The Massachusetts Broadband Institute Project Summary

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), a division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, is the eligible entity designated by Governor Deval Patrick for carrying out the requirements of the NTIA's State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program. The MBI's broader mission is the extension of affordable high-speed Internet access to all homes, businesses, schools, libraries, public safety and medical facilities, government offices, and other public places across the Commonwealth. Please visit www.massbroadband.org for more information on the MBI and its activities.

The MBI has applied for $1,569,078 to fund broadband mapping in the Commonwealth and $500,000 to support broadband planning activities in partnership with WesternMA Connect and regional planning agencies. These federal funds will be matched by $1,293,018 in in-kind contributions and cash matching funds.

The Massachusetts Broadband Mapping Project will create and maintain a complete, accurate, functional, and accessible mapping of broadband availability at the census block and street level for the entire state. The Mapping Project will accomplish these goals by:

- Developing collaborative relationships and data sharing agreements with broadband providers to develop a broadband availability database;
- Validating and enhancing the provider database through the analysis of cable strand maps, DSL-equipped central office and remote terminal locations and wireless tower locations and various modeling methods based on the transport technology;
- Verifying broadband availability in the field through a grassroots, civic engagement component using industry experts, partner organizations, and public participation and;
- Making the data easily accessible and useable through an innovative web-based map library, data repository, and searchable broadband map.

The Massachusetts Broadband Planning Project, in partnership with WesternMA Connect and regional planning agencies, will identify barriers and assets to the deployment of broadband infrastructure and broadband adoption and then develop and implement innovative solutions to overcome barriers and best utilize assets, including:

- Developing and supporting Local Technology Planning Teams and organizing outreach efforts to engage, inform, and energize residents, businesses, and public officials;
- Supporting municipalities in making educated decisions on broadband issues impacting their communities, including technology, siting locations, zoning, and permitting;
- Improving access to broadband and increasing adoption rates by providing technical assistance, support and coordination to the public, community anchor institutions, municipalities, and providers and;
- Facilitating the development of public computing centers, training programs, and other efforts to improve broadband access and adoption.