



# TELECOMMUNICATIONS & CONNECTIVITY DIVISION

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE    JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2016



# DIVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS & CONNECTIVITY

- On July 1st, 2015, the Division of Telecommunications & Connectivity was formed to manage all state broadband, cellular, and telecommunications efforts
  - Connectivity Initiative Grant Program
  - Dark Fiber Projects
  - CoverageCo
- Traditional Telecommunication Regulation
  - FairPoint Service Quality Docket
  - Cable CPG Dockets
  - 248A applications (119 processed in 2015)
  - Vermont Universal Service Fund (VUSF) Administration
  - Vermont Telecommunication Relay Service (VTRS) Administration

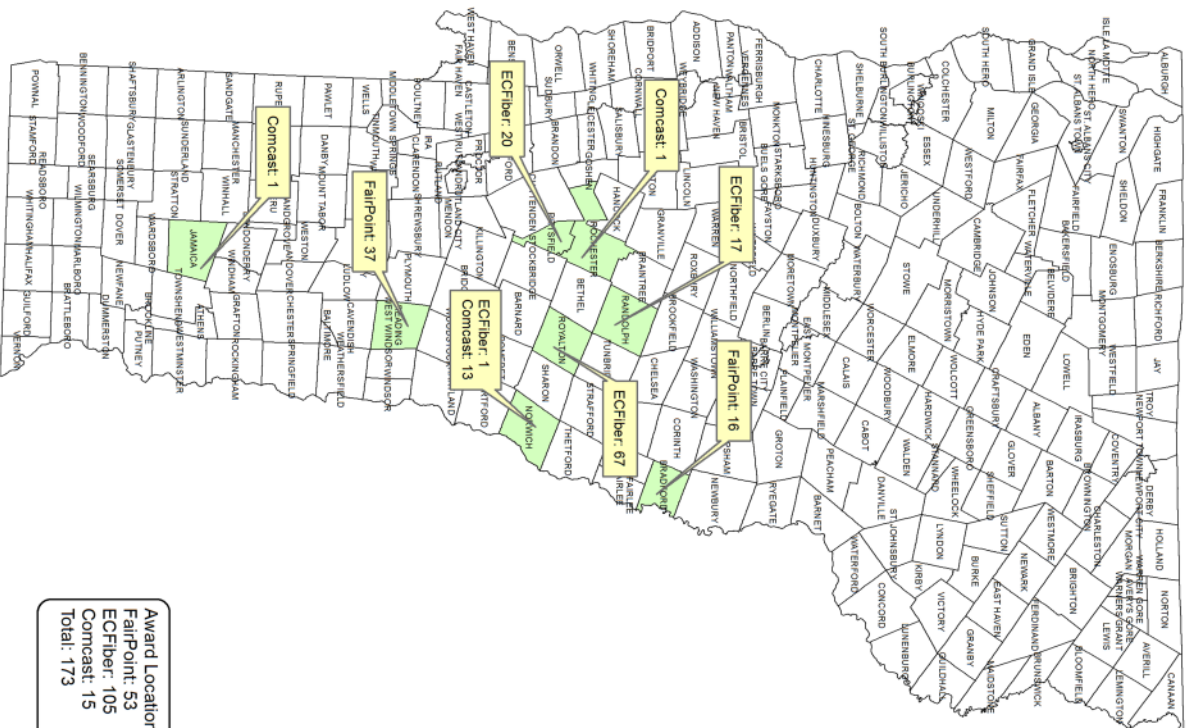
## CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVE

- The Connectivity Initiative is a grant program created in 2014 by the General Assembly and funded through the Vermont Universal Service Fund (VUSF).
- Each year the Department identifies business and residential locations eligible for grant funding. The locations chosen are among the hardest to serve and most underserved locations in the state.
- These locations have no federal or state support other than what is available from the Connectivity Initiative.

## CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVE GRANTS- AWARDED

- In 2015, the Department awarded \$885,944 in grant funds.
- ECFiber was awarded \$365,304 to serve 105 locations in Pittsfield, Royalton, Randolph, and Norwich.
- Comcast was awarded \$230,730 to serve 15 locations in Jamaica, Norwich, and Rochester.
- FairPoint was awarded \$290,000 to serve 53 locations in Bradford and Reading.
- Service at these locations will go online on or before Fall of 2016.

# Connectivity Initiative Awards 2015



Prepared by FSD staff 10/2016

## DARK FIBER OVERVIEW

- The Department of Public Service owns or holds licenses to roughly 340 route miles of fiber optic cable throughout the state of Vermont.
- All Department constructed cables contain 144 strands of fiber, which allows the fiber to be used by multiple tenants.
- DPS middle mile fiber will be utilized to serve an estimated 1,200 residential and business locations through partnership with Southern Vermont Cable and ECFiber.
- The fiber is focused in three parts of the state: Northeast Kingdom, East Central Vermont, and Southern Vermont.

## DARK FIBER OVERVIEW-CONTINUED

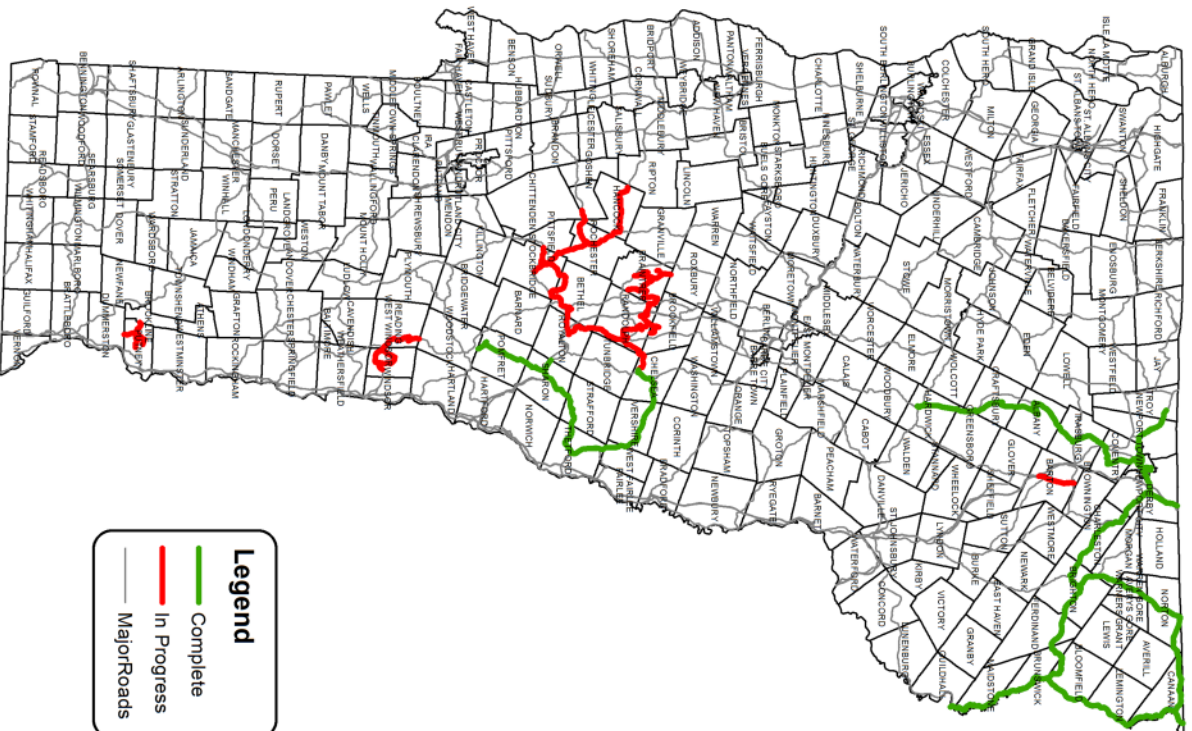
- The fiber is “middle mile.” This means that the fiber does not connect to individual buildings, but can be used as part of a larger network.
- The Department is not a service provider and does not sell anything beyond the use of the dark fiber.
- It is incumbent upon the tenants to interconnect with and light the fiber.
- The Department’s fiber is considered “open access,” meaning the fiber is available to any paying applicant for any lawful purpose, whether it be long haul transmission or as a component of a last mile broadband project.
- Standard rates for the fiber are available on the Department website.

