

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Regional Application for Broadband Infrastructure Funding

WHEREAS, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission serves five central Virginia counties (Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson) as well as the City of Charlottesville, and

WHEREAS, there are large areas of the five counties that have very limited access to broadband internet service, and

WHEREAS, high speed access to the internet is required for all types of businesses in the five county region including agriculture, health services, tourism, and all types of knowledge based businesses,

WHEREAS, high speed access to the internet at home is also required for students in all levels of primary and secondary education, and

WHEREAS, the availability broadband internet service has been identified as critical for maintaining a skilled workforce, and

WHEREAS, in recognition of these needs the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission brought together a coalition made up of representatives from the five counties to identify strategies for providing broadband internet access throughout 100% of the region, and

WHEREAS, TJPDC with the assistance of representatives of the five counties conducted a Request for Proposals process to identify the most qualified provider of broadband internet service for the region, and

WHEREAS, DigitalBridge Communications has submitted a proposal to provide WiMAX wireless internet service, and

WHEREAS, WiMAX wireless broadband internet service has been successfully deployed in 18 underserved and rural areas throughout the country including Appomattox County, Virginia, and

WHEREAS, WiMAX wireless broadband internet service is not limited by line of sight or hampered by foliage or weather, and

WHEREAS, the WiMAX wireless broadband internet service would allow users to access the internet wherever they were within the region, and

WHEREAS, this service will cost the users only \$25 to \$35 per month, and

WHEREAS, there are loan and grant funds available from the United States Government through the ARRA Broadband Infrastructure Program that will allow DigitalBridge Communications to implement the wireless broadband internet service throughout the five county region at no cost to the counties, and

WHEREAS, DigitalBridge Communications has agreed to pay any matching costs that might be required, and

WHEREAS, DigitalBridge Communications has committed to maintain and operate the wireless broadband internet service, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission expresses their support for the application for broadband infrastructure funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) by DigitalBridge Communications.

Adopted this 4th day of March, 2010.

Carl Schmit, Chair