

To: Town of Glover and Selectboard
From: NEK Broadband, Executive Director, Christa Shute
Date: 07/30/2022
Re: Build in Glover and ARPA funds.

Thank you for your interest in considering the use of Town Fiscal Recovery funds for broadband infrastructure. The first section will detail how NEK Broadband offers service to customers. The second section will explain why there is an ARPA opportunity for your town. The third section will provide details on how the ARPA funds may be used. The NEK Broadband Town ARPA program is available in areas connected to the backbone with priority addresses (see page 2).

Who We Are

NEK Broadband is a communications union district formed under 30 VSA Chapter 82 that includes every town in the Northeast Kingdom plus Wolcott. We are building public infrastructure to help ensure that every address without a high-speed internet connection (100 Mbps/20 Mbps) that has existing electric utility service will have a wired connection that delivers broadband service with at least 100Mbps symmetrical. As a municipality we are a non-profit so any profits will go toward building and repairing infrastructure and increasing affordability.

Staying Informed and Signing Up

The best way to stay informed is to sign up at get.nekbroadband.org. A super short survey (including a speed test) helps us verify our data. Signing up at get.nekbroadband.org puts you on our update list as the project progresses and will notify you when service is available for subscription.

NEK Broadband Service

NEK Broadband is currently offering two levels of service highlighted in yellow (the non-highlighted prices are tentative projections and are probable but not finalized.) There are no data caps or service contracts. We are in the process of determining a policy for part time residents wishing to suspend service. Standard installation of 400 aerial feet is free.

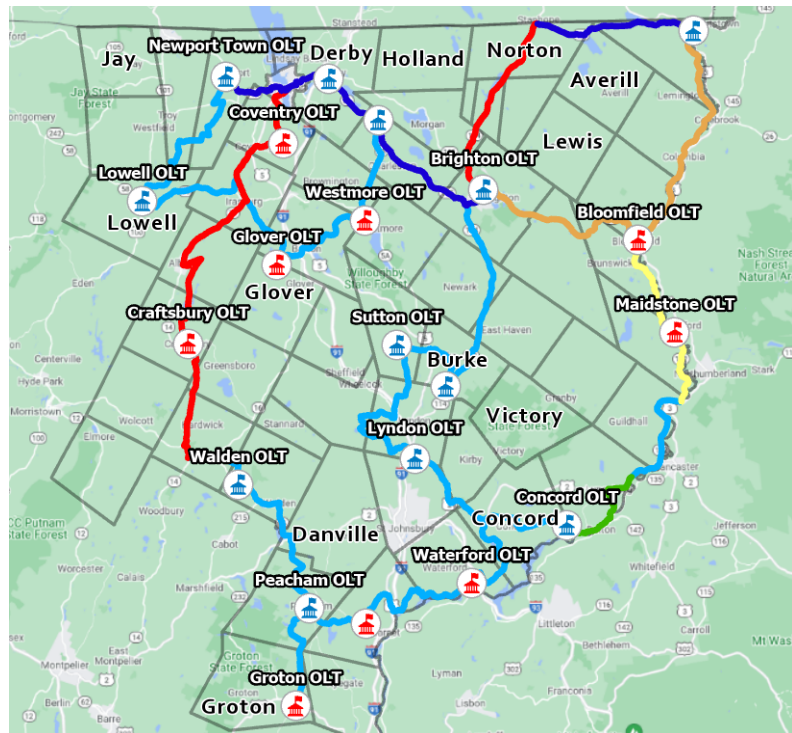
Standard Fiber*	Home Office	Professional*	Xtreme	Gig
50/50 Mbps	100/100 Mbps	250/250 Mbps	500/500 Mbps	1G/1G
\$79.95	\$89.95	\$102.95	\$117.95	\$129.95

Standard Installation from the distribution fiber is free to subscribers up to the first 400 feet of aerial connections. The cost per aerial foot between 400 feet and 2,500 feet is \$1 per foot. Subscribers are responsible for any underground work. Installation into the home includes all

equipment, including the router and wi-fi gateway. This is the standard policy - not an introductory offer so there will be no charges for subscribing at a later date.

