

## Solicitation for Grant to Provide Wireless Last Mile Network in New Braintree

(RFP No. 2020-MBI-02)

### Bidders' Questions

**Deadline to Submit Questions: March 18, 2020**

	Question	Answers
1.	Can MBI provide, A map of Braintree town, clearing indicating CAI, poles / shelters, connect points, existing fiber routes, approx. distance between connect points?	<b>Response:</b> MBI will make additional information available to Respondents that are invited by MBI to submit a full grant application as part of Phase 2.
2.	Can MBI provide, Fiber termination points, connectivity location with FTTH ONU?	<b>Response:</b> There is no FTTH currently deployed in New Braintree.
3.	Can MBI provide, Information about the premises that have multiple connect points?	<b>Response:</b> There is no last mile broadband network currently deployed in New Braintree.
4.	Can MBI provide, 49 aerial route miles are calculated based on what location?	<b>Response:</b> The 49 aerial route miles is the total number of route miles within the municipality of New Braintree along which it is assumed that there are existing utility poles.
5.	Can MBI provide, CO location if any for efficient low cost wireless deployment?	<b>Response:</b> MBI does not have a record of their being any existing Verizon (the iLEC) central office (CO) located in New Braintree. For more information about COs in Massachusetts follow this link: <a href="https://www22.verizon.com/wholesale/attachments/space-exhaust/Web_UpdateMA.pdf">https://www22.verizon.com/wholesale/attachments/space-exhaust/Web_UpdateMA.pdf</a>
6.	Are the 1510 poles available and ready for service?	<b>Response:</b> The approximate pole count of 1,510 poles are not ready for service. If use of these utility poles is required then make ready

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		will need to be conducted and pole attachment licenses will need to be obtained by the selected Respondent.
7.	Can MBI provide, A sketch of 49 aerial distance miles?	<b>Response:</b> The map that was provided as Attachment D in this Grant Solicitation shows all of the roadways within the community. The 49 mile aerial distance is the combination of the miles depicted as roadways on the map.
8.	Shall it be pure wireless network or a combination of fiber cable and wireless?	<b>Response:</b> It is expected that 96% of the premises in the New Braintree community will be provided at least 25/3 Mbps service via a wireless technology. Exceeding this specification is permitted. So grant proposal could offer more that 96% coverage, more than 25/3 Mbps speeds, and/or could offer a hybrid approach that includes wireline solutions (e.g. fiber optic, coaxial cable).
9.	Can MBI provide, RF site survey, clear line of sight, physcient height?	<b>Response:</b> No. MBI has not conducted site surveys and MBI will not provide an RF site survey to potential Respondents.
10.	Can MBI provide, Total wireless power that could be transmitted?	<b>Response:</b> MBI expects that grant proposal responses will adhere to all FCC (and other) regulations with respect to maximum wireless power transmission levels.
11.	Can MBI provide, Existing poles, their height & shelter spots for wireless CPE?	<b>Response:</b> No. MBI does not have pole data for the entire New Braintree community. MBI does have outdated pole data for the poles it licensed as part of the middle mile network. At this time, MBI will not be providing the pole data for the poles it licensed for the middle mile network to potential Respondents.
12.	Can MBI provide, Number of CEP required, it's number of customer scalability with uplink and downlink?	<b>Response:</b> No. MBI cannot provide the number of CPEs required to potential Respondents. However, the grant solicitation does state that the estimated premises count is 379 and the estimated unit count is 400. Respondents can use these numbers to develop a preliminary estimate of the number of CPE devices that may be required.

