



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee

Meeting Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Sep 8, 2022 at 9:00 AM CDT

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor, 112 E 2nd St, Dixon, IL 61021

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Chair Bob Olson.

II. Roll Call - Board Members - Bob Olson, Chair, Jim Schielein, John Nicholson, Chris Norberg, Rick Humphrey, Tim Bivins, Tom Wilson, and Mike Zeman

Jim Schielein was absent. All other Board Members attended in person.

Following the August ARPA Meeting, the Chair appointed Board Members Tom Wilson and Mike Zeman to the committee.

III. Committee Members - John Simonton, Kevin Lalley, Charley Boonstra, Sara Leisner, Patty Rudolphi, Paul Rudolphi, Wendy Ryerson

John Simonton and Kevin Lalley were absent. All other committee members were present in person.

Also present: Becky Brenner (Board Secretary).

IV. Approval of Minutes (August 11, 2022)

The minutes from the August 11, 2022, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee Meeting were approved as presented without modification.

V. Visitors

Jeff Stauter (Kreider Services), Dixon resident Don Vock, and Mason Weigle and Katie Drew (Dixon High School Golf Team members) were all present and spoke on behalf of the Timber Creek Golf Club/Kreider Services joint effort for the golf course irrigation system to encourage the committee to reconsider their support of the project.

Amit Patel (CEO of Syndeo Networks) was present to walk the committee through the Broadband Grant item on the agenda under New Business.

VI. Old Business - No old business items

There were no items under Old Business.

VII. New Business

A. PowerPoint Presentation

1. Review of Funds Allocated/Obligated and Funds Remaining

Sara Leisner broke down the allocated and obligated funds remaining:

- \$99,589 remains in General Requests Category.
- \$873,361 remains in the Lee County Capital Projects Category with \$848,000 of unapproved requests.
- \$245,000 remains in the Business and Economic Development Category.
- \$12 remains in the Small Business Program
- \$10,608 remain in the Community Service Program
- \$1,000,000 remains in reserve for 2023
- \$1,000,000 remains in reserve for 2024

Sara also broke down the projects included in the \$848,000 of unapproved ARPA capital requests:

- \$270,000 Courts Building (Original) Boiler Project
- \$377,000 Courts Building Generator Project
- \$80,000 Former LEC Repurpose - Phase 1
- \$121,000 Old Courthouse Elevator Repair

2. Broadband Grant - Match funding

Wendy Ryerson walked the committee through a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Broadband Grant. Highlights are below. The entire presentation will be included as an attachment to the minutes.

- One of the top five (5) priorities identified in the ARPA Strategic Planning Meeting was Broadband.
- Ogle County applied for, and received a Broadband planning grant and included Lee and Putnam Counties in the planning process.
- For twelve (12) weeks, Ogle, Lee, and Putnam Counties (along with many other entities) participated in a planning grant program that would help identify what work needed to be done to pull together a Broadband project for County or Community government, including networks, areas, funding opportunities, and barriers to network development.
- The Broadband grant currently available is not getting Broadband to homes, it is developing and securing the necessary “middle-

mile” infrastructure that would eventually bring Broadband to communities. Future phases will bring Broadband into homes.

- The deadline for application of this grant is September 30, 2022.
- The County Board would have to approve participation at the September County Board Meeting. Notice of the award will be announced on or about March 1, 2023 and the grant requires the complete buildout to be completed within five (5) years.
- The process requires collaborative efforts between Counties and public and private partnerships.
- The County's private partner is Syndeo Networks

Amit Patel, CEO of Syndeo Networks, walked the committee through the process. Below are some of the highlights.

