



Edgecomb Broadband Initiative

Grant application to
ConnectME

Town of Edgecomb Broadband
Committee



Edgecomb Broadband Initiative

Town of Edgecomb, Maine

July 15, 2009

Contact Stuart Smith
Selectman, Town of Edgecomb, Maine
PO Box 186
Edgecomb, Maine 04556
207-882-1188
Fax 800-205-2497
broadband@edgecomb.org

Prepared by Edgecomb Broadband Committee
PO Box 186
Edgecomb, Maine 04556
broadband@edgecomb.org

Executive Summary

Edgecomb is a community that finds itself in the middle of larger service center communities. The town's low density and topography have hindered the growth of broadband in the community; this has left Edgecomb un-served for broadband internet service in approximately 78% of the households and areas in the municipality. This lack of broadband has deterred businesses from locating here and held back continuing education efforts by its residents.

Edgecomb was in the unfortunate situation in 2007 when a ConnectME grant was awarded to a mid-coast firm to extend wireless broadband throughout the town. This firm failed to deliver on any extension into the town and left Edgecomb without servicing the un-served areas for another two years.

The townspeople of Edgecomb, their selectmen, and the Edgecomb Broadband committee representing them seek to acquire enough grant money to bring broadband to the entirety of the town.

Project Description

The application has a street level map attached that outlines the areas to be addressed by this grant application. Please see also the attached analysis of the survey taken during our original grant application, as well as selected letters from residents responding to our current activity.

This project directly targets areas in Edgecomb that are not served. There are areas in Edgecomb that have no service, and the chances of a service provider offering services in these areas are extremely remote, due to the low economic viability. These areas are in high need: businesses have rejected these locations because of lack of broadband service. As our survey demonstrates, many of these businesses involve telecommuting and Internet-based activities, and are located in residential neighborhoods.



The funds for the Edgecomb Broadband Initiative will target, mainly, River Road, McKay Road, Parsons Point Road, Mill Road, Mt Hunger Roads, Quarry Farm Road, Riverwind Road, Brick Hill Road, Chubbuck Lane, Deck House Road, Seefeld Lane, Spruce Ridge Road, Taylor Drive, Town Hall Road, Trails End Road, Webb Road, West Island Way, and Merry Island Road.

The technologies identified to be used to accomplish the build will be coax cable fed with fiber to the node and fiber to the home.

Funding for the project will come from ConnectME, the Town of Edgecomb, and the service providers. Lincolnville Communications will absorb \$100,000 of the actual project cost to lower the grant request amount and bring fiber to the home. The Town of Edgecomb will commit space for towers, service boxes or any other space needed to provide service by any of the service providers listed in this application. The Town of Edgecomb will provide easements for service infrastructure.

The Town of Edgecomb will provide a local “hot-spot” as well, to enable casual users or users that cannot afford the monthly service fees to be able to use the internet for job searching, state web enabled applications and other related activities. This “hot-spot” will have a hard wired client machine for public use during Town of Edgecomb office hours.

The partnerships with the service providers will include non-exclusive franchise agreements.

The speeds to be recognized from this broadband build-out will be at least 6mb download and 512k uploads for the standard service. Other service levels will be available.

The service providers will provide 50% of their portion of the project cost of the Edgecomb Broadband Initiative. The Town of Edgecomb will provide easements on town property needed to complete this project.

When this project is complete, estimated within the 12 month period required by ConnectME, 100% of the households and businesses (758) in Edgecomb will be able to acquire broadband service. Some of the households and businesses on longer runs (a long run is identified by any service “drop” that will exceed 200 feet from the build-out infrastructure) will have to cover the cost of the additional run length installation. This is typical with any utility servicing a home with a very long driveway.

The Town of Edgecomb and its broadband committee have been involved with the ConnectME Authority from its inception. The Town of Edgecomb relies on the expertise of the service providers to accomplish the Edgecomb Broadband Initiative and any financial requirements and any eligibility of the service providers to be able to receive grant money from ConnectME or its ability to fund their portion of the Initiative can be furnished in request from the provider.



