

CONNECTMAINE

Confirming Unserved & Underserved Areas

12 January 2022

Opportunity to Review Areas

Authority Members

Nick Battista, Chair
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Background

The designation of unserved and underserved areas is the starting point for identifying eligible project areas under the Broadband Infrastructure Grants Program. The Broadband Availability Map depicts information on broadband availability in Maine but doesn't represent the actual services that are available to individual customers. Following the required data filing period that ended in September, the Map was updated in October with that industry-submitted information.

At its (late) November Meeting, the ConnectMaine Authority announced the opportunity to review unserved and underserved areas, a 30-day period that ended January 9. While the Broadband Availability Map won't be updated again, ConnectMaine considered the data submitted as part of the Broadband Infrastructure Grants Program. ConnectMaine will continue to transition to the new Broadband Intelligence Platform, to help generate maps in the future that are more useful to us and our constituents. ConnectMaine anticipates that a public viewer of the BIP will be created in the future depending on resources and priorities.

Recommendations

While many comments were submitted about the inaccuracy of the Broadband Availability Map, some community leaders and industry members submitted broadband service availability data sufficient to review the following two areas. In its review, ConnectMaine confirms these areas are unserved based on the designation adopted by the ConnectMaine Authority in April 2021. These datasets have been considered in the BIP for the upcoming application window for broadband infrastructure grants. The ConnectMaine Authority may confirm these areas as described below:

The entire island, Town of Chebeague, is designated as unserved, with broadband service available only to a few subscriber locations based on specific agreements with providers.

In the Town of Northport, Crows Nest area east of Route 1 from the unserved area in the north southward to Periwinkle Lane, is designated as unserved, with broadband service available only to the subscriber locations located close to infrastructure along Route 1.

Approval of confirming the areas listed in the memo as unserved or underserved: Jasmine motioned, Jeff 2nd, Heather abstained, 6:0