VERMONT **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The Vermont Statutes Online

Title 30 : Public Service

Chapter 005 : State Policy; Plans; Jurisdiction And Regulatory Authority Of Commission And Department

Subchapter 001 : General Powers

(Cite as: 30 V.S.A. § 202c)

§ 202c. State telecommunications; policy and planning

(a) The General Assembly finds that advances in telecommunications technology and changes in federal regulatory policy are rapidly reshaping telecommunications services, thereby promising the people and businesses of the State communication and access to information, while creating new challenges for maintaining a robust, modern telecommunications network in Vermont.

(b) Therefore, to direct the benefits of improved telecommunications technology to all Vermonters, it is the purpose of this section and section 202d of this title to:

(1) strengthen the State's role in telecommunications planning;

(2) support the universal availability of appropriate infrastructure and affordable services for transmitting voice and high-speed data;

(3) support the availability of modern mobile wireless telecommunications services along the State's travel corridors and in the State's communities;

(4) provide for high-quality, reliable telecommunications services for Vermont businesses and residents;

(5) provide the benefits of future advances in telecommunications technologies to Vermont residents and businesses;

(6) support competitive choice for consumers among telecommunications service providers and promote open access among competitive service providers on nondiscriminatory terms to networks over which broadband and telecommunications services are delivered;

(7) support the application of telecommunications technology to maintain and improve governmental and public services, public safety, and the economic development of the State;

(8) support deployment of broadband infrastructure that:

(A) uses the best commercially available technology;

(B) does not negatively affect the ability of Vermont to take advantage of future improvements in broadband technology or result in widespread installation of technology that becomes outmoded within a short period after installation;

(9) in the deployment of broadband infrastructure, encourage the use of existing facilities, such as existing utility poles and corridors and other structures, in preference to the construction of new facilities or the replacement of existing structures with taller structures; and

(10) support measures designed to ensure that by the end of the year 2024 every E-911 business and residential location in Vermont has infrastructure capable of delivering Internet access with service that has a minimum download speed of 100 Mbps and is symmetrical. (Added 1987, No. 87, § 1; amended 2003, No. 164 (Adj. Sess.), § 15, eff. June 12, 2004; 2009, No. 54, § 49, eff. June 1, 2009; 2011, No. 53, § 24b, eff. May 27, 2011; 2013, No. 190 (Adj. Sess.), § 8, eff. June 16, 2014.)

ECFiber Services: Pricing

Subscription Rates Shown are Monthly – No Contracts Required

Updated: June 26, 2017

All Service Level Plans Include:

- UNLIMITED Data! — No Caps!
- Symmetrical Speeds — Same speed download *and* upload. Not “up to” like some other providers!

Telephone Service includes Long Distance throughout the US and Canada plus a full range of customer convenience features such as call waiting, call forwarding, call blocking, etc.

Not sure what level to choose? Click here: What ECFiber Services Are Right for Me?

Residential Service Levels

- Basic Internet: 17 Mbps $ 66.00
- Standard Internet: 40 Mbps $ 91.00
- Ultra Internet: 200 Mbps $ 116.00
- Wicked Internet: 700 Mbps $149.00
- (Please note: There is also an $8 monthly charge for the Optical Network Termination Device)
- Residential phone lines with unlimited local and long distance calling may be ordered at $20 per month per line. Click here for a list of included calling features.
- Digital voicemail services are available for $3 per month per voicemail box. This includes the voicemail to email feature, which allows you to listen to your voicemail from your email account when you are away from your home phone!

Test Your Current Internet Speed
SpeedOf.Me (Non-Flash)
Speedtest App for iOS

Business Service Levels

- Basic Internet: 17 Mbps: $72.00
- Standard Internet: 40 Mbps $101.00
- Ultra Internet: 200 Mbps $ 126.00
- Wicked Internet: 700 Mbps $199.00
- (Please note: There is also an $8 monthly charge for the Optical Network Termination Device)
- Business phone lines with unlimited local and long distance calling may be ordered at $30 per month per line Click here for a list of included calling features.
- Digital voicemail services are available for $3 per month per voicemail box. This includes the voicemail to email feature, which allows you to listen to your voicemail from your email account when you are away from your home phone! (Sign up for automatic monthly payments when you subscribe, and receive one free year of digital voicemail service!)
- Static IP addresses: $7/month per address

Installation and Activation Charges (one time charges)

- Residential Internet installation charge $99.00
- Business Internet installation charge $150.00
- Telephone activation fee $30.00
- Adding telephone after service after initial installation:
  - No additional wiring needed – $30
  - Wiring required – $105

For International Calling Rates, click here – PDF

Subscriber Services

- Custom on-premises technical support call: Labor @ $75/hour plus materials (minimum 1 hour charge – billed in half-hour increments thereafter).

