

**Oak Park Broadband Consortium  
FCC Form 470 #: 180009632**

**Questions and Answers  
Posted: January 4, 2018**

**Questions:**

**Q1. Please describe any known issues regarding easements within the Village of Oak Park and vendors obtaining an easement/Right of Way (ROW) approval right to cross Interstate 290?**

**A1. The Proposer should review the following section of the RFP**

**Appendix A of the OPBC RFP states that:**

**Right-of-Way Acquisition & Permitting:**

- Respondent is responsible to ensure that all cable routes have approved access & rights-of-way for all proposed cables installations.
- OPBC will provide any information or points of contact to allow selected Respondent and its sub-Respondents to facilitate the route prep “Make-ready” and actual cable installation.
- Respondent is responsible for pulling all required construction permits. Respondent and its sub-Respondents will provide officials at Oak Park Broadband Consortium (OPBC) with any information necessary to pull these permits in a timely fashion.

OPBC will assist the respondent in the process of obtaining rights of way particularly where the Village of Oak Park controls the granting of ROW permits and where the OPBC has contacts with other agencies that grant permits such as the Illinois Department of Transportation. However, the respondent is ultimately responsible for obtaining the permits and researching the process and cost of obtaining permits as part of the respondents proposal.

**Q2. Was this project bid during the last E-rate cycle? What was the result?**

**A2. A WAN project for Oak Park Elementary School District 97 was bid and a 2 year leased lit fiber contract was awarded as a result.**

**Q3. Can a vendor bid a WAN solution without bidding equipment?**

**A3.** The RFP states in section IV that “Respondents may respond to one, two, three, or all four options, in any combination.”

**Q4. Access - Do you currently have conduit entrances from the ROW into your facilities that we can use?**

**A4.** No, Any conduit going from the right away to the building is privately owned for school district buildings. We have no expectation that the owner of that facility will allow third party use. We do strongly recommend that any new construction to follow current ingress conduit. This allows the respondent to follow an already established indoor cable path to the main distribution facility (MDF).

The Village buildings want new ingress paths to all buildings as well.

**Q5. Will the city make any of their infrastructure available for new fiber builds? (e.g. Conduit/Poles and Hwy crossing in the public ROW)?**

**A5.** We want all new conduit paths except vendor can probably use existing at Avenue Garage to Main Fire Station, Public Works to Central Pump Station and possibly for I-290 highway crossing. The Village current fiber network crosses above I-290 on Oak Park Ave and Ridgeland Ave, but to utilize those conduits we don't know the current conditions and capacity for this project. It is up to the respondent to determine if they can use the same conduit or conduit path from the appropriate governing bodies.

**Q6. Can a fiber provider invite an equipment supplier to collaborate on a response to the RFP? If an equipment supplier did not attend the RFP Meeting on 12/21 are they precluded from responding to the RFP either alone or in partnership with a fiber provider?**

**A6.** An equipment vendor that did not attend the mandatory session can only bid as a subcontractor to a fiber vendor. The equipment vendor cannot bid directly on this opportunity.

**Q7. Will the equipment decisions be made separate from selection of the fiber network?**

- A7.** Please see answer 3. A respondent can respond to any part of the RFP. Equipment should be separated from any the fiber quote. Any hardware or fiber proposal will allowed to be acted upon independently from the respondent.
- Q8. Please confirm minimum fiber backbone strand count OPBC is seeking for leased dark fiber Option 2 in the RFP document.**
- A8.** Both the RFP and the pricing sheet request 4 strands.
- Q9. Please confirm that hub location for the Village of Oak Park will also be the School District Administration Building at 260 Madison. If a secondary hub is required please specify the address.**
- A9.** The Village and Oak Park School District 97 envision the physical network as shared fiber paths only. Respondents are essentially building one physical infrastructure and each entity will provision its own WAN over that infrastructure. This means that only fibers dedicated to Oak Park School District 97 are terminated in School District’s facilities and only fibers dedicated to the Village of Oak Park are terminated in Village facilities.

The Village of Oak Park hub location can be either the following two locations:

Village of Oak Park - Village Hall or Village of Oak Park - Public Works	123 Madison St. Oak Park, IL 60302 Or 201 South Blvd, Oak Park 60302
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The Oak Park School District 97 hub is the 260 Madison address.