- The Federal Government allows the construction of fibers paths to the rural communities, but not to the homes (phase 1).
- Broadband provided within the jurisdiction of cities and towns falls under the Connect Illinois Program (phase 2).
- The Federal Government is asking for a 30% match for funding and this is where the private and public partnership comes into play.
- Syndeo is matching 15% in real dollars along with contributing towards all of the administration and equipment costs.
- The total cost of the project is roughly \$47 million. Syndeo's cost is roughly \$6.3 million. Lee County's cost, over five (5) years, is between \$1.6 and \$1.7 million.
- The County would recoup some of the costs from future applicable taxes on the services.

The committee took a short recess from 10:00 - 10:09 a.m.

Motion to fund the Broadband Grant at 100% (\$1,677,366.97) from ARPA Capital and move to the Finance Committee. **Moved** by Tom Wilson. **Second** by John Nicholson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Allocation of remaining funds for Capital Projects

Motion to allocate all remaining funds to Lee County Capital Projects and move to the Finance Committee. **Moved** by Chris Norberg. **Second** by John Nicholson. **Motion** passed six (6) in favor, one (1) opposed.

B. Schedule of future ARPA meetings

The committee agreed that the next ARPA meeting should be November 10, 2022.

Motion to cancel the October 6, 2022, ARPA Committee Meeting. **Moved** by Tim Bivins. **Second** by Chris Norberg. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

~~VIII. Next Meeting Date (October 6, 2022)~~

The next meeting of the American Rescue Plan Act will be November 10, 2022.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:23 a.m. **Moved** by Tim Bivins. **Second** by Rick Humphrey. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.



American Rescue Plan Act State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Committee Meeting

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

Funds Allocated/Obligated

Total Award	\$ 6,622,748			
Category	Allocation	Approved	Balance Remaining	Unapproved Requests
2023 Reserve	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -
2024 Reserve	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -
Community Service Program	\$ 150,000	\$ 139,392	\$ 10,608	\$ -
Small Business Program	\$ 500,000	\$ 499,988	\$ 12	\$ -
Business & Economic Dev.	\$ 500,000	\$ 255,000	\$ 245,000	\$ -
Lee County Capital Projects	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 626,639	\$ 873,361	\$ 848,000
General Requests*	\$ 1,972,748	\$ 1,873,159	\$ 99,589	\$ -
Totals	\$ 6,622,748	\$ 3,394,178	\$ 3,228,570	\$ 848,000

***General Request allocation is the difference between total ARPA award and all previous categories**



Broadband Presentation

Remaining ARPA Funds Action Item

- ▶ **\$3,228,570.00 total remains of ARPA Funds in various categories**
- ▶ **Proposal to allocate all the remaining funds, with the exception of Business & Economic Development funds, for use on Lee County Capital Projects**
 - ▶ **Broadband as a Capital Investment (\$1.7 million) Match**
 - ▶ **Action Item to Approve Application for Grant/Lee County Match funding**

Future ARPA Meetings Action Item

- ▶ Proposal to Meet Quarterly instead of monthly
- ▶ No specific ARPA Meetings, but updates at Finance Meeting
- ▶ Other suggestions for ARPA Meeting frequency
- ▶ Review Budget, Reporting updates, updates from Treasury, Annual ARPA report to Treasury



Questions, Comments, Feedback

NEXT MEETING DATE

THURSDAY OCTOBER 6, 2022

9:00 AM



I ILLINOIS EXTENSION



Illinois
**Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity**

OFFICE OF BROADBAND
JB Pritzker, Governor



Broadband for All – Plan for Ogle, Lee, Boone & Putnam Counties

Team Members

- **Ogle County**

- Patricia Nordman, Vice-Chairman of the Ogle County Board
- Marcia Heuer, Ogle County Board
- Don Griffin, Ogle County Board
- Kris Gilbert, GIS Ogle County
- Jodi Hekamp GIS Ogle County
- Larry Callant, IT Department Manager
- John Finfrock, Chairman of the Ogle County Board
- Chris Manheim –Economic Development Director of Ogle County
- Paula Diehl –Economic Development Assistant of Ogle County
- Ron Kern, Ogle County Farm Bureau
- Mike Delany, UI Extension Analyst