Project Cost Summary

Provider's project costs:

Deck House Rd	TimeWarner	FTN/CTH	\$ 6,200.67
Mc Kay Rd + River Rd	Lincolnville Communications	FTH	\$303,000.00***
Mill Rd	TimeWarner	FTN/CTH	\$ 50,433.38
Parson Point Rd	TimeWarner	FTN/CTH	\$ 34,853.08
Quarry Farm Rd	TimeWarner	FTN/CTH	\$ 41,233.65
Riverwind Lane	TimeWarner	FTN/CTH	\$ 1,998.64
Spruce Ridge	TimeWarner	FTN/CTH	\$ 4,616.67
Sunset Cottage	TimeWarner	FTN/CTH	\$ 5,263.68
Trails End Rd	TimeWarner	FTN/CTH	\$ 6,220.83
Webb Rd	TimeWarner	FTN/CTH	\$ 4,948.41
West Island Way UG	TimeWarner	FTN/CTH	\$ 5,729.17
			\$ 464,498.17

FTN=Fiber to the Node
CTH=Cable to the Home
FTH=Fiber to the Home

*** Lincolnville Communications is absorbing \$100,000 of the project cost to lower the grant request amount. The actual project cost for River Road and McKay Road will be \$403,000.

Lincolnville Communications: \$251,500

TimeWarner Cable: \$80,750

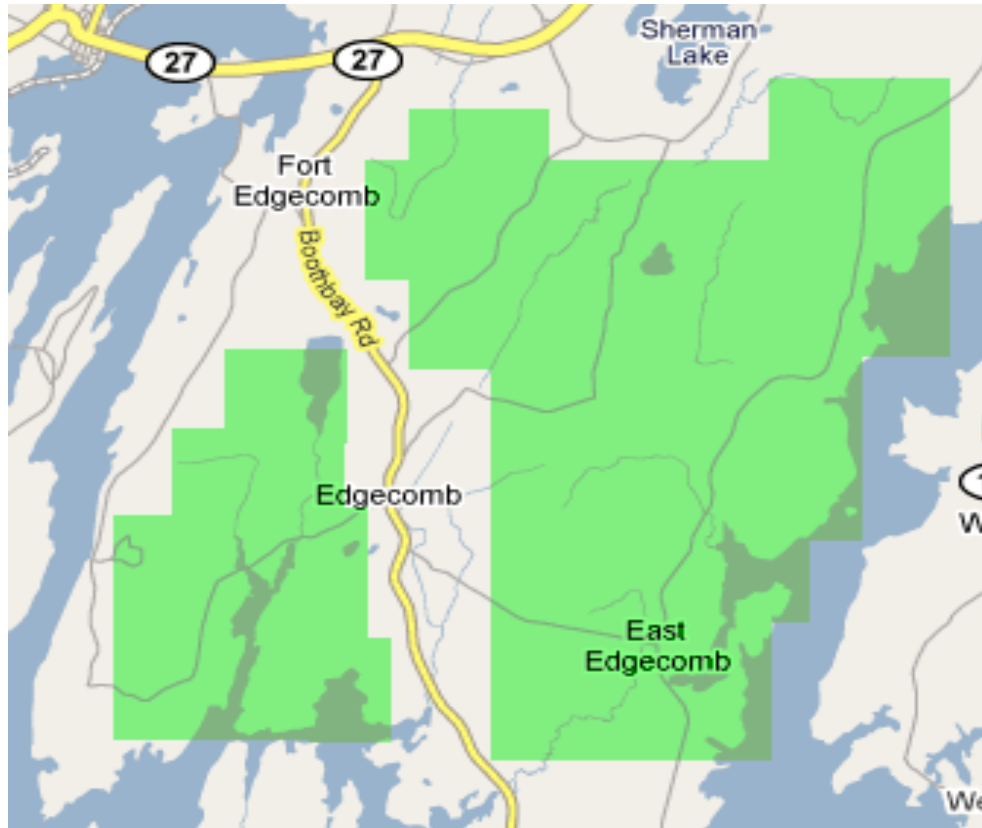
Town of Edgecomb: \$3,600

Grant Application Amount: \$232,250



Map of Municipality

This map outlines the areas that are not served with broadband internet service:





Survey Summary

Number of Total Survey Responses	123	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
Question	Subpart		
We access Internet for	Residential use	60	48.78%
	Business use	7	5.69%
	Both	52	42.28%
Yes, We Currently Have Broadband	Telephone-based system (DSL)	11	8.94%
	Wireless system	0	0.00%
	Cable-based system (Cable)	11	8.94%
	Satellite-based system (Satellite)	19	15.45%
	Cell phone-based system (Cell)	9	7.32%
	Other	0	0.00%
	Dialup	61	49.59%
Are you satisfied?	Yes	26	21.14%
	No	97	78.86%
No, We Currently Don't have Broadband (percentages relative to number of responses)		77	62.60%
How Much Are We Willing to Pay? (percentages relative to number of responses)	Less than \$25.00	18	21.69%
	Between \$25.00 and \$50.00	51	61.45%
	Between \$50.00 and \$100.00	19	22.89%
	More than \$100.00	0	0.00%
I am interested in the activities of this committee	kept informed of committee's progress	77	62.60%
	invited to any public discussions	28	22.76%
	provide committee support	4	3.25%
Willing to Sign Petition?		75	60.98%



