

Greater East Grand Broadband Project May 15, 2022 Update

Two community meetings occurred on March 3rd and April 28* to update about what the GEGR Broadband Committee's progress has been since late fall and to outline the next steps in the planning process to bring high-speed broadband services to the region. The Committee is chaired by Dwayne Young with support from Sarah Strickland and Angela Cowger.

Late in 2021 a request-for-proposal was sent to seventeen internet service providers (ISPs) to provide high-speed internet service to the 10 communities in the GEGR. Seven companies responded with a variety of approaches. Mission Broadband, the committee's broadband consulting firm helping with the project, has prepared a report summarizing the highly technical information in the proposals.

The Broadband Committee has recently been expanded with volunteers from Orient, Weston, Haynesville, Reed Plt, Drew Plt, and Danforth. Over the next three months, this committee is charged with reviewing the ISP proposals, meeting with providers as needed, and evaluating the different models the region might use to expand services. The goal is to have recommendations for resident and town review no later than August in order to be prepared for 2023 town meetings and UT budget meetings.

Committee members to date are: Dwayne Young, David Apgar, Mike Comeau, Constance Curtis, Scott Hanington, Kim Lee, Carrie Oliver, Carol Randall, Shannon Sears, Van White, Heather Zakupowsky. We are waiting to hear from Amity, Glenwood Plt., Brookton/Forest, and Forest City about their participation.

All residents in the region can help this effort in two MAJOR ways in May.

First: Complete the 3-minute community survey in May at this link

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gegrbroadband>

Second: Take the Maine Speed Test on 3 different days in May at your home

Step 1: Please go to www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org

Step 2: Click "Run Speed Test" and follow the directions provided

Step 3: Please repeat this test on 3 different days over the next week.

Questions? Comments? Need a paper survey? Contact...

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