



BROADBAND IN WARREN COUNTY

ACTIONS TO DATE

2014

EDC engages ECC Technologies and Warren County Planning Department staff to evaluate and map the County's broadband availability. This is the County's first comprehensive analysis of broadband coverage and is done at the street level. This analysis determines that broadband is widely available in major traffic corridors, the Village and City, but there is much less coverage in the rural areas.

2020-2021

The pandemic brings broadband connectivity issues back to the forefront. EDC recontracts with ECC to update its broadband availability maps, with the assistance of the Planning Department, again at the street level. A public survey and speed test are new elements to the project. Outreach conducted by EDC and the County's Public Affairs Director's result in a very high survey response rate. Lack of broadband is still clearly a high priority issue for county residents.

EDC assists Slic Network with extending fiber and providing broadband to 1,700 unserved homes in Johnsbury, Thurman and Stony Creek.

Planning Department staff continue working with data from providers to try to ascertain gaps in coverage.

County Administrator Ryan Moore is appointed to NACo's Broadband Taskforce. Warren County is included as one of 9 case studies in a national report.

In the second half of 2021, the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board works closely with the Planning Department and EDC to apply for grant funding through the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program. The grant is not funded.

EDC begins hosting weekly Zoom meetings for the North Country Broadband Alliance to discuss broadband issues.

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signs the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law. This act allocates \$65 Billion for broadband connectivity. \$42.5 Billion of this is set aside for states and territories through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. Each state received an initial \$100 million. Additional funding will be distributed based on a formula considering the number of unserved and high cost locations in each state.

FIRST HALF 2024

The Regional Planning Board launches the development of a **Regional Broadband Deployment Plan** for its 5 County area, including Warren County. This plan will provide details on methods for connecting all unserved areas. Tectonic Engineering works with the Planning Board and County staff to submit an additional 13 BSL challenges and 41 provider challenges, as well as submit comments on ConnectAll's draft grant areas for the BEAD funding. Municipal leaders are also surveyed about broadband needs in their communities. The draft report has been released and the final report will be available in late June or early July.

2015

New York State begins its New NY Broadband Program. The state awards grant funding to service providers by Census Block area to connect unserved locations. The Planning Department creates and maintains an online map of awarded Census Block areas and assists with mapping information from providers.

2022

The state establishes its ConnectALL program and releases its first address-level broadband map, with the intent of providing information about broadband availability at every address in the state.

The LCLGRP is provided with a \$220,000 grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission to conduct broadband planning in their five-county region.

The FCC also releases address level data (Broadband Serviceable Locations, or BSLs) during the second half of the year, with the intention that the data will be used to award funding via the BEAD program. The State's data does not match up with the FCC's data and both data sets have mistakes. Planning Department staff spend a significant amount of time reviewing the FCC's BSL data and submitting 300 challenges through a formal federal process with a very short turnaround time. Planning Department staff also assist the state's ConnectALL office to provide technical support to other counties throughout the state.

The FCC releases provider information at the address level. State, county governments, providers and customers are invited to challenge the data. The Planning Department works with the Regional Planning Board and local town supervisors to review data and prepare provider challenges.

2023

The Planning Department continues to work with the Regional Planning Board and the state ConnectAll office to refine the accuracy of the BSL and provider information in preparation for the BEAD allocation. Regional Planning Board interfaces with broadband providers on submitted challenges.

The ConnectAll Office releases its 5-year BEAD Action Plan.

The ConnectAll Office launches a new Municipal Infrastructure Program to assist municipalities, non-profits and public entities in implementing solutions for hard to serve areas.



