



# Annual Report

Approved November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
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Central Vermont Internet (rebranded this year as CVFiber) is a Communications Union District (CUD) created following successful votes in 14 communities at Town Meeting in 2018: Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Elmore, Marshfield, Middlesex, Montpelier, Northfield, Plainfield, Roxbury, Williamstown, and Worcester. Three more towns (Cabot, Orange, and Woodbury) successfully applied for inclusion in the district afterwards, bringing the total number of district member communities to 17. Many places in Central Vermont have limited access to truly high-speed broadband, and in many places non-wireless broadband service is monopolized by Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) or cable providers. Even where there is a choice, the incumbent providers have little incentive or ability to improve speeds or extend their networks to new customers. This lack of truly high-speed Internet access stifles economic development, hampers public safety, depresses property values, and restricts residents' abilities to access common online services.

With some initial organizational hurdles out of the way, we have hit the ground running, having secured \$12,500 in grants from the State of Vermont's ThinkVermont Innovation Grant and \$25,000 from a USDA-RD Rural Business Development Grant. Members of the CVFiber Governing Board, in conjunction with representatives from ECFiber, Kingdom Fiber, Washington Electric Cooperative, and many others worked with the Legislature this spring to craft and pass H.513, which provides resources for new and existing Internet service providers to build broadband infrastructure in locations where there are few other options.

We are currently in the process of applying for a Broadband Innovation Grant (part of the package of funding from H.513) from the State of Vermont for an additional \$60,000. These three grants will help us complete a feasibility study and build a business plan that will help us understand clearly where we should build fiber first and how to remain financially secure through the next five to ten years. With the study and business plan completed, we hope to secure up to \$4 million through a State-backed Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA) loan—another component of the recently-passed H.513. This loan will provide the startup funds that will let us build out approximately 100 miles of fiber and start connecting subscribers as soon as the second quarter of 2021. Once we have three years of solid financial statements, we will pursue traditional municipal revenue bonds to continue expanding the network until all residents, businesses, and civic institutions in all 17 of our towns have the option to subscribe to CVFiber.

802.279.6054 | [Central.Vermont.Internet@gmail.com](mailto:Central.Vermont.Internet@gmail.com) | <https://facebook.com/CentralVermontInternet> | <http://cvfiber.net>

Providing Central Vermont residents, businesses, and civic institutions with universal access to a reliable, secure, locally-owned and -governed communications network able to grow to meet future community needs.

Barre City • Barre Town • Berlin • Cabot • Calais • East Montpelier • Elmore • Marshfield • Middlesex  
Montpelier • Northfield • Orange • Plainfield • Roxbury • Williamstown • Woodbury • Worcester



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We are still not certain where we will start building the network, though we have several promising possibilities. One of the most important things you can do as a community leader in Central Vermont is to encourage your constituents to complete the surveys (<https://arcg.is/1uaOm1>) that have been sent out over Front Porch Forum. If you need paper copies of these surveys, please contact your town's delegate to the Governing Board and we will make sure you have some to hand out to people who are not connected to FPF. We are seeking tax-deductible donations and investments to provide matching funds to the VEDA loan we are applying for, and community support is essential to securing that loan.

In closing, we invite you to attend our November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, where we will hold a public hearing to receive comments from you, the legislative bodies of district members, and hear all other interested persons regarding the proposed budget.

Respectfully submitted,

## The CVFiber Governing Board

Greg Kelly (Barre City)	Lauri Scharf (Middlesex alternate)
Lucas Herring (Barre City alternate)	Ken Jones (Montpelier)
Josh Jarvis (Barre Town)	Dan Jones (Montpelier alternate)
Jeremy Hansen (Chair, Berlin)	Ray Pelletier (Northfield)
Jerry Diamantides (Berlin alternate)	John Quinn (Northfield alternate)
Nathan Hock (Treasurer)	Siobhan Perricone (Orange)
Andrew Gilbert (Cabot)	Michael Birnbaum (Plainfield)
Seth O'Brien (Cabot alternate)	Jeremy Matt (Plainfield alternate)
David Healy (Calais)	Jon Guiffre (Roxbury)
Jared Thomas (Calais alternate)	Frank Moore (Williamstown)
Tom Fisher (East Montpelier)	Rama Schneider (Williamstown alternate)
Tom McMurdo (East Montpelier alternate)	Francis Covey (Williamstown alternate)
Bob Burley (Elmore)	Thomas Lindsay (Woodbury)
Kent Shaw (Elmore alternate)	Susan Martin (Woodbury alternate, Clerk)
Jonathan Williams (Marshfield)	John Russell (Worcester)
Phil Hyjek (Vice Chair, Middlesex)	Allen Gilbert (Worcester alternate)

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