



**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

Vermont State House  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

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**CONTACT: Hazel Brewster**  
(802) 636-7047

**\*\*\*PUBLIC STATEMENT\*\*\***

**Statement of Lt. Governor Gray on the American Rescue Plan and Letter to State Leadership on Broadband**

**Montpelier, Vt** - Today, Lt. Governor Gray released the following statement on the American Rescue Plan:

“Today, I join so many Vermonters in expressing appreciation to Vermont’s Congressional delegation, in particular Senator Patrick Leahy, for his tireless work on behalf of Vermont families, businesses and communities impacted by this pandemic.

From direct assistance to Vermonters to significant financial aid for the State, the \$2.7 billion expected for Vermont in the American Rescue Plan ensures we have the resources to deploy relief, plan for recovery, and begin critical investments in necessary infrastructure.

Notably, the American Rescue Plan includes the funds necessary for Vermont to make historic, significant, and lasting steps forward in closing our persistent broadband gap. The Plan includes a minimum of \$113 million for infrastructure, such as broadband.

Today, I shared a letter with state leaders describing insights from stakeholders in the broadband crisis from my “Seat at the Table.” They represent Vermonters who have depended on technology during the pandemic and speak to the challenges of our lacking infrastructure. These are only a few of the many voices we need at the table as we work to secure statewide broadband access.

To ensure equitable broadband access, we must urgently address the individual needs of Vermonters, embrace multiple solutions and include the experts who have provided services through digital means throughout this pandemic. You can read the full letter [here](#).”

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