



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Peg Flory, Chair, Senate Institutions Committee
Representative Alice Emmons, Chair,
House Corrections & Institutions Committee

From: Catherine Benham

Date: April 11, 2018

Subject: Unspent Capital Funds related to the Vermont Telecom Authority

There are approximately \$1.9 million of unspent capital funds that were appropriated to the Vermont Telecom Authority (VTA) and are currently in the Department of Public Service (DPS).

Background

In Act 40 of 2011, \$10 million of capital funds were appropriated to VTA. (See attachment for original language.)

The funds were transferred from the state to VTA. The last transfer was for \$1,764,906 and was paid to VTA in December 2014.

In July 2015, the VTA responsibilities and funds were transferred to the Division of Connectivity within DPS.

Of the funds transferred from VTA, approximately \$1.9 million capital funds remains unspent.

I will update you as I receive more information.

provider, and shall be available for use by providers on a nondiscriminatory basis and according to published terms and conditions.

(e) Prior to the construction or installation of VTA-owned fiber optic facilities under this section, the VTA shall consult with the secretary of administration or designee to identify those areas of the state having the greatest need for fiber optic facilities and to determine the extent of needed state investment in new fiber optic facilities, and shall issue a request for public comment. In making the determinations required under this subsection, the VTA and the secretary shall consider:

(1) The location and availability of existing fiber optic networks, to the extent such information is available, and the terms and conditions for the use of those networks.

(2) The availability of broadband and cellular services in various parts of the state, the likelihood of planned expansions to services known to the VTA, and the need for fiber optic facilities to support expansion of services in unserved and underserved areas.

(3) The speed of broadband services available in various parts of the state for residential, business, and institutional uses, and the increase in speed that new fiber optic facilities would support.

(4) Prior investments of public and private funds in the development of fiber optic facilities.

(5) The technical and economic feasibility of potential fiber optic routes.

(6) The objectives of the telecommunications plan adopted by the department of public service under 30 V.S.A. § 202d.

(f) Fiber optic facilities owned by the VTA pursuant to this section shall include fiber strands which may be used by a retail service provider to deliver broadband Internet access directly to

relating to implementation of challenges for change) to track the progress made in attaining those goals through such investments and grants. Beginning October 1, 2011, and for the next succeeding two years, on a quarterly basis, the VTA shall submit to the house committees on commerce and economic development and on corrections and institutions, the senate committees on economic development, housing and general affairs and on finance, and the joint fiscal committee a progress report reflecting the outcomes and measures as applied to the projects funded under this section. This report shall include location-specific information on the progress of deployment of telecommunications technology that does not require the utilization of towers.