



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

LOCATION: TRI-COUNTY I-80 CORRIDOR; PERSHING, HUMBOLDT, AND LANDER COUNTIES

RELEASED: June 4, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed Nevada's lack of broadband access in rural parts of the State. Microsoft estimates 16,000 Humboldt County residents; 5,000 Lander County residents and 6,000 Pershing County residents have below the 25Mbps download and 3Mbps upload minimum broadband service as defined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)¹. This creates divides in education, healthcare, public safety, quality of life, and economic development opportunities. For the last year, these counties have been working on a strategy to attract more scalable, reliable, and affordable broadband Internet service options for Business, Residents, Government and Community Anchor Institutions (Schools, Libraries, Healthcare Providers) to their counties.

Each county has developed a ***Broadband Enhancement Request for Information (RFI)*** that includes a summary business case for broadband/Internet service providers to invest in providing better service in the three counties. ***Each service provider has the opportunity to respond to the (RFI) as a TRI-COUNTY opportunity or as individual county opportunities.***

Because of their contiguous geography with population centers along Interstate Highway 80 and US Highway 50, the Counties have issued their Broadband Enhancement RFIs in unison using the same timelines for response. The hope is that broadband/Internet Service Providers, whether already serving this market or considering service expansion into the three counties, will view this aggregation of opportunity, as an attractive way to leverage investment.

The three counties will work together in the evaluation phase of the process and there will be constant collaboration between the City and County leaders during the Broadband Enhancement RFI process. The leadership of all three counties thanks you for Interest in improving broadband service in Humboldt, Lander and Pershing Counties.

¹ <https://news.microsoft.com/rural-broadband/>