BROADBAND IN WARREN COUNTY

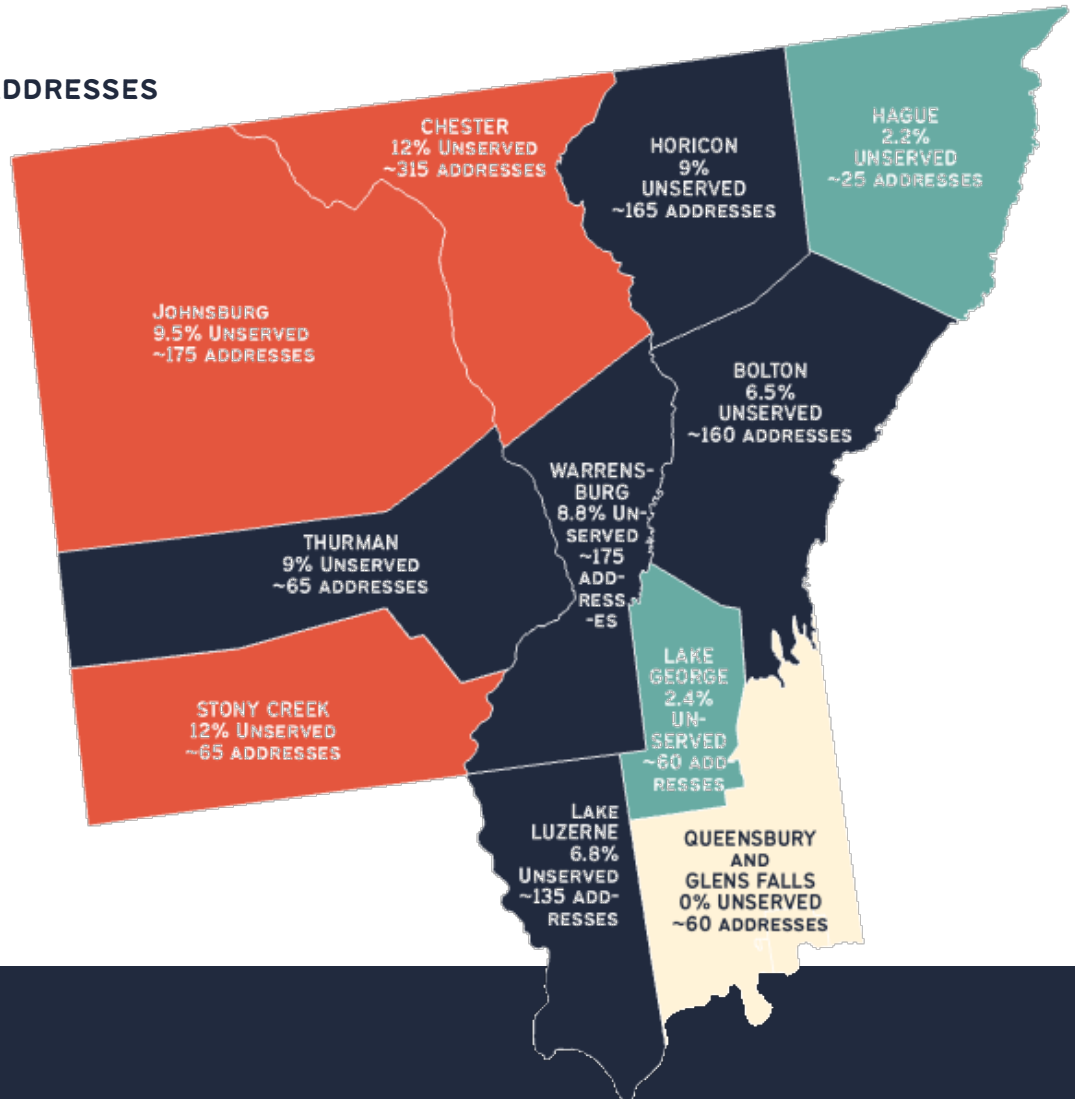
CURRENT STATUS AND NEXT STEPS

CURRENT STATUS:

4% OF WARREN COUNTY ADDRESSES

(1400 SERVICEABLE LOCATIONS) DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO BROADBAND.

THESE ARE GENERALLY IN DIFFICULT AND EXPENSIVE TO CONNECT LOCATIONS.



NEXT STEPS

New York State will receive \$664 million from the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The ConnectAll office has developed a 5-year plan that prioritizes how the state will allocate BEAD funding to connect as many of the state’s 114,000 unserved and underserved addresses as possible. New York State also has funding available for planning and deployment, outside of the federal BEAD funding. The ConnectALL Office has launched a Regional and Local Assistance Program to assist eligible entities with broadband planning and permitting. The Regional Planning Board also has also received an additional \$220,000 in planning money.

BEAD TIMELINE

