

## State of Maine – Applications for BIP, BTOP, and BIP/BTOP

Maine Specific Applicants and/or Projects  
Broadband Strategy Council and ConnectME Authority  
Recommendation and Assessment  
October 8, 2009

Included with this document is a spreadsheet summarizing the proposed projects specific to the State of Maine. A separate recommendation and assessment will be provided for non Maine-specific projects. Maine ranks and prioritizes the projects with the following categories: **Recommended for Funding** (meets the State's goals and fills unmet needs); **Projects of Interest** (has merit but needs more information or questions answered); and **Not Recommended for Funding**. The projects below are listed alphabetically, not in any order of preference or priority.

<b>Applicant</b>	Axiom Technologies, LLC Machias, ME
<b>Contact</b>	Susan Corbett 207-255-0679 susan.corbett@axiom-tech.net
<b>Project title</b>	Washington County WiMAX Project
<b>Program</b>	BTOP
<b>Proposed Project Area</b>	ME
<b>Project type</b>	Sustainable Broadband Adoption
<b>Grant request</b>	\$ 1,634,224
<b>Status</b>	Application Received
<b>Description</b>	The Washington County WiMAX Project focuses on helping the fishing, agricultural, and health care sectors develop and demonstrate the effective uses of the technology. An education and training program for the fishing and farming industry will be implemented, and a pilot program will be developed for the use of a mobile telemedicine system.
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<a href="#">Executive Summary</a> (pdf) <b>Recommended For Funding</b> Axiom Technology is a small Maine based business that has successfully deployed services with funding received from the ConnectME Authority. The project takes a holistic approach, attacking many of the issues holding back development of infrastructure and demand in Washington County, one of our poorest counties. This project provides a sustainability model for two of Maine's natural resource-based industries, farming and fishing, which are challenged. The company is planning to collaborate with the University of Maine - Machias to achieve the goals of the project.
<b>State Recommendation and Assessment</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	Biddeford Internet Corp. (d.b.a. GWI) Biddeford, ME
<b>Contact</b>	Brett Misenor 207-602-1174 btop-team@gwi.net
<b>Project title</b>	Three Ring Binder
<b>Program</b>	BIP/BTOP
<b>Proposed Project Area</b>	ME

## Maine Specific Applicants/Projects – State Recommendation and Assessment

Page 2

<b>Project type</b>	Middle Mile
<b>Grant request*</b>	\$ 25,402,904
<b>Status</b>	Application Received
<b>Description</b>	The Three Ring Binder project is a middle mile open-access collaborative fiber optic network in the most rural and remote areas of Maine. This project allows the delivery of 100 Mbits+ broadband connectivity to businesses, households, and community anchor institutions in these areas facilitating rural economic development, job stimulation, education, and health care.
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<a href="#">Executive Summary</a> (pdf)
<b>State Recommendation and Assessment</b>	<b>Recommended For Funding</b> This is the best project for Maine's long term infrastructure needs, providing critical middle mile capabilities. It complements all other last mile projects we are recommending for funding. The project supports all elements of our economy: consumers, small businesses, and high speed users in our research and development community. It also levers other initiatives such as rural health care, cyber infrastructure for the University of Maine and other research institutes, and the Maine School and Library Network. Furthermore, this technology will enable last mile providers in our nascent communications industry to provide service in rural Maine. Using open access, this proposal is a collaboration of multiple partners with long term maintenance of the dark fiber assets managed by a neutral third party. It strengthens Maine's telecommunications infrastructure by providing high speed redundancy and diversity within the state and with regional/national connectors.

\*For BIP/BTOP joint applications, grant amount reflects grant request for BIP.

<b>Applicant</b>	chebeague.net, Inc. Chebeague Island, ME
<b>Contact</b>	David Hill 207-846-4126 drhill@chebeague.net
<b>Project title</b>	Chebeague Island Broadband Initiative
<b>Program</b>	BIP/BTOP
<b>Proposed Project Area</b>	ME
<b>Project type</b>	Last Mile Remote Area
<b>Grant request*</b>	\$ 73,470
<b>Loan request</b>	\$ 75,000
<b>Status</b>	Application Received
<b>Description</b>	The project will extend broadband Internet services to unserved portions of Chebeague Island, Maine and will improve bandwidth availability for the entire underserved Island. In addition, the project will position the system for possible future microwave acquisition of bandwidth and may be used to extend needed cellular telephone service to the Island which, in large part, is unserved.
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<a href="#">Executive Summary</a> (pdf)
<b>State Recommendation and Assessment</b>	<b>Recommended For Funding</b> This is a very modest project to support one of Maine's island communities. The unique locally organized effort provides service in a community that otherwise would be unserved. We are confident that this previous ConnectME Authority grantee will be able to successfully complete the project as presented.

