




Temple Broadband Expansion Initiative



Prepared for the residents of Temple

By the Temple CAC Broadband Committee
February 6, 2021



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SCOPE: Why are we looking at this?

- Discontent with **internet reliability and service** expressed extensively on Facebook and a survey conducted in spring 2020.
- Anecdotal evidence of **internet problems** through public discourse
- **COVID-19 Pandemic** highlighting inequitable internet access for students and “work from home” families/individuals.
- Increase or maintain **property values**
- Enable **expanded public participation** in town forums, meetings and events
- **Promote economic development** as highlighted in the Master Plan.

Town of Temple Master Plan

Vision Statement:

- Home businesses should be allowed and encouraged.
- Temple should coordinate with electrical and communications utilities to facilitate meeting the needs of its residents and businesses.

Economic Development:

- The business landscape is changing...as computer technology and service availability has enabled *some* residents to telecommute and has provided opportunities for others to create their own home-based businesses.

Current Providers

Town residents and businesses are served by:

- DSL provider Consolidated Communications
- Cable TV provider Comcast
- Others utilize TDS, satellite internet or various 4G cellular providers.

DSL service over copper phone lines is limited by distance from a “central office” switch box, which are distributed throughout town.

Cable internet connections are copper coaxial cable with shared bandwidth, resulting in decreased speed with more data consumption within a neighborhood.

FCC defines broadband as...



