

**Yates County Broadband Update – Marian Walrath/Dan Long  
Finance Committee 9/7/2021**

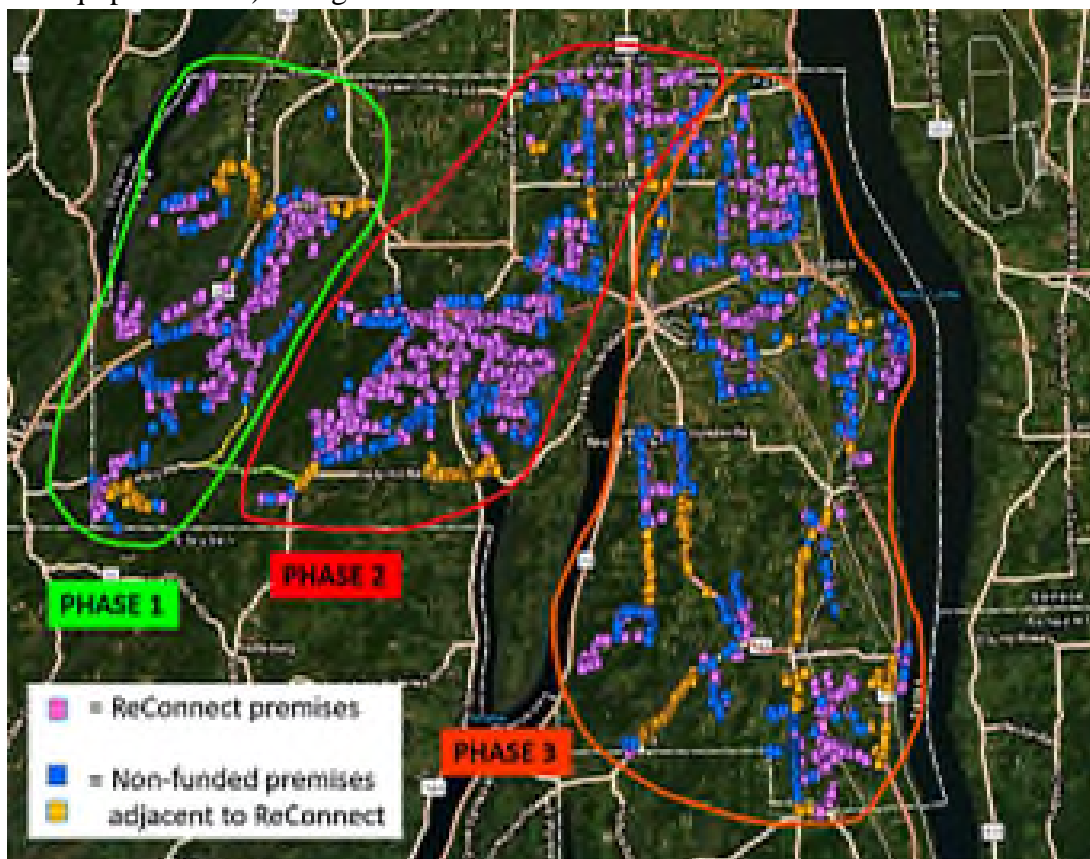
**1. ReConnect 1 Services Agreement with Empire Access**

a. Agreement still out for review and approval by USDA/RUS → backlog.

**2. ReConnect 1 Engineering**

a. The executed RUS 217 contract has been reviewed and approved by RUS.

b. The plan is to complete the Plans and Specifications and the construction bid process in phases. Phase 1 also includes the backbone network which connects all areas. The surveying/fielding work is completed for the backbone and is proceeding for the distribution network in Middlesex/Italy. Location of POP's (point of presence equipment huts) are agreed to with Middlesex and Dundee.



**3. ReConnect 1 Construction**

a. The goal is to start Phase I construction in 2021, part of a more detailed 3-year plan. We are firming up plans to pre-order longer lead-times items like fiber and equipment.

b. We are working on potential pole application and NYS DOT ROW “bottleneck” processes. There was a productive meeting with NYSEG representatives where we learned of the “one-touch” process aimed at shortening the application/Make-Ready lead-time. We are investigating the cost and agreement needed to engage a required 3<sup>rd</sup> party engineering firm (LaBella Associates) to lead the “one-touch” process. We

also had a productive meeting with Senator O’Mara. We agreed to combine forces supporting passage of NYS Bill A06538A – exempting municipalities and non-profits from the new NYS DOT ROW fees. Nonie Flynn will also champion this at the upcoming NYSAC meeting. Pole Attachment status:

NYSEG	Agreement executed	Will likely follow “one-touch” process. Bi-weekly review meetings to be started
Verizon	Signed Agreement returned to Verizon	“One-touch” not applicable.
Frontier	Resolution to sign agreement attached.	Also uses “one-touch” process
Spectrum	Options being explored.	
Village of Penn Yan	Resolution to sign agreement attached.	

4. **Grant Applications:** Yates County is applying for several grants. See table below.
- Step 1: ReConnect 1: 48 PFSA’s (Proposed Funded Service Areas) with ~1635 unserved/underserved premises
  - Step 2: Funding to connect NFSA’s (Non-Funded Service Areas) that are adjacent to our ReConnect 1 network; estimate of 718 premises.
  - Step 3: Funding for one or more projects to connect remaining premises that don’t meet County’s goals for providing access to reliable, affordable, high-speed internet.

Opportunity and/or what was submitted	Funding	Status
Premises <10Mbps plus other USDA rules	ReConnect 1 (current project) - \$10.4M with \$3.6M match	Awarded 2020 Proceeding on schedule
~718 premises adjacent to ReConnect 1 (largely <10 Mbps)	Northern Borders Regional Commission Grant - \$1M with \$250K match	Applied 5/14/21 Decision: Not awarded
	Congressionally Directed Spending request -\$4.9M	Applied 5/26/21 Notification Fall 2021
No grant thresholds but our proposal was for <100 Mbps premises	Empire State Development Grant	We decided NOT to submit application as required 80% match
<25 Mbps premises (identified 591 “unserved” premises)	National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Program - \$8.8M with \$980K match	Applied August 17, 2021 Notification: end Nov. 2021
Remaining premises <10 Mbps?	ReConnect 3 Grant	FOA (Funding Opportunity Announcement): expected Fall 2021 Application date: unknown Notification: unknown
100+ Mbps but not FTTH premises	TBD	TBD

5. **Broadband Committee** – A workshop is scheduled for September 27 to develop a Strategic Plan to bring to the Legislators.