

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01

**ORDINANCE FOR THE DESIGNATION OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
ZONE WITHIN JEFFERSON COUNTY, INDIANA**

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 6-1.1-12.5-4 *et seq.* authorizes the county executive to adopt an ordinance designating a geographic territory as an Infrastructure Development Zone; and,

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 6-1.1-12.5-4 *et seq.* requires the county executive to conduct a public hearing, following the publishing of a notice in accordance with IC 5-3-1; and,

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 6-1,1-12.5-4(3) authorizes an ordinance to establish the facilities and technologies used in the deployment and transmission of broadband service once the county executive determines the following:

1. That adequate broadband services are unavailable in Jefferson County; and
2. That the granting of a business personal property tax exemption (other than for real property) to a business investing in infrastructure to provide broadband service to Jefferson County will provide increased availability of broadband service, and certain economic benefits in the designated development zone in Jefferson County; and

WHEREAS, following a public hearing, the Jefferson County Commissioners made the following specific findings:

- (A) Jefferson County currently lacks adequate broadband service for homes, businesses, farms, schools and publicly owned buildings in the county;
- (B) A quality education for the citizens of Jefferson County, Indiana, is limited by the lack of adequate broadband service to the homes, farms, schools, businesses and public buildings in the county;
- (C) The growth of student enrollment is limited by the lack of adequate broadband service in the county;
- (D) Access to healthcare technologies is limited by the lack of adequate broadband service in the county;

- (E) The lack of adequate broadband service in the county is an impediment to the growth of small businesses in the county;
- (F) Providing a property tax exemption to businesses providing broadband services in an infrastructure development zone will increase the availability of broadband services in the zone, and will provide economic development benefits to the county.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDAINED by the County Commissioners of Jefferson County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. Designation of an Infrastructure Development Zone. The Jefferson County Commissioners adopt an Infrastructure Development Zone in accordance with 1.C. 6-1.1-12.5-4, as follows:

1. The Infrastructure Development Zone shall incorporate the entire geographic area of Jefferson County, including its incorporated cities and towns.
2. The Infrastructure Development Zone is established to encourage the development of adequate broadband services to all Jefferson County residents residing in the Infrastructure Development Zone.
3. A business personal property tax exemption may be granted to businesses for certain infrastructure associated with the development of broadband technology within the Infrastructure Development Zone.
4. The business personal property tax exemption for broadband technology infrastructure shall only be granted for the original installation of fiber to homes, businesses, farm, schools and publicly owned buildings. The exemption shall not be available for repair, maintenance and refurbishment to existing facilities or to infrastructure installed within the Infrastructure Development Zone for which an exemption was previously granted, or for the land on which the infrastructure is located, for fiber to cell towers or satellites, or for long haul/pass through fiber infrastructure.
5. The business personal property exemption shall only be available to broadband infrastructure projects completed within six (6) years from the date of passage of this ordinance.

Section 2. Conflicting Ordinances. In the event any ordinance or provision of any ordinance of Jefferson County is in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance, the provisions of this ordinance shall prevail.

Section 3. Severability. The invalidity of any section, clause, sentence or provision of this ordinance shall not affect the validity of any other part of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid part or parts.

Section 4. Effective Date and Miscellaneous Provisions. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage by the County Commissioners. This ordinance shall be placed in the Jefferson County Code of Ordinances. A copy of this ordinance shall be provided to the Jefferson County Assessor

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Commissioners of Jefferson County, Indiana on the 18 day of MARCH, 2021.

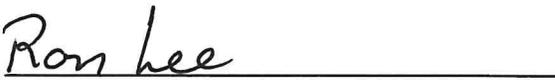
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF JEFFERSON COUNTY**



David Bramer, President



Robert Little



Ron Lee

ATTEST:



Sherry Eblen, Jefferson County Auditor