



*Strengthening businesses, communities, and employment opportunities.*

June 10, 2014

Mr. Ken Horseman, Economic Development Specialist  
VT Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development  
National Life Building 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620

Subject: NCIC Application to Northern Border Regional Commission

Dear Ken;

Attached please find an original and two copies of NCIC's completed application for development of telecommunications infrastructure in Orleans and Essex Counties of Vermont. NCIC currently operates, Wireless LINC, a fixed wireless solution for its territory but needs to expand service to assist additional businesses.

Our completed application includes the following:

1. SF424 Application for Federal Assistance
2. SF424C Budget Information
3. SF424D Assurances
4. FY2014 Application form and narrative
5. Business letters and letters of support
6. Detailed budget
7. Map of Fiber Network
8. NCIC Board Resolution

If you have any questions or need additional information please let me know. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Welch", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Michael Welch  
Senior Project Manager

Cc: David Snedeker, NVDA

**Northern Community Investment Corporation**

*Strengthening businesses, communities, and employment opportunities.*

Serving the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont and Northern New Hampshire

51 Depot Square, Suite #2 | St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 | P 802.748.5101 | F 802.748.1884 | E [ncic@ncic.org](mailto:ncic@ncic.org) | [ncic.org](http://ncic.org)

Also located in Plymouth, NH & Lancaster, NH

*NCIC is an equal opportunity lender, provider and employer.*

# Application Forms

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## Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

## \* 1. Type of Submission:

- ☐ Preapplication  
☒ Application  
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

## \* 2. Type of Application:

- ☒ New  
☐ Continuation  
☐ Revision

## \* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

## \* Other (Specify):

## \* 3. Date Received:

## 4. Applicant Identifier:

## 5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

## 5b. Federal Award Identifier:

## State Use Only:

## 6. Date Received by State:

## 7. State Application Identifier:

## 8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

\* a. Legal Name: Northern Community Investment Corporation

## \* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):

020318035

## \* c. Organizational DUNS:

0402418950000

## d. Address:

## \* Street1:

51 Depot Square Suite 2

## Street2:

## \* City:

St Johnsbury

## County/Parish:

## \* State:

VT: Vermont

## Province:

## \* Country:

USA: UNITED STATES

## \* Zip / Postal Code:

05819-0000

## e. Organizational Unit:

## Department Name:

## Division Name:

## f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

## Prefix:

Mr.

## \* First Name:

Michael

## Middle Name:

## \* Last Name:

Welch

## Suffix:

Title: Sr Project Manager

## Organizational Affiliation:

Northern Community Investment Corporation

\* Telephone Number: 802-748-5101

Fax Number: 802-748-1884

\* Email: mwelch@ncic.org

## Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

### \* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

M: Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education)

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

\* Other (specify):

### \* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Northern Border Regional Commission

### 11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

90.601

CFDA Title:

Northern Border Regional Development

### \* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

\* Title:

Northern Border Regional Commission

### 13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

### 14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Orleans + Essex Counties VT

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

### \* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Wireless LINC Expansion

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

**Application for Federal Assistance SF-424****16. Congressional Districts Of:**

\* a. Applicant

first

\* b. Program/Project

first

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

**17. Proposed Project:**

\* a. Start Date:

09/01/2014

\* b. End Date:

09/01/2016

**18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

\* a. Federal

250,000.00

\* b. Applicant

0.00

\* c. State

0.00

\* d. Local

65,788.00

\* e. Other

0.00

\* f. Program Income

0.00

\* g. TOTAL

315,788.00

**\* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.**\* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. \*By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications\*\* and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances\*\* and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)

☒ \*\* I AGREE

\*\* The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

**Authorized Representative:**

Prefix:

Ms.

