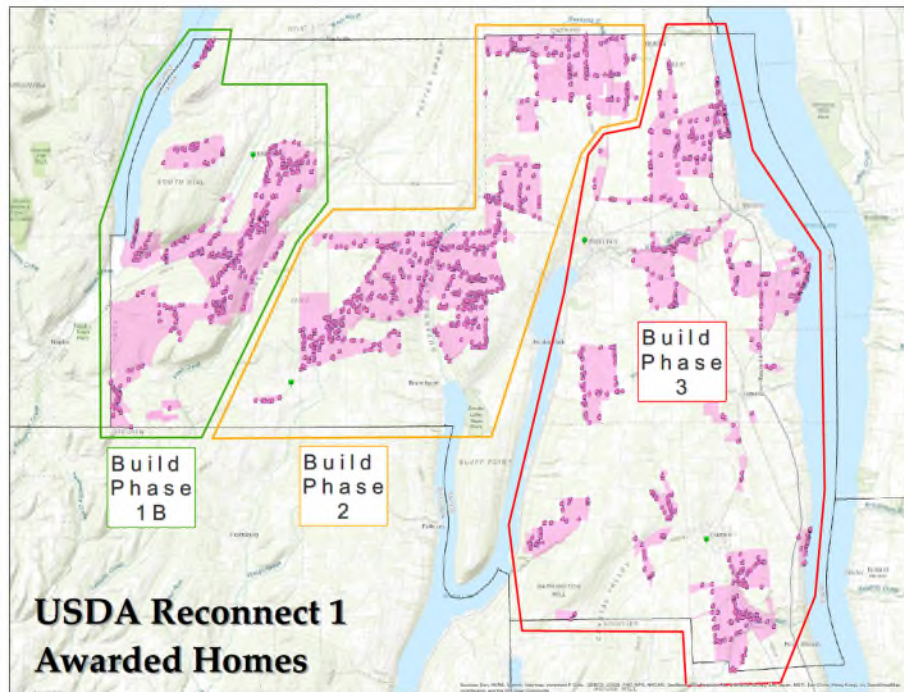
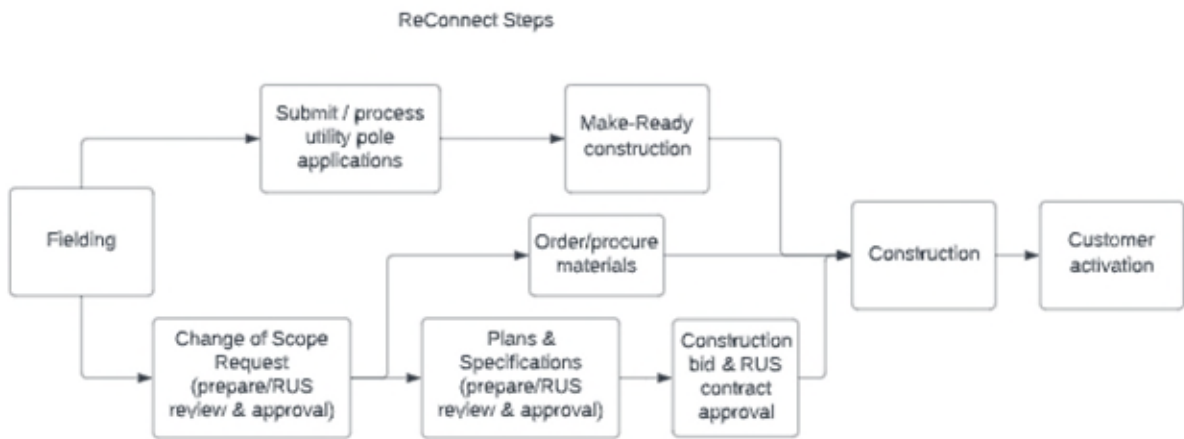


**Yates County Broadband Update – Marian Walrath / Jeff Ayers  
Finance Committee 8/2/2022**

**1. ReConnect 1 Engineering & Construction**

- a. Below are the main paths of project activity leading to construction and the project phases:



- b. Fiber sizes and future design: Bart Bretsch, NYES, will be providing supplemental materials describing the use of multiple fiber sizes in the network design and the future growth potential of the network.
- c. Phase 1A (Trunk Route): The Bid Opening for construction was held on July 14 with 3 bidders responding. Evaluation of the bids is underway with the expectation to

bring a resolution to the Finance Committee Meeting. The actual construction start will depend on materials (ordered and being received) and make-ready progress – maybe September.