**Q10. On p. 45, second bullet “where possible ...(OPBC) will apply for pole use permits and pay annual pole attachment fees...” Does this statement apply to all RFP Options requested by OPBC? Where new aerial fiber build is proposed can OBPC provide guidance on how respondent should assume one-time and recurring pole attachment costs are borne by respondent versus OPBC?**

- A10.** The Vendor is responsible for bidding make ready aerial construction costs in its bid. The vendor is also responsible for informing OPBC of the pole attachments necessary to for the fiber routes.

**Q11. On p. 47, bullets 5 and 6 re: submission of permits and payment of fees. Do these statements apply to all RFP Options requested by OPBC? Please clarify that OPBC intends to be responsible for payment of one-time permitting fees only.**

**A11.** OPBC is responsible for one time permit fees only. The vendor is responsible for identifying needed permits.

**Q12. Are there any existing village pathways / infrastructure that can be utilized? For instance tunnels that may exist under railroads or IDOT roadways.**

**A12.** Already answered (Question 5).

**Q13. Please clarify the material storage on page 48 and page 49.**

**A13.** We believe this is clearly stated. The responsibility for material storage and inspection is solely the responsibility of the respondent. Here is the excerpt from the RFP.

Respondent will provide warehouse or yard space to accommodate all materials that it will provide to perform its Work. Respondent will inspect, receive and issue any materials to provide accountability.

**Q14. Do any existing conduit / infrastructure exist from the Right of Way to the building(s) interior that can be utilized?**

**A14.** There are no existing pathways that can be utilized. See question 4.

**Q15. Page 47 states “A warning tape shall be place 12” above the buried cable”. Please clarify if this is a requirement for open trench and /or directional bored cabling.**

**A15.** This requirement is for an open trench.

**Q16. Is there a minimum underground vault / hand hole required spacing?**

**A16.** There is not a standard stated in the RFP. We anticipate respondents for self provisioned networks will place vaults, handholes curbside by facilities to be

served and then follow industry standards (1500' between). For leased dark fiber and leased lit fiber proposals, the spacing is up to the respondent/owner.

**Q17. Are vaults / hand hole required at every 90 degree underground conduit turn?**

**A17.** This is up to the respondent. The applicant has no requirement for this.

**Q18. Are there any underground conduit specifications, such as minimum diameter, wall thickness, inclusion of a tracer wire?**

**A18.** The RFP states the following:

Cable and Hardware Approval:

Oak Park Broadband Consortium (OPBC) will approve all cable and hardware prior to ordering or installation.

Oak Park Broadband Consortium (OPBC) will approve all hand-hole or building entrance hardware prior to ordering or installation.

The applicant expects industry standards will be followed. These standards vary slightly in some cases and the applicant is guided by USAC rules not to state a standards preference. Respondents should state what standard for outside plant they have proposed to follow with their construction.

**Q19. Have the OPBC RFP specifications (Page 46) been published?**

**A19.** There are no unanswered questions on page 46. The only reference to a manual is this one, and it sets a specification:

Inspect each terminated single-mode fiber span for continuity and anomalies with an OTDR at 1550 nm from one direction in accordance with OTDR operating manual.

**Q20. Page 46 lists some hand hole specifications, are these specifications for both street and greenfield applications?**

**A20.** These standards are for both.

**Q21. Are respondents (Page 6 – Options 1, 2, 3&4) required to submit Required Equipment (Page 19, Attachment B) pricing?**

**A21.** There is no requirement to bid equipment.

**Q22.** Page 47 states "Oak Park Broadband Consortium (OPBC) shall be responsible for the payment of any permitting fees."

**A22.** Already answered (questions 10 and 11).

**Q23.** Page 48 states "Respondent is responsible for pulling all requires construction permits. Respondent and its sub-Respondents will provide officials at Oak Park Broadband Consortium (OPBC) with any information necessary to pull these permits in a timely fashion."

**A23.** Already answered (questions 10 and 11).

**Q24:** Will the Village of Oak Park permit fees be waived for the Respondent?

**A24.** No they will not be waived.

**Q25.** Please clarify which responsible party (the OPBC or the Respondent) will be pulling permits with which entities

**A25.** Already answered (questions 10 and 11).

**Q26.** Please clarify which responsible party (the OPBC or the Respondent) will be responsible for the payment of the permit fees with which entities.

**A26.** Already answered (questions 10 and 11).