\*For BIP/BTOP joint applications, grant amount reflects grant request for BIP.

<b>Applicant</b>	FairPoint Communications, Inc.
------------------	--------------------------------

Maine Specific Applicants/Projects – State Recommendation and Assessment  
Page 3

**Contact** Charlotte, NC  
Ralph Thompson  
207-648-3057  
[rathompson@fairpoint.com](mailto:rathompson@fairpoint.com)

**Project title** Aroostook County Last Mile Project  
**Program** BIP/BTOP  
**Proposed Project Area** ME  
**Project type** Last Mile Non-Remote Area  
**Grant request\*** \$ 7,865,817  
**Status** Application Received  
**Description** This project will expand high speed broadband to remote, underserved areas of Aroostook County, the northernmost rural county in Maine. This is a last mile project (with some enabling middle mile components) that is critical to the region's competitiveness in a 21st century economy. Northern New England Telephone Operations LLC d/b/a FairPoint Communications-NNE is the co-applicant.

**State Recommendation and Assessment** **Recommended For Funding.** This project strengthens Maine's telecommunications infrastructure by providing critical last mile service to remote and unserved areas in Aroostook County. Funding of the project will accelerate deployment of this service which is so important because these areas are struggling economically. Deployment of this service is absolutely necessary for economic development in the region. As Maine's largest telecommunications provider the applicant is working closely with all of our economic development entities in a collaborative effort to ensure project success.

\*For BIP/BTOP joint applications, grant amount reflects grant request for BIP.

**Applicant** FairPoint Communications, Inc.  
Charlotte, NC

**Contact** Mr. Ralph Thompson  
207-648-3057  
[mesustainablebb@fairpoint.com](mailto:mesustainablebb@fairpoint.com)

**Project title** Broadband with a Purpose Maine  
**Program** BTOP  
**Proposed Project Area** ME  
**Project type** Sustainable Broadband Adoption  
**Grant request** \$ 1,802,384  
**Status** Application Received  
**Description** Broadband with a Purpose-Maine will help the people and institutions of rural Maine understand how broadband can be used to access global resources, work more productively, and enjoy the social benefits of being connected. It is designed to replace the "build it and they will come mentality" with a project based learning approach emphasizing the value of broadband.

**State Recommendation and Assessment** **Recommended For Funding** Sustainable adoption efforts are very important to increase the take rate and so this project is well targeted. The application presents a defined plan and time table to achieve results with measurable outcomes. It includes important partnerships with the Economic Development Districts and the Maine Community College System and a relationship with Information Technology Exchange (ITE) to provide low cost computers to low income families.

Maine Specific Applicants/Projects – State Recommendation and Assessment  
Page 4

**Applicant** FairPoint Communications, Inc.  
Charlotte, NC

**Contact** Ralph Thompson  
207-648-3057  
rathompson@fairpoint.com

**Project title** Washington/Hancock Last Mile Project

**Program** BIP/BTOP

**Proposed Project Area** ME

**Project type** Last Mile Remote Area

**Grant request\*** \$ 4,732,930

**Status** Application Received

**Description** This BIP/BTOP project will expand high speed broadband to remote, underserved areas of Washington and Hancock Counties in northeast Maine. This is a last mile project that is a critical component of the region's economic development plan. FairPoint Communications, Inc. is the lead applicant, the co-applicant is Northern New England Telephone Operations LLC d/b/a FairPoint Communications - NNE.

**State Recommendation and Assessment** **Recommended For Funding.** This project strengthens Maine's telecommunications infrastructure by providing critical last mile service to remote and unserved areas in Washington and Hancock Counties. Funding of the project will accelerate deployment of this service which is so important because these areas are struggling economically. Deployment of this service is absolutely necessary for economic development in the region. As Maine's largest telecommunications provider the applicant is working closely with all of our economic development entities in a collaborative effort to ensure project success.

\*For BIP/BTOP joint applications, grant amount reflects grant request for BIP.

