MAHOOSUC COMMUNITY BROADBAND COMMITTEE

EXPANDING HIGH SPEED INTERNET SERVICE IN THE MAHOOSUC AREA - NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE

COMMUNITY DRIVEN BROADBAND PROCESS

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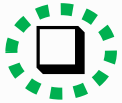
ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

DATA COLLECTION AND MAPPING

ASSESS INFRASTRUCTURE OPTIONS



SECURE FUNDING FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION

IMPLEMENT BROADBAND EXPANSION PROJECTS

REALIZE BENEFITS AND USE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Mahoosuc Community Broadband Committee

- Art Marshall (Albany)
- Steve Smith (Albany)
- Michele Varuolo Cole (Bethel)
- Mike Muir (SAD44)
- Michelle Conroy (Public Library/Bethel)
- Jeff Martin (Bethel)
- Per Nygren (Bethel)
- Deb Walther (Gilead)
- Theresa Doherty (Greenwood)
- Kim Sparks (Greenwood)
- Sarah Vedella (Milton)
- Steve Wight (Newry)
- Vern Maxfield (Woodstock)
- Marcel Polak (Woodstock)
- Advisors: Mia Purcell, Community Concepts Finance
  Mike Wilson, Northern Forest Center

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **<u>Maine West Technology Plan - 2018</u>**
- First step in advancing a regional broadband access strategy for Maine west area

- **<u>Since July 2020</u>**
- Mahoosuc Area Committee formed with representation from five towns (Newry, Bethel, Greenwood, Woodstock) + Albany Township
- Surveyed residents about internet connectivity & Satisfaction (300+ resp)
- Self-Testing of residents' internet speeds (668 to date) -- Pilot for Maine Broadband Coalition
- Access to commercial GIS mapping software for Project evaluation and development (vetro fiber)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Mahoosuc Area Broadband Survey & Speed Test Results – top line**
- Download speeds for 50% of tests are unserved (< 25 Mbps)
- Upload speeds for 61% of tests are unserved (< 3 Mbps)
- 43% of residents are not at all or only somewhat satisfied with their internet speeds
- **92% and 91%,** respectively, say it is very or extremely important to have fast, reliable internet service at their home and throughout the community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Mahoosuc Community Broadband Goal

Everyone in the Mahoosuc region has access to reliable, affordable, high-speed and future ready internet service*

