



3196 County Hwy 55 * Hamilton, AL 35570 * Phone: 205-921-6712 * Fax: 205-921-6738

2018 Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund Grant Application

Project Name:	Whitehouse Community
Legal Name of Entity:	Tombigbee Communications, LLC
Mailing Address:	3196 County Hwy 55 Hamilton, AL 35570
Name and Title of CEO:	Steve Foshee, CEO
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Will this project be an extension of existing infrastructure?

In 2017, the board of Tombigbee Electric Cooperative recognized a need in their community. They listened to their electric membership, community leaders, and existing businesses and heard a desperate need for reliable high-speed internet, much like the need for electric service in 1941. Through the dedication of the board to this community, the board formed Tombigbee Communications to provide ultra-high speed internet and HD voice services to every home and business in Marion and Lamar Counties as well as portions of Winston and Fayette Counties.

Tombigbee Communications plans to construct 1700 miles of fiber-optic cable throughout Northwest Alabama. Their five-year plan is to offer every home and business in the region, symmetrical speeds between 100 Mbps and 10 Gbps using a fiber-optic network. The estimated total project cost is just over \$48 Million. To date, Tombigbee has constructed 450 miles of this network and has passed just over 7000 homes. Their private investment is to date \$20 Million. They are currently serving 3000 customers with freedomFIBER, Tombigbee's answer to the broadband need in the region.

With the Alabama Broadband Accessibility fund, the existing freedomFIBER network will extend into the Whitehouse Community, bringing reliable and affordable high-speed internet services to an additional 398 households. Many of these residents currently have no access to broadband. It is with grants such as this one, Tombigbee can extend their existing infrastructure into the most rural areas.