25 Megabits per
second (Mbps)
download speed or
greater

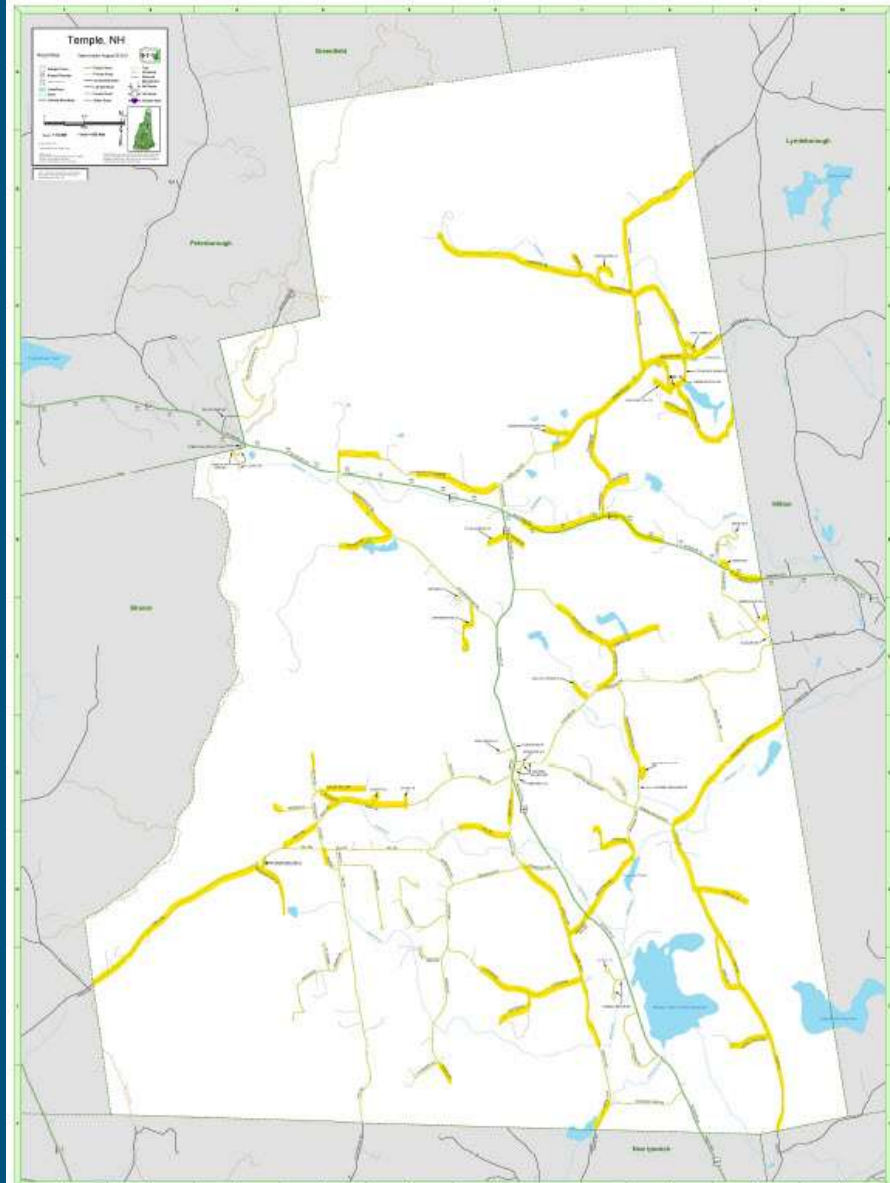


3 Mbps
upload
or greater

Netflix recommends a 25 Mbps speed for streaming its top quality video, while Amazon says you'll need at least 15 Mbps. (Consumer Reports, 2019)


55.4% unserved

% of Temple that does not meet the FCC-designated speeds to be considered broadband, based on road mileage.






Where are we today?



Moving forward towards equitable
Broadband access in Temple using
SB170



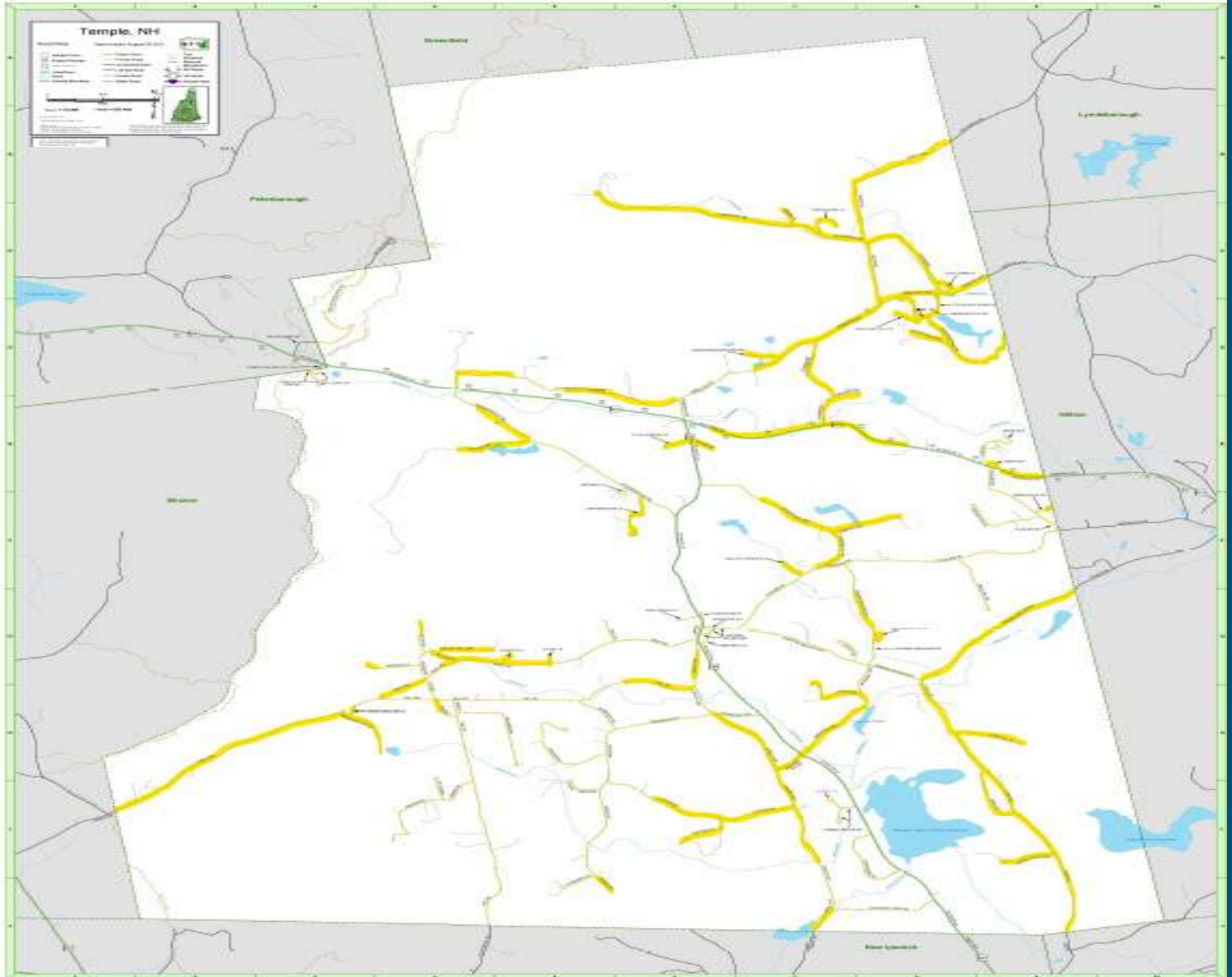
PRIMARY GOALS

- Provide access to **broadband internet to 100%** of Temple residents.
- Minimize impact on taxpayers