SIGN UP NOW
No contracts required

HOME
PRICING
HOW TO GET CONNECTED
INSTALLATION & SCHEDULING
SUBSCRIBE
MEMBER TOWNS
FAQS
PRESS
MISSION
HISTORY
WHERE WE ARE WORKING
JOBS
STORE

MEMBER TOWNS

BARNARD
BETHEL
BRAINTREE
BROOKFIELD
CHELSEA
GRANVILLE
HANCOCK
HARTFORD
MONTPELIER
NORWICH
PITTSFIELD
POMFRET
RANDOLPH
READING
ROCHESTER
ROYALTON
SHARON
STOCKBRIDGE
STRAFFORD
THETFORD
TUNBRIDGE
VERSHIRE
WEST WINDSOR
WOODSTOCK

415 Waterman Rd
South Royalton, VT 05068
(802) 763-2262

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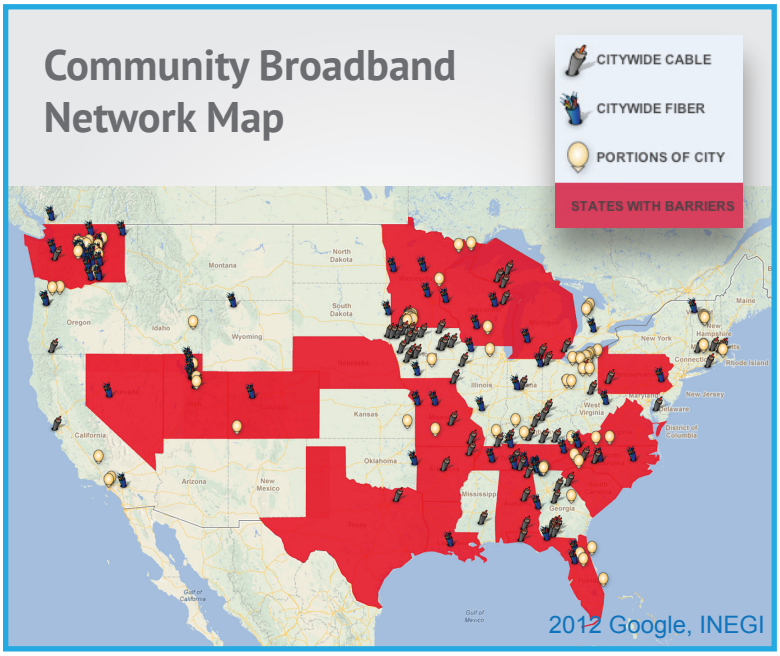
Community Broadband Creates Jobs

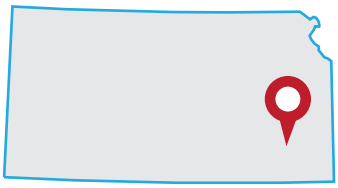
All businesses increasingly depend on fast, affordable, and reliable access to telecommunications. But existing cable and DSL companies are not meeting local needs -- they charge too much for networks that can be too slow or unreliable. In response, hundreds of communities have built their own networks to spur economic development.

Community-owned networks often deliver the highest capacity connections at far greater levels of reliability than cable and DSL companies -- they are focused on helping local businesses, not extracting monopoly profits.

MuniNetworks.org documents examples of economic development resulting from community-owned networks. We have published several case studies and offer new posts on a daily basis.



> **In eras past, economic success depended on creating networks that could shift people, merchandise and electric power as efficiently and as widely as possible.**
>
> **Today's equivalent is broadband ... Easy access to cheap, fast internet services has become a facilitator of economic growth and a measure of economic performance. - The Economist**



KANSAS Chanute a TRADITION of INNOVATION

Chanute, Kansas (Chanute Municipal Network)

- Spirit AeroSystems, looking for a home for its new manufacturing facility, chose Chanute in part due to its exceptional broadband infrastructure. The plant will create over 100 new jobs.
- MagnaTech, a local designer and manufacturer, was on the verge of leaving Chanute when private providers would not meet its telecom needs. But the municipal network connected them and kept 35 jobs in the community.

Case Study:
http://www.ilsr.org/chanute-rural-gigabit/

BVU OptiNet

Bristol, Virginia (OptiNet)

- CGI and Northrup Grumman created 700 jobs paying twice the average wage in the community because of connections from the publicly owned network.
- Alpha Natural Resources - The coal company was considering moving its headquarters away from the region after a merger with another coal company headquartered in Baltimore. But the BVU Authority network allowed them to stay local.
- DirecTV began using OptiNet for a virtual call center in Bristol, creating 100 new home based positions.