- d. Phase 1B (Distribution in Italy/Middlesex): No additional update → The Change of Scope request was submitted to RUS on June 8, 2022. It is pending review and approval. Once approved, we would proceed with submitting the Plans and Specifications. The engineering drawings are in process.
- e. Nokia Equipment Waiver Request: RUS approved our Nokia Equipment Waiver request on July 6. Obtaining a waiver was necessary as Nokia does not meet the ReConnect “Buy America” requirement but does offer cost savings. It also offers operations and maintenance efficiencies as Nokia is Empire’s equipment of choice. As Nokia is a single-sourced item, no bidding was required. A quote was obtained as part of the Waiver process and this being updated to include other required costs e.g. install. The plan is to bring a resolution to the Finance Committee for purchase and installation of the Nokia equipment.
- f. Financial Reporting – In order to provide visibility to the total ReConnect project spending, key data from the Financial Requirement Statement (FRS) that is submitted to RUS each month will be shared.

Report approved 6/21/2022	Total advances to date	Advances now requested	Advances requested and payment delayed
Make Ready	\$208,654	\$82,930	\$0
Engineering	\$274,134	\$28,993	\$0
Materials	\$0	\$0	\$465,525
Bidding Costs	\$0	\$263	\$0
Total	\$482,788	\$112,186	\$0
Balance in Pledged Deposit Acct.: \$3,058,179			
Project Total: \$13,956,500 which includes \$3,631,625 County match			

- g. Project Plan: Bart Bretsch is leading effort to develop a more detailed 2-year plan so that we can better focus on the critical path(s).

2. Grant Applications: Yates County continues to apply for grants as announced. See table below.

Funding	Opportunity (Mbps download/upload)	Status
ReConnect 1 (current project) - \$10.4M with \$3.6M match	~1635 Premises <10/1 Mbps plus other USDA rules	Awarded 2020 Proceeding on schedule

ReConnect 3 Grant - Project \$8,255,064 (\$6,191,297 grant & \$2,063,766 – 25% County match)	Identified 681 Premises with <100/20 Mbps fixed broadband	Announcements will begin July 14.
ReConnect 4 Grant		Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to be issued mid-July

**3. Other areas:**

- a. RDOF Awarded areas: The FCC awarded areas in Yates County for broadband build to Frontier in their RDOF program. The area is primarily in Potter with smaller sections in Middlesex, Italy and Benton. Frontier has confirmed build-out in the Stanley RDOF exchange area in 2023 (just north of Yates County). Dates for Yates County still being investigated. In parallel, data has been collected on the number of addresses in these areas (~285). This needs refined e.g. remove vacant lots, etc. Plan is to look at options to build to the unserved/underserved premises including requesting a proposal from Empire Access and including these premises in ReConnect 4.
- b. Windmill: The Windmill has obtained a \$14K grant that could be used towards the \$28K aid to construction proposed by Spectrum. The application for funds from the County for the 2023 budget has been shared with the Windmill.

**4. ReConnect 1 Engineering & Construction (cont.)**

- a. Materials & Storage:
  - i. Materials have started arriving from the Phase 1A Material bid that was awarded to Graybar Electric. A drafted Standard Operating Procedure is being developed for managing the supply yard.
  - ii. A resolution to amend resolution 295-22 (Contract with FirstLight for Fiber and Selected OSP Materials) is attached correcting a typographical error.
  - iii. Scott Falvey confirmed that in the case of multiple items on a bid sheet, we can select the low bidder by item as long as we call this process of awarding out in the bid document.
  - iv. A bid for the equipment huts (Dundee and Middlesex) was announced and the Bid Opening was held July 14 with 2 bidders responding. After evaluation of the bids, the recommendation is to award the hut contract to Modular Connections, LLC for \$151,100. (Resolution attached). The plan is that the Highway Dept. will pour the concrete pads for these huts. Meetings have been held with Middlesex and Dundee responsible persons to stake out the final hut locations.
- b. Make-Ready Construction: **CRITICAL PATH**
  - i. Spectrum poles: Make-ready construction for Phase 1A&B is in process.
  - ii. NYSEG/Joint owned poles/Telco poles other than Spectrum: Electric / Tree Trimming Make Ready Work: This is the electrical and tree trimming work

needed to get the poles ready so our fiber can be attached. 2 additional Make Ready packages for Electric/Tree Trimming work have been awarded to H. Richardson & Sons under the Master Service Contract in place (Apps 7 & 8). Work is proceeding on Apps 5, 6, 9 & 10. We are waiting for additional Make Ready packages. The Applications which are in process in One-Touch are: Apps 11-13 (these complete Phases 1A & B), Apps 14-23 (Phase 2), Phase 3 not yet started.

APP #	Contractor	Billable	Non-billable
7	H. Richardson & Sons	\$43,172	\$300,759
8	H. Richardson & Sons	\$9,707	\$83,297

iii. Telco Rearrangements: (all billable)

1. This is work to move the existing telecommunications attachments (Charter, Frontier, Verizon, Empire, STN, etc.) at our expense so our fiber can be attached.
2. Charter arranges for their attachments to be moved at our expense. This work is proceeding.
3. For the other attachments, requests for proposals are in process and will be managed and awarded similar to the electric/tree trimming work EXCEPT there is NO non-billable work involved.