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Organization:	Vermont Telecommunications Authority
Project Name:	Vermont Fiber Link
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
States:	Vermont, New Hampshire
Federal Award:	\$33,393,402

ABOUT THE PROJECT

As a small, rural state with rugged terrain, Vermont has difficulty attracting broadband Internet providers, who are often unable to build profitable business models for serving the state. Vermont Fiber Link, a public-private partnership between the **Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA)** and Sovernet Fiber Corporation, a regional communications service provider, proposes to address this problem, focusing on Vermont's key community anchor institutions, such as K-12 schools, that lack affordable high speed Internet access. The project plans to build almost 800 miles of fiber broadband infrastructure and provide direct connections at speeds of up to 1 Gbps to as many as 340 anchor institutions statewide, including nine community colleges, 12 other institutions of higher learning, 30 public safety entities, and 53 libraries.

Vermont Fiber Link proposes to:

- Complement the project of another BTOP-funded entity, Vermont Telephone Company, to provide robust, high speed Internet access across Vermont.
- Spur affordable broadband access for local consumers and businesses, including as many as 79,000 households and 13,000 businesses, along with an additional 1,400 community anchor institutions by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network. Eight local service providers have already expressed interest in utilizing the new network to expand or enhance local broadband service to households and businesses.
- Significantly improve cost and quality of broadband service to Vermont's government agencies statewide.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Vermont Telecommunications Authority was created by the state legislature in 2007 to facilitate the establishment and delivery of mobile phone and Internet access infrastructure and services for residents and businesses throughout Vermont. VTA is focused on unserved and underserved areas and has a long-term goal of ensuring broadband and mobile phone infrastructure exists throughout the state.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Vermont Department of Libraries
- Vermont Department of Education
- Vermont State College System, Community College of Vermont sites, and Vermont Law School
- Vermont Department of Public Safety
- Vermont Department of Information and Innovation
- New England Telehealth Consortium
- Sovernet Fiber Corporation

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa.

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov. For the general public, contact BTOP@ntia.doc.gov.

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