

From: [Ben Skolozdra](#)
To: [Bristol Town Administrator](#)
Subject: Maple Broadband - July 2024 Update
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 6:59:05 PM

Hi Valerie,

I have been attending the Maple Broadband Governing Board monthly meetings since my appointment to the Governing Board in April of this year. The meetings have been interesting and informative about CUDs in general and Maple Broadband specifically. I have learned that Bristol's service territory within the Maple Broadband CUD for broadband fiber internet service is covered wholly by Waitsfield & Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) for design, construction, service drops, and on-going service. WCVT and Maple Broadband have an established public-private partnership to cover WCVT's territory including several other towns in Maple Broadband's jurisdiction for the purposes of funding design and construction of the fiber network. Up until the meeting tonight, there had not been any Bristol-specific updates on the expansion of the WCVT fiber network so I haven't had much to report on. My understanding is that the village area of Bristol has fiber internet service availability from WCVT at present, but most of the surrounding town territory does not.

Tonight's Governing Board meeting included a representative from WCVT to provide a biannual Network Build Status Report. Below are my high-level bullet point notes from that status report update from WCVT that are relevant for Bristol.

- Current WCVT projection for Substantial Completion, as defined by Act 71, of the main fiber trunk lines through Bristol is the end of 2024. This does not mean addresses outside of the village will begin to have access to broadband fiber internet service in 2024 (see below).
- Upon completion of the main fiber trunk lines through Bristol, WCVT will begin adding service drops to homes and businesses in 2025. They will prioritize currently-underserved areas that are reasonably close to the main trunk lines. Areas that currently have access to WCVT (or Comcast) copper-based internet service will not be a priority at first. Also, WCVT will be encouraging existing Bristol customers with copper WCVT service to transition to this new fiber service.
- For the most rural areas of Bristol, service drops to homes are not realistically going to be complete until 2026.

Please feel free to share this information with the Selectboard, if it is relevant/of interest to them. I will continue to attend meetings and will report back if there are any additional Bristol-specific items.

Thanks,
Ben

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Ben Skolozdra, P.E.
(609) 923-9554
bskolo@gmail.com