



Public Werks, Inc.

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Sid Miller
Texas Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 12847
Austin, Texas 78711-2847

RE: Combating COVID-19: Investing in Broadband Connectivity

Dear Commissioner Miller:

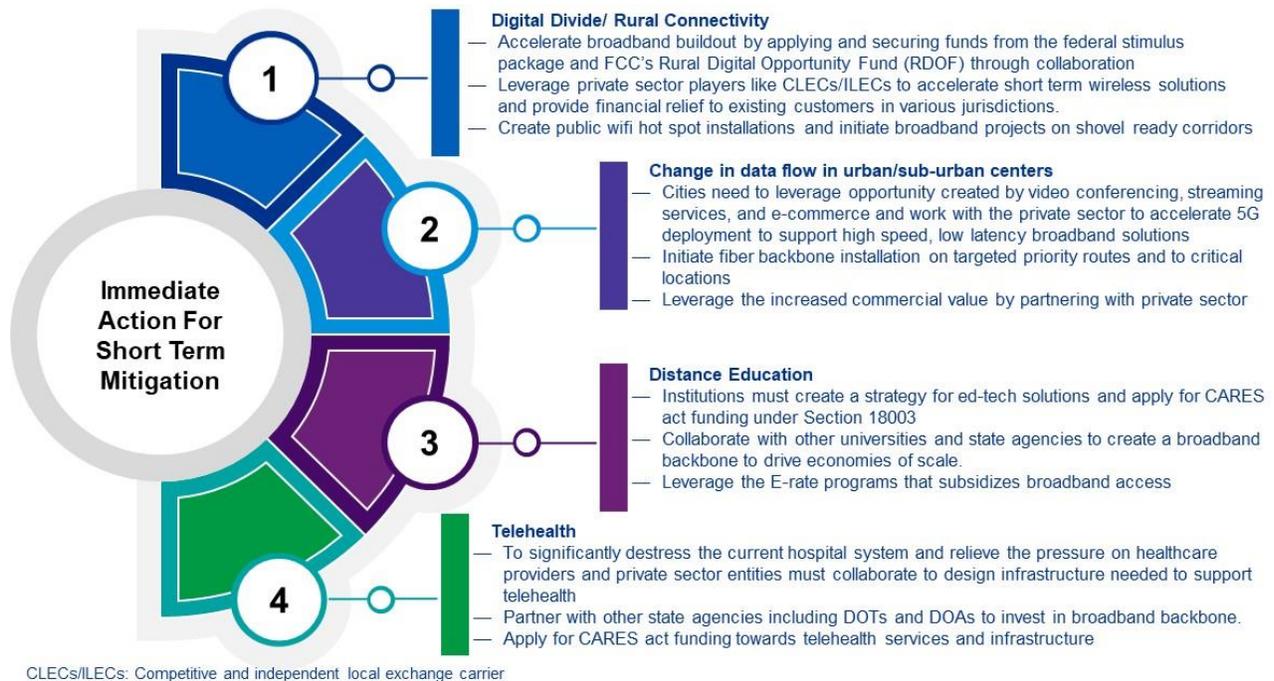
The COVID-19 pandemic has forced a paradigm shift in the way society views how public agencies and businesses perform their day-to-day operations and how they will provide services to their constituents and customers in the future. In this time of crisis, it is important to support the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) pledge of 'Keeping America Connected'; facilitating access to information in a timely manner, supporting changes to every day work environments including telecommuting, enabling online delivery of education, and relying on telemedicine for health services, all requiring a robust broadband connectivity backbone.

Within every sector of our economy, technology disruptions such as connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs), 5G technologies, private networks, intelligent transportation systems (ITS), robotic process automation, drones, internet of things (IoT), smart cities/infrastructure, e-commerce, and unprecedented growth in latency-sensitive applications (video calling, gaming, etc.) are challenging existing business models and creating unprecedented opportunities for positive transformation.

Both KPMG and Public Werks, Inc. bring our long-standing commitments to serve public sector agencies coupled with deep telecommunication industry experience to help organizations like yours, address the connectivity gaps to enable a resilient future.

Immediate Actions for Short Term Mitigation

For the public sector agencies, this is an opportune time to invest in broadband not only to combat some of the economic impacts of COVID-19, but also to lay the foundation to unleash technological transformation for the next several decades.



Broadband Infrastructure Gap and the Need for Investment

Governors, mayors and other public sector leaders recognize that investment in broadband infrastructure will not only help them address tomorrow's needs and challenges related to mobility, education, healthcare, communication and commerce - all built off the backbone of strong and reliable broadband networks - but will also create opportunities to transform their organizations and regions. Their agencies can deliver better services, respond to citizen needs more readily, expedite economic development, make informed decisions, enhance customer experience, efficiently utilize available resources, and improve the quality of life in their respective jurisdictions. The current crisis has only highlighted what has been a large deficit in connectivity infrastructure and in addressing this deficit, public sector agencies have a dual role:

- Prepare for the future by addressing their changing function as an organization from a brick and mortar enterprise to one that is adept at data management and at enabling technological change (highlighted below)
- Catalyze private sector investment to supplement public sector funds to drive economic growth by maximizing broadband coverage and affordability for businesses and citizens

“Smart, connected solutions should be an integral part of every mile of American infrastructure constructed or reconstructed in the coming years.”

USTelecom CEO Jonathan Spalter



DOTs and Turnpikes

- Facilitation of Autonomous and Connected Vehicles
- Traffic Optimization / Control Center
- ITS / Cashless Tolling
- Asset Management
- Remote Monitoring



Transit Agencies

- Performance Monitoring
- Dedicated Network
- Predictive Maintenance
- Asset Management
- Public Wi-Fi for Transit Users
- Safety



State Agencies

- Drive Economic Growth with connectivity infrastructure investment
- Rural Connectivity
- e-Agriculture
- e-Commerce



Cities

- Public Safety
- Traffic optimization
- Smart Lighting / Parking
- IoT platform
- Smart Infrastructure



Education / Universities

- Distance Education
- 5G Technologies
- Emergency Management
- Asset Monitoring / Management



Healthcare / Insurance

- Telehealth / Telemedicine
- Remote Monitoring
- Emergency Response
- Asset Monitoring Management

Harnessing the Private Sector

The current situation presents an opportunity for the public sector agencies to work collaboratively with their private sector counterparts to leverage policies and funding options to accelerate the deployment and/or adoption of affordable, secure, dependable, and contemporary high-speed broadband connectivity to their constituents. There is no one size fits all when it comes to broadband infrastructure deployment; KPMG and Public Werks, Inc. have helped facilitate successful partnerships that leverage private sector expertise towards meeting public sector goals.



How We Can Help

Preparing both public and private sector organizations for unprecedented digital and technological disruption requires deep experience and a multi-disciplinary approach. With our experience in both the public and private sector infrastructure and technology environments, we can help. We are actively engaged with numerous public and private sector clients to plan, procure and implement broadband infrastructure utilizing innovative procurement methods while leveraging our own valuable insights and expertise on market conditions, project financing and project implementation so that organizations can make better, more informed decisions, and foster strategic partnerships.

Ultimately, the organizations we serve share our same vision for building sustainable, resilient, and accessible infrastructure services that benefit people all around the world. We stand ready to help you do the same.

Sincerely,



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