**Applicant** Faith in Action Community Connection  
Ellsworth, ME

**Contact** Jo Cooper  
207-664-6016  
fia@gwi.net

**Project title** Seniors and Juniors Computer Lab

**Program** BTOP

**Proposed Project Area** ME

**Project type** Public Computer Center

**Grant request** \$ 35,000

**Status** Application Received

**Description** We are partnering with the Downeast Family YMCA to operate a Senior Center in the recently closed middle school building in Ellsworth. The YMCA will operate their childcare programs there, while Faith in Action operates programs for seniors in the same building, sharing some space. We will offer computer classes for senior and broadband access that can also be used by children and families.

**Executive Summary** [Executive Summary](#) (pdf)

**State Recommendation and Assessment** **Project Of Interest** While the Council thinks this project has some merit, more information was needed to answer a number of questions such as: what is the long term sustainability of the effort once the grant is exhausted; is the project fulfilling an unmet need; and what problem needs to be solved?

Maine Specific Applicants/Projects – State Recommendation and Assessment  
Page 5

**Applicant** Maine State Library  
Augusta, ME

**Contact** Linda Lord  
207-287-5620  
linda.lord@maine.gov

**Project title** Maine Library Learning Network  
**Program** BTOP  
**Proposed Project Area** ME  
**Project type** Public Computer Center  
**Grant request** \$ 1,216,467  
**Status** Application Received

**Description** The ME Library Learning Network creates eight regional and eleven local public library computer centers equipped with computers, accessible workstations and IP-based video conference technology. These centers will expand access to broadband technology in Maine, and provide access and training for rural and un-served communities, small businesses, an aging population, and people with disabilities.

**State Recommendation and Assessment**  
**Recommended For Funding**  
As a public computer center initiative, this application enhances capabilities at eight regional and eleven local libraries located in remote parts of Maine. In these communities, libraries are the key anchor institutions. The project complements other efforts to deploy broadband technology and supports those households who can not afford computers or broadband access. This is critical because many essential services are available online such as: health care information, education, financial planning, online banking, and e-government services.

**Applicant** Motorbrain Consulting, Inc.  
Lincoln, ME

**Contact** Brad Libby  
207-631-6391  
consult@hughes.net

**Project title** Bridging the Last Mile of the Digital Divide  
**Program** BIP/BTOP  
**Proposed Project Area** ME  
**Project type** Last Mile Remote Area  
**Grant request\*** \$ 5,571,784  
**Status** Application Received

**Description** We will provide HughesNet high-speed satellite Internet service to 3400 unserved Maine homes and businesses where there are no existing broadband services available for a period of 24 months at absolutely NO cost to the consumer. Though a collaborative effort with rural municipalities, we will identify those last mile consumers where cable Internet and DSL are not available.

**State Recommendation and Assessment**  
**Not Recommended For Funding**  
Satellite service in Maine is spotty, erratic, costly, and inadequate in providing access to the latest internet applications. The ConnectME Authority does not include any satellite service in its modest definition of broadband for grant funding due to the latency and jitter attributes. The issue of long term sustainability was not described and although the applicant is a Maine-based company the bulk of monthly revenue would likely go out of state.

\*For BIP/BTOP joint applications, grant amount reflects grant request for BIP.

Maine Specific Applicants/Projects – State Recommendation and Assessment  
Page 6

**Applicant** NATVentures LLC  
Bangor, ME

**Contact** Robert Hilton  
207-749-6000  
rhilton@natventures.com

**Project title** Native American Broadband Expansion in Maine

**Program** BIP/BTOP

**Proposed Project Area** ME

**Project type** Middle Mile

**Grant request\*** \$ 34,000,000

**Status** Application Received

**Description** To expand high speed broadband to rural, underserved areas of Maine, including all Native American Tribal lands within Maine.

**State Recommendation and Assessment** **Project Of Interest**  
The State of Maine is interested in supporting its Native American tribes which are located in remote, economically challenged regions of Maine. Unfortunately the material provided did not contain sufficient detail for the Council to make a thorough evaluation.

\*For BIP/BTOP joint applications, grant amount reflects grant request for BIP.

**Applicant** NATVentures LLC  
Bangor, ME

**Contact** Robert Hilton  
207-749-6000  
rhilton@natventures.com

**Project title** Native American Computer Centers in Maine

**Program** BTOP

**Proposed Project Area** ME

**Project type** Public Computer Center

**Grant request** \$ 50,000,000

**Status** Application Received

**Description** Project description not provided.

**State Recommendation and Assessment** **Project Of Interest**  
The State of Maine is interested in supporting its Native American tribes which are located in remote, economically challenged regions of Maine. Unfortunately the material provided did not contain sufficient detail for the Council to make a thorough evaluation.

