

GREAT GRANT PROGRAM (FEDERALLY FUNDED)

Grantee Construction Period Progress Report Form

This report will be publicly posted. In addition to public posting, this report may be shared with the U.S. Department of Treasury, other federal or state agencies/departments/legislators, and/or local governments. The grantee shall make every attempt to complete this report without inclusion of confidential or proprietary information. If inclusion of confidential or proprietary information is necessary, the grantee must clearly identify what information is confidential and provide a redacted report in a separate document.

SECTION A - PROJECT INFORMATION

A.1. Grantee Name: Zito West Holding, LLC (Zito Media)

A.2. Project Contact Completing this Form: Dean Russell **A.3. Title:** Project Manager

A.4. Primary Phone: (828) 284-9851 **A.5. Email:** dean.russell@zitomedia.com

A.6. Reporting Period

A.6.1. From: 01-01-2024
(date)

A.6.2. To: 03-31-2024
(date)

Contract Information

A.7. Grant Agreement#: 2000066868

A.8. Project Title: Swain County Broadband Expansion 2022

A.9. Project County: Swain

A.10. Technology Type: Fiber-to-the-Premise

**UPLOAD PROGRESS REPORTS TO
[EBS.NC.GOV](https://www.ebs.nc.gov)**

SECTION B - PROJECT UPDATES

Please provide progress updates on the categories below.

B.1. Design/Engineering:

Please provide a *rough* estimate of how much of the design/engineering work has been completed for the total project by checking one of the options below. Note any significant updates or challenges with the design/engineering work planned under this project.

- Less than 25% complete
- 25-75% complete
- 75-99.9% complete
- 100% complete

Significant updates and/or challenges, if any:

Design/Engineering has been completed.

B.2. Securing Assets:

Please list of any of the following items (including but not limited to the source, agency, or department) anticipated as necessary to complete this project and a brief update (such as "pending submission," "submitted on [date], pending approval," or "approved") on any progress securing these items: rights-of-way; easements; other land; access to poles and completion of make-ready work. Note any challenges you are having that may significantly impact your project design.

RESPONSE:

Rights-of-Way: Acquiring the remaining Rights-of-Way is currently in process.

Access to Poles: All pole permit applications have been submitted to Duke Energy for consideration.

NC Dot Permits: Permits are being submitted to NC DOT as needed.

Make Ready: Of the permit applications that have been submitted to Duke Energy, they have completed review of 41 of them and sent details of make-ready work needed. Some of the make ready work on the initially approved poles has been completed. We are continuing work on the remaining ones.

B.3. Materials/Supplies:

Please provide an update on the status of materials/supplies being purchased for the project. Note any anticipated significant challenges or delays in this process.

RESPONSE:

The Bill of Materials (BOM) items have been ordered. Most of the items have already been delivered. There are no issues with obtaining materials/equipment needed at this time.

B.4. Staffing/Contractors:

Please provide an update on progress with staffing/labor for the project. Note any significant updates or challenges in this area. Please note whether design/engineering and construction labor is primarily in-house or contractors by selecting the relevant bullet point.

Staffing/labor update or challenges:

So far, all staffing/labor needs have been met with no challenges. MC Communications is our contractor for Construction and has met all labor needs.

Design/Engineering:

- Primarily In-House Staff
- Primarily Contractors
- Both

Construction/Installation:

- Primarily In-House Staff
- Primarily Contractors
- Both

B.5. Construction:

Please provide miles of fiber installed to date as specified below.

	Number of Miles
B.5.1. Length of aerial distribution cable	17.04
B.5.2. Length of buried distribution cable	0.88
B.5.3. Length of aerial Middle Mile* cable	0
B.5.4. Length of buried Middle Mile* cable	0

***Middle Mile Cable: Must facilitate last-mile service towards specific end-users. Eligible projects do not include middle mile, backhaul, and other similar projects not directed at broadband service to end users.**

B.6. Project Expenditures:

Provide the total expenditures for all eligible expenditures as identified in Exhibit B of the grant agreement for the reporting period and cumulative to date. Provide any justifications for expenditures in excess, or reasonably anticipated to be in excess, of budget amounts.

