

FASTROADS IS BRINGING BIG BROADBAND

# We are FastRoads. We are all connected!

## GETTING THE REGION CONNECTED

We're all connected through family, friends, schools, businesses, neighbors, church and community. We help each other - it's the New Hampshire way.

The essential ingredient to knowing when to help... is information. First it was word of mouth, the post office, then the telephone, and now, in the 21st Century it is the Internet. The Internet has allowed us to connect with an even larger community- indeed, the world.

## IMPROVING THE CONNECTION

But our current "little broadband" connections do not have the capacity to meet our future economic development and jobs growth needs.

The problem is that in rural New Hampshire, Internet service is not everywhere, is not fast enough, is not consistent enough and is not reliable enough.

That is why FastRoads was formed and is in the forefront of making those connections even stronger, faster and more accurate. It was created to benefit you: the citizens and businesses of the region.

## MORE CHOICE, LOWER PRICES

FastRoads will make possible new and better broadband services to businesses, schools, government, entrepreneurs, and residents throughout the area. Applications such as work from home, telehealth, business services, and others will perform more efficiently and more affordably with greater bandwidth on the FastRoads network.

Most customers will find that their Internet and telephone services are not only better and faster but also less expensive when purchased from FastRoads service providers.

THE FIBER THAT FASTROADS IS INSTALLING PROVIDES THE NEEDED "FUTURE PROOF" CAPACITY TO MEET THE AREA'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS NEEDS-AND WILL HELP ATTRACT JOBS AND NEW BUSINESSES





## We're Getting Started

FastRoads is part of a larger New Hampshire stimulus project led by UNH. The FastRoads portion of the effort is \$7.7 million, with Federal funds providing about 70% of the cost and the 30% balance coming from local match. A middle mile fiber backbone of 120 miles is being constructed through 22 communities in the region. This backbone will provide local fiber services in the core area of each community; more than 200 locations will receive service, including town halls, schools, fire and rescue stations, police stations, and health care facilities. Portions of Enfield and Rindge will also receive Fiber To The Home (FTTH), with more than 1,200 homes connected during the initial build out, with opportunities to connect many more homes and businesses in the near future.

*The FastRoads area offers excellent quality of life, relatively low cost of living, and superb recreational activities. Business class "big broadband" can accelerate economic development while maintaining the great quality of life without the risk of over-urbanization.*

### WHY NOW?

*The communities of west central and southwest New Hampshire need "big broadband" to attract new jobs and businesses to the region, and to retain existing businesses. New Hampshire FastRoads was formed in 2010 after years of careful study. The FastRoads' goal is to ensure that businesses, citizens, and institutions of the region have a communications infrastructure to keep the area competitive for the next 20 to 30 years.*

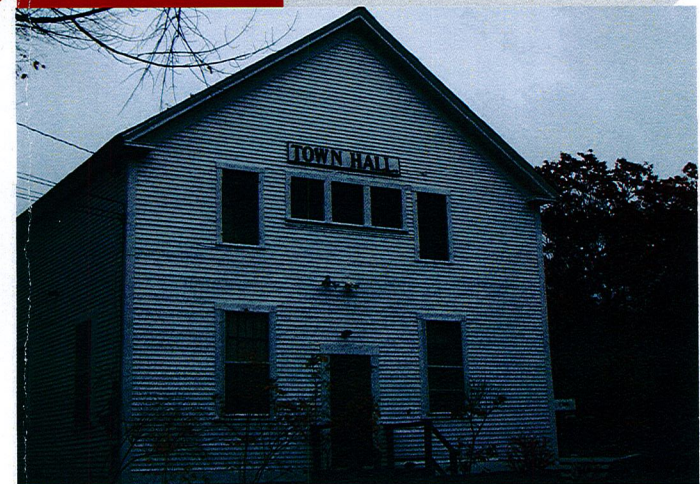
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# big broadband for new hampshire



BIG BROADBAND FOR HOMES,  
BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND  
HEALTHCARE

New Hampshire  
**FastRoads**



# New Hampshire *FastRoads*

## Frequently Asked Questions



### KEY IDEAS

#### 1 HIGH SPEED BROADBAND IS ESSENTIAL

The region needs better "big broadband" digital roads for jobs and businesses.

#### 2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT COMPETE

The network should create private sector business opportunities, not expand local government.

#### 3 FIBER IS THE NEW ROAD SYSTEM

Fiber is a high capacity long term transportation infrastructure asset.

#### 4 SEPARATE SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Separating infrastructure from the services sold creates true competition and lower prices.

#### 5 INFRASTRUCTURE FUELS ECONOMIC GROWTH

A fiber-rich regional transportation system will energize economic development and create jobs.

#### 6 WORK ANYWHERE

Fiber everywhere enables new job opportunities without long commutes, reduces road maintenance, and lowers energy use.

#### 7 CONNECTED DOWNTOWNS

Fiber brings businesses back to downtowns.

#### 8 LIVE ANYWHERE

A high performance digital road system spreads growth throughout the region sustainably.

