



## Communications Union District Annual Report for 2021

We are excited to share the progress we've made towards bringing high-speed internet to the 50 member towns of NEK Broadband. Our pilot project in Concord, Waterford and Lunenburg will offer 100 Mbps symmetrical service or higher to 342 addresses in late 2021 and early 2022. We've received additional state and federal grant funding and are finalizing plans for a full-length construction season beginning the spring of 2022.

The organization has matured with the addition of three key partners. The National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) is experienced in design, construction management, and materials procurement. Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) will be our network operator and internet service provider. WCVT brings over a century of experience in telecommunications and provides all the modern services customers expect. Mission Broadband serves as an advisor and adjunct staff.

### Who We Are:

A Communications Union District (CUD) is a municipal entity made up of multiple towns. Our district is building fiber-optic based internet access that has a capacity far beyond most current services available. Each town appoints at least one representative to our Governing Board, which has chosen to develop a publicly-owned network.

**Member Towns:** All but these five towns in the Northeast Kingdom (Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties) have joined the district: Granby, Jay, Lemington, Norton, Victory. Wolcott in Lamoille county is also a member.

**Project Plans:** The overall project will require roughly \$140 million and take at least five years to complete. Funding will be through grants and municipal revenue bonds, as well as income from subscribers. The team is establishing technical standards as well as analysis of all locations and their current internet access. Utility pole surveys are in progress, fiber optic cable has been ordered, and we will be ready to continue construction in the spring of 2022.

**Grants Received:** NEK Broadband has received three different federal grants totalling \$1,045,000 for the Concord-Lunenburg-Waterford project, which began construction in November, 2021. We have been awarded almost \$7 million for designing the entire network, hiring additional staff and preparing for the 2022 construction season. Smaller grants were received from Vermont Community Foundation, Northeastern Vermont Development Association, Northern Community Investment Corporation, and Northern Enterprises.

**Obligations:** Community National Bank Letter of Credit (\$3.5 million); Northern Enterprises loan (\$80,000)

Respectfully,

Evan Carlson, Board Chair, Sutton Representative  
NEK Broadband

Residents can sign up to receive regular general updates and, in the future, information about when service will be available at specific locations at:

**[get.nekbroadband.org](http://get.nekbroadband.org)**

## Budget Summary

### 2021 Budget to Actual (Projected)

	Budget	Actual
Total Income	\$93,700	\$3,087,767
Total Expenses	\$90,350	\$1,353,932
Total Capital Investment	\$5,360,000	\$945,000
Annual Net Cash Flow		\$788,835

### 2022 Proposed Budget

Projected Surplus from 2021	\$788,835
Grants	\$25,000,000
Net Operations Revenue	-\$52,900
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$25,735,935</b>
Administrative Costs	\$495,000
(Pre) Construction Costs	\$25,000,000
<b>Total Spending</b>	<b>\$25,495,000</b>