**Applicant** Southern Aroostook Cooperative Board of Education  
Houlton, ME

**Contact** Mike Howard  
207-532-9541  
mhoward@satc.houlton.k12.me.us

**Project title** Region Two School of Applied Technology BTOP PCC Grant

**Program** BTOP

**Proposed Project Area** ME

Maine Specific Applicants/Projects – State Recommendation and Assessment  
Page 7

**Project type** Public Computer Center  
**Grant request** \$ 1,514,198  
**Status** Application Received  
**Description** On behalf of its partners, Region Two School of Applied Technology is requesting funds to expand computing facilities at 17 sites throughout the state of Maine. The goal of this project is to enhance educational services for adult community members at regional vocational and technical schools by expanding access to broadband.

**Executive Summary** [Executive Summary](#) (pdf)

**State Recommendation and Assessment**  
**Project Of Interest**  
This proposal does not define an enduring or measurable benefit or a means to achieve a sustainable program once the grant is exhausted. Although there is a focus on retraining displaced workers, it is unclear how this would be coordinated with other retraining efforts. In addition the lack of detail regarding the need and programs prevent a thorough review.

**Applicant** Somerset Telephone Company  
North Anson, ME

**Contact** Timothy Ulrich  
608-664-4114  
timothy.ulrich@tdstelecom.com

**Project title** Somerset Telephone Company: Project to serve rural, remote and unserved establishments

**Program** BIP

**Proposed Project Area** ME

**Project type** Last Mile Remote Area  
**Grant request** \$ 5,313,171  
**Status** Application Received  
**Description** Somerset Telephone Company, a subsidiary of TDS Telecom, proposes a project to bring high speed DSL broadband service to remote, unserved households within its rural service territory, which is comparable to the DSL service provided in its more populated areas. The network is also engineered so that it can be easily upgraded at a reasonable cost to meet future needs.

**Executive Summary** [Executive Summary](#) (pdf)

**State Recommendation and Assessment**  
**Recommended For Funding**  
This project proposed by the Incumbent Local Exchange Company (ILEC), would bring last mile service to rural and unserved areas of Somerset County that otherwise would not be serviced. The applicant has demonstrated the ability to deliver services cost effectively in this area and the additional last mile build out would be financially sustainable after initial capital investment. Open access would afford additional providers the ability to offer competing broadband services.

**Applicant** The West Penobscot Telephone and Telegraph Company  
Corinna, ME

**Contact** Timothy Ulrich  
608-664-4114  
timothy.ulrich@tdstelecom.com

**Project title** W Penobscot Telephone Telegraph Co: Project to serve rural, remote and unserved establishments

**Program** BIP

Maine Specific Applicants/Projects – State Recommendation and Assessment  
Page 8

**Proposed Project Area** ME  
**Project type** Last Mile Remote Area  
**Grant request** \$ 838,480  
**Status** Application Received  
**Description** The West Penobscot Telephone and Telegraph Company, a subsidiary of TDS Telecom, proposes a project to bring high speed DSL broadband service to remote, unserved households within its rural service territory, which is comparable to the DSL service provided in its more populated areas. The network is also engineered so that it can be easily upgraded at a reasonable cost to meet future needs.

**Executive Summary** [Executive Summary](#) (pdf)

**State Recommendation and Assessment** **Recommended For Funding**  
This project proposed by the ILEC, would bring last mile service to rural and unserved areas of Penobscot County that otherwise would not be serviced. The applicant has demonstrated the ability to deliver services cost effectively in this area and the additional last mile build out would be financially sustainable after initial capital investment. Open access would afford additional providers the ability to offer competing broadband services.

**Applicant** USA Web Host  
Kennebunk, ME  
**Contact** Stephen Gilbert  
207-467-8330  
phill@usacsp.com  
**Project title** WiME  
**Program** BIP/BTOP  
**Proposed Project Area** ME  
**Project type** Last Mile Remote Area  
**Grant request\*** \$ 928,000  
**Status** Application Received  
**Description** WiME I is a proof of concept of 4G as an access network technology for rural Maine, and of naming and associations over IPv6 as a link characteristic-informed, locality-aware technology. ----

**State Recommendation and Assessment** **Not Recommended For Funding**  
This proof of concept project is not aligned with the Council's or ConnectME Authority's vision. Long term viability is questionable as it is not clear how the pilot project would transition into a sustainable service.

\*For BIP/BTOP joint applications, grant amount reflects grant request for BIP.