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		We believe that the portion of the question that refers to ‘customer scalability with uplink and downlink’ is addressed with the following statement: MBI has provided a requirement that the wireless system must provide a minimum of 25 Mbps download, and 3 Mbps upload to 96% of the premises in New Braintree.
13.	Can MBI provide, Number of GPON, if require?	<b>Response:</b> No. MBI cannot provide the number of GPONs required to Respondents, because there is no existing GPON available, and respondents are expected to propose a solution that is a wireless network. If Respondents would like to propose a GPON, then that will also be considered.
14.	Can MBI provide, Number of WiFi CPE, what sort of RF Power and what sort of antennae?	<b>Response:</b> No. MBI will not provide WIFI specifications to potential Respondents. However, the grant solicitation does state that the estimated premises count is 379 and the estimated unit count is 400. Respondents can use these numbers to develop a preliminary estimate of the number of WIFI CPE devices that will be required. The requirements for this grant solicitation are technology agnostic, so as long as Respondents’ solutions are compliant with FCC (and other) regulations they will be considered.
15.	Can MBI provide, Total cost project projection?	<b>Response:</b> No. MBI will not provide a total cost projection to Respondents. As noted in the grant solicitation, MBI is offering a grant of up to \$720,000 to support the buildout of a wireless network in New Braintree.
16.	Can MBI provide, A suitable working module that local and neighboring communities are purposing or incline to?	<b>Response:</b> No. MBI does not have a module or model that it has prescribed to New Braintree or any neighboring community. The baseline requirements are that a wireless system be proposed that is capable of providing a minimum of 25 Mbps download, and 3 Mbps upload to 96% of the premises in New Braintree. The requirements for this grant solicitation are technology agnostic.
17.	Are you only looking for ISP provider solution?	<b>Response:</b> In Phase 2, MBI shall require that grant applications include a description of how the role of internet service provider (ISP)

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		will be addressed. Respondents will need to articulate who will play the role of ISP for the New Braintree wireless network. The Respondent can partner with another vendor to provide this function. <b><u>If the Respondent intends to partner with another firm, the Statement of Qualifications should include the required information for each proposed partner.</u></b>
18.	Can MBI explain, If New Braintree or local municipalities are willing to own / lease hardware and software for upfront cost reduction?	<b>Response:</b> At this time, it is expected that the successful Respondent will own, and operate the New Braintree wireless network, not the local municipality. However, if the Town of New Braintree negotiated a partial ownership arrangement with the successful Respondent, then that would be permitted.
19.	Shall the successful respondent work as an ISP or work with and another ISP or Vendor(s)?	<b>Response:</b> The successful Respondent can take either approach. The Respondent can serve as the ISP or partner with another vendor who will function as the ISP.
20.	Is the provision of billing system part of the project. Who shall define the prices?	<b>Response:</b> Yes. The provisioning of a billing system can be part of the project, but this may adversely drive up the bid price. In Phase 2, MBI will require that grant applications include a budget for the project. The grant application will also include the services and pricing that the Respondent proposes for New Braintree subscribers.
21.	What shall be the format of payment for the outstanding cost and Operations & Maintenance for 10 - 15 years?	<b>Response:</b> It is assumed that operational costs will be covered by subscription fees paid by customers. The selected Respondent will be responsible for covering all costs of operating and maintaining the network. Grant funds cannot be used for operational costs.
22.	Can MBI explain, the time limit for the commissioning of the Project?	<b>Response:</b> There is currently no time limit for the commissioning of the project, but lengthy timeframes will adversely affect the project schedule. The duration of the proposed project schedule will be considered by MBI as part of the grant application evaluation process.

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23.	Can MBI provide, Details of purchases & bills, other than the wireless eqpt, that the respondent should consider?	<b>Response:</b> In Phase 2, Respondents will request a grant amount that reflects the Respondent's estimate of the design and construction costs for the project. As noted in the response to Question 21, grant funds cannot be used for operational expenses.
24.	2.1 "Respondents looking to offer a wireless broadband network capable of servicing residential premises" • Can the funds be used to support business customers as well?	<b>Response:</b> Yes. The funds can be used to cover project design and construction costs to develop a network that serves a variety of subscribers, including business, non-profit organizations, municipal buildings, and residences. However, MBI's coverage requirements relate solely to coverage of residential premises.
25.	2.3 "Grant funds may be used only to subsidize the selected Respondent's costs to construct a Wireless Broadband Network." • Can the funds be used for fiber components if necessary, or must it be all wireless?	<b>Response:</b> Yes. The funds can be used to cover all project design and construction costs which would include wireless and all other types of equipment.
26.	2.3 "Grant funds may be used only to subsidize the selected Respondent's costs to construct a Wireless Broadband Network." • Is "costs to construct" to include all associated costs, or is it limited in a specific way?	<b>Response:</b> Respondents should consider all project design and construction costs. As noted in the response to Question 21, grant funds cannot be used for operational expenses.