ARPA Opportunity for Glover

NEK Broadband is building our “backbone” to link all of our equipment cabinet locations (OLTs in the picture). Our first priority are portions of the backbone that create redundancy loops in order to create a resilient system (see lines on map below). “Backbone” is the core fiber run that connects all of the Northeast Kingdom and provides what is called redundancy - so that the fiber light can have multiple opportunities to connect to the internet to our network operations center if there is a break in the line. This substantially increases the quality and resilience of the network. The backbone for the network in the Glover area is fiber that NEK Broadband either owns or has direct access to and is depicted as red. The light blue lines are the backbone that is being built. Glover has the opportunity to invest in spurs for construction at the same time that we are installing the OLT location in Glover, greatly expediting construction to those qualified spurs.



The Match: In the [Construction Grant RFP](#) issued on January 18th, the Vermont Communications Broadband Board offers a match to Town Fiscal Recovery Funds until September 15th.

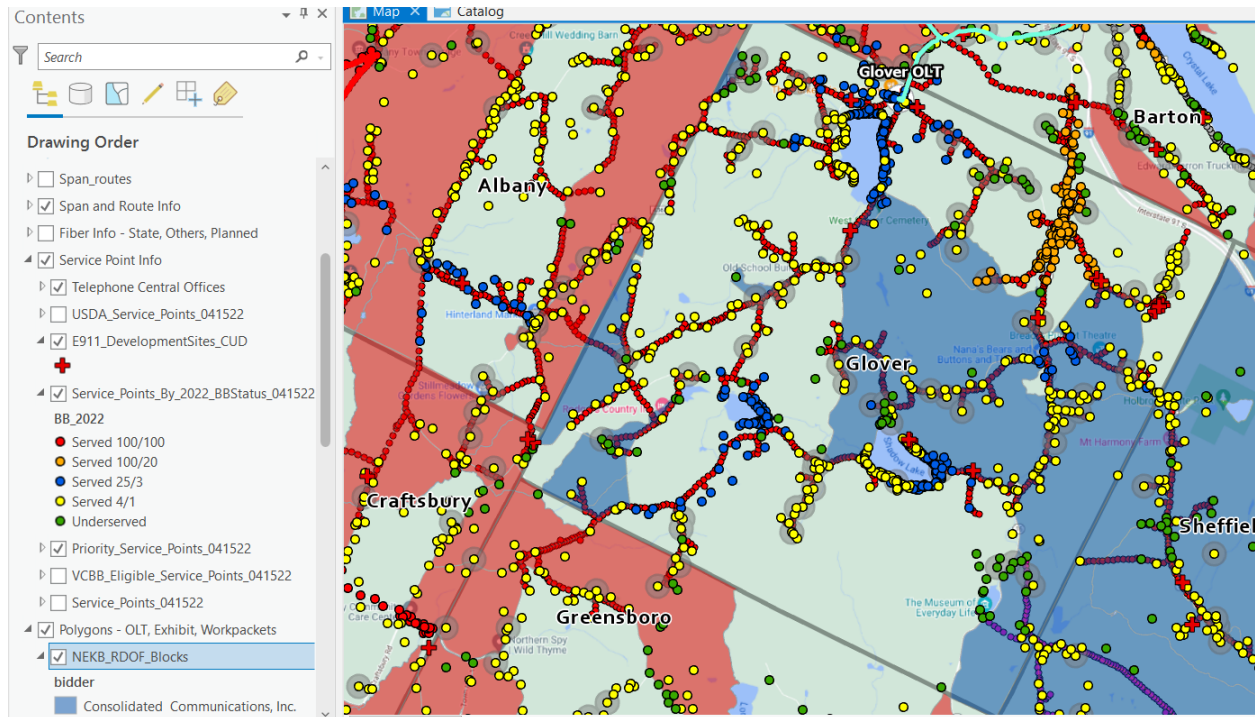
Additionally, applicants will have the opportunity to participate in a Community Match Program to match town contributions of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, to be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, up to a total of \$16 Million. Towns are encouraged to reach out to the CUD or other eligible provider serving their area.

VCBB Press Release 1/20/22

NEK Broadband is pledging to use the VCBB match funds in that town AND to make its own match in that town so that \$1 = \$3.

