information  
Administration



26 March 2010

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## **Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium**

### **Government & Key Partnerships**

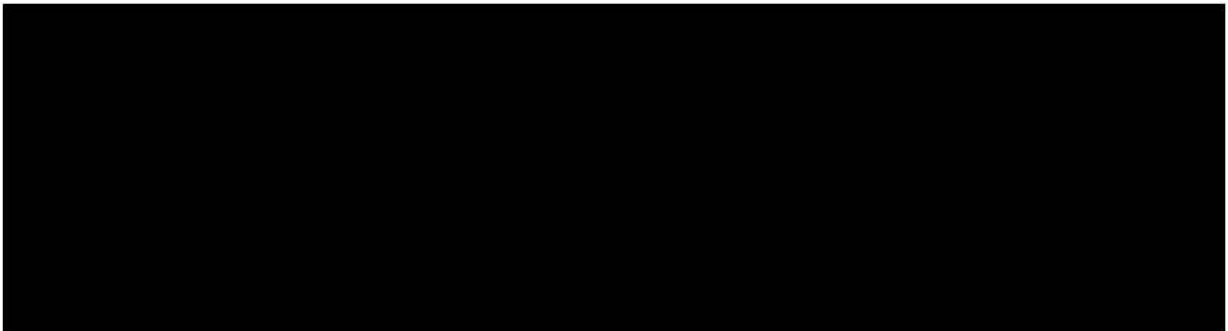
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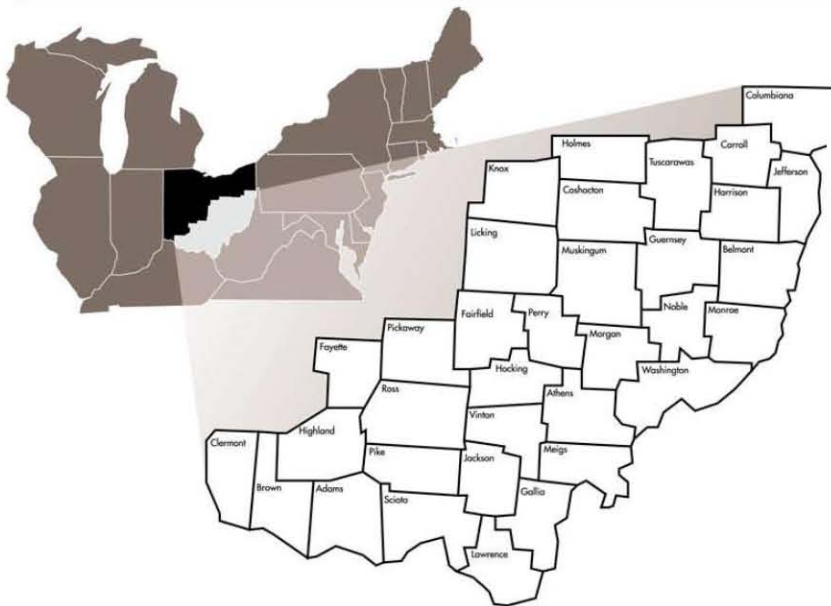
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# The Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium

## System Design

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
National Telecommunications & Information  
Administration



26 March 2010



# Connecting Appalachia Ohio Middle Mile Consortium System Design



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# Connecting Appalachia Ohio Middle Mile Consortium System Design



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## **BTOP Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Community Anchor Institution and Network Points of Interest Detail Template**

Please complete the Anchor Institution Details worksheet by providing information on Community Anchor Institutions that will be directly connected by the proposed network as necessary. All Community Anchor Institutions should be given a type from the specification. A Community Anchor Institution is considered a minority-serving institution if it is a post-secondary educational institution with enrollment of minority students exceeding 50% of its total enrollment. The "Project Role" column only requires a word or two, or a short phrase, not a detailed explanation of the role of project partners and community anchor institutions provided in the essay portions of the application.