Sample Responses from Residents

These are a select few of the 200 or more surveys the Edgcomb Broadband Committee received during its research and work on this grant application. It is indicative of the overall hopes of the Edgcomb Residents to gain broadband internet service. The Edgcomb Broadband Committee sent out a survey questionnaire as well as "hit the streets" and went door to door to gather these responses.

From: <tom@stonycreekrods.com>

To: <broadband@edgcomb.org>

Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 1:15 AM

Subject: Canvas

> Sorry we were away and missed the deadline. Would be interested in high
> speed internet with phone and TV.
>
> Tom Whittle
> P.O. Box 136
> 761 River Rd.
> Edgcomb
> Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: "Colleen L. Rasmussen" <colleen@dynatongroup.com>

To: <broadband@edgcomb.org>

Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 7:56 PM

Subject: Edgcomb Broadband

>I appreciate being contacted in the canvassing of Edgcomb residents on
> the broadband issue.
>
> We are unhappy with our current ISP (Hughesnet) and are willing to switch
> to another provider as soon as one is available in the area. Since our TV
> is also satellite, but with a second provider (DirecTV) and our 2 phone
> land lines are with yet another company (MCI) we would really appreciate
> the savings bundling services might provide.
> Thanks.
> Colleen Rasmussen
> Dynaton Group, LLC
> 22 Mt. Hunger East Road
> Edgcomb, ME 04556
> Tel./Fax: 207/633-4416

From: [Frieda Hanlon](#)

To: broadband@edgcomb.org

Sent: Friday, July 10, 2009 12:47 PM

Subject: Internet access

Hello -

My husband and I live on River Road, and would definitely want highspeed internet service with phone and possibly television.

We have nothing at home right now as we believe dial-up is too frustrating.

Please let us know where we can sign!

Regards,

Frieda Hanlon

From: [E. L. Cooper](#)

To: broadband@edgcomb.org

Sent: Friday, July 10, 2009 10:43 AM

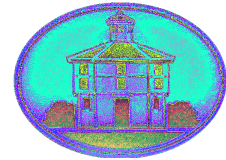
Subject: Survey

Hi Guys,

I would be very interested in broadband. (It's about time)



Thank you for your hard work.
Elnore Cooper



Town of Edgecomb
Broadband Committee Survey

The Edgecomb Selectmen recently formed a Town of Edgecomb Broadband Committee to explore how to obtain broadband services for the entire Edgecomb community. This survey will help the committee assess the existing level of broadband Internet services in use within Edgecomb, and survey the level of additional broadband services desired within the town. By **Broadband Internet Service** we mean any Internet connection over 500 Kbps.

Please take a minute to fill out the survey. The more responses we receive the better we will be able to serve you, and the better chance we have of obtaining acceptable broadband service for all of Edgecomb. We are hopeful that, by "getting a jump" on the statewide drive for broadband, we can obtain good service at a reasonable cost.

Please check all boxes that apply, fill in the requested information as appropriate, and either mail back to the **Edgecomb Broadband Survey, Town of Edgecomb, P.O. Box 139, Edgecomb, Maine, 04556**, fax it to 882-9826, or drop it off at the town hall. Please feel free to contact the committee at broadband@edgecomb.org.

- A.** We access Internet for Residential use Business use or both
- B. Yes, we currently use broadband Internet services in Edgecomb. We are using**
 - i. a telephone-based system (e.g. Verizon DSL) Vendor: _____
 - ii. a cell phone-based system (e.g. Sprint) Vendor: _____
 - iii. a cable-based system (e.g. Time Warner) Vendor: _____
 - iv. a satellite-based system (e.g. Hughes Net) Vendor: _____
 - v. a wireless system (e.g. Midcoast Internet) Vendor: _____
 - vi. Other. Please describe: _____

C. Are you satisfied with your current service? NO (why?) the fastest dial-up i get connects at 25.8 kbps

- D. No, I do not currently have broadband Internet services, but would likely subscribe to a reliable broadband service if one were available in town. What speed would you require?**
 - Fast: 500Kbps
 - Faster: 1 Mbps
 - Really Fast: 3Mbps or more Anything faster than this dial-up!

