

# MBI

MASSACHUSETTS  
BROADBAND INSTITUTE



at the MasTech  
Collaborative

## **Last Mile Overview**

**March 1, 2015**

# FY2015 Mid Year Update

- ❑ MBI has secured \$50 million in funds from the Massachusetts State Legislature, with a funding commitment from the Baker-Polito Administration, allowing the last mile project to proceed in FY15 &16
- ❑ MBI has conducted outreach engaging WiredWest and towns in last mile planning, resulting in 31 towns provisionally committing to the regional network model for last mile
- ❑ MBI is engaging cable providers to begin planning for service extensions in “partial-cable” towns
- ❑ The ***MassBroadband 123*** middle-mile network is operating and service adoption has expanded to 42 percent of CAls during the first half of FY15

# Town Participation

- ❑ 45 towns were invited to join the regional operations model under WiredWest
- ❑ 31 towns have committed to joining a regional network operated by WiredWest
- ❑ 13 towns are considering alternatives, including independent town FTTP builds, hybrid technologies, or waiting/monitoring other towns' progress
- ❑ Leverett is completing construction of a fiber-to-the-premise solution
- ❑ The MassTech Executive and MBI Boards approved a \$27,700 grant to Leverett

# Municipal Assistance

- ❑ Municipal Assistance Efforts:
  - 5 community outreach meetings held: 45 towns invited, 41 attended; average meeting attendance of 45 people
  - 4 financial forum meetings held: 45 towns invited, 36 attended; average meeting attendance of 37 people
  - FRCOG and WiredWest have co-hosted 11 “deep dive” meetings with towns and have an additional 6 meetings scheduled
- ❑ MBI is developing a grant application process to approve projects including the proposed WiredWest regional network and individual town applications
- ❑ The MassTech Executive and MBI Boards approved an allocation methodology
- ❑ Legal, technical, and financial planning assistance provided to Alford, Leverett, Princeton, and Royalston

# Regional FTTP Network Project (WiredWest)

- ❑ Total current estimated design and construction cost:
  - **\$100 to \$119 million**
- ❑ Sources of capital:
  - \$40 million from MBI
  - Balance of \$60-79 million from towns
- ❑ MBI is tracking potential sources of federal funds, including the Federal Communications Commission launch of the Connect America Fund II (CAF II)
- ❑ Actual cost will depend on detailed engineering and on how many and which towns participate
- ❑ Allocating the \$40M grant:
  1. \$18M Set aside funds for all project management, legal, and engineering costs across all towns in the regional model
  2. \$22M Allocated equally on a town's number of premises and route miles (excluding drop lengths)

# Project Costs by Town/Household

We have modeled how an operator would deploy a regional fiber to the home network in the targeted Western MA footprint

## Total Costs

We estimate that it would take up to \$119M<sup>1</sup> to connect 100% of households and businesses to the network and to provide video customer premise equipment to a subset of households that subscribe

## Individual Town Costs

Detailed geospatial analyses of individual towns indicate costs ranging from \$0.7M for New Ashford, MA to \$8.4M for Princeton, MA

## Costs per Premise

For every home or business that we would potentially serve, town-specific costs average \$3,100, but vary between \$1,200 and \$9,800

For every home or business that subscribes (which requires additional equipment) the total cost averages \$4,000 (inclusive of the above \$3,100), but varies between \$2,100 and \$10,400

- Notes:
1. This estimate does not include the costs associated with the town of Leverett
  2. Underlying amounts add up to \$119M but the apparent difference is due to rounding to the nearest million

3/1/2015

# Proposed Timeline

Milestones:	Dates:
Select Board Resolution	By December 31, 2014
Towns Pre-Subscription Begins	January 2015
Owners Project Manager Selection	Spring 2015
Town Meeting Approves Bond Debt	Spring 2015
Engineer Firm selection	Summer 2015
Preliminary Design and Pole Survey's	Rolling basis: Spring 2015 through Spring 2016
Make-Ready Process	Rolling basis: Fall 2015 through Fall 2017
Construction Period	Rolling basis: Summer 2016 - on

## Next Steps

- Town validation of premise count numbers
- Provide Technical Assistance to towns, as requested
- Launch Grant Application process with WiredWest and towns
- Track and compete for Federal funding, if available
- Track Town Meeting Warrants & Actions
- Organize Last Mile project team, including release of OPM and Design Engineering RFP's

## Partial Cable – Progress To-date

Evaluated and improved cable availability data for the 78 cable towns in the **MassBroadband 123** footprint through:

- Strategy meetings with pilot towns:
  - Conway, Buckland, Shelburne, and Huntington
- Regional meeting in Greenfield to solicit key technical and planning feedback from municipalities, and to answer questions from officials in attendance:
  - 12 towns in attendance
  - One-on-one mapping sessions with 10 individual towns
- Workshop with cable-providers planned and scheduled for March 5, 2015 (as required by statute)
- Partial Cable Plan development to follow workshop

# Partial Cable – Availability by Town

