

GRAFTON COUNTY MIDDLE MILE “NOW” PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the middle mile?

A: Middle mile is the physical mid-section of infrastructure required to enable internet connectivity for homes, businesses, and community institutions. The middle mile comprises high-capacity 144-strand fiber lines that carry large amounts of data at high speeds over long distances.

Q: Why is the Federal Government funding middle mile infrastructure?

A: Many Americans (including residents in Grafton County, NH) are cut off from the opportunities that high-speed internet makes possible. Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and administered by the Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the Middle Mile Grant Program is a program to expand middle mile infrastructure and reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.

Q: What does unserved and underserved mean?

A: Internet connection must be strong and reliable enough to handle the typical requirements of modern life, for example, a Zoom meeting occurring during a remote work day. Some regions of Grafton County are unserved and have no internet connection. Other areas are underserved, meaning they have inadequate internet connection with download speeds less than 25Mbps and upload speeds less than 3Mbps.

Q: What does open-access mean?

A: An open-access network gives public and private providers or entities wholesale access to broadband infrastructure with fair, reasonable and equal terms. This means any network type is able to interconnect, regardless of technology used, on equal and economic services terms.

Q: What is an Anchor Institution?

A: The term “anchor institution” means a school, library, medical or healthcare provider, community college or other institution of higher education, or municipal building.

Q: What communities will become Anchor Institutions?

A: Visit the Grafton County Middle Mile Project Website for a proposed list of Anchor Institutions. <https://grafton-county.com/broadband-committee/>

Q: What is the proposed route for the middle mile network?

A: Visit Grafton County Broadband Committee Webpage for an updated route map. <https://grafton-county.com/broadband-committee/>

Q: What is the last mile?

A: Last mile connection: the final leg of network that provides service to homes, businesses or community institutions.