



NYS Broadband Flash Bulletin

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Broadband Program Office Shares Broadband Update in the North Country

On Monday, July 30, David Salway, NYS Broadband Program Office Director delivered a broadband update to members of the North Country Regional Council (REDC) and citizens residing in rural upstate communities. Due to the challenges the North Country faces, such as low population densities and a very diverse terrain due to the Adirondack's Park's mountains and valleys, this region has been challenged with finding ways to increase broadband availability.

During his presentation, Mr. Salway shared ways that broadband can meet the needs of and benefit all sectors of business, including agriculture. "Broadband is a cornerstone of New York's economic recovery, underpinning our public safety, educational, social and healthcare systems and our office is ensuring it remain a state priority," said Mr. Salway.

Of the 700,000 New Yorker's that lack access to home broadband service, 10% of people in the North Country have no access to wireline or fixed wireline broadband service. And, 19% of the people who have access, cannot access download speeds of 6 Mbps or above.

New York State Senator Betty Little, (45th District) and a member of the North Country REDC said, "Connectivity is more than a quality of life issue. It is a way of life issue. It is the key to a better and prosperous future for the Adirondacks."

The New York State Broadband Program Office will continue working with the REDCs and expand its outreach to other regions of the State to educate New Yorkers on statewide broadband activities and how broadband can improve their quality of life.

To view Mr. Salway's presentation visit http://www.nysbroadband.ny.gov/assets/documents/20120730_ncredmtg.pdf.

To view more statistics on broadband in New York, view the New York State Broadband Annual Report at <http://www.nysbroadband.ny.gov/assets/documents/2011-2012BroadbandAnnualReport.pdf>.



The National Broadband Map is Updated

Last week, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced that the National Broadband Map was updated to include data from 1,865 broadband providers nationwide – more than 20 million records – and displays where broadband is available, the name of the provider, the technology used to provide the service, and the maximum advertised speeds of the service.

Launched in February 2007, the National Broadband Map has attracted more than 650,000 users. The map is helping consumers and small businesses become aware of broadband options, helping businesses identify and analyze potential employment locations, supporting academic research at more than 1,000 colleges and universities, and has been used by more than 500 city and county governments.

To find out how connected your community is visit <http://www.broadbandmap.gov/>.



Google Fiber to Bring Ultra-High Speeds to Kansas City for \$70 Per Month

Google announced that its gigabit-per-second broadband service in Kansas City will be priced at \$70 per month. Google describes the service as 100 times faster than what most U.S. households get. For \$50 more per month, Google will provide cable-TV-like service – Google *Fiber TV* – over the fiber, and a tablet computer. For those looking for a less expensive alternative, Google will also offer a slower Internet option, at a DSL-like 5 megabits per second, with a \$300 installation fee, but no monthly fee.

After vetting many contenders, Google announced last year that the Kansas City metro area would be the first to get its “Fiber for Communities” broadband service. The new gigabit service is intended as a showcase for what’s technically possible and as a test bed for the development of new ways to use the Internet. Google has spent months and an unknown amount of money putting its own optical fiber through the Kansas City region.

For its first round, Google is calling on people within a given “fiberhood” (areas with 250 to 1,500 homes) to pre-register. Google says 40 fiberhoods have already qualified for service.

Google says it also plans to connect schools, libraries and hospitals to a free gigabit broadband service. Some Kansas City neighborhoods will also get free Wi-Fi services. Google is hoping that the network could help the development of other advanced applications that can take advantage of the high speeds.

“Access speeds have simply not kept pace with the phenomenal increases in computing power and storage capacity that’s spurred innovation over the last decade,” Milo Medin, Google’s vice-president of Access Services, said in a blog post.

According to FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski, “the Gig.U projects across the country, and similar continued advances by providers and municipalities are important and welcome developments that are pushing frontiers in speed and bandwidth, while also enhancing consumer choice”.

To read the Associated Press article visit

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iKVbViU4d5j0cPGkKKPYPAKORRcA>.

Sound Familiar? Vermont's Tough Geographic Terrain Makes Expanding Broadband and Cellular Phone Service a Challenge

In the town of Bethel, Vermont, GW Plastics is a modern operation with more than 350 employees, but the company says its customers around the Country are wondering if Vermonters are stuck in the dark ages because cell phone service in Bethel is next to nothing.

“It’s frustrating, voicemails often don’t show up,” said Tim Reis, the company’s vice president for health care business development.

Like New York, Vermont is geographically challenged and expanding cellular and broadband coverage is a tricky. According to the Vermont Telecommunications Authority, 12% of homes, businesses, schools, and churches in Vermont are not covered by cell service and it is estimated that 18,000 homes still use dial-up or other slow methods to get online.



However, Vermont’s rural neighbors have something to celebrate. A new 120-foot cell tower should be in place by the end of the year and AT&T has already signed a deal to rent space on it to deliver mobile voice and internet. And, just last week, 800 homes in Lamoille County, Vermont got broadband service.

Vermont Governor Shumlin said, “The State has pledged that by the end of 2013, everyone will be in the fast lane.”

To view the full article and a short video visit http://www.necn.com/08/01/12/Broadband-cellular-access-expanding-in-V/landing_business.html?blockID=749913&feedID=4209.

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