



# MAPLE

## BROADBAND



Locally Rooted. Globally Connected.



# Maple Broadband: A CUD

- CUD: Communications Union District
- CUDs created by the State of Vermont to provide high-speed broadband service to 100% of on-grid premises within their territories
- Goal of 30 V.S.A. § 202c:
  - By the end of 2024, every E-911 location has infrastructure capable of delivering internet access with service having a minimum download speed of **100 Mbps** and is **symmetrical**
- CUDs are specifically prohibited from taxing town residents for funding



## Why CUDs?

**Historically:** Broadband at the Federal level is an unregulated service

**Consequences:** In Vermont,  
7% have no access to 4/1Mbps  
20% have no access to 10/1Mbps  
27% have no access to 25/3Mbps  
75% have no access to 100/100 Mbps  
In Addison County,  
39% are unserved by cable or fiber

**The Solution:** Act 79, enacted in 2019, incentivized formation of CUD model

- \$700,000 allocated for Broadband Innovation Grant (BIG) program
- Provided funding for CUD feasibility study and business plan
- 7 CUDs formed after passage

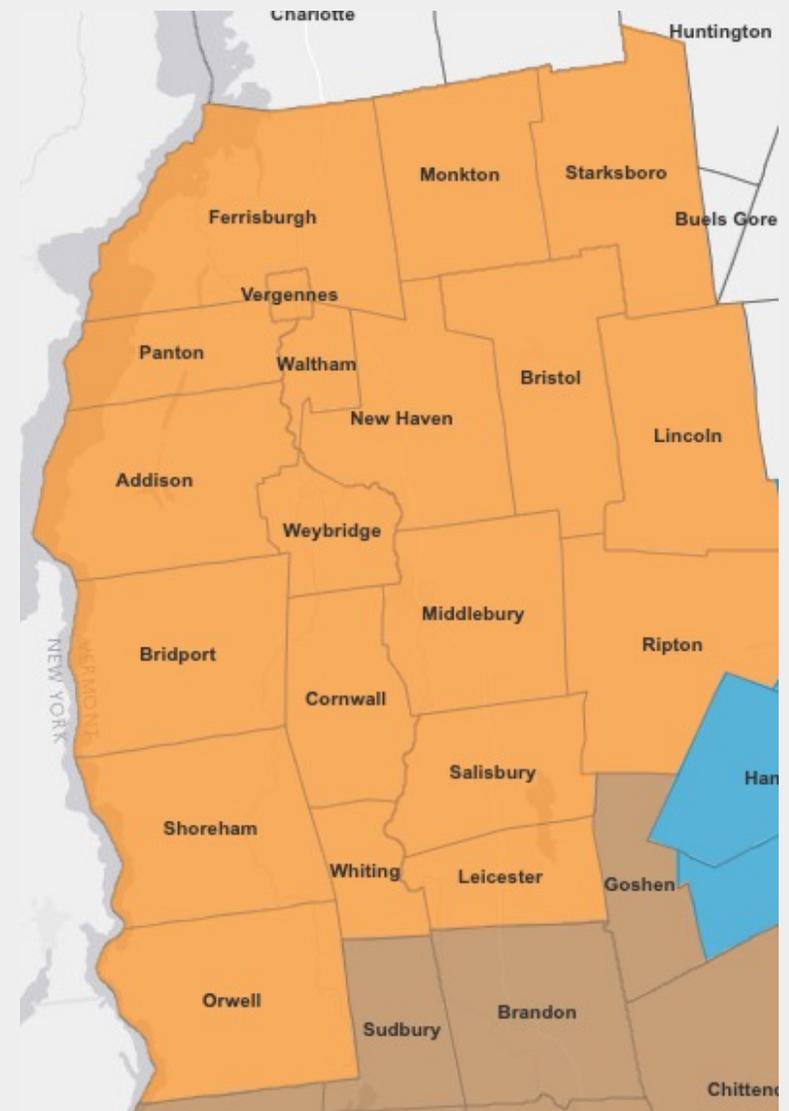
*The CUD model prioritizes reaching underserved addresses first*



# MAPLE BROADBAND

- Maple Broadband is one of 9 CUDs statewide
- Selectboards of 20 towns have voted to become members of Maple Broadband

Addison	Bridport
Bristol	Cornwall
Ferrisburgh	Leicester
Lincoln	Middlebury
Monkton	New Haven
Orwell	Panton
Ripton	Salisbury
Shoreham	Starksboro
Vergennes	Waltham
Weybridge	Whiting





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## MISSION

To enhance the economic, educational, and medical well-being of the communities we serve by providing a high-speed, reliable, affordable fiber internet network to all households and businesses; supported by prompt, skilled, helpful customer service.

