

South Hiram Broadband Expansion Request/ Pre-application Letter  
Town of Hiram, Maine

September 17, 2010

Contact: Aisha Saidi  
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To the ConnectME Authority,

The Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee and the Town of Hiram are seeking funding from ConnectME to provide high speed internet service to the unserved section of Triptown Road in South Hiram.

#### BACKGROUND

The town of Hiram is physically separated into north and south sections by a mountain range (the Hiram hills). South Hiram currently receives high speed internet service from both Time Warner Cable and Fairpoint Communications, with some overlap between the two providers. Three areas of South Hiram, with a total of 72 households, remain unserved by either provider. These areas include part of Triptown Road with 52 households; part of Durgintown Road with 6 households, and part of the River Road with 20 households. Because of the limited amount of money available from ConnectME, this grant request seeks funding only for the more densely populated unserved area of Triptown Road, which would cover 67% of the unserved households in South Hiram. Included in this pre-application letter is a description of the proposed expansion area with an estimated cost of the project by Time Warner Cable as the primary service provider.

The 18-member Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee, which has members from both north and south Hiram, determined the need for high speed internet access through a survey conducted at the March, 2010, Hiram election and town meeting, and through door to door interviews in the unserved areas. One hundred and fifty-two residents responded to the survey or were interviewed. Seventy-nine residents from both north and south Hiram noted their current dependence on dial-up services, cell phone based services, and satellite and expressed their need for high speed internet service. Among these were twenty-four Triptown Road residents. The Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee is also submitting a separate ConnectME grant request for unserved areas of north Hiram.

## THE AREA TO BE SERVED BY THIS GRANT

The unserved section of Triptown Road runs for approximately 3.65 miles from Durgintown Road. This figure includes five adjacent short side roads for a total of 55 households. Three of these households in the first 3/10ths of a mile on Triptown Road have Fairpoint internet service, leaving 52 unserved households. Time Warner Cable runs along Durgintown Road where it meets Triptown Road.

## COMMUNICATIONS WITH EXISTING BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDERS

The committee has chosen Time Warner Cable as the primary and preferred provider for the project. Time Warner currently serves the more densely populated roads of South Hiram including the South Hiram Road, Route 160, New Settlement Road, and part of Durgintown Road. Expansion by Time Warner into Triptown Road will also allow households the option of cable television and digital telephone service.

The committee has also discussed this grant proposal with Fairpoint Communications which provides high speed internet service to both ends of Triptown Road and to other areas of Hiram. We have been informed by Rojean Tulk of Fairpoint that they are not participating in this ConnectME round, and that they are unable to say at this time if the Triptown Road area is included in any planned Fairpoint expansion.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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

## TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED

Funding for the project will come from the ConnectME Authority with Time Warner Cable providing 14% (possibly negotiable upwards) of the actual project cost. The Town of Hiram will not supply any funding for the project. The project is expected to be completed within the 12 month period required by the ConnectME Authority.

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.

Area	Homes to be Serviced	Distance Covered	Time Warner Cable Estimated Cost
Tripptown Road	25		
Twilight Drive	2		
Dr. Teg Road	5		
Mountainside Way	2		
Amy Circle	13		
Sunny Lane	5		
Total	52	3.65 miles	\$96,200
Estimated Grant Award			\$96,200
Estimated Time Warner Cable match			\$13,750
Estimated price per household			\$1,850

#### PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee has the strong support of School Administrative District 55; the Sacopee Valley Health Center, the South Hiram Fire Department and town residents as noted above. We also have strong support from State Representative Helen Rankin. Letters of support will be provided with our final grant application. The Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee has also been responsible for the organization of the Sacopee Valley Broadband Initiative which has been working with the towns of Cornish, Parsonfield and Porter to develop ConnectME applications for their unserved areas.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Supporters

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Aisha Saidi  
Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee

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Janice Campbell  
Hiram Broadband Expansion Committee

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Conrad Hartford  
Chair, Hiram Board of Selectmen

Hiram Broadband Committee

David Limbert  
William Stansky  
Daniel Hester