E. If you checked the box at D, how much would you be willing to pay monthly for broadband service?
 Less than \$25.00 Between \$25.00 and \$50.00
 Between \$50.00 and \$100.00 More than \$100.00

- F. I am interested in the activities of this committee. Please check all of the following that apply**
 - i. I wish to be kept informed of the committee's progress
 - ii. I would like to be invited to any public discussions with potential vendors
 - iii. I can provide committee support using the following special knowledge or skills

In order to help us map current and future broadband Internet services in Edgecomb, we'd appreciate if you would indicate your Edgecomb street address.

Address 660 Boothbay Rd Rt 27 -no dsl or cable currently available in this commercial district!

- Would you be willing to sign a letter of support or a petition to accompany a future application for a grant to assist in establishing a town-wide broadband service? If yes, please provide contact information

Name Jennife Mathews Tel 882-7536 Email enboard@prexar.com

Thank you for your input and time.

broadband@edgecomb.org

The Edgecomb Broadband Committee
Janet Blevins
Todd Carleton
Northrup Fowler III
Barry Hathorne
John Markowski

Mail, or drop at Town Hall during office hours:
Edgecomb Broadband Committee
Town of Edgecomb
PO Box 139
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or Fax: 882-9826

Thank you for trying to solve this problem. It's becoming very hard to conduct business w/o dsl.



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Please take a minute to fill out the survey. The more responses we receive the better we will be able to serve you, and the better chance we have of obtaining acceptable broadband service for *all* of Edgcomb. We are hopeful that by "getting a jump" on the statewide drive for high speed, we can obtain good service at a reasonable cost.

Please check all boxes that apply. Fill in the requested information as appropriate, and either mail back to the Edgcomb Broadband Survey, Town of Edgcomb, P.O. Box 186, Edgcomb, Maine, 04556, fax it to 882-9826, or drop it off at the town hall. Please feel free to contact the committee at broadband@edgcomb.org.

- A. We access Internet for Residential use Business use **Both**
- B. Yes, we currently use broadband Internet services in Edgcomb. We are using
- i. a telephone-based system (e.g. Verizon DSL) Vendor: _____
 - ii. a cell phone-based system (e.g. Sprint) Vendor: _____
 - iii. a cable-based system (e.g. Time Warner) Vendor: _____
 - iv. a satellite-based system (e.g. Hughes Net) Vendor: _____
 - v. a wireless system (e.g. Midcoast Internet) Vendor: _____
 - vi. Other. Please describe: _____

C. Are you satisfied with your current service? _____ (Why?) _____

D. No, I do not currently have broadband Internet services, but would ^{definitely} like to subscribe to a reliable broadband service if one were available in town. What speed would you require?
 Faster: 500Kbps Faster: 1 Mbps Really fast: 5Mbps or more
Minimal - would like higher but I'd take anything!

E. If you checked the box at D, how much would you be willing to pay monthly for broadband service?
 Less than \$25.00 Between \$25.00 and \$50.00 More than \$50.00

F. I am interested in the activities of this committee. Please check all of the following that apply
 i. I wish to be kept informed of the committee's progress
 ii. I would like to be invited to any public discussions with potential vendors
 iii. I can provide committee support using the following special knowledge or skills

In order to help us map current and future broadband internet services in Edgcomb, we'd appreciate if you would indicate your Edgcomb street address.

Address: 40 Basco Hill Rd (off the River Rd)

Would you be willing to sign a letter of support or a petition to accompany a future application for a grant to assist in establishing a town-wide broadband service? (If yes, please provide contact information)

Name: Sari Barker Tel: 633-2648 / email: jbarker@qui.net

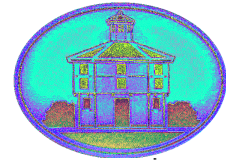
Thank you for your input and time

broadband@edgcomb.org

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Janet Hlevins
Todd Chuteau
Nathrop Fowler III
Harry Hathorne
John Markowski

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Please take a minute to fill out the survey. The more responses we receive the better we will be able to serve you, and the better chance we have of obtaining acceptable broadband service for all of Edgcomb. We are hopeful that, by "getting a jump" on the statewide drive for broadband, we can obtain good service at a reasonable cost.