Case Study:
www.ilsr.org/broadband-speed-light/

Chattanooga, Tennessee (EPB Fiber)

- HomeServe moved its call center to Chattanooga, creating 140 new jobs after HomeServe's CEO learned that the **minimum** connection speed on the city-owned network was faster than the **maximum** they had available at headquarters.

- Companies in Knoxville, 100 miles away, have decided to expand in Chattanooga to take advantage of the much lower telecom costs.

- TractManager, a national company, credits the city network with some of their success: "It's a huge plus for us. It's a competitive advantage for the business."

- An academic study estimated the first 10 years of the network will yield over 3,600 new jobs directly linked to the City's triple play services.

Case Study:
www.ilsr.org/broadband-speed-light/

Tullahoma, Tennessee (LighTUBe)

- J2 Software Solutions, specializing in public safety software for dispatching, records management, and similar tasks, chose Tullahoma as its new headquarters because its network was able to offer speed and reliability, crucial for J2's business.

Springfield, Missouri (SpringNet)

- After a national carrier could not meet its needs, SpringNet stepped in to provide Expedia with the necessary connectivity to bring over 400 jobs to the community.

- SpringNet connects over 200 businesses and operates an impressive 56,000 sq ft data center 85 feet underground.

Danville, Virginia (nDanville)

- The municipal network connects most of the medical community with connections twice as fast as those previously used at 30% lower cost.

- The network also connects over 150 businesses and can offer 10Gbps connections upon request.

Additional Information:
http://www.muninetworks.org/tags-343

Lafayette, Louisiana (LUS Fiber)

- Pixel Magic created a studio in Lafayette after working there on a temporary basis for a movie shoot. The studio created 100-200 new jobs because LUS Fiber could connect it to studios and partners anywhere in the world.

- NuComm International brought a call center to Lafayette, announcing 1,000 new positions.

Case Study:
www.ilsr.org/broadband-speed-light/

Martinsville, Virginia (MiNET)

- This publicly owned network has been credited with attracting several new businesses, including SPARTA, Inc., a defense contractor.

- ICF International, a professional and technology services firm, plans on bringing 539 new jobs to Martinsville because of its fiber network.

These are just a few examples of the many ways **community-owned networks** have helped local businesses.

Why Local Solutions?

Investment from local government and co-ops improves Internet access

#1. State and federal government won't solve the problem.

- The federal government has offered billion of dollars to CenturyLink and AT&T, resulting in little infrastructure improvement. Despite funding, speeds still do not meet the FCC definition of broadband
- State government is too focused on Big Telecom. HB 2108 protects large, absentee Internet Service Providers and takes control from communities

#2. Large telecom companies refuse to invest in rural areas.

- Many ISPs use outdated technology like DSL that doesn't meet current demand for service. These companies do not upgrade infrastructure because they do not have competitors
- Mobile wireless connections are insufficient for long-term use due to bandwidth caps. Fiber-optics are future-proof and affordable with a local business plan

#3. Local leaders can best resolve local issues.

You know what is best for your community's infrastructure needs. Local leaders can improve Internet access in a multitude of ways:

- **Institutional Networks** connect businesses, schools, libraries, governments, and hospitals
- **Municipal Fiber Networks** come in many models. Open-access networks allow multiple ISPs to operate on publicly-owned infrastructure, creating competition to improve speeds and lower prices
- **Co-ops** are non-profit entities that may already provide utilities like telephone service and electricity
- **Carrier Neutral Locations** promote collaboration between ISPs by acting as a major connection point. CNLs create savings by lowering infrastructure costs

These models help communities take control of their digital destiny

Looking for more information? MuniNetworks.org offers

In-depth reports

Strategies for Broadband Public-Private Partnerships
Rural Communities Made a New Internet Cooperative
How a Small Town in Oregon Built a Network

MuniNetworks.org, updated daily
Local solutions, including co-op opportunities
Updates on communities building networks
Profiles of long-running community networks

Multimedia

Weekly Community Broadband Bits Podcast
Interactive Map of Community Networks
Informational Videos

Fact sheets

Financing Municipal Networks
Economic Development

Questions? Email us! *broadband@MuniNetworks.org*

Community NETWORKS

ILSR INSTITUTE FOR Local Self-Reliance

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance is a people-community-policy driven non-profit that works to keep local economies strong. Since 1974, ILSR has promoted policies and ideas that empower local communities.

