

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **Item 26: Business Development Department Broadband Infrastructure**

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee  
From: Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee  
Carrier: Senator Johnson

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The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application by the Oregon Business Development Department to the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunication and Information Administration in the amount of \$16.47 million for the funding of competitive grants for the deployment of broadband infrastructure.

Federal funding was made available under the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 for the funding of grants to deploy fixed broadband infrastructure through partnerships between states and local providers of broadband services. The Oregon Business Development Department worked with providers to identify \$16.47 million of grant-eligible projects. No cost sharing by the state and provider partnerships is required, however, the identified partners have pledged \$4.04 million in non-federal matching funds. OBDD will use up to 5% of the total funding requested for administration of the grant, including the establishment of up to two limited-duration staff.

The federal grant opportunity was announced on May 19, 2021. OBDD provided the Legislature with a notice of its intent to apply for the funding on July 14, 2021. The due date for the grant application was August 17, 2021. Funding awards are anticipated to be made beginning November 29, 2021 and the grant performance period is within one year following the award of funding.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.