Please complete the Points of Interest worksheet by providing information on all points of interconnection (passive, non-environmentally controlled points of interconnection, etc. points, may be excluded), collocation facilities, central offices, head ends, and other central facilities, network access points to last mile service providers, Internet peering points, etc. For each point of interest you may provide either a street address or geocoordinates (lat/long). You must provide detail on what the point of interest is, whether it is already existing or will be created by the proposed project. Where more than one facility type applies, select the most appropriate facility type. For example, if a central office houses a point of interconnection, select central office as the facility type, or if a cell site is located on a tower, select tower as the facility type. Interconnection Available at the Facility field should be Yes if interconnection to the proposed network is available at that location, otherwise No. The brief description field is optional and can be used to convey a better understanding of what the facility is. You may use the space at the bottom of the table to provide additional notes, if desired.

**The data provided via this template will be subject to automated processing. Applicants are therefore required to provide this upload as an Excel file, and not to convert it to a PDF upload. Additionally, applicants should not modify the format of this file.**

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# Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC)

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## *Executive Summary*

### **a) Opportunity Proposed System Seeks to Address**

**A Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Ohio:** The “Ohio Middle Mile Consortium” (OMMC) is a public-private partnership facilitated by the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet), the technology operations arm of the University System of Ohio. OMMC was created to integrate three Broadband Technology Opportunities Program-Comprehensive Community Initiatives (BTOP-CCI) middle mile stimulus projects to forge a coordinated and collaborative approach for meeting the needs of Ohio.

**Pre-ARRA Funding**  
***Middle Mile Points of Presence  
with Network Inter-Connectivity***  
*(for detail, see Attachment A)*

**Post-ARRA Funding**  
***Middle Mile Points of Presence  
with Network Inter-Connectivity***  
*(for detail, see Attachment B)*



The OMMC related projects include:

- Connecting Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (CAOMMC) in southeastern Ohio (green)
- GigEPAC Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (GigEPAC OMMC) in western Ohio (orange)
- Transforming NE Ohio from Rust Belt to Tech Powerhouse-An Ohio Middle Mile Consortium Project (TNEO-OMMC) in northeastern Ohio (blue)

Together, the three projects and OARnet's statewide network create a comprehensive community infrastructure. OARnet is positioned as a sub-recipient in all three integrated applications.

Ohio represents one of the areas of the country most significantly impacted by the economic downturn, due to its strong ties to manufacturing and a heavy concentration of automotive plants. As a result, Ohio represents a "best fit" for objectives established in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) programs. Broadband has become even more essential to transition Ohio from its traditional industrial economy to a global technology and advanced manufacturing economy, and to support retraining and development of a new workforce required to meet Ohio's future needs. Recent Ohio ARRA program awards supporting renewable energy, ambulatory surgical care facilities, affordable housing initiatives, green jobs, and a host of other initiatives depend on affordable and accessible broadband services to realize their goals.

Recognizing OARnet's 23 years of experience as a national leader in broadband networking, Ohio Board of Regents' Chancellor Eric Fingerhut requested that OARnet integrate three BTOP Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) proposals into an overall middle mile plan for Ohio. OARnet initiated a "Gathering of State Stakeholders," which included key national and state leaders and major applicants, to assess "lessons learned" from the first round of applications.

As a result of the meeting, the Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) was founded. The OMMC participants have adopted a cooperative and comprehensive "Round Two" approach, as opposed to the overlapping and fragmented approach in "Round One."

**b) A general description of the proposed funded service areas (location, number of communities, etc.)**

The impact of the BTOP funding on the service area is clearly shown in the pre-funded middle mile access in the service area (Illustration A) and the post-funded middle mile access in the service area (Illustration B) in middle mile access maps above (Page 1).

The proposed funded service areas include the following distribution of counties:

- CAOMMC: 34 southeastern counties of Ohio
- GigEPAC-OMMC: 28 western counties of Ohio
- TNEO-OMMC: 20 northeastern counties of Ohio

The counties noted above total 82 of Ohio's 88 counties. Of the remaining 6 counties, 2 were covered by the Round One BTOP award to Consolidated Electric and 4 large urban counties currently are served by OARnet. The OMMC proposals will increase the middle mile connection points (Points of Presence, or "POPs") from the current 14 to 68 counties. Each partner's application provides details on their respective service areas.

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