
Title **0050** 01/28/2021

by **Catherine Moyer** in **Public Comment** id. 19031669

120 W KANSAS AVE
PO BOX 707
Ulysses, Kansas
67880-0707
United States
6203563211
catherine.moyer@pioncomm.net

Original Submission 01/28/2021

Please provide your name: **Catherine Moyer**

Please provide your address: **120 W KANSAS AVE
PO BOX 707
Ulysses
KS
67880-0707
US**

Please provide a phone number: **6203563211**

Please provide your email contact: **catherine.moyer@pioncomm.net**

Are you responding on behalf of an organization? **Yes**

Please provide the name of the organization and address for which you are submitting comments: **Pioneer Communications**

Which of the following best describes you?
(Check all that apply)

Internet provider in proposed service area

I am providing comments related to the following application (choose one):

IdeaTek Southwest Kansas

I am submitting comments to express

Concerns regarding a project

I am sharing concerns the project:

Proposes to serve an area that already has service

Please provide your comments in the text box below.

A portion of IdeaTek's Southwest application covers already served portions of Stevens County. The attached PDF shows Pioneer's exchange boundaries with a blue line. The pink lines show the edges of IdeaTek's proposed wireless coverage. The overlapped structures in Pioneer's service territory appear as black dots. There are 118 structures. Of those, more than 50% are capable of receiving 25/3 or faster today. The remaining 50% will be built in the near future in accordance with Universal Service Fund requirements. This area is supported by both USF and KUSF dollars with a fiber/copper terrestrial network.

Please provide supporting documents relative to your comments. Please submit multiple files as a ZIP file.

[IDEATEK20210126FINAL.pdf](#)

Catherine Moyer

By submitting this form for public comment and evidence to support your comment, you are accepting responsibility for the accuracy of the information submitted and that it is true and correct to the best of your knowledge. You agree to be contacted by the Kansas Office of Broadband Development, Kansas Department of Commerce should the need arise. Furthermore, by making this submission, you understand that Kansas Department of Commerce and the Office of Broadband Development reserve the right to publicly publish your comment and evidence provided. Falsification of information will result in rejection of future public comment submissions and could result legal action. Please type your name and today's date in the text box below.






MOSCOW EXCHANGE

HUGOTON EXCHANGE

6.5 MILES
TO HUGOTON

12 MILES
TO LIBERAL

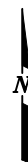
LEGEND

	EXCHANGE BOUNDARY
	IDEATEK COVERAGE BOUNDARY
	COPPER CABLE
	FIBER CABLE
	STRUCTURES



IDEATEK COVERAGE

SCALE	NA	DRAWN BY	SLH
MAP NO.	1 OF 1	DATE	01/26/2021
FILE NAME	CAD:\CAT\IDEATEK2021		



Title **0071** 02/01/2021
by **Todd Houseman** in **Public Comment** id. 19090639
1107 Mc Artor Rd
Dodge City, Kansas
67801
Kansas
United States
6202278641
toddh@unitedtelcom.net

Original Submission 02/01/2021

Please provide your name: **Todd Houseman**

Please provide your address: **1107 Mc Artor Rd
Dodge City
Kansas
67801
US**

Please provide a phone number: **6202278641**

Please provide your email contact: **toddh@unitedtelcom.net**

Are you responding on behalf of an organization? **Yes**

Please provide the name of the organization and address for which you are submitting comments: **United Telephone Assoc., Inc. (and United Wireless Communications, Inc. - its wholly owned subsidiary) 1107 McArtor Rd Dodge City, KS 67801**

Which of the following best describes you? (Check all that apply) **Internet provider in proposed service area**

I am providing comments related to the following application (choose one): **IdeaTek Southwest Kansas**

I am submitting
comments to express

Concerns regarding a project

I am sharing
concerns the project:

Proposes service to an area in which construction is already underway
Proposes to serve an area likely to be served without grant funds because plans are in place to serve this area, although construction has not yet begun
Proposes to serve an area that already has service

Please provide your
comments in the text
box below.

Who we are:

United Telephone Association, Inc. is a member-owned Telephone cooperative that has been proudly providing service in the SW Kansas area for the past 70 years. United Telephone Assoc. is a rural, rate-of-return regulated, Incumbent Local Exchange Company (ILEC) and receives significant operational funding assistance from both the Federal Universal Service Fund High-Cost program and the Kansas Universal Service Fund in order to carry out its regulatory obligations as a KCC certified ETC and COLR.