The Choice: Using ARPA Town Fiscal Recovery Funds for broadband is entirely up to the town. This memo simply lays out the opportunity for your consideration. If the town chooses not to invest the unserved and the underserved in the town will still receive service during our projected build time frame 2022-2030. First, we will build the backbone, after that there are a whole series of factors that determine where we build next to meet the engineering, efficiency and economic needs of our 2,500-2,700 mile build. In Glover, there is existing fiber that will

serve as the backbone (in red) that NEK Broadband now owns. The opportunity extends off of this line and would be available once we were able to build the OLT Equipment Cabinet in Glover.



The Opportunity:

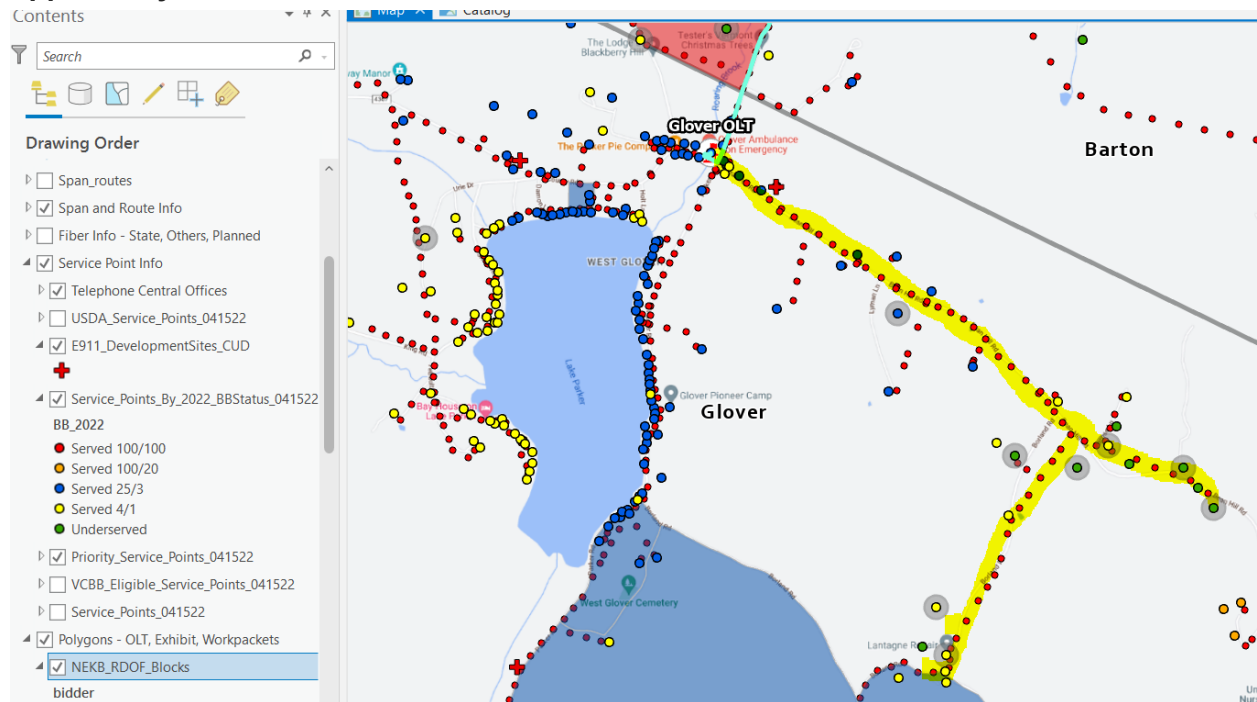
NEK Broadband is extending an option to towns to use ARPA funds to supplement the NEK Broadband backbone build in order to extend out construction at the same time that we are constructing the backbone. However, in an effort to ensure that our backbone is constructed in a reasonable time frame we are limiting the opportunity for these additional spurs to areas that have un/underserved priority addresses. Priority addresses are based on an address from the state for families with kids in school or persons with telehealth needs.

The budget for the opportunities identified on the following maps is \$133,433, which will be matched with \$266,866 resulting in a total investment of \$400,299 to benefit Glover residents in a shorter time frame than may otherwise occur.

Glover’s decision to fund these opportunities can reasonably be expected to improve Internet access in the project area for students, those working from home, those needing medical care, and all residents with needs that can be met through higher speed connections. High speed Internet access has been shown to increase property values, thus benefiting the entire town.

