

# Grafton County New Hampshire



## Grafton County Broadband Committee Update- January 2022

Dear Fellow Grafton County Communities,

In December, the Broadband Committee welcomed Enfield Town Manager Ed Morris. We are excited to have Ed on board!

### **Middle Mile (“Backbone”) Project Update**

eX<sup>2</sup> Technology has completed detailed level final engineering designs for over half of the first 110 miles of the middle mile “backbone” included in Task Order No.001 of the contract with the County. As a reminder, Task Order No.001 consists of 13 links through the following communities/routes:

- NH Rte. 3A to NH Rte. 25 to Haverhill Link (Rumney, Wentworth & Warren)
- Haverhill to Piermont Link
- Orford to Wentworth Link
- Orford Link
- Lincoln to Plymouth Link
- Plymouth to NH Rte. 25 to Woodstock Link (Campton & Thornton)
- Ellsworth Link
- NH Rte. 3A to Dorchester Link
- Groton/Hebron Link
- Alexandria Link
- Holderness Link
- Ashland to Holderness Link
- Ashland Link

The Broadband Committee is also in the process of preparing a request to the County Commissioners for additional ARPA funds to complete the detailed level final engineering designs for the remaining 240 miles of the backbone.

### **Last Mile Project Update**

In addition to the detailed level designs for the backbone, eX<sup>2</sup> Technology is working on high-level designs for last-mile connections (fiber to the homes & businesses) for all 39 municipalities in the County under Task Order No.002. **These high-level designs come at NO COST TO THE TOWNS as the County has already allocated ARPA funds and CDBG funds for this purpose.** The high-level designs for the last mile will be distributed to Select Boards and Broadband Committees and are vital in preparation for grant funding or appropriation requests (i.e. “shovel ready.”). The designs will provide cost estimates and mapping solutions unique to your individual community’s needs. In the information distributed,

there will be a cost estimate for the cost to complete final design for the last mile connections.

We encourage any municipality interested in connecting to the County backbone, especially those included in Task Order No.001, to reach out to our Grafton County Broadband Now project partners for engineering and funding assistance. It is the Committee's intent to distribute the high level design information at the upcoming Winter Work Session (reader further for more information on dates).

#### **Technical Assistance**

Kevin Glynn, Director  
eX<sup>2</sup> Technology  
1044 North 115th Street  
Omaha, NE 68154  
(732) 668-9995  
[kglynn@ex2technology.com](mailto:kglynn@ex2technology.com)

#### **Funding Assistance**

Katelyn Robinson, Director of Economic Development  
Northern Community Investment Corporation  
51 Depot Square, Suite #2  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
(802) 748-5101 ext. 2027  
[krobinson@ncic.org](mailto:krobinson@ncic.org)

#### **NTIA Grant & Additional Funding Opportunities**

In December, we met with representatives from NTIA to discuss our grant application for construction of the backbone. **The discussion was positive, and the Committee feels strong about our chances of being awarded total funding.** We hope to hear back regarding the NTIA award in February. In addition to our discussion with NTIA, the Committee has also met with USDA staff to talk about their Reconnect grant program that has a deadline at the end of February, which would help fund the last-mile connections off the County's backbone.

Furthermore, as many of you know, the Final Rule for the ARPA funds was recently released, giving Towns and the County much more flexibility in how the funds get spent. In the event we are not awarded the NTIA grant, we are exploring options that would enable the Committee to use County ARPA funds as a match for several other grant and infrastructure law funding opportunities.

#### **Winter Work Sessions**

Once again, we will hold a series of informational work sessions for Select Boards, Broadband Committees and Town Administrators/Managers leaders to learn about the Grafton County project in-depth and explore how your community can benefit from the work completed. The work session will identify what services the GCBC can provide to get your broadband expansion project in motion.

Agenda topics include:

1. Explaining the Basics of Broadband and Terminology
2. The Basics of Grantwriting and How to Start
3. Survey Data Review
4. Middle-Mile Project Update
5. Last Mile Project Update
6. Handout High Level Design and Cost Estimate Packets
7. Q&A and Networking

Please join us for one of the following sessions:

**Haverhill/Woodsville**

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm- Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building (65 South Court Street), Woodsville, NH

Google Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/Bsg6o8sc66EoSpx9>

**Plymouth**

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm- Centre Lodge: Bradford Room (8 Merrill Street), Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH

Campus Map: <https://www.plymouth.edu/prospective/get-to-know-psu/get-to-know-psu/campus-map/>

Note: PSU requires all attendees to observe their COVID protocols and wear masks.

**Zoom**

February 17<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm-4:00pm via Zoom.

Join Online

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86902421627>

Dial In

(646) 558 8656

Meeting ID: 869 0242 1627

As always, please reach out to the Committee members with any questions about the project.

Sincerely,

Grafton County Broadband Committee –

Nik Coates, Bristol Town Administrator

Carina Park, Lincoln Town Manager

Brigitte Codling, Haverhill Town Manager

Ed Morris, Enfield Town Manager

Mike Samson, Canaan Town Administrator