- **Lee County**

- Wendy Ryerson, Lee County Administrator
- John Nicholson, Vice-Chairman Lee County Board

- **Putnam County**

- Steve Malavolti – Vice Chairman of the Putnam County Board
- Charlie Lenkaitis - PC Board Chairman
- Kevin Lindemen - Economic Development (UCCI)

- **Growth Dimensions, Inc. Economic Development (Boone County)**

- Pamela Lopez-Fettes, Executive Director
- Ginna DeLarose

Vision Statement

To “Ensure availability of reliable, high-performing, high-speed, **affordable broadband to all residents, businesses, organizations and farms** in the north central Illinois region that promotes educational, economic and information opportunities.”



Scope of Work

- Identifying existing broadband networks in the region, both private and public;
- Identifying underserved areas by means of a needs assessment, community survey and other tools;
- Identifying funding opportunities, both public and private; and
- Identifying physical, policy and other barriers to network development.



Survey Comments

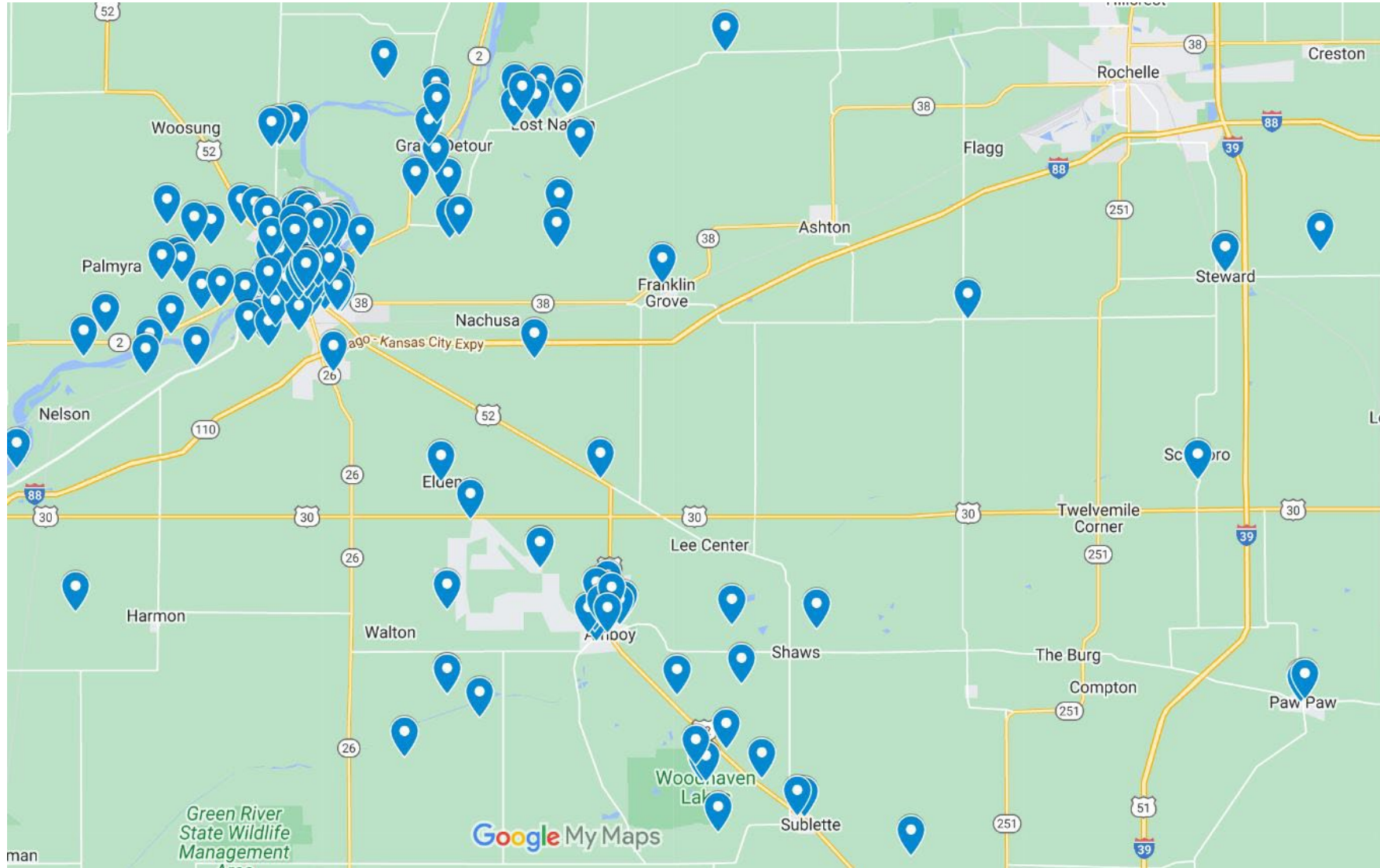
County Totals = 791 complete responses (out of 1,324 submissions)

