

BALDWIN BROADBAND EXPANSION PROJECT

Town of Baldwin, ME

September 16, 2010

Contact: Denise Hoegen
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To The ConnectME Authority,

The Town of Baldwin and the Baldwin Broadband Expansion committee representing them seek to acquire enough grant money to bring broadband service to 42% of the un-served households in the West Baldwin section of town. A separate ConnectME grant application is being submitted in order to cover un-served areas in the West Baldwin section of town.

This project targets areas in West Baldwin that are un-served with the chance of a provider offering services to this area extremely remote due to their low density and lack of economic viability. This low population density has hindered the growth of broadband service leaving approximately 19% of the estimated 626 households in the area without broadband services.

Un-served areas in this application do not include areas currently under contract or those that have been covered in a previous ConnectME grant award which are currently awaiting construction.

Provider:

Included in this pre-application letter is a listing of proposed expansion areas for the current grant round along with an estimated cost of this project with Time Warner Cable as the sole service provider. Time Warner Cable currently has a presence in West Baldwin in more heavily populated areas along Route 113 and Douglas Hill Road. This project will extend from these roads to include secondary roads and smaller side roads in less densely populated areas.

Time Warner Cable will use their hybrid fiber/coax system, utilizing DOCSIS cable modem technology providing 512k upstream / 6mb downstream speeds as standard service. Time Warner Cable will use the existing utility poles in the areas where service is to be extended.

Fairpoint Communications is also a broadband service provider in West Baldwin supplying overlapping coverage in many areas that Time Warner Cable currently services throughout the area. The committee has notified Fairpoint Communications of this intended expansion project.

Funding:

Funding for the project will come from the ConnectMe Authority with Time Warner Cable absorbing up to 25% (to be determined) of the actual project cost to lower the grant request amount. The Town of Baldwin will not supply any funding for the project. The project is expected to be complete within the 12 month period required by The ConnectME Authority.

The committee requests that in your review of the cost of this project that you consider there is no alternative to Time Warner Cable as a service provider. This is due to the ConnectME overlap law and/or topographic conditions such as the presence of Fairpoint DSL service in Baldwin and the town's location in the rolling foothills of the White Mountains. Fairpoint has declined to participate in the current grant round leaving the committee no service provider who Baldwin can partner with other than Time Warner Cable.

Support:

A recent survey of 174 town residents demonstrates that residents, school age children, home based and small businesses in the town are in high need of broadband services. Of the 174 residents who answered the survey, 160 or 92%, would sign a petition supporting the expansion of broadband service in the town.

Future projects

The committee will be assisting the Sacopee Community Forum organization in their endeavors to expand broadband services in towns neighboring the town of Baldwin.

PROJECT

Area (Crossroad)	Roads in area	Distance covered	Homes to be serviced	Time Warner Cable estimated costs
Brown Rd (Rte 113)	5	3.7	26	\$96,200.00
West Saddleback (Douglas Hill Rd)	2	1.1	9	\$28,600.00
Senator Black (Rte 113)	3	1.5	15	\$39,000.00
TOTALS	10	6.3	50	\$163,800.00
Estimated grant award				\$151,300.00
Estimated Time Warner Cable match				\$12,500.00
Estimated price per customer				\$3,276.00
<p>All figures are approximate pending receipt of a final cost estimate and grant match amount from Time Warner Cable.</p> <p>Per email received from TWC: <i>Grant request is based on the assumption of \$26,000 per mile construction costs. Extenuating circumstances, (high make ready costs, engineering challenges, or any other unforeseen costs), may increase the actual cost of the project. Actual cost will be determined by engineering and design after acceptance of pre-application and will be included in the actual grant.</i></p>				
<p>Households and business on longer runs (identified by any service "drop" that will exceed 200 feet from the service infrastructure) will be required to cover the cost of the additional run length installation.</p>				

Thank you for your consideration,

Denise Hoegen
 Glenn Haines
 Vinn Lawrence
 Betty Lawrence
 Laurie Downing
 Julia Reidy
 Baldwin Broadband Expansion Committee

Gary McNeil
 Advisor - Town Board of Selectman