Please check all boxes that apply, fill in the requested information as appropriate, and either mail back to the Edgcomb Broadband Survey, Town of Edgcomb, P.O. Box 130, Edgcomb, Maine, 04556, fax it to 882-9326, or drop it off at the town hall. Please feel free to contact the committee at broadband@edgcomb.org

- A. We access Internet for Residential use Business use Lot or both
- B. Yes, we currently use broadband Internet services in Edgcomb. We are using:
- i. a telephone-based system (e.g. Verizon DSL) Vendor: _____
 - ii. a cell phone-based system (e.g. Sprint) Vendor: _____
 - iii. a cable-based system (e.g. Time Warner) Vendor: _____
 - iv. a satellite-based system (e.g. Hughes Net) Vendor: _____
 - v. a wireless system (e.g. Mi4cast Internet) Vendor: _____
 - vi. Other. Please describe: _____

C. Are you satisfied with your current service? _____ (Why?) _____

D. No, I do not currently have broadband Internet services, but would likely subscribe to a reliable broadband service if one were available in town. What speed would you require?

- i. Fast: 500Kbps Faster: 1 Mbps Really Fast: 3Mbps or more

E. If you checked the box at D, how much would you be willing to pay monthly for broadband service?

- i. Less than \$25.00 Between \$25.00 and \$50.00
- Between \$50.00 and \$100.00 More than \$100.00

F. I am interested in the activities of this committee. Please check all of the following that apply

- i. I wish to be kept informed of the committee's progress
- ii. I would like to be invited to any public discussions with potential vendors
- iii. I can provide committee support using the following special knowledge or skills: _____

In order to help us map current and future broadband Internet services in Edgcomb, we'd appreciate if you would indicate your Edgcomb street address.

Address 19 Bobbin Rd _____

Would you be willing to sign a letter of support or a petition to accompany a future application for a grant to assist in establishing a town-wide broadband service? If yes, please provide contact information.

Name Heidi Rackliff Tel: 320-2697 Email: _____

Thank you for your input and time.

broadband@edgcomb.org

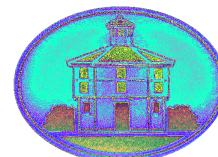
The Edgcomb Broadband Committee

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Betsy Hallums
John Markowski

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Please take a minute to fill out the survey. The more responses we receive the better we will be able to serve you, and the better chance we have of obtaining acceptable broadband service for all of Edgcomb. We are hopeful that by "getting a jump" on the statewide drive for broadband, we can obtain good service at a reasonable cost.

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- B. Yes, we currently use broadband Internet services in Edgcomb. We are using
 - I. a telephone based system (e.g. Verizon DSL) Vendor: _____
 - II. a cell phone based system (e.g. Sprint) Vendor: _____
 - III. a cable based system (e.g. Time Warner) Vendor: _____
 - IV. a satellite-based system (e.g. Hughes Net) Vendor: HUGHESNET
 - V. a wireless system (e.g. Midcoast Internet) Vendor: _____
 - VI. Other. Please describe: _____
- C. Are you satisfied with your current service? NO... (Why?) UNRELIABLE SLOW LESS THAN GOOD TECH SUPPORT
- D. No, I do not currently have broadband Internet services, but would likely subscribe to a reliable broadband service if one were available in town. What speed would you require?
 - Fast: 500Kbps Faster: 1 Mbps Really Fast: 3Mbps or more
- E. If you checked the box at D, how much would you be willing to pay monthly for broadband service?
 - Less than \$25.00 Between \$25.00 and \$50.00
 - Between \$50.00 and \$100.00 More than \$100.00
- F. I am interested in the activities of this committee. Please check all of the following that apply.
 - I wish to be kept informed of the committee's progress
 - I would like to be invited to any public discussions with potential vendors
 - I can provide committee support using the following special knowledge or skills: NO EXCEPTIONAL KNOWLEDGE OR SKILLS ARE MISSING TO HELP OUT

In order to help us map current and future broadband Internet services in Edgcomb, we'd appreciate if you would indicate your Edgcomb street address.

Address 22 MT. HUNGER EAST ROAD

Would you be willing to sign a letter of support or a petition to accompany a future application for a grant to assist in establishing a town-wide broadband service? If yes, please provide contact information.

Name COLLEEN RASMUSSEN Tel 633-4471 Email colleenrasmussen@hotmail.com

Thank you for your input and time.

broadband@edgcomb.org

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 Jason Blevins
 Todd Carleton
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 Barry Hathorne
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