- Ogle 224
- Lee 315
- Boone 94
- Putnam 172

As of Aug. 6, 2022

- *"All I know is we desperately need fiber optic internet in this area. And affordable service, as well."*
- *"Seeing that the school districts and courthouses have gotten fiber optics in my region, it can [be] helpful to increase speeds in rural regions that are often ignored due to lower income, lower population, and overall lower educational opportunities. Increasing broadband options to the public in rural areas can greatly reduce the disparity between rural and urban demographics."*

Lee County – 309 complete responses



“Would love to have a high-speed choice. When we currently try and stream, we have a lot of buffering. When we try and watch my son’s high school games on the TV it is horrible with buffering.”

Key Survey Findings

Lee County:

"We have called and begged and offered any solution we can think of to all area providers. We've even offered to pay for additional infrastructure to bring reliable internet to our house. No success. We tried satellite internet but our geographical location made the connection exceedingly unreliable."

"Multiple times a day my internet just stops working, even when you are in the middle of something, so you have to click refresh internet when a box pops up. On average about every 3 months the service goes out sometimes for 3-5 days. We live in the country so there isn't much choice."

Key Survey Findings

- Availability of service
- Delivery of service
- Term “qualifying broadband service” means broadband service with:
 - a download speed of not less than 25 megabits per second; and
 - an upload speed of not less than 3 megabits per second; and
 - a latency sufficient to support real time

What's Next?

- All Cohort Participants present findings to respective boards
- Resolution passed and signed by boards supporting enhancing and goal of Broadband for All (BFA)
- Regional or county by county effort?
 - Follow NTIA and IL Connect process of emphasizing regional effort
 - Multiple year effort

Funding Opportunities

- Local
 - American Rescue Plan funds
 - Local funding
- State
 - Connect Illinois
 - Infrastructure programs through the Dept. of Transportation
- Federal
 - American Rescue Plan
 - **NTIA – Department of Commerce**
 - USDA
 - EDA

NTIA GRANT

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

“Middle Mile” Broadband Infrastructure Grant

ELIGIBLE USES

- Construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities, equipment
- Engineering design, permitting and work related to project reviews
- Personnel costs, incl. salaries for staff and consultants
- Other Costs necessary for programmatic activities