### Energizing the Region

## The need for big broadband

### What is FastRoads?

The FastRoads project is a collaboration of the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority, Monadnock Economic Development Corporation, the thirty-five towns within the Southwest region, and the towns of the Upper Valley.

The goal of the effort is to help ensure that the businesses, institutions, and residents of the region have the right infrastructure to support jobs and sustainable economic development. The availability of affordable, "big" broadband infrastructure has become an essential component of a viable economic development strategy in rural areas.

The towns and cities of the area offer an excellent quality of life, a relatively low cost of living, and superb recreational activities. The area is also located within reasonable distances of major urban areas. Widespread availability of business class broadband has the potential for accelerating economic development in the area while maintaining the great quality of life and without the risks of over-urbanization.

### Why is FastRoads needed?

Many future job and work opportunities will be created in areas of the region outside traditional economic development zones (e.g. downtowns and

business parks). FastRoads believes it is crucial to have a long term strategy of being able to locate businesses and workers anywhere in the region, and that means widespread availability of business class broadband services.

### Is FastRoads competing with the private sector?

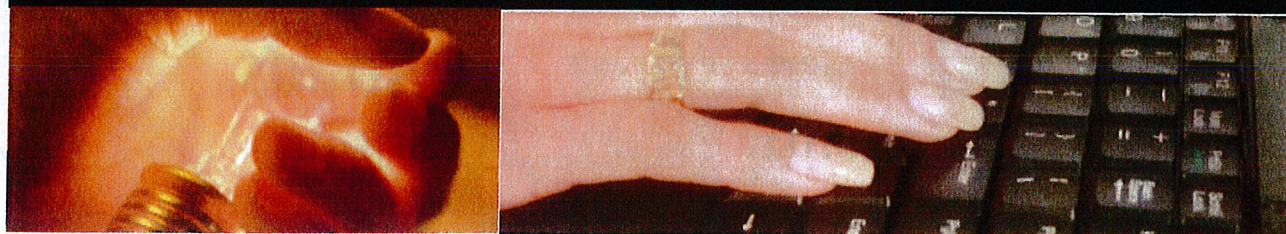
FastRoads will NOT sell any telecom services to businesses and residents. All business and residential services on the FastRoads network will be provided by private sector providers, and all incumbent providers are invited to use the network to deliver services in areas where it is too expensive to build their own fiber. The FastRoads network will create enormous private sector business opportunities.

### I thought wireless was going to replace fiber?

Wireless is very important for mobile access to voice and data, and FastRoads will also try to ensure that cellphone service is more widely available in the region. But only fiber can deliver the kind of high bandwidth services that businesses and institutions are already beginning to demand.

*I heard this was a three year project. Will we have to wait three years for a connection?*





No. Construction will start in the 2012, and to the extent it is practical, connections will be made as soon as the NNHN (Network New Hampshire Now) fiber backbone is completed.

***Will we have to re-wire our building to use the fiber?***

No. If you have Ethernet cable and jacks in your building now, that will continue to work with the new connection.

***We only have wireless in our building. Can we continue to use that?***

Yes. You will simply plug your wireless router into the new (small) box provided by FastRoads, and your wireless network will continue to work.

***How will the fiber get to our building?***

The fiber cable will be installed on utility poles on or near the street. A small cable will run from the street to the outside of your building where telephone and electric service enter (i.e. where your electric meter is). A small box will be attached to the side of the building, and the fiber cable can probably run through the same hole that the telephone cable goes through to get to the interior of your building.

***How much will services costs?***

We expect that the prices offered by service providers for Internet and telephone will be very competitive,

and that your cost for telephone and Internet access will go down.

***Will our Internet service be faster?***

Your organization will be able to choose how much Internet bandwidth you want, and it is likely that you will be able to afford a much faster connection. In other areas, it is common that customers can order a service two or three times faster for about the same amount of money you are paying now.

***Will I have to buy services from the town government?***

No. Local telephone, Internet, and cable companies are all being invited to use the network to sell services. The towns of the FastRoads region are not selling any services. All services will be offered by private companies, including local Internet businesses.

***What good is this to me? I don't have a computer, and don't want one.***

The FastRoads network is being designed to deliver a wide variety of services, including telephone and TV services. Over time, FastRoads expects that a wide variety of valuable services will be available on the network, including tele-medicine and tele-health services; business videoconferencing; distance learning and job training programs; movies on demand; computer backups; and many other kinds of residential and business services.

**CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

- The FastRoads partners worked with UNH to develop a broadband stimulus proposal, which has been funded. FastRoads is currently developing the detailed engineering documents needed for construction work.
- FastRoads is working with the twenty-two communities that will receive fiber connections to identify where the FastRoads equipment will be located and to identify the community anchor institutions and businesses that can be connected.
- FastRoads is working with economic developers throughout the region to identify major employers with bandwidth shortfalls. Network construction will be prioritized to get broadband services to these employers as fast as possible.
- FastRoads is carefully studying regional broadband networks that are operating in other parts of the U.S. to identify best practice in network design, network management, and financial management.
- Over time, every home, business, and institution in the region that wants broadband services will get a high performance fiber connection.