

DEERFIELD VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT

Testimony Before Senate Finance Committee
February 19, 2021
Ann Manwaring

Infrastructure – Preconstruction Planning

1. Our immediate need is for \$50,000 to fund consulting and legal assistance in the negotiation of a public / private partnership agreement. We have issued an RFP with a time line expected to result in a contract with a partner by the end of May. We are doing the staff work with our volunteers but signing a contract of such magnitude requires professional and legal assistance.
2. When we sign on the dotted line with our selected partner(s), there could be an immediate need for \$150,000 for pole studies in our remaining Phase One towns based on a current quotation.
3. High Level Design for the whole District and Engineering Design for Phase I towns would follow, estimated to cost \$400,000 based on the unit costs in our Business Plan plus communication with a likely vendor.
4. These steps could lead to our ability to enter the construction phase, possibly beginning by the end of the year.

Administrative

We will need to invest in systems to handle internal communications and document retention with regard to donations, private placements investments, and customer relationship management plus IT systems administration support to integrate these. As a Governing Board, we need to establish this framework now with the option of continuing to operate it ourselves or possibly handing it over to our Partner. We estimate this will be a cost of \$18,000.

Collaboration with SoVt CUD

We are in active discussion with SoVT CUD for a joint contract to undertake a High Level Engineering project to create a visible map of the likely routes that fiber will roll out in both CUDs. SoVt will likely be the lead applicant for this project. DViber's cost for our 20 towns is estimated to be \$265,000 (included in #3 above). The additional cost for SoVt's 14 towns is Estimated at \$70,000.

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