Why we are expressing concern:

This proposed BAG project (Ideatek SW Kansas) includes a large amount of territory that overlays United Telephone Association's regulated service territory - Copeland, Montezuma, Ensign, Spearville, and Ford/Kingsdown exchanges. We are attaching a Google Earth (.kmz) file that shows these exchanges overlaid in the area served by this proposed project. This map also indicates (Red, Blue, Green, Orange, Yellow and Pink routes) the more than 800 miles of fiber optic backbone/backhaul routes that are in place currently that we and other providers and carriers (Cox, T-Mobile & Verizon) use for our existing traffic. This map does not show the over 2,000 miles of "drop" fiber placed in the last 20+ years to provide service to individual business and residential locations in and out our service territory. United Telephone Association's Board of Trustees made a \$30+ million-dollar decision in early 2016 to buildout fiber optic connectivity to every single member-owner location - business and residence - in all 10 of our exchanges shown on the attached map. As of the end of 2020, we have over 80% of that project fully completed and we will finish the balance of the entire project by the end of 2022. Following is a summary of that FTTP project as it relates to our 5 exchanges that would be impacted by this specific BAG proposal:

Montezuma - We have completed the "Town" portion of this exchange (an extended area shown by the polygon that surrounds the town and an extended area around the town that was completed as part of that project). And we have also brought fiber service to several businesses and residences that lie outside of town based on their request to us for that type of service. In fact, 326 of the 414 (79%) total locations within this exchange have already been cut over to our fiber service. The remaining rural locations are part of our

2021 FTTP project to be completed prior to the end of this year.

Copeland - We have completed the "Town" portion of this exchange (an extended area shown in the file we uploaded by a polygon that surrounds the town and an extended area around the town that was completed as part of that project). And we have also brought fiber service to a number of businesses and residences that lie outside of the town initiated on their request to us for that type of service. 101 of the 192 (53%) total locations within this exchange have already been cut-over to our fiber service. The remaining rural locations are part of our 2021-2022 FTTP project.

Ensign - The Ensign Exchange, which includes 67 total locations (2 of which has already been provided with fiber service via earlier requests) is scheduled for construction in late 2021 to be completed in 2022). In the meantime, we have always encouraged our member-owners to reach out to us if they need more capacity than is currently available over their current connection to our network. We have fiber to within a few miles of each customer (in all remaining exchanges) and are willing and able to bury a fiber drop to them prior to the FTTP project upon their request.

Spearville - We have completed the "Town" portion of this exchange with fiber (an extended area shown by the polygon that surrounds the town and an extended area around the town that was completed as part of that project). And we have also brought fiber service to a number of businesses and residences that lie outside of town based on their request to us for that type of service. In fact, 301 of the 382 (79%) locations within this exchange have already been cut over to our fiber service. The remaining rural locations are part of our 2021-2022 FTTP project.

Ford/Kingsdown - The fiber project for Ford/Kingsdown was started in late 2020 and is expected to be fully completed in the next few weeks and customer cutovers will follow. This will bring fiber connectivity to every business and residence within this entire exchange - a total of 88 (3 of which have been already connected prior to this project).

As you can see from this United Telephone Assoc. FTTP project summary, these specific areas are being well served by their member-owned cooperative and as such should not qualify as an area deemed eligible for BAG funding consideration. In total there are 1,143 locations within these 5 United Telephone Association exchanges and 732 of them (64%) are connected to fiber optic service as of today. The 411 locations that are now currently served with our DSL service (thru fiber-fed DLCs) will be connected to fiber in the final 2 years of our FTTP project.

Also, in the areas of this proposed BAG project that lie outside our United Telephone Association exchange boundaries in Ford County and Seward County, we would like to make you fully aware of an extensive, multi-million-dollar project that is currently underway with United Telephone Cooperative's wholly owned subsidiary - United

Wireless Communications, Inc. Over the coming 12-18 months, United Wireless will be completely rebuilding its entire wireless network (new core/switching equipment and new Radio Access Network) with cutting edge 5G equipment that will bring a new level of robustness to all of our wireless coverage areas throughout SW Kansas. With our nearly 100 MHz of licensed spectrum (in the 600 MHz, 700 MHz, 1.9 GHz, 2.5 Ghz, and 3.5 GHz spectrum bands) - along with being able to effectively utilize shared (3.5 GHz) and unlicensed spectrum (5 GHz) as needed - we will be rolling out significant improvements in speed and throughput with this new 100+ site, state-of-the-art mobile and fixed-wireless network.

Conclusion:

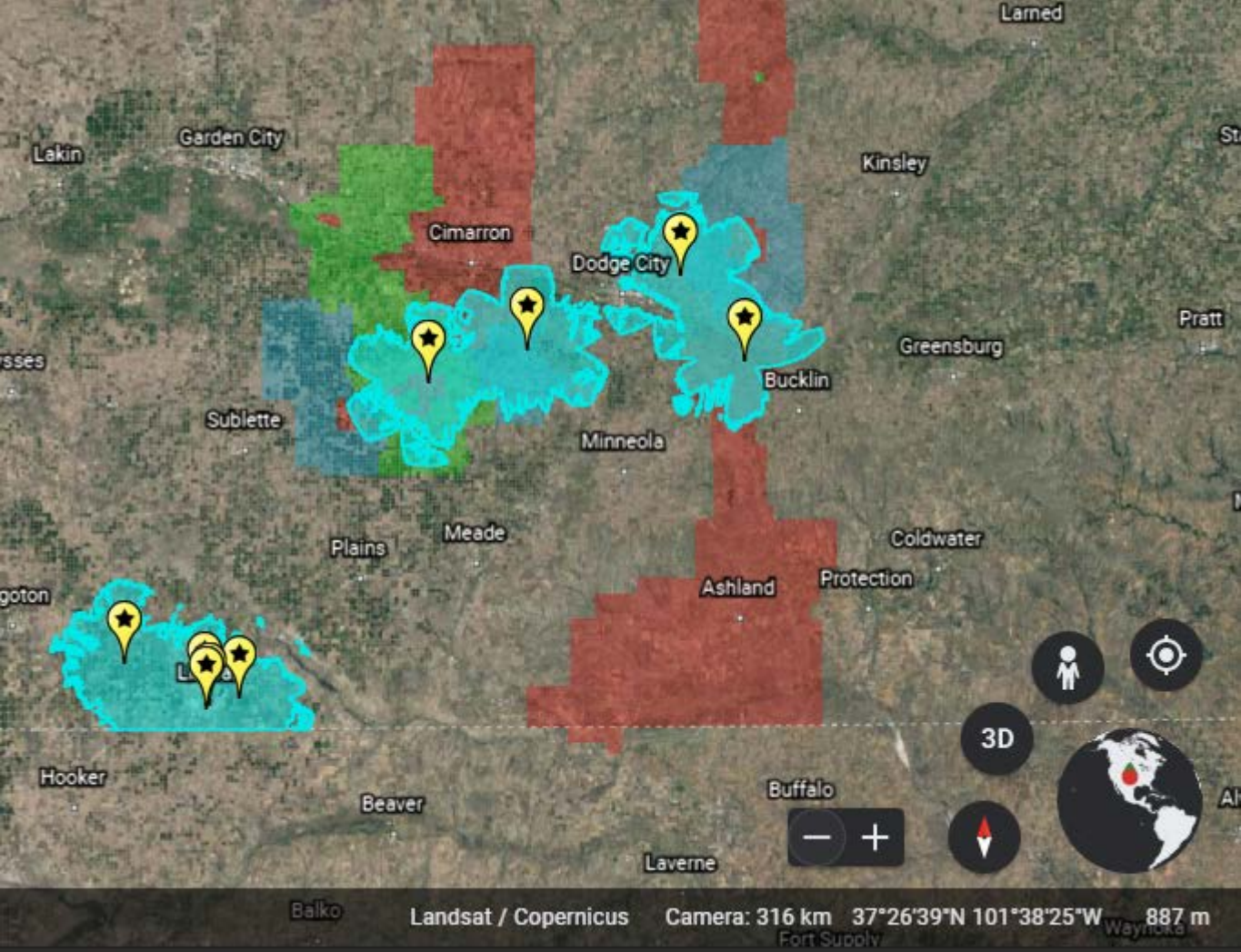
United Telephone Association reiterates that a large percentage of the proposed population covered by this BAG project is already being served with fiber and/or fiber-fed DLC services that can provide robust broadband services. And, that the remaining areas are going to be built-out with fiber to the premise in the coming months as part of our ongoing FTTP project. As it relates to those areas that are not part of United Telephone Association's FTTP project (the Dodge City/Liberal areas served by AT&T) will be, at a minimum, covered with hi-speed broadband service later this year as a result of the United Wireless 5G equipment upgrade that is planned to be completed over the next 12 months. Please reach out if you need further clarification or information regarding our concerns about funding this particular project and our current plans to serve these areas without the need for the Kansas BAG program's funding resources. We feel that those limited funds would be best spent in the many areas of Kansas that truly lack having a FUSF/KUSF supported provider willing and able to serve those customers.

Please provide supporting documents relative to your comments. Please submit multiple files as a ZIP file.

[United_Telephone_Assoc_2021_BAG_Comments_Google_Earth_kmz_file.zip](#)

Todd Houseman February 1, 2021

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Lakin

Garden City

Cimarron

Dodge City

Kinsley

Sublette

Minneola

Bucklin

Greensburg

Plains

Meade

Coldwater

Ashland

Protection

Hooker

Beaver

Buffalo

Laverne

Balko

Landsat / Copernicus

Camera: 316 km 37°26'39"N 101°38'25"W

887 m

Fort Supply

Waynoka

Title **0063** 01/29/2021
by **Renee Jones** in **Public Comment** id. 19043432
[REDACTED]
Liberal, Kansas
67901
Kansas
United States
[REDACTED]

Original Submission 01/29/2021

Please provide your name: **Renee Jones**

Please provide your address: [REDACTED]
**Liberal
Kansas
67901
US**

Please provide a phone number: [REDACTED]

Please provide your email contact: [REDACTED]

Are you responding on behalf of an organization? **Yes**

Please provide the name of the organization and address for which you are submitting comments: **Epic Touch**

Which of the following best describes you?
(Check all that apply) **Resident in proposed service area**

I am providing comments related to the following application (choose one): **IdeaTek Southwest Kansas**

am submitting
comments to express

Support for a project

Please provide your
comments in the text
box below.

Our internet runs super slow speed. Our internet runs at 8 mps. Our business internet runs at 90 mps because Epic Touch was able to put fiber optic lines. Please helps us out. 8 mps does not allow streaming of videos or efficient use of our computers.

Please provide
supporting
documents relative to
your comments.
Please submit
multiple files as a ZIP
file.

n/a

Renee Jones

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