B.6.1. Project Expense Category	B.6.2. Total Project Budget Amount	B.6.3. Total Expenditures for Reporting Period	B.6.4. Total Expenditures Cumulative to Date
Easements	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Materials	\$1,298,297.84	\$0.00	\$634,382.55 (Corrected)
Construction/Installation	\$1,257,330.06	\$155,828.66	\$155,828.66
Testing	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Engineering	\$0.00		
Lease/Collocations Fees (one-time fees)	\$0.00		
Other (add as needed) - Make Ready Work	\$2,095,550.09	\$106,012.32	\$186,485.05

B.6.5. Justification:

Materials are being delivered in a timely manner. To date, we haven't experienced any supply chain issues.
Permits - Duke Energy is continuing to review pole permit applications and issuing approvals.
Make Ready Work is progressing.
Construction of the outside plant continues.

SECTION C - OTHER

C.1. Note any other significant items in relation to successful completion of this project - successes, challenges, or general progress to note, including any additional items related to construction/ deployment/installations.

RESPONSE:

Timeline: Zito is currently on schedule based on the timeline submitted for this project.

Construction: Outside plant construction began on January 8, 2024 in Bartlett Glen Cove for underground construction once NCDOT approved the needed permits. To date, 4,660 feet of underground construction and 89,990 feet of aerial construction has been completed. The areas that have been built or are currently under construction are: Bear Cove Circle, Kimberly Drive, Fox Run Ridge, Bartlett Glen Cove, Lower Creek Crossing Road, Jim Boyd Road, Ball Town Road, Franklin Grove Road, Fortner Avenue, Cloud Ten Road, Pat Hyde Road, Pine Meadows Road, Dogwood Hollow, Jenkins Road, Hyatt Road, Road 1375, Road 1113, Poplar Cove Road, Need More Road, and Troy Allen Drive. Construction will continue as NCDOT approves permit applications.

Construction Contractors: MC Communications based in Asheville, NC

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians: During the Design/Engineering phase of the Swain County GREAT Grant Project, it was found that a portion of the locations applied for and awarded were found to be inside tribal lands. Representatives from the State and Zito have had preliminary discussions with tribal leaders to work through this issue. As soon as a resolution satisfactory to all parties is agreed upon, Zito will file a request with NCDIT to amend the Agreement, if needed.

SECTION D - PROVISION OF SERVICE

D.1. Is service available yet from the grantee to any GREAT locations (potential subscribers) within this project?

- YES
- NO

If yes, please provide numbers below:

	<u>Quantity</u>
D.1.a. GREAT Households with broadband available from grantee:	
D.1.b. GREAT business locations with broadband available from grantee:	
D.1.c. GREAT Community Anchor Institution ("CAI") locations with broadband available from grantee:	

GRANTEES ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT ONLY ON GREAT GRANT LOCATIONS. DO NOT SUBMIT ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS OUTSIDE OF THE CONTRACTED GREAT GRANT AGREEMENT. IF ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS ARE INCLUDED THE REPORT WILL BE RETURNED TO THE GRANTEE.

SECTION E - FOR PROJECTS WITH TOTAL COST MORE THAN \$10 MILLION

For projects with a total cost of more than \$10M, please also complete and submit **GREAT Grant Program (Federal) Grantee Construction Period Progress Report Form Exhibit E**. Total cost means the sum of the GREAT grant award, the grantee's matching funds and any matching funds provided by a county or other third party.

Exhibit E should not be completed if the total project cost does not exceed \$10 million.

SECTION F - COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION/DEPLOYMENT PHASE OF PROJECT

If you have completed the entire construction/deployment phase of this GREAT grant, and made service available to all required GREAT grant locations, please indicate below:

- YES (all construction/deployment has been completed and service availability to all locations is complete.)

For grantees indicating completion of the construction/deployment phase of the project, the final report form will be provided for completion by the grantee.

The final report form will include questions around service provision, speeds available, data caps, and grantees will be required to submit address data to confirm that service is available to all locations required by the GREAT grant.

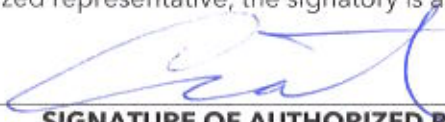
Broadband access is considered available if service can be provided to the GREAT location(s) immediately or within 10 business days upon request and without cost to the customer other than standard connection fees.

Once the final report is submitted to the NCDIT Broadband Infrastructure Office, deliverables will be verified by the office. Upon verification, grantees will move to the maintenance/monitoring period of the GREAT grant.

SECTION G - GRANTEE CERTIFICATION & ATTESTATION

Broadband Provider (ISP) Certification and Attestation

The undersigned representative of the grantee certifies that the information in this progress report is true, correct, and complete to the best of the signatory's knowledge and belief. The signatory further certifies that as authorized representative, the signatory is authorized to file this progress report.



SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE



Date

Colin Higgin, Vice President and General Counsel

PRINTED NAME AND TITLE