



# Temple Broadband Expansion Initiative

---

Prepared for the residents of Temple

By the Temple CAC Broadband Committee

February 6, 2021



Jessica Hipp  
Christine Robidoux  
Keith Charlton  
Dana Nowell  
Mike Flynn

# 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

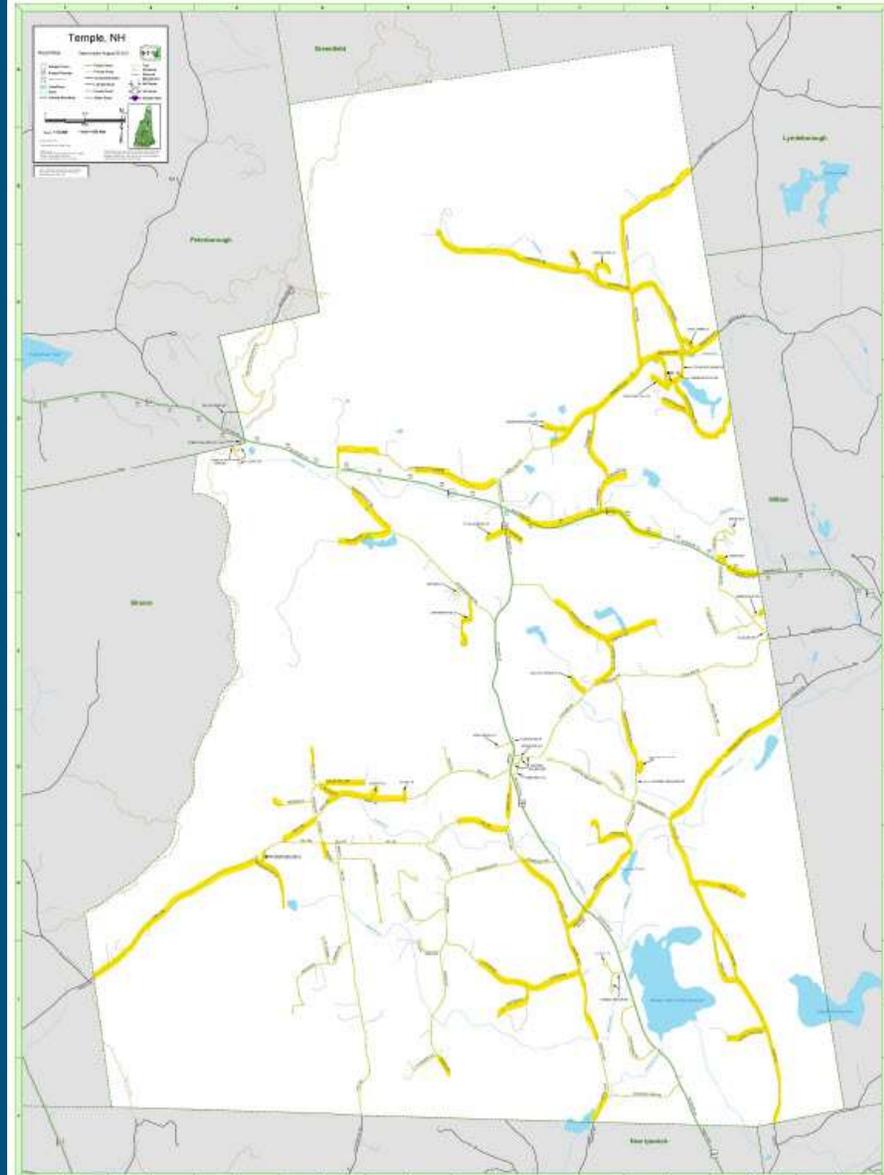


3 Mbps  
upload  
or greater

