

SBDD Quarterly Report - October 1, 2013
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Outreach

Business Broadband Improvement Districts (BBID) Application for Assistance

Announcements went to 370 Town/Village Clerks and Town Managers, and 57 economic development/regional planning organizations. Applications for 16 BBIDs were received.

The Vermont Telecommunications Authority August Board meeting was held in Canaan, Vermont. 20 community members attended and contributed to the Public Comment section of the agenda.

A presentation about broadband projects in Wilmington was made to the Select Board via Skype.

Responses to 21 citizen inquiries were made.

Digital Literacy and Effective Use

At the invitation of the USDA-RD NH/VT office, two Roundtable Discussions were jointly developed in an effort to gather information to share with state and federal policy makers. The topics are education and healthcare. The Healthcare Roundtable Discussion took place July 31. The focus was two-fold: telemedicine and meaningful use of Internet resources successes; and challenges/needs related to Internet use. 20 attendees represented statewide organizations, regional home health care organizations, Fletcher Allen Hospital, Senator Leahy and Congressman Welch's staff, among others. A report of results was circulated. The Education Roundtable will take place November 6.

A working partnership with the Vermont Department of Libraries has been established. They're developing a list of organizations offering digital skills training in Vermont in addition to local libraries. Planning has begun to bring a subset of that group together to discuss possibilities for maximizing outreach statewide.

Kelley Spear researched information in the BTOP Broadband Adoption Toolkit, then identified and summarized projects that may provide relevant models for future consideration in Vermont.

Community Anchor Institution Surveys

Two surveys have been developed. One will be used to capture service information from BTOP sites. The other will be sent by the BTOP subgrantee, Sovernet, to CAIs to gather impacts and outcomes of the new service. Results will be analyzed by VTA staff.

Media Coverage

Four media releases were distributed about broadband projects. Eight independent stories were generated by media outlets.

BroadbandVT.org and Social Media

18 Postings to Facebook

Two blogs were posted in September: broadband expansion overview and digital literacy in the 21st century.

Verification

Verification requests to ten town clerks resulted in updates to data.