



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
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Does this project emphasize the highest broadband speeds?

The board of Tombigbee understands the need for broadband, and they understand the constant change of technology and the increase in demand for higher broadband speeds as this technology changes. With this in mind the decision was made not to settle for just 10-1 or 25-3. The board wanted to build a network that will provide the best possible service for decades to come.

The minimum speed being offered over the freedomFIBER network is a symmetrical 100 Mbps, meaning both the upload and download speeds will be at least 100 Mbps. Tombigbee has four primary goals with their network and the speeds are important for all:

- 1) Education – Students in America today are behind children in other parts of the world. It is even worse for students in Northwest Alabama due to the limited resources available to them. Several students in the Marion and Lamar County school systems do not have access to broadband internet today. Tombigbee is going to change this. freedomFIBER will pass every home giving every student the opportunity to online tutoring and learning which requires high speeds in both directions.
- 2) Healthcare – Healthcare is an issue across the nation today. The costs are skyrocketing and rural hospitals are being forced to close. Doctors are moving to metropolitan hospitals to work leaving the citizens of the rural areas to drive long distances or just do without the necessary care. The 100 Mbps symmetrical speeds offered with freedomFIBER can change this. These patients will now have the ability to communicate through e-medicine allowing them to see necessary specialists from their local doctor's office. They will also have the ability to have their healthcare monitored from home



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using devices connected to the Internet again requiring reliable upload and download speeds.

- 3) Economic Development – In order for this region to promote economic development, it is imperative companies have the ability to not just download, but upload files. With several companies having satellite locations worldwide, communication is extremely important. In order to have high quality video calls, the upload speeds must be as good as the download speeds.
- 4) Quality of Life – By meeting the ever-evolving needs for our local schools, hospitals and businesses, encouraging increased safety and economic development in our area and offering enhanced entertainment for residents, we can turn around the population decline in rural Alabama.

To accomplish all of these things, the highest broadband speeds available are a necessity, and freedomFIBER is going to do this for Northwest Alabama.