Secondary Considerations

- Provide service that will meet future needs...>25/3
- How to control costs to individual subscribers
- Many residents have long driveways and have received high quotes to run line from the street to their house

**Highlighted
roads in yellow
are
underserved
or unserved.**



Funding through a Public/Private Partnership: NH Senate Bill 170

Allows municipalities to pay for “financing of improvements” to broadband infrastructure for locations unserved with a bond approved at town meeting.

Note: SB 170 does NOT require a fiber solution. It only requires a solution that provides = or > 25/3 service.

- a. Send Requests for Information (RFI) from current internet providers - Sent 6/12/20
- b. Receive information about current internet subscribers' service - Received from CCI 6/25/20, Received from Comcast 8/3/20

NH Senate Bill 170

- c. Send Requests for Proposals (RFP) allowing providers to craft and pitch a solution to provide service
- d. “A municipality may select a proposal ... which meets or exceeds the anticipated needs of the community.” – Select Board accepted proposal from CCI on 2/5/21
- e. Bonds must be passed at an annual or special town meeting with 2/3 approval of the voters. *(RSA 33:8-a) - Town Meeting is scheduled 6/12/21*

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Initial RFP Sent 9/20/20, Revised RFP Sent 1/27/21

Town received proposals from:

Comcast

Consolidated Communications (CCI)

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Upon receiving and reviewing proposals, the committee ranked the responses and recommended the Select Board **accept the proposal from Consolidated Communications (CCI).**

Highlights of CCI Proposal

- All residents in town will be eligible for fiber
- As long as there is a communication path from the pole to the house (aerial or through conduit) there will be **no charge for install**.
- Requires us to bond approx. \$710,435 over 20 years for infrastructure (SB170)
- CCI invests an additional \$1.1M in the network
- Fiber subscriber fee not to exceed \$14/month to pay bond, CCI guarantees the bond resulting in **zero tax impact to the town**. You only pay the fee IF you subscribe to the new service.

Public vs. Private Benefit Findings

By improving the speed, reliability and cost over existing service, the following are areas where town residents and businesses benefit at no cost to taxpayers:

- Economic Impact:
 - Improves infrastructure for business development:
 - Supports small/home-based businesses
 - Improves ability of residents to telecommute
 - Improves access to employment opportunities
 - Improves desirability for home buyers to purchase in Temple
 - Increases the value of your home

Public vs. Private Benefit Findings (cont.)

- Educational:
 - Improved Internet access for students
 - Improved access to higher education for adult learners
- Public Access:
 - Enable residents to fully participate virtually on town committees, forums, and hearings during health emergencies like COVID-19
- Safety:
 - Fire Dept and Highway Dept communications enhanced
- Enhanced quality of living
 - Every home has access to online services: i.e. streaming movies, CCiTV, telemedicine, shopping, etc

Bonding

- Requires \$710,435 Municipal General Obligation Bond from the NH Bond Bank or another local lender
- CCI raises the funds to pay the bond via (not to exceed) \$14/month subscriber fee and gives Town the \$\$ to pay bond
- During the roll-out, while subscriber base is insufficient to cover the bond cost, CCI will make up the difference.
- Again, **NO TAX IMPACT ON THE TOWN** and **ONLY SUBSCRIBERS PAY THE FEE.**
- Requires 4 public hearings and a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote in favor at June 12 Town Meeting

Additional Info

- Town will own the network for at least 20 years, depending upon bond type.
- CCI will retain right of exclusive use to run and maintain the network.
- Internet service will be significantly faster and more reliable than existing old copper network.
- Temple Select Board and CAC Broadband Committee are currently negotiating the contract with CCI.
- Additional information will be shared with voters at forums, hearings, and through a mailing over the next several months.
- Subscribe to e-Alerts News & Announcements on the Temple Website TempleNH.org for information about upcoming Broadband forums/hearings.

If you have questions:

Email:

TempleBroadband@TempleNH.org

Or Call:

Select Board Assistant at (603) 878-2536