Note: Large gray circles on the following maps identify priority addresses identified by school districts and the State of Vermont.

Opportunity #1: \$41,267

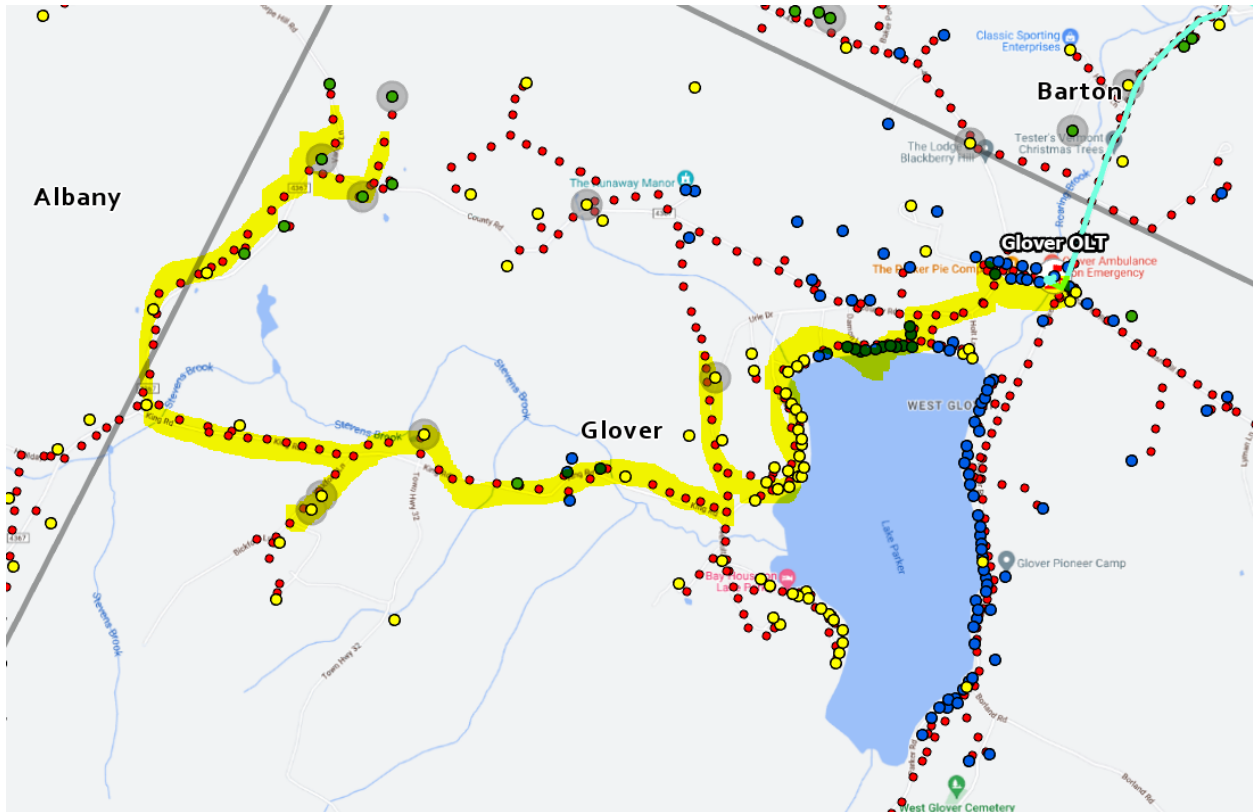


This opportunity is 2.68 miles along Bean Hill Road and Barland Road. This would reach a total of 30 addresses of which 9 have been identified by the state as priority addresses.

Of the 30:

- 7 (in green) have less than 4/1Mbps (4 of which are priority)
- 13 (in yellow) have less than 25/3 (4 of which are priority)
- 10 (in blue) have 25/3 which is probably wireless not cable (1 of which is priority)

Opportunity #2: \$92,167



This opportunity is 5.70 miles along parts of County Road, King Road, Bickford Road, and West Shore Road. This would reach a total of 77 addresses of which 8 have been identified by the state as priority addresses.

Of the 77:

- 8 (in green) have less than 4/1Mbps (3 of which are priority)
- 38 (in yellow) have less than 25/3 (5 of which are priority)
- 33 (in blue) have 25/3 which is probably wireless not cable