## DARK FIBER EXPANSION

- The fiber was constructed using over \$5,389,920 in state funding sources.
- Additional federal and private investment.
- The fiber brings high bandwidth connections to 42 towns and gores.
- Dark Fiber projects estimated completion by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.



### VT PSD Dark Fiber Networks



Prepared by PSD staff 1/6/2016

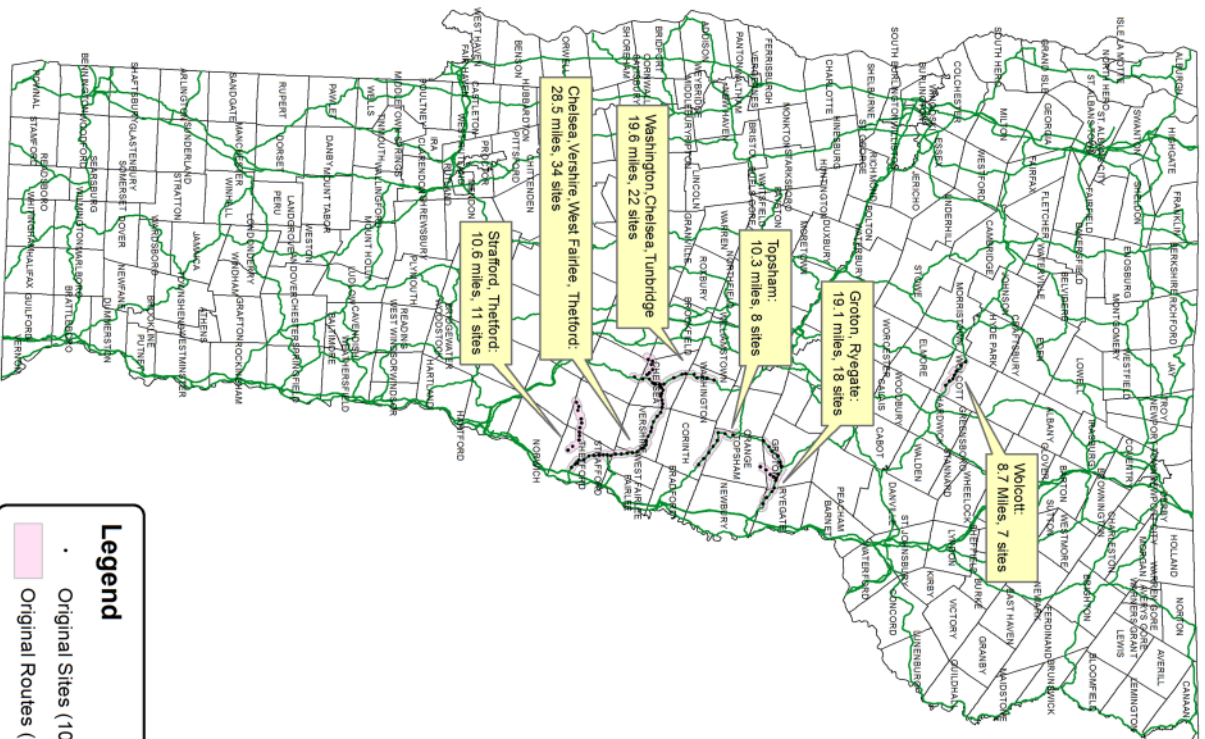
## COVERAGECO PROJECT

- A network of small cell sites located in areas determined based on a drive test conducted by the Vermont Center for Geographic Information in 2010, and again in 2013.
- CoverageCo, while not a retail cellular carrier, leases wireless spectrum owned by Sprint in order to provide coverage to customers of other carriers through standard roaming agreements.
- The State of Vermont contributed \$3,214,795 to the CoverageCo project.
- A federal funding grant of \$1,605,000 was also awarded to this project.
- These figures include \$850,000 designated to construct solar powered resiliency sites.
- The ongoing CoverageCo project, includes over 400 miles of new cellular coverage, and expands rural roaming coverage, with cellular sites providing targeted coverage along previously unserved roadways, as well as adjoining areas.

