

Slide 1

I would like to thank this House Energy and Technology committee for all the great work you've done advancing fiber optic broadband in Vermont and for taking the time to hear testimony from Lamoille FiberNet.

Slide 2

Lamoille FiberNet Communication Union District was created in July 2020 and since the formation many thousands of volunteer hours and paid man hours have gone into getting Lamoille FiberNet up and running. Our mission to bring reliable, high-speed, symmetrical 100/100 internet, that is locally controlled and cost-effective to every address in our 10 communities—as soon as possible.

Slide 3

Since our inception we have received grants totaling \$1,358,000 dollars from The Vermont Community Foundation and Green Mountain Fund, Lamoille County Economic Development Council, Lamoille County Planning Commission, the USDA , Vermont's Department of Public Service and the Vermont Community Broadband Board. We also received a DPS Grant of \$420,000 to partner with NEK Broadband in providing service to non-served communities in their region. Those grant dollars have allowed us to create our business plan, perform our initial market research and high level design and they have sustained our efforts as we negotiate with ISPs and continue to develop plans. We have also ordered our first delivery of Fiber which we expect in August.

Slide 4

Those Grant dollars also allowed us to provide Internet Access for Students and the Public: Lamoille FiberNet partnered with our school districts to provide internet connectivity to students in need. This was crucial to addressing the immediate need for individuals to be connected during the pandemic. LFCUD also partnered with Libraries to offer public WiFi.

Slide 5

We are working to complete our ISP negotiations in the coming weeks. On April 20th I will release our RFP for Project Management Services. The Project Management firm we select will begin the process of developing our detail design, putting in Pole Applications with the appropriate power companies, making plans for ride-out make ready inspections as well as determine material requirements and lining up construction contractors for a planned construction launch this fall.

We will face many challenges in the coming months and years. With the influx of federal dollars to build out broadband infrastructure nation wide, we will see material shortages (both fiber and supporting materials) as well as labor shortages and we are working to find ways to fund our build out as Grant Dollars will only go so far. Because of inflation and potential shortages we know that the current grant funding is not adequate to complete the mission. Therefore we will continue to work closely with the VCBB to find additional funds.

Slide 6

We look forward to keeping you up to date on our progress as we work to get Lamoille County connected and I thank you for your time.