



MAPLE
BROADBAND



Maple Broadband is **composed of 20 member towns in Addison County**, forming one of ten **tax-exempt Communications Union Districts (CUDs)** serving the state of Vermont.

CUDs are non-profit, municipal entities formed with the single goal of **delivering high-speed fiber broadband service** to every unserved and underserved address in their member towns.



TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Funding

Construction & Service Launch

2023 Goals

Beyond 2023

Business & Organizational Challenges



FUNDING

APPLIED FOR AND AWARDED

- Construction grant of **\$8.7 million** from the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB)
- **\$635,000** pre-construction grant funds from the VCBB
- **\$781,284** from the VCBB for the purchase of materials
- **\$30,000** USDA grant that will support capacity-building effort

SOLICITED AND RECEIVED

- **\$165,000** in additional town ARPA contributions in 2022

FUNDING

TOWN ARPA MATCH

- In October, the Vermont Community Broadband Board approved a policy that *will match all past and future town ARPA contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis.*
 - This represents **\$380,000 in matching funding** to date
 - Every additional dollar raised from town ARPA contributions will increase grant funding to Maple Broadband by an equal amount!
- Maple Broadband requires > \$15 million in additional financing to reach 100% of member towns
- Unrestricted funding such as town ARPA donations provides valuable flexibility over restricted grant funds, examples include:
 - Affordability (paying for installations and subsidizing service fees)
 - Building areas ineligible for grant funding

CONSTRUCTION & SERVICE LAUNCH



- Broke ground on construction in October, 2022
- Built 25.7 miles of fiber (“Phase 1A”)
 - 304 total passings
 - Portions of Cornwall, southwest Middlebury, and Salisbury
- Launched service February 14, 2023 after a soft launch period
- Service launch press conference February 22, 2023 in Cornwall

2023 GOALS

- Complete 100+ miles of fiber network to complete Phase 1 in the majority of Shoreham, portions of Cornwall, Orwell, and Whiting, more of Salisbury west of Route 7, and a small section of northwest Leicester
- Finalize designs, procure materials, obtain grant funds, and begin construction on Phase 2
- Add and support subscribers in newly constructed areas

BEYOND 2023

While Maple Broadband would love to deliver high-speed broadband service everywhere as soon as possible, **the reality is that it will take years to complete Maple Broadband's mission.**

Under the constraints of this grant funding, some areas are ineligible for construction.

BEYOND 2023

For residents of these areas, this is understandably frustrating, but once Maple Broadband is able to **borrow funds to continue construction**, it will **no longer be bound by grant constraints** and will return to offer broadband service to those previously excluded areas.

BUSINESS & ORGANIZATIONAL CHALLENGES

Availability and increasing cost of construction labor and materials

The energy and time required to manage Maple Broadband necessitate the engagement of paid professionals who can complement the hours of work performed by our small group of volunteers

Success in fulfilling our mission depends on **support from member towns, through the contributions of delegates' time, energies, and expertise**, and through town ARPA fund contributions

Thank you