Adopted by participating communities, 2020

*Albany, Bethel, GILEAD, Greenwood, Milton, Newry, Woodstock

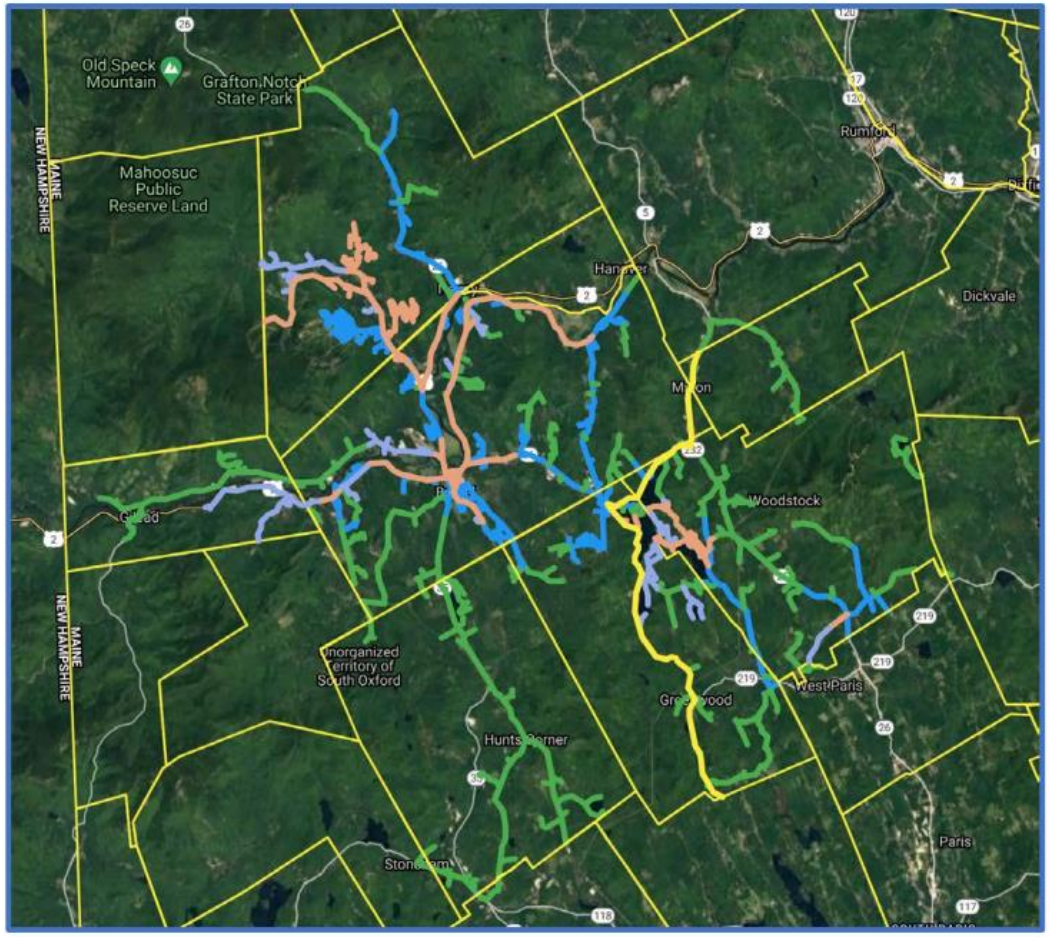
DATA COLLECTION AND MAPPING

Contract with Casco Bay Advisors

- Identify the location of existing high-speed broadband infrastructure
- Map the gaps in broadband infrastructure
- Estimated costs and potential strategies to extend service to all potential subscriber locations across those 7 Towns/Twps.

DATA COLLECTION AND MAPPING

Mahoosuc
Broadband Planning Report



Map Key	
	FTTH & no CATV *(considered served)*
	FTTH & CATV *(considered served)*
	CATV *(considered served)*
	No CATV or FTTH *(assumed to be unserved at less than 50Mpbs/10Mbps)*
	Maine Fiber Company (FirstLight) 3-Ring-Binder Network *(middle-mile fiber)*

ASSESS INFRA-STRUCTURE OPTIONS

Cost-Benefit Analysis:

- Expansion of current service
- Public-private partnership
- Municipal broadband utility
- Fiber to the home
- Fixed wireless
- Fiber/cable hybrid

Town/Twp	Cable Extension Cost	Town/Twp-wide FTTH Construction Cost *(excluded existing FTTH areas)*									
		Total Estimated Poles	Estimated Pole Make-ready Cost	Estimated Fiber Construction	Unserved Market Share after 3 years	Served Market Share after 3 years	Total Subscribers after 3 years	Estimated Central Office / FDH Costs	Estimated Optical Electronics / Drop Cost	Project Manageent / Contingency Cost	Estimated Total Construction Cost
	$45,000	33	$400	$25,000	50%	30%		$100	$1,200	10%	
Albany Twp		1,076	$430,452	$815,250	180	2	182	$18,210	$218,520	$148,243	$1,630,675
Bethel	$1,474,200	2,298	$919,248	$1,741,000	235	306	541	$54,100	$649,200	$336,355	$3,699,903
Gilead		338	$135,168	$256,000	59	0	59	$5,850	$70,200	$46,722	$513,940
Greenwood	$909,450	1,071	$428,472	$811,500	129	92	221	$22,090	$265,080	$152,714	$1,679,856
Milton Twp		264	$105,732	$200,250	43	0	43	$4,300	$51,600	$36,188	$398,070
Newry	$250,200	816	$326,304	$618,000	32	162	194	$19,400	$232,800	$119,650	$1,316,154
Woodstock	$1,210,050	1,361	$544,236	$1,030,750	191	102	293	$29,330	$351,960	$195,628	$2,151,904
Totals	$3,843,900	7,224	$2,889,612	$5,472,750	868	665	1,533	$153,280	$1,839,360	$1,035,500	$11,390,502

COMMUNITY DRIVEN BROADBAND PROCESS

WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS

- [x] ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY
- [x] DATA COLLECTION AND MAPPING
- [ ] ASSESS INFRASTRUCTURE OPTIONS
- [ ] SECURE FUNDING FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION
- [ ] IMPLEMENT BROADBAND EXPANSION PROJECTS
- [ ] REALIZE BENEFITS AND USE

SECURE FUNDING FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION

WHY IS NOW THE TIME TO INVEST IN COMMUNITY BROADBAND?

BROADBAND IS CRITICAL TO **RETAINING FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES** IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

- WORKING FROM HOME
- EDUCATION ONLINE
- TELEHEALTH OPPORTUNITIES

COVID-19 HAS ELEVATED THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNET CONNECTIVITY AND COMMUNITIES HAVE PLEDGED ARPA* FUNDS TOWARD THE PROJECT

STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING IS AVAILABLE NOW FOR BROADBAND AND WILL BE AWARDED TO TOWNS THAT ARE READY.

.*AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

COMMUNITY DRIVEN BROADBAND PROCESS

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES - $400 MILLION

- AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS -- $150 MILLION (MAINE CONNECTIVITY AUTHORITY)
- INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT -- $100 MILLION (MAINE CONNECTIVITY AUTHORITY)
- NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION -- $150 MILLION

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