## COVERAGECO PROJECT- CONTINUED

- 404 cellular sites in designated corridors.
- Contracted project amount of roughly \$4 Million.
- 400 total miles covered by CoverageCo projects.
- 128 small cell sites currently installed.

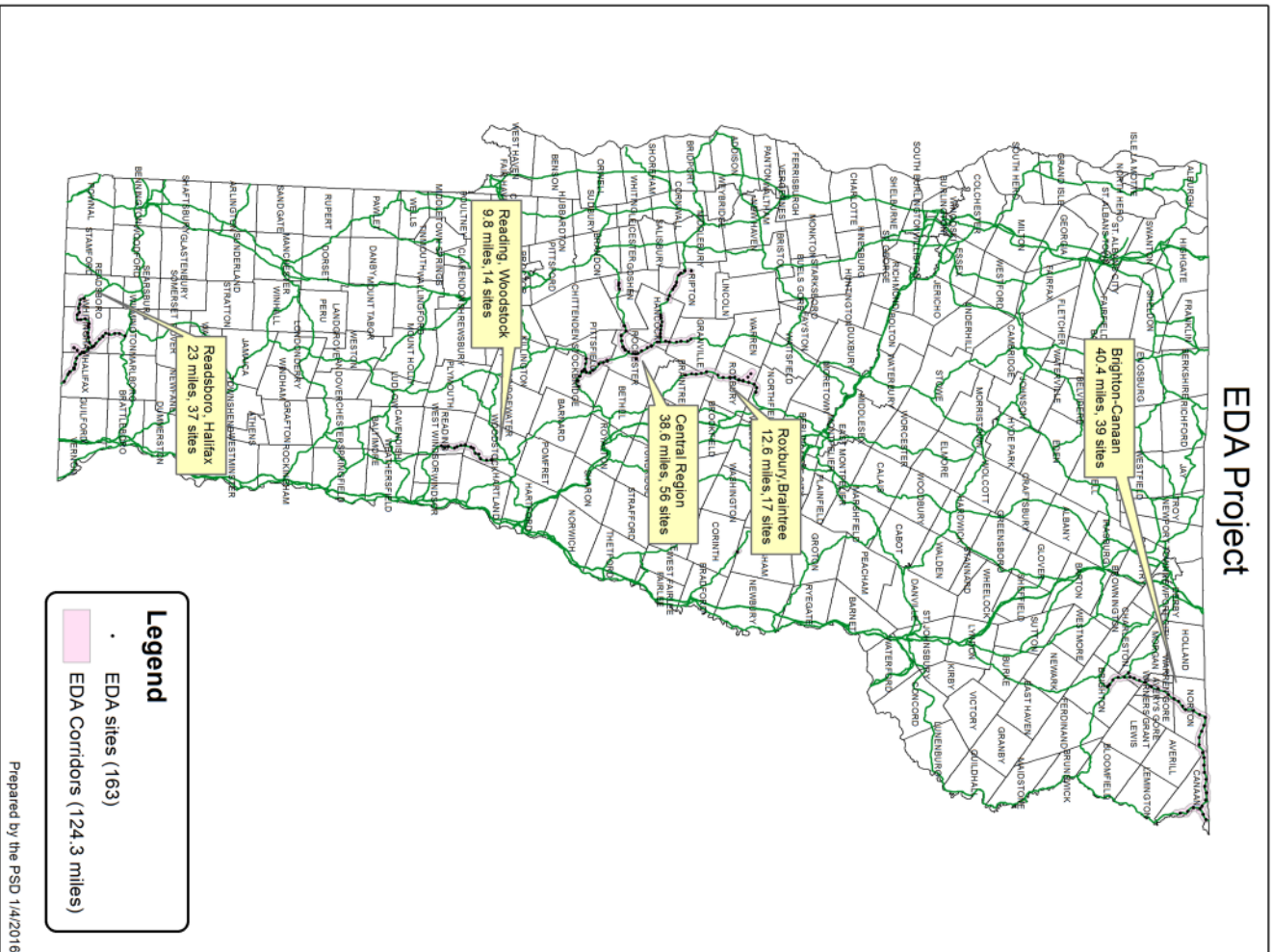