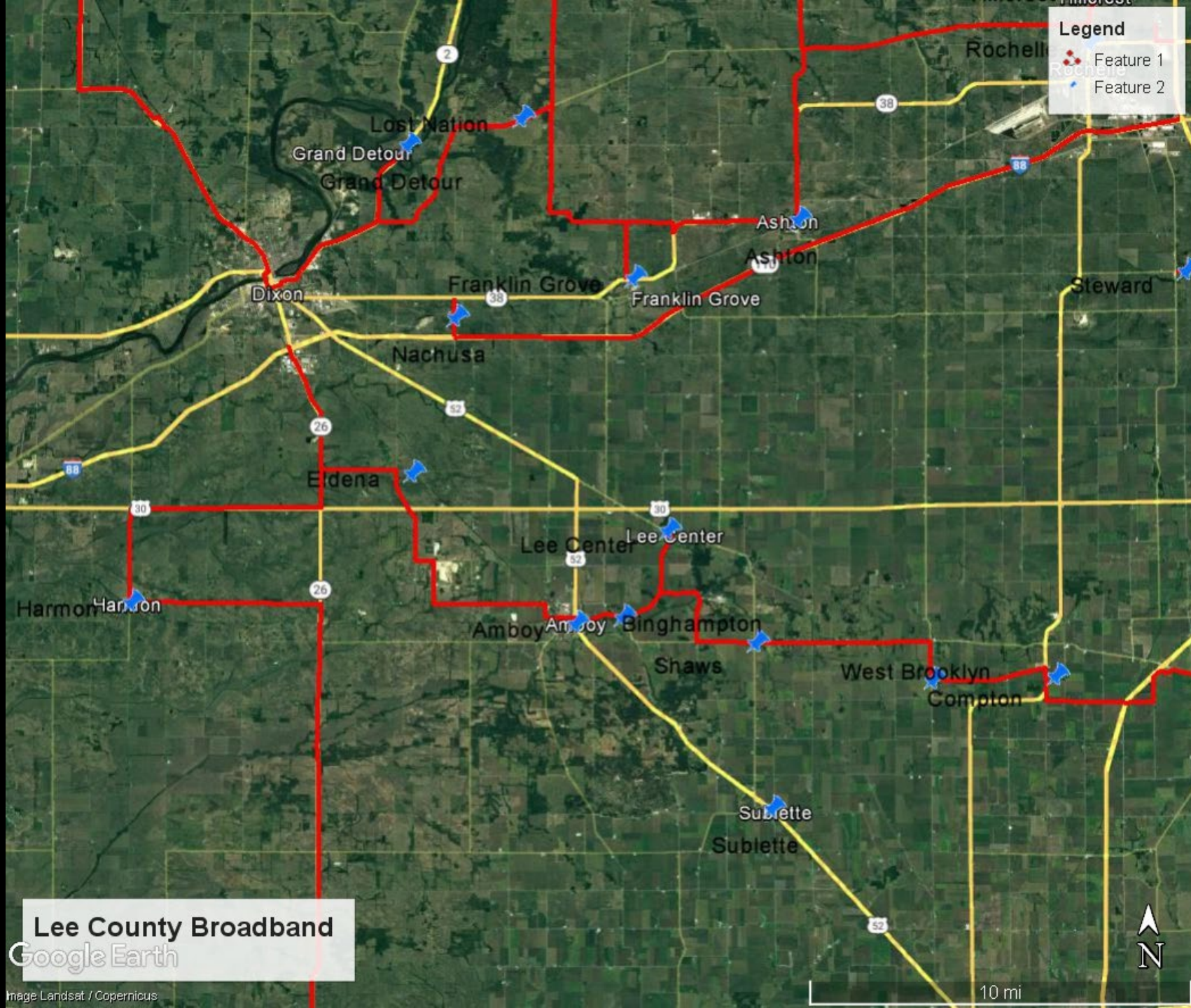
NTIA GRANT

IMPORTANT DATES

- Application Due: 9/30/2022
- Lee County approval: 9/22/2022
- Notice of Award: 3/1/2023
- Complete buildout: Within 5 years

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

- Develop the middle mile infrastructure
- Regional Effort with multiple Counties
- Largest infrastructure development in Ogle/Lee
- Private Partner: Syndeo
 - CEO Amit Patel



Lee County Broadband
Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus

Legend
Feature 1
Feature 2

10 mi

