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Expanding Urban Broadband, Closing Gaps

By Julia Edinger

As broadband expansion efforts increase nationwide, digital equity advocates are working to ensure that urban communities are included. New federal funding opportunities are adding fuel to these efforts.

Urban communities face unique challenges in effectively gaining broadband access, which primarily involve affordability and literacy.

With the continuing rise of digital inclusion efforts nationwide, advocates are working hard to fill the gaps in rural communities through partnerships and other measures. And as government agencies plan for federal broadband distribution opportunities, there are steps to take to ensure digital inclusion efforts reach urban communities, those working in the space contend.

"There are dollars out there to increase broadband connectivity," explained Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League (NUL). "It is not simply a rural issue. It's an urban issue—although the issue may be different." As he explained, the main factors impeding adoption are both affordability and digital literacy. On the affordability side, Morial mentioned that device ownership, and specifically having the ability to own both a cellphone and a computer, are crucial to being connected in this digital age.

Partnerships Connect Communities

The NUL recently released the *Lewis Latimer Plan for Digital Equity and Inclusion*, which underlined the value of partnerships and consortia as a strategy for digital inclusion. As Morial explained, partnerships with community-based organizations, like schools and libraries, are critical in reaching people where they are for what he refers to as "digital empowerment."

Partnerships are a good example of how to ensure that funding gets to the members of urban communities that need it, in addition to ensuring that the access comes with digital skills training to maximize impact. Some examples include the Y-Zone in Yonkers, New York; Tucson Connected in Tucson, Arizona; and The Town Link program in Oakland, California.



The Town Link program, for example, is a partnership between the city of Oakland and The Greenlining Institute, both of which are collaborating with participating organizations in their community. According to Vinheent Le, senior legal counsel of

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Description of Project:

JFK International Airport Central Terminal Area ("CTA"), Roadways, Utilities and Ground Transportation Center ("GTC") Project ("Project", or "RUGTC") is a design-build project which will support the JFK Vision Plan by providing a world class experience to airport users on the landside that meshes seamlessly with the terminal improvements.

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If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska Halmar JFKJV's Outreach Team: SkanskaHalmarJFKJV@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled



SKANSKA USA CIVIL IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE CERTIFIED M/WBE AND SDVOB SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS Design-Build Services for Circulation Improvements at Grand Central-42nd Street Station Project MTA Construction and Development Contract No. A-37693 Bid Date: October 20, 2022

Description of project:

This design-build Contract A-37693 calls for the construction of a new passageway that connects to the existing passageway, a new stairway, and the widening of two existing stairways at the IRT Flushing line (7) and Lexington Ave line (4/5/6) station at Grand Central Terminal, which will provide greater ingress and egress capacity for passengers accessing and exiting the 7-line platform level.

Many bidding opportunities are available: monitoring of structures, security fencing, MPT supplies, surveying, support of excavation, hauling and disposal of soil/debris, dewatering, waterproofing, shotcrete, concrete supply, rebar fabrication, rebar installation, crack and spall repair, leak repairs, masonry, miscellaneous metals, structural steel, fireproofing, doors, tile installation, granite flooring, painting, signage, plumbing, fire protection, curb and sidewalk installation, asphalt paving, line striping, electrical work, utility work.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled



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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE CERTIFIED M/WBE AND SDVOB SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS

Repairs at Five Stations on the Flushing Line Project MTA Construction and Development Contract No. A-46026 Bid Date: October 31, 2022

Description of project:

State of good repair improvements of 5 stations on the Flushing (7) Line: (52nd Street, 69th Street, 82nd Street-Jackson Heights, 103rd St-Corona Plaza, 111th Street.) Including repair and replacement of existing structural steel defects, replacement of existing mezzanine floor, walls and associated finishes, platform replacement, windscreen replacement, and canopy replacement. Work will include upgrades to electrical and communications systems, abatement of paint and asbestos, and replacement of all stairs.

Many bidding opportunities are available: asbestos remediation, lead remediation, painting, structural steel rehab, structural steel fabrications, structural steel installation, miscellaneous metals, painting, precast structural concrete, structural concrete, rebar, containers, architectural demolition, selective demolition, shielding, plumbing, HVAC, concrete topping, doors, windows, waterproofing, roofing, sheet metal cladding, firestopping, bird control, glass and glazing, insulated wall panels, tiles, detectable warning panels, signage, electrical, lighting, communications, and signals.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled



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Design and Construction of a New Jamaica Bus Depot and Parking Lot in the Borough of Queens Project MTA Construction and Development Contract No. C-40355 Bid Date: November 14, 2022

Description of project:

This project consists of the phased demolition and disposal of the existing Jamaica bus depot located in the Borough of Queens, the demolition and disposal of certain commercial properties acquired by MTA, and the construction of a new LEED certified bus depot facility, which consists of a bus depot, a three-story administration building, and an at-grade outdoor bus parking lot. The project also includes the construction of a temporary parking lot at a CUNY York College lot, with the option, exercised at the sole discretion of MTA C&D, of restoring the temporary parking lot to its prior condition.

Many bidding opportunities are available: doors, furniture, gypsum board, millwork, division 10, glass/glazing, masonry, painting, precast architectural concrete walls, metal wall panels, overhead doors, acoustical ceilings, roofing, abatement, spray fireproofing/insulation, stone and porcelain tile, resilient flooring, windows/louvers, waterproofing, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, fire protection, vibration and settlement monitoring, structural steel, miscellaneous metals, guard rails, signage, fencing, asphalt, striping, curbs and sidewalks, landscaping, underground tank removal and disposal, testing and inspections, ready-mix concrete, f+i rebar, industrial equipment.

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NORTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS











Getting Registered into the System for Awards Management (SAM.gov) Tuesday, October 25, 2022, 3:00 pm–4:00 pm Online Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration,

West Virginia Women's Business Center Contact: Melissa Loder, 304-623-7448, Melissa.Loder@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

The West Virginia Women's Business Center is hosting a valuable webinar on the System for Awards Management (SAM.gov). Join us as Melissa Loder (SBA's West Virginia District Office) and Sommer Straight (RCAC Procurement Technical Assistance Center—PTAC) guide you through how to register for your SAM.gov account. They will also provide tips, FAQs, and directions on where to get additional assistance, as well as answer questions you may have. To register, visit https://www. eventbrite.com/e/getting-registered-in-samgovtickets-416025903677

SBA and SOS Monthly Webinar

Thursday, November 3, 2022, 9:00 am-11:00 am Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division Contact: Miguel Moralez, 603-225-1601,

miguel.moralez@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

Starting a new business? Looking for capital and finance options? Looking for general advice on starting or maintaining your business? Hear from representatives from the local SBA office and the New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division. This workshop (currently held online during the pandemic) is offered on the first Thursday of every month. To join this free webinar, copy and paste the link below into your browser, then register for tickets for the date of your choice to receive the access code. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/secretary-ofstate-quickstart-and-small-business-administration-programs-tickets-262004180557

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar Thursday, November 10, 2022, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register on line at https://www. eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federalgovernment-tickets-21790713611 SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting. Participants must ensure Microsoft Teams is functioning.

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