**Applicant** USA Web Host  
KENNEBUNK, ME  
**Contact** Stephen Gilbert  
207-467-8330  
phill@usacsp.com  
**Project title** CODE 911  
**Program** BIP  
**Proposed Project Area** ME  
**Project type** Middle Mile  
**Grant request** \$ 904,000  
**Status** Application Received

Maine Specific Applicants/Projects – State Recommendation and Assessment  
Page 9

<b>Description</b>	Reverse 911 services that allow municipalities to enhance their emergency notification processes with massive simultaneous dial out of emergency calls to both broadband consumers in normal or catastrophic conditions.
<b>State Recommendation and Assessment</b>	<b>Not Recommended For Funding</b> This pilot project is not aligned with the Council's or ConnectME Authority's vision and it is not clear that the proposed service fits the RUS/BIP criteria. The direct connection to middle mile infrastructure improvements is not demonstrated.
<b>Applicant</b>	Vanu Coverage Co. Cambridge, MA
<b>Contact</b>	Andy Beard 617-864-1711 abeard@vanu.com
<b>Project title</b>	Wholesale Broadband for Rural Southwestern Maine
<b>Program</b>	BIP
<b>Proposed Project Area</b>	ME
<b>Project type</b>	Last Mile Non-Remote Area
<b>Loan request</b>	\$ 15,759,650
<b>Status</b>	Application Received
<b>Description</b>	Vanu Coverage Co. proposes to deploy a multi-standard wireless network and operate as a wholesale provider to existing retail wireless operators. This unique approach will bring voice and broadband data, as well as service provider choice, to unserved and underserved areas in Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, and Maine where broadband deployments previously have been cost-prohibitive.
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<a href="#">Executive Summary</a> (pdf) <b>Not Recommended For Funding</b>
<b>State Recommendation and Assessment</b>	The three Vanu applications may be an interesting idea but are multistate applications and it is unclear what portions are allocated to Maine. The project relies on as yet uncommitted retail carriers to provide household subscriber service. Furthermore cellular service does not currently meet the ConnectME Authority's definition of broadband service.
<b>Applicant</b>	Vanu Coverage Co. Cambridge, MA
<b>Contact</b>	Dante Gordon 617-864-1711 dgordon@vanu.com
<b>Project title</b>	Wholesale Broadband for Rural Northern Maine
<b>Program</b>	BIP
<b>Proposed Project Area</b>	ME
<b>Project type</b>	Last Mile Non-Remote Area
<b>Loan request</b>	\$ 16,060,783
<b>Status</b>	Application Received
<b>Description</b>	Vanu Coverage Co. proposes to deploy a multi-standard wireless network and operate as a wholesale provider to existing retail wireless operators. This unique approach will bring voice and broadband data, as well as service provider choice, to unserved and underserved areas in Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, and Maine where broadband deployments previously have been cost-prohibitive.
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<a href="#">Executive Summary</a> (pdf)

<b>State Recommendation and Assessment</b>	<b>Not Recommended For Funding</b> The three Vanu applications may be an interesting idea but are multistate applications and it is unclear what portions are allocated to Maine. The project relies on as yet uncommitted retail carriers to provide household subscriber service. Furthermore cellular service does not currently meet the ConnectME Authority's definition of broadband service.
<b>Applicant</b>	Vanu Coverage Co. Cambridge, MA
<b>Contact</b>	Andy Beard 617-864-1711 abeard@vanu.com
<b>Project title</b>	Wholesale Broadband for Rural for Southeastern Maine
<b>Program</b>	BIP
<b>Proposed Project Area</b>	ME
<b>Project type</b>	Last Mile Non-Remote Area
<b>Loan request</b>	\$ 10,383,832
<b>Status</b>	Application Received
<b>Description</b>	Vanu Coverage Co. proposes to deploy a multi-standard wireless network and operate as a wholesale provider to existing retail wireless operators. This unique approach will bring voice and broadband data, as well as service provider choice, to unserved and underserved areas in Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, and Maine where broadband deployments previously have been cost-prohibitive.
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<a href="#">Executive Summary</a> (pdf)
<b>State Recommendation and Assessment</b>	<b>Not Recommended For Funding</b> The three Vanu applications may be an interesting idea but are multistate applications and it is unclear what portions are allocated to Maine. The project relies on as yet uncommitted retail carriers to provide household subscriber service. Furthermore cellular service does not currently meet the ConnectME Authority's definition of broadband service.