# Original VTA Project



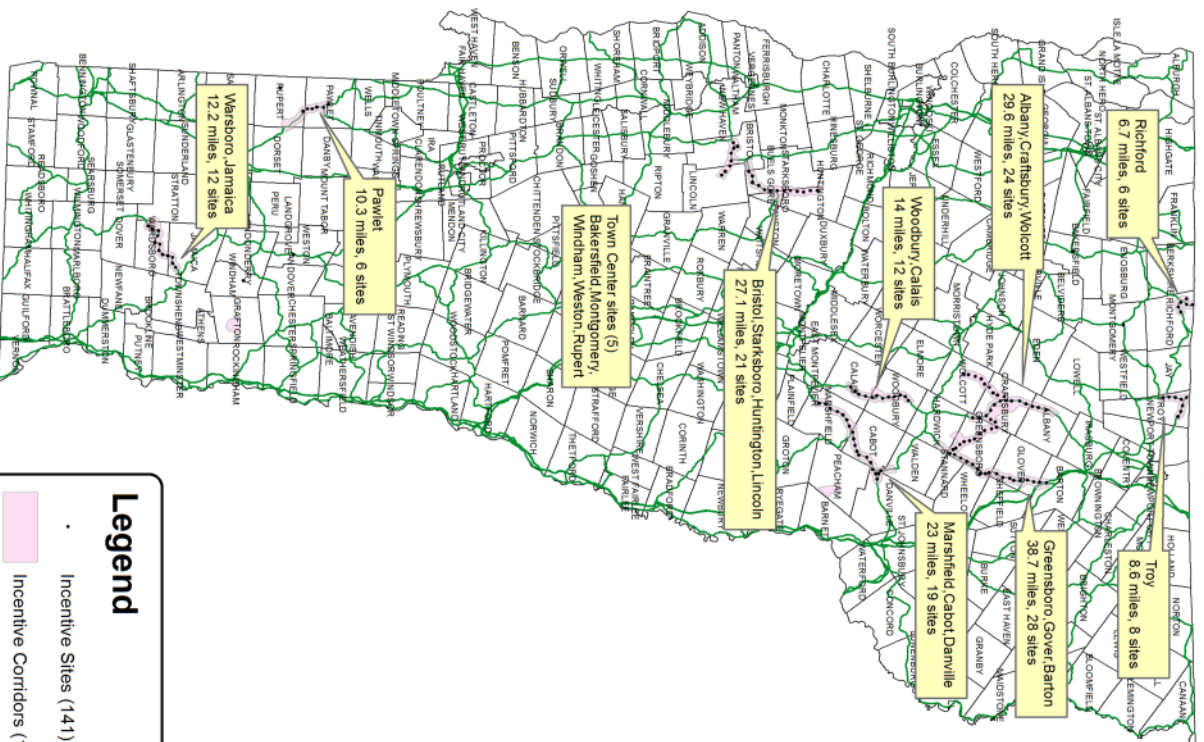
**Legend**

- Original Sites (100)
- Original Routes (96.8 miles)

Prepared by the PSD 1/4/2016



# Incentive Project



**Legend**

- Incentive Sites (141)
- Incentive Corridors (177.9 miles)

Prepared by the PSD 1/4/2016