## GOVERNANCE

### Executive Committee

- Five voting members,
- Treasurer and Clerk (*ex officio*)
- Meets weekly

### Governing Board

- 20 Delegates: One from each member town
- Each member town holds one vote for all Board actions
- Meets monthly



## Funding Sources to Date

Source	Purpose	Amount
Broadband Innovation Grant	Feasibility Study and Business Plan	\$60,000
CARES Act	COVID Response	\$130,000
Vermont Community Foundation	Operational Support	\$30,000

## Funding Uses to Date

Website	<a href="http://www.maplebroadband.net">www.maplebroadband.net</a>	\$43,100
Back Office Support	ACRPC	\$21,300
Marketing, Logo, etc.	Place Creative	\$20,400
Legal, Insurance, Fundraising	Primmer; Richards Group; ACEDC	\$19,200
Resource Tool	<a href="http://outreach.maplebroadband.net">outreach.maplebroadband.net</a>	\$12,500
Outreach Mailings, Signage	Place Creative	\$13,500



## 18-month Operational Plan

Year	Complete	Pending	Task
2021	✓		Interview fiber and infrastructure design, engineering, and operational service vendors
2021	✓		Investigate potential operating partners
2021	✓		Begin operating partner discussions
2021	✓		Issue Pre-construction RFP
2021	✓		Award Pre-construction Bid
2021	✓		Begin Pre-construction tasks
2021		✓	Execute Operating Agreement
2021		✓	Complete Business Plan
2022		✓	Complete Pre-construction tasks
2023		✓	Complete 300+ miles of fiber network



## 2021 Financing Activities

### Grants

- Applied for two USDA grants totaling \$180,000
- Applying for \$5,000 Vermont Community Foundation Cerf Grant
- Applying for \$10,000 Department of Public Service Grant

### Loans

- Approached two municipalities for Community Development Block Grant funds

### Other Sources

- Businesses and Institutions
- Private Investors
- American Rescue Plan



## American Rescue Plan Act

### Still to be determined

- Disposition of \$7.1 million currently targeted to Addison County
- Process for allocation among CUDs
- Timing for distribution of funds

### What is known

- H.360 initially targets \$150 million to broadband development
- 50% of ARPA funds will be distributed in June/July 2021
- 50% of ARPA funds will be distributed in June/July 2022
- \$ 3.6 million are being distributed directly to Addison County towns



## The Construction Process

<b>Pre-Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High-level Design</li><li>• Pole Survey</li><li>• Detailed Design</li><li>• Pole Make-Ready</li></ul>	Cost: \$\$ Revenue: \$0
<b>Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deploy Fiber</li></ul>	Cost: \$\$\$\$ Revenue: \$↑





## Why we need your help

### Pre-construction costs

\$1,000,000 for High-Level Design, Pole Survey, and Detailed Design

\$4,500,000 for Pole Make-Ready

- Bristol's share:
  - High-Level Design, Pole Survey and Detailed Design: \$60,000
  - Pole Make-ready \$230,000

### **WHAT WE WOULD LIKE FROM YOU**

- A minimum commitment of \$150,000 from American Rescue Plan funds



## What Broadband Does for Bristol and Addison County

- Every **\$1** invested in broadband returns **\$4** to the local economy
- Drives economic development through job creation and retention
- Increases housing values
- Strengthens services to community institutions
  - Schools
  - Libraries
  - Health Care Facilities
- **A rising tide lifts all boats...**  
Broadband infrastructure is the best investment for ensuring the economic growth of Bristol and Addison County



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**BRIDGING**

THE DIGITAL DIVIDE.