Publication date: January 2017

More than just Facebook:

Internet access is essential infrastructure

From sharing a local news story on Facebook to working from home with a sick child, Internet access is changing our personal and professional lives. While one of the most common applications of Internet access is connecting with others over social media, it is also essential for more than entertainment: completing job applications, telecommuting for work, and engaging with local government. In areas across the United States, municipalities are recognizing the benefits of improving Internet access, investing in infrastructure to keep their communities vibrant.

450+

American communities have invested in public infrastructure to improve Internet access for businesses, residents, and other stakeholders

Source: MuniNetworks.org

Internet access and local economies

Internet-based applications are essential for producing and packaging crops; creating video, 3-D renderings, and other media; and communicating with employees around the world. **Businesses increasingly consider Internet access as they once did proximity to major thoroughfares and storefront size**, and many cities tout high-speed Internet access as a major incentive for business development.

84%

of recent job seekers have completed an online application

Source: Pew Research

Internet access and job seekers

Home Internet service is important for job searching, as postings are almost exclusively listed online. This is especially true for higher-wage jobs, which often require candidates to send resumes and in-depth applications over email. **Public libraries provide Internet services to job seekers without home access, but are not a long-term solution** because of inconvenient hours or distance from home.

1 in 3

households with school-aged children and an income of less than $50,000 **do not have a broadband connection**

Source: Pew Research

Internet access and the homework gap

As teachers assign online homework, students without access are unable to complete tasks at home. While libraries are an option, their location and unaccommodating hours can be problematic for students. **A home connection provides unparalleled ease of access.**

10%

of American adults access the Internet exclusively with a cell phone

Source: Pew Research

Mobile access is convenient, but not enough

Smart phone Internet access is much more expensive per megabit than wired home access due to carriers implementing data caps and overage fees. Cell phones have helped get low-income households online, but are not meeting current needs for access. While one in ten American adults access the Internet only with a cell phone, these numbers jump for low-income adults.

NEXT CENTURY CITIES

Community NETWORKS

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Publication date: January 2017

What are some benefits of improving connectivity?

Small business development

Businesses **need off-site backup and data recovery,** only possible with high-speed access

Businesses can **expand to new markets**, receive orders, and purchase from wholesalers through the Internet

Fast, reliable access **enables employees to be more productive** and businesses more competitive

Lower costs, higher quality

Public investment can update infrastructure, **allowing for higher Internet speeds**

Open-access networks **allow multiple providers to compete**, operating on publicly-owned infrastructure

Subscribers see **reduced service costs** due to more competition

Workforce development

Good-paying jobs increasingly require digital skills, developed in schools and at home over a broadband connection

Broadband allows for **web-based training** and education

K-12 schools have better capacity for online learning tools and can **better equip students for the workforce**

Improved access to services

Customers have more control of their accounts—anything from finding educational records to accessing health care services to submitting a building permit request to their city

Online banking **allows customers to deposit checks and pay bills without having to take time off of work** to visit a bank

Good connectivity keeps communities vibrant.

High-speed, reliable Internet access allows existing businesses to stay competitive, attracts new businesses, provides educational opportunities, and improves quality of life

What is good connectivity?

- As of 2016, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defines "basic broadband access" as 25 Mbps (Megabits per second) download speeds and 3 Mbps upload speeds
- As of 2016, 34 million Americans don't have fixed, basic broadband access. At least 39% of those living in rural areas lack access to basic broadband
- Businesses rely on consistent, high-speed Internet access not only to download information but also to upload data to online systems and clients
- A single connection must sustain an entire household or business, as each person has multiple devices vying for connectivity
- A good connection is a consistent one: especially at peak usage times, an Internet connection should be reliable

Rather than just using Facebook, Internet access enables us to...

Stay connected • Fulfill online orders • Find an apartment • Telecommute to work • Look up bus schedules • Enroll in health coverage • Monitor patient progress • Organize customer information • Compare prices • Access college course readings • Join social clubs • Check in to a flight • Read the local news • Stream music and video • Apply for jobs • Share statistical information for crops • View bank statements • Complete homework • Share pictures • Learn a new skill • Register to vote • Find business hours • Create an online portfolio • Pay bills • Monitor public safety • Find a phone number • Communicate with teachers • Post items online for sale • Collaborate with coworkers • Check the weather • Crowdsource funding for a cause • Livestream special events • Reach new business clients • Store and backup documents in the Cloud • Read online magazines • Organize a community meeting • Connect with relatives that live far away • Attend an online webinar • Read MuniNetworks.org

Need better connectivity in your community? You're not alone. Local governments have been able to improve Internet access for residents and businesses in a variety of ways, often reducing costs and providing better service. Take a look at the multitude of resources at MuniNetworks.org and NextCenturyCities.org to find out how your community can improve Internet access.