



## Council Agenda Correspondence

**DATE:** December 2, 2025

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Aaron Floyd, Public Works and Utilities Director  
Prepared By: Anthony Ramos, Senior Civil Engineer

**VIA:** Whitney McDonald, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** ITEM 5e – AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE BROADBAND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT – FFA, SPECIFICATION 2001063

Staff received the following questions regarding the service drops from Astound and future funding. The questions are below with staff's response shown in italics:

- 1) **Since the Last Mile Grant is \$4.8 million and it is anticipated that the FFA Phase of this project will only cost \$2.2 million, how many additional drops do we anticipate Astound will be able to install with the remaining grant funds once the initial phase of construction is complete?**

*The Last Mile Grant award totals \$4.8 million, and funding is sufficient to cover the estimated \$2.2 million construction cost of the FFA Phase. The remaining grant funds will primarily be used for construction management, additional design fees, materials testing, archaeological monitoring, and Astound services, as outlined in the report and table below.*

*A 30% construction contingency (approximately \$625,960) is included in the budget to address unforeseen costs during construction. Based on typical project experience, at least half of this contingency (about 15% of total project costs) is expected to be used to address unknowns such as unforeseen site conditions.*

*Example scenario: If half of the contingency remains available, this would leave roughly \$312,980 potentially available for additional service drops. The cost of service drops vary by installation type:*

- *Underground connections: approximately \$1,000 per drop*
- *Aerial connections: approximately \$300 per drop*

*Under this example scenario, the remaining funds could support roughly 313 underground drops or 1,043 aerial drops, depending on the mix of installation types.*

<b>Broadband Implementation Project, Specification No. 2001063</b>		
	<b>Broadband Implementation Project (2001063)</b>	<b>Project Total Costs</b>
	<b>Last Mile FFA Grant</b>	
Publicly Disclosed Limit	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000
Contingencies (30%)	\$625,960	\$625,960
<i>EN Engineering Permit Application Support</i>	\$20,000	\$20,000
<i>Construction Management</i>	\$400,000	\$400,000
<i>Materials Testing</i>	\$30,000	\$30,000
<i>Archeological Monitoring Plan and Services</i>	\$15,000	\$15,000
<i>Printing &amp; Advertising</i>	\$2,500	\$2,500
<i>Pole Lease Agreement Fees</i>	\$150,000	\$150,000
<i>Service Drops to Unserved Locations (Astound)</i>	\$1,245,339	\$1,245,339
<i>Major Equipment (Astound)</i>	\$175,000	\$175,000
<b>Total Cost of Project</b>	<b>\$4,863,799</b>	<b>\$4,863,799</b>
<i>Total Available Funding</i>	\$4,863,799	\$4,863,799
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

- 2) **When do we anticipate the initial construction to be completed? From that date, when can we estimate when potential customers might be able to obtain enhanced service not currently available from Astound?**

*Initial construction is expected to be completed in September 2026. After the infrastructure is in place, potential customers can typically receive service within a few days of selecting Astound as their provider. In rare cases, depending on contractor availability and service order volume, it may take up to a few weeks.*

- 3) **How will families/residents know that they might be eligible because new service is available in their area?**

*As part of the City and Astound's P3 agreement, as well as the grant requirements, Astound is responsible for marketing the new service. This outreach will include direct mail, emails, and in-person visits to residents in newly serviceable areas.*

- 4) Since this project does not have any additional budget identified in the 10-year CIP, do we have any hope of funding from other sources for the remaining phases of the plan?**

*As this is the first Broadband project being completed by the City, a focus was placed on delivering the Federal Fund Account (FFA) portion. Staff will continue working with federal and state legislators to continue seeking grant opportunities for Broadband expansion and pursue those opportunities within staffing resource availability. Successful completion of this phase and an increased understanding of the grant funding and reimbursement process would place the City in an advantageous position for future grants, as granting agencies look favorability on communities with a track record of fulfilling their prior grant obligations.*