

CONNECT

KICKING OFF *CONNECT*

High-speed Internet access has transformed the way the world works and lives. As it spreads, it brings with it new possibilities: advanced public safety capabilities, access to sophisticated cultural and educational events and services, as well as improvements in healthcare such as in-home monitoring services that enhance independent living while reducing costs.

As broadband Internet access becomes the norm, New Hampshire must be positioned to handle the explosion of demand to new or improved Internet capabilities and services.

Funded by \$44.5 million in economic stimulus money, matched with \$22 million in private cash and in-kind funding, Network New Hampshire Now is a collaboration of public and private organizations working to develop a high-speed broadband network throughout the state. This exciting initiative has three main components:

- Build new and connect to existing middle-mile fiber networks in all 10 NH counties. The "middle mile" connects the core network to a local network. Think of it as the network's "interstate highway," much like Interstate 93 is a connection point for other roads.
- Create a last-mile fiber program called FastRoads in southwest and western New Hampshire, which would connect the network to homes and businesses.
- Create a middle-mile microwave network on mountaintops connected to the fiber network for public safety, transportation, public TV and mobile broadband communications .

This initiative will create nearly 700 new jobs and bring affordable Internet access to 12,000 businesses and 700 community institutions. It will open new opportunities for distance learning, healthcare delivery, and economic development, while connecting many homes and businesses to high-speed Internet for the first time.

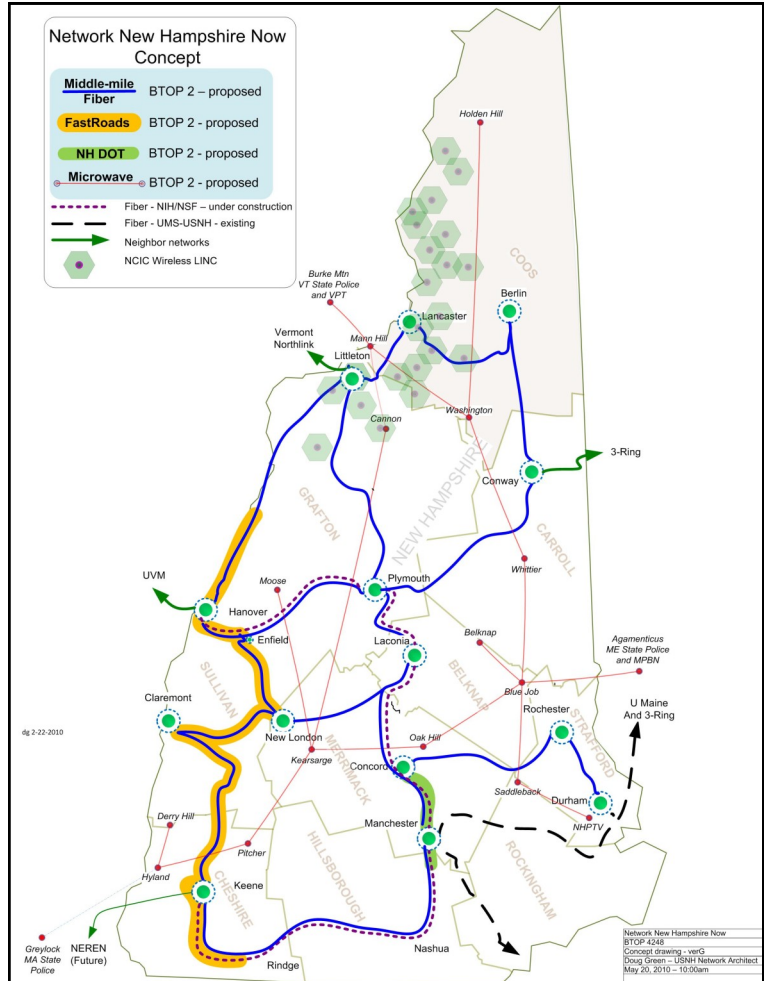
CONNECT with NetworkNHNow

Want to get involved, learn more or donate?

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Web: <http://www.networknhnow.org>



KEY QUESTIONS

Who is building the network?

Following a highly competitive bidding process, NNHN has selected a number of finalists, all NH-based companies, to build the first phase: the middle-mile fiber network. The winning organizations will be announced in late February or early March.

How long will it take?

It will take about three years to build out the network (2012). However, as new broadband elements connect to existing infrastructure during construction, the network will be able to begin delivering service before the final completion date.

Will broadband service to homes and businesses get cheaper?

By creating this open access network, the program aims to dramatically increase broadband access throughout the state. This will increase choice and competition, making pricing more competitive. Gaining support from broadband providers interested in providing services to more communities once the network is built has been a key part of this effort.

