

US 30 OARnet extension - Request for Information

Richland County, Ohio, has a population that exceeds 125,000 people. Despite its size the County still has internet connectivity gaps with both broadband infrastructure and pockets of unserved and underserved addresses. To assist in bringing greater broadband availability to the area, the Richland County Commissioners and others gathered to discuss possible ways to increase high-speed connectivity to the area. The group identified that increasing the middle mile infrastructure along the US 30 Corridor could increase the ability for last-mile providers to increase coverage as well as accommodate the needs of several anchor tenants.

The interested parties regularly meet to discuss the need and potential for broadband internet expansion along US 30 that runs east to west through the entire State of Ohio. The interested parties present at these meetings include, but are not limited to: BroadbandOhio, OARNet, a commissioner from Richland County, North Central State College, Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and the Richland Community Development Group. The unanimous consensus from the parties is that there is both a need and a desire for the expansion of broadband internet infrastructure in Richland County. An initial analysis concludes there is no known existing middle-mile broadband infrastructure that can meet the growing need for broadband internet along the US 30 corridor and in Richland County specifically. Therefore, the parties desire to fully investigate potential opportunities for building that infrastructure along US 30 and in Richland County. Major anchor tenants would include North Central State College, the Mansfield Lahm Air National Guard Base, and the City of Mansfield Industrial Park. All 3 of these tenants have an interest in acquiring access

to this expanded broadband infrastructure should it become available. The Air National Guard base specifically mentioned their interest in having a dedicated Point of Presence (“POP”) on base grounds. Additionally, OARnet can increase their resiliency and redundancy in the area by including a new middle-mile route to connect Canton to Lima through Mansfield. Surprisingly, this is an area of the state that does not have a direct OARnet route.

The scope of the project is to build an open access middle-mile network consisting of two “legs” from preexisting OARNet backbone network and POPs, one from the Canton area and the other from the Lima area, which will link up in Mansfield roughly following the US 30 corridor. The end of this document contains a map that shows the corridor to be constructed, including important points that can be considered anchor tenants along the route. To achieve this, the interested parties wish to approach various service providers by way of this Request for Information to fully understand what would be required to build such a network.

RFI Questions:

1. Do you already have preexisting fiber infrastructure along the US 30 corridor?
2. If not, do you have preexisting fiber infrastructure along a similar route that could feasibly accommodate the proposed major anchor tenants in Richland County?
3. What is your general level of interest in building the proposed project?
4. What is your estimated cost per mile?

5. What is your estimated cost for a Point of Presence at the Air National Guard base?
6. What is your estimated timeline of completion of the project?
7. What fiber count?
8. What support, other than fiscal, would you require from the state?
9. What other state assets would you consider using to build the project?
10. What other factors should the state be considering that are not otherwise listed here?
11. Are you familiar with ODOT LA longitudinal fiber installation policy?
12. Are you able to incorporate ODOT requirements into your build plans?
13. Is there any additional information you would like to provide to be considered as part of this RFI?

RFI Procedure

As part of this RFI process, the review committee may ask respondents to provide a presentation and answer questions. Please indicate in your response if you would be willing to provide additional information if asked.

Responses to this RFI should be emailed as a PDF or Word document to:

Barrett Thomas bthomas@chooserichland.com

Responses are due no later than February 9, 2024 by 5:00 PM.

CLIENTS NEAR US ROUTE 30

LEGEND

-  US-30 Route
-  Higher Education Site(s)
-  K-12 Site(s)
-  Healthcare Site(s)
-  Local Government Site(s)



ALLEN COUNTY

- Bluffton University – Becky Hall Addition
- Northwest Ohio Computer Services
- Ohio State University Allen Extension, The
- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Lima
- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Lima Engineering Education

ASHLAND COUNTY

- Ashland University
- Richland Public Health

CARROLL COUNTY

- Carroll County Backup PSAP
- Carroll County Fire Department
- Carroll County Sheriff’s Office

COLUMBIANA COUNTY

- Columbiana County Emergency Management Agency (CCEMA)
- Eastern Gateway Community College – Columbiana County Career & Technical Center
- Kent State University – East Liverpool Campus

CARWFORD COUNTY

- North Central State College – Bucyrus
- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Wexner Medical Center
- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Wexner Medical Center

HANCOCK COUNTY

- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Hancock Extension
- Univeristy of Findlay, The – Data Center
- Univeristy of Findlay, The – Old Man Building

- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Lima Transplant
- Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN)
- Rhodes State College – Downtown Borra
- Rhodes State College – Keese Hall

- Ohio Mid-Eastern Regional Education Service Agency (OMERESA) – Carroll High School
- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Carroll County Extension

- Kent State University – Salem Campus
- Kent State University – Salem City Center
- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Columbiana Extension

HARDIN COUNTY

- Hardin County IT – Title
- Hardin County IT – Courthouse
- Hardin County IT – Dog Shelter

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- Eastern Gateway Community College
- Eastern Gateway Community College – Regional Workforce Training Center
- Eastern Gateway Community College – Wintersville Office
- Franciscan University
- Franciscan University – J.C. Williams Center

PAULDING COUNTY

- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Paulding Extension

PUTNAM COUNTY

- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Putnam Extension

RICHLAND COUNTY

- Ashland University
- Mount Vernon Nazarene University
- North Central Ohio Computer
- North Central State College – Fallerius Hall
- North Central State College – Shelby Kehoe

STARK COUNTY

- Canton Public Schools – Administration Building
- City of Canton – CNTNA
- City of Canton – Government Offices
- City of Canton – Offices
- Kent State University – Stark Campus
- Kent State University – Stark North
- Malone University – Cattell Library
- Malone University – Mount Union

- Hardin County IT – Engineer’s Office
- Hardin County IT – Transfer Station
- Ohio Northern University

- Franciscan University – Resnet
- Ohio Mid-Eastern Regional Education Service Agency – Buckeye Local West
- Ohio Mid-Eastern Regional Education Service Agency – Suite 2
- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Jefferson

- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Mansfield
- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Richland
- Richland Public Health
- Mansfield Lahm Air National Guard Base

- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Stark Extension
- Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine – Affinity Medical Center
- Stark County
- Stark County – Auditor Office
- Stark County – Sheriff’s Office
- Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery

STARK COUNTY (CONTINUE)

- Stark State College – Main Campus B
- Stark–Portage Area Computer Consortium
- University of Mount Union – Beeghly Hall
- Village of Minerva
- Stark County
- Walsh University – Timken Natural Sciences Center

VAN WERT COUNTY

- Northwest State Community College
- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Wexner Medical Center

WAYNE COUNTY

- College of Wooster
- Kent State University – Wooster
- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Hawks Nest
- Ohio State Univeristy, The – OARDC Wooster
- Tri-County Computer Services Association
- Tri-County Computer Services Association – Wooster
- University of Akron – Wayne

WAYNE COUNTY

- Ohio State Univeristy, The – Wyandot Extension