

Caleb Knutson

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Cc: Andrew Collings
Subject: December Newsletter Supplemental

MID-IOWA Planning Briefing

December 2022 - Supplemental

midiowaplanningalliance.org

Greetings, we are pleased to share the Mid-Iowa Planning Briefing, a newsletter by the Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance for Community Development for its members, partner organizations, and jurisdictions of the seven-county Mid-Iowa region.

IMPORTANT: Is Your Community Correctly Identified on the National Broadband Map?

We all know the importance of a good connection to the internet for economic development in the Mid-Iowa region. Recently the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a [draft map](#) showing a list of service available at each address across the region. This assembly of information has never been available.

“The move is a major step toward making sure roughly \$42 billion to increase high-speed internet service that was included in last year’s bipartisan infrastructure law goes to the places that need upgraded connections the most. The prior map used to distribute federal dollars has been criticized because of its lack of detail about service availability.

States, localities, and even the general public, now have less than two months to challenge the map’s accuracy before NTIA uses the data to divvy up the billions in broadband funding between states, based on what percentage of their residents lack high-speed internet. The agency recommended last week that challenges be filed with the FCC by Jan. 13 in order for them to be considered in time to affect how the money is spread around.” - <https://www.route-fifty.com/infrastructure/2022/11/new-national-broadband-map-offers-granular-look-service-and-gaps/379973/>

Challenging the FCC map is important for all of Iowa because if a location is shown as having service, then it won’t be eligible for future funding. Some communities have already reached out to MIPA to express their concern in the map. If you think your community is misrepresented, please let us know. Please understand this is a quick turnaround and comments are due shortly after the first of the year. If you have questions or want to discuss the implications to your community, please let Andrew or Caleb know.

FUNDING: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program

Congress authorized \$1.5 billion to be awarded by the US DOT for RAISE grants under the Local and Regional Project Assistance Program for FY 2023. The minimum RAISE grant award is \$5 million, except that for projects located in rural areas (less than 200,000 pop), the minimum award size is \$1 million. Grants may not be greater than \$25 million.

Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis, per statute, for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will improve: safety; environmental sustainability; quality of life; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism; state of good repair; partnership and collaboration; and innovation.

Eligible Applicants for RAISE grants are: States and the District of Columbia; any territory or possession of the United States; a unit of local government; a public agency or other similar organizations.

Projects that will be competitive are larger transportation projects with regional impacts.

A link to the NOFO can be found here - <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-11/FY%202023%20RAISE%20NOFO%2011.30.22.pdf>

Please call Caleb or Andrew to discuss applying for these funds.

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He/Him/His

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