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June 15, 2023

TO: Council Members
 FROM: Scott Koons, AICP, Executive Director
 SUBJECT: Broadband Opportunity Grant Program

On May 26, 2023, the third set of awards through the Broadband Opportunity Grant Program was made to expand access to broadband internet for underserved communities. A total of \$60 million was awarded for 22 projects in 19 counties for broadband internet expansion that will impact nearly 58,000 unserved residential, educational, business and community locations.

These awards are in addition to the \$144 million awarded on February 2, 2023 and \$22 million awarded on April 10, 2023, bringing Florida's total investment to \$226 million for the expansion of broadband Internet in Florida's rural communities. The first set of awards included \$47,882,642 for 14 projects in the north central Florida region. The second set of awards included \$15,000,000 for three projects in the north central Florida region.

Administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the Broadband Opportunity Program funds the installation and deployment of broadband internet infrastructure in unserved communities, providing valuable access to telehealth, economic, educational and workforce development opportunities.

A total of \$14,973,800 in funding was awarded to the following four projects in the north central Florida region through the Broadband Opportunity Program:

- **Cities of Cedar Key and Chiefland, and the Towns of Inglis and Otter Creek (\$5,000,000)** - to add 1,097 miles of fiber optic cable to provide 1,238 unserved locations within Dixie County and Levy County with symmetrical download and upload speeds of 1 gigabit per second.
- **Cities of Fanning Springs and Trenton (\$4,948,800)** to add 100 square miles of fixed wireless coverage to provide 1,981 unserved locations within Gilchrist County with minimum download speed of 100 megabits per second and upload speed of 20 megabits per second.
- **Cities of Hampton and Starke (\$5,000,000)** to add 89 miles of fiber optic cable to provide 960 unserved locations within Bradford County with symmetrical download and upload speeds of 1 gigabit per second.
- **City of Williston (\$25,000)** to add 20 square miles of fixed wireless coverage to provide 1,000 unserved locations within Levy County with minimum download speed of 100 megabits per second and upload speed of 30 megabits of per second.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.