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



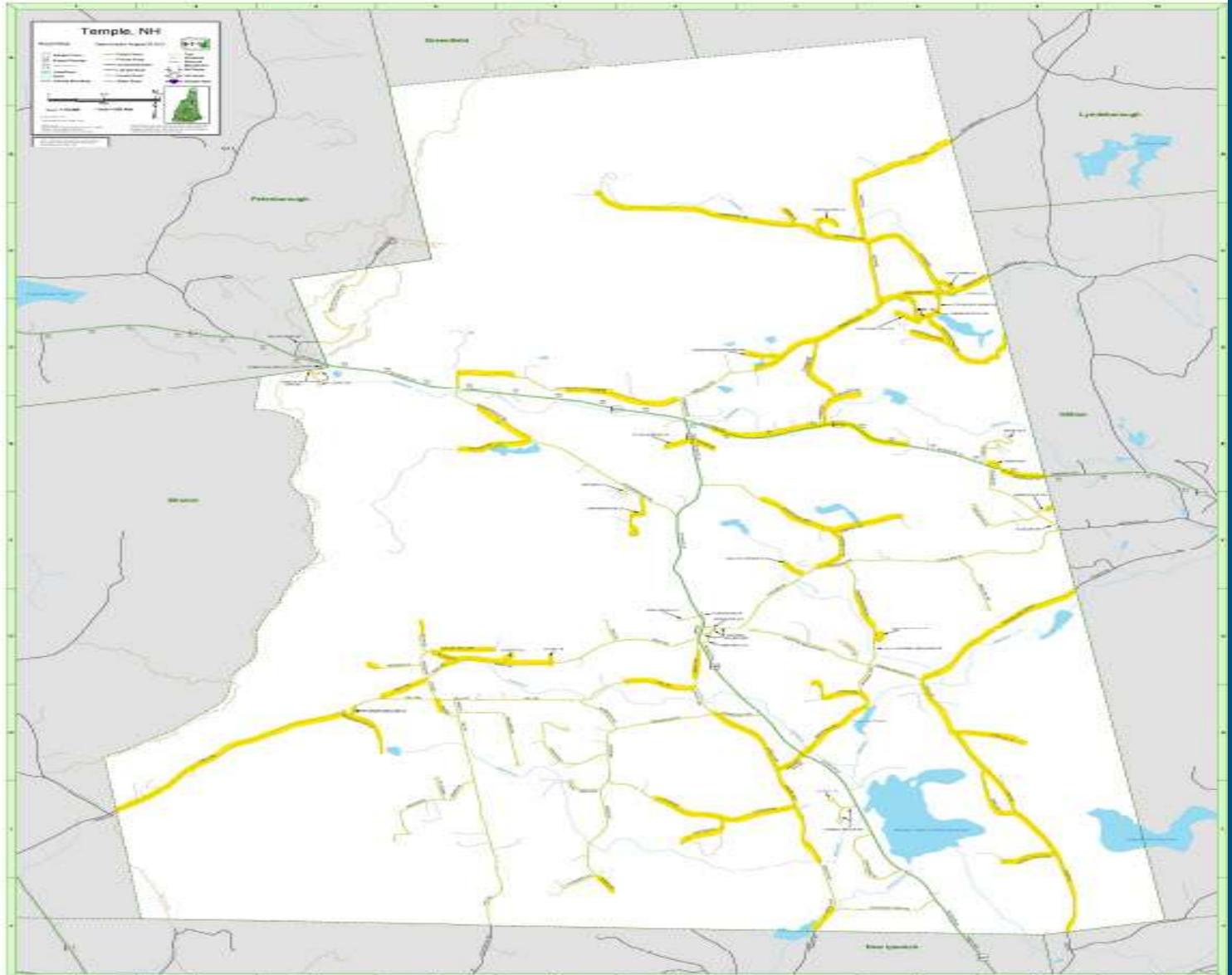
## PRIMARY GOALS

- 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](http://TempleNH.org) for information about upcoming Broadband forums/hearings.

If you have questions:

---

Email:

[TempleBroadband@TempleNH.org](mailto:TempleBroadband@TempleNH.org)

Or Call:

Select Board Assistant at (603) 878-2536