\* First Name:

Cathy

Middle Name:

\* Last Name:

Conway

Suffix:

\* Title:

VP Economic Development

\* Telephone Number:

603-788-2700

Fax Number:

603-788-2702

\* Email:

cconway@ncic.org

\* Signature of Authorized Representative:

Cathy Conway

\* Date Signed:

06/10/2014

BUDGET INFORMATION – Construction Programs				OMB Approval No. 4040-0008 Expiration Date 04/30/2008
NOTE: Certain Federal assistance programs require additional computations to arrive at the Federal share of project costs eligible for participation				If such is the case, you will be notified.
COST CLASSIFICATION	a. Total Cost	b. Costs Not Allowable for Participation	c. Total Allowable Costs (Columns a-b)	
1. Administrative and legal expenses	\$ 50000	\$	\$ 50000	
2. Land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc.	\$	\$	\$	
3. Relocation expenses and payments	\$	\$	\$	
4. Architectural and engineering fees	\$ 25000	\$	\$ 25000	
5. Other architectural and engineering fees	\$	\$	\$	
6. Project inspection fees	\$	\$	\$	
7. Site work	\$	\$	\$	
8. Demolition and Removal	\$	\$	\$	
9. Construction	\$ 85000	\$	\$ 85000	
10. Equipment	\$ 125000	\$	\$ 125000	
11. Miscellaneous	\$ 30788.20	\$	\$ 30788.20	
12. SUBTOTAL (sum of lines 1-11)	\$	\$	\$	
13. Contingencies	\$	\$	\$	
14. SUBTOTAL	\$	\$	\$	
15. Project (program) income	\$	\$	\$	
16. TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (subtract #15 from #14)	\$ 315788.20	\$	\$ 315788.20	
FEDERAL FUNDING				
17. Federal assistance requested, calculate as follows:				
(Consult Federal agency for Federal percentage share.)		Enter eligible costs from line 16 c Multiply X 80 %		\$ 250000
Enter the resulting Federal share.				

## ASSURANCES – CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Approval No. 4040-0009  
Expiration Date 04/30/2008

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.**

**NOTE:** Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duty authorized represented of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standard of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685- 1686) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcohol Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to this application.

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal Funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of the insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514 (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738 (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EC 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

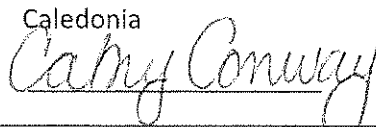
*SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL Completed on submission to Grants.gov	*TITLE VP Economic Development
*APPLICANT ORGANIZATION NEIC	*DATE SUBMITTED 6/10/14 Completed on submission to Grants.gov



# NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2014 FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM

## NBRC Uniform Grant Pre-Application Form

PLEASE REFER TO CLARIFICATION NOTES BEFORE COMPLETING THIS PRE-APPLICATION

<p><b>[1.] Applicant Information:</b></p> <p>Applicant: Northern Community Investment Corp</p> <p>Type of Entity: Northern Community Investment Corporation</p> <p>Authorized Official: Cathy Conway</p> <p>Street/PO Box: 51 Depot Square Suite 2</p> <p>City/State/Zip: St Johnsbury VT</p> <p>Telephone: 802-748-5101</p> <p>Fax Number: 802-748-1884</p> <p>Email Address for Notification: <a href="mailto:cconway@ncic.org">cconway@ncic.org</a></p> <p>County: Caledonia</p> <p>No Stamps: Blue Ink</p> <p>Official's Signature: </p>	<p><b>[2.] Application Preparer:</b></p> <p>Relationship to Applicant: employee</p> <p>Name: Cathy Conway</p> <p>Agency: NCIC</p> <p>Street/PO Box: 1 Middle Street</p> <p>City/State/Zip: Lancaster NH 03584</p> <p>Telephone: 603-788-2700</p> <p>Fax Number: 603-788-2702</p> <p>Email Address: <a href="mailto:cconway@ncic.org">cconway@ncic.org</a></p>														
<p><b>[4.] Goal/Objective</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committed Economic Development</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Committed Job Retention Project</p>	<p><b>[3.]</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Project's Congressional District:</td> <td style="width: 30%;">VT001</td> </tr> </table>	Project's Congressional District:	VT001												
Project's Congressional District:	VT001														
<p><b>[6.] Funding Sources for the Project:</b></p> <p>NBRC Funds Requested: \$250,000 Choose an item.</p> <p>Applicant Funds: \$ Choose an item.</p> <p>Cash: \$ Choose an item.</p> <p>In Kind: \$ Choose an item.</p> <p>Other State Funds: \$ Choose an item.</p> <p>Other Funds Label: donation \$65,788 Choose an item.</p> <p>\$ Choose an item.</p> <p>Total Project Cost: \$315,788 Choose an item.</p> <p>Private Entity Investment: Name \$ Choose an item.</p> <p>Has a budget prepared with professional estimates of cost been used to determine total project costs? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Has a grant administrative cost been included and on the 424 Form? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>[5.] Project Focus (check all that apply):</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Public Transportation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic Public Infrastructure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Workforce Development</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Business Development</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "Distressed County"</p> <p><b>[7.] Job Creation (Full-Time Equivalency) Impact of NBRC Project:</b></p> <p>Retention of Existing Jobs: FTE</p> <p>New Jobs to be Created: FTE</p> <p>Total Jobs: FTE</p> <p>See attached letters</p> <p><b>[8.] Business/Industry Information: Committed</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 60%;">Company Name:</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Contact Person:</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Title:</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Street/PO Box:</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>City/State/Zip:</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Telephone:</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Fax:</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>See attached letters</p> <p>Include per project type: 1. Participation Agreement from private business to document job retention/creation; 2. Application of incubator tenants; 3. Business commitment letter to use job training to fill immediate job openings, or retain current jobs.</p> <p><i>If jobs are to be retained, document how they will be lost but for this project and grant.</i></p>	Company Name:		Contact Person:		Title:		Street/PO Box:		City/State/Zip:		Telephone:		Fax:	
Company Name:															
Contact Person:															
Title:															
Street/PO Box:															
City/State/Zip:															
Telephone:															
Fax:															

## NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2012 FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM

**[9.] Project Description:** Please provide a brief specific description of the proposed project, along with specific outcomes of the project activities. State how this project conforms to any of the objective of the NBRC Funding Categories, your state's Development Plan, CANAM connections study or Sustainable Economic Initiative. You can use one additional page, if necessary. The purpose of this project is to develop telecommunications infrastructure in the economically distressed counties of Essex and Orleans in Northeastern Vermont. This project is consistent with the Sustainable Economic Initiative as well as the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy prepared by the Economic Development Council of Northern Vermont.

The development of telecommunications infrastructure will lead to job creation based on several studies. For every 1% increase in broadband penetration, employment will increase by 0.2-0.3% per year according to The Effects of Broadband Deployment on Output and Employment: A Cross-sectional Analysis of U.S. Data. Robert Crandall, William Lehr and Robert Litan, the Brookings Institution. Furthermore, it is estimated that for every \$1 million granted for broadband development, 15 jobs would be created. Source: U.S. Department Of Commerce, Bureau Of Economic Analysis, Regional Input, Output Modeling System Regional Multipliers: A User Handbook For The Regional Input Output Modeling System (Rims II), At 8 (Mar. 1997). An increase in the broadband penetration rate by 10 percentage points raises annual growth in per-capita GDP by 0.9 to 1.5 percentage points. Source: Broadband Infrastructure and Economic Growth, 2009. Nina Czernich Oliver Falck, Tobias Kretschmer and Ludger Woessmann. Employment in manufacturing, financial services, education, and health are all correlated to Broadband access (Brookings).

With funding assistance from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) both the states of NH and VT were able to install fiber-optic middle mile networks. Vermont is completing its program, called Vermont FiberConnect with the Vermont Telecommunications Authority and Sovernet Communications and includes the installation of fiber along Route 102 from Guildhall to Bloomfield and with additional EDA funding is making the connections from Bloomfield to Island Pond and up to Canaan. See attached map. NH is completing its program through the University of NH and 186 Communications who developed the fiber solution which includes fiber along Route 3 up to Littleton. Interconnections between these two state projects from Littleton NH to Hardwick VT and from Northumberland NH to Guildhall VT will provide the region with the most redundant service available because the NH project is sourced out of Boston and the VT project has bandwidth sourced out of the Canadian market. This puts the Northeast Kingdom in a unique position to be attractive to businesses such as data storage facilities for disaster recovery because of our distance from major metropolitan areas combined with our new technology.

NCIC owns and operates Wireless LINC which is a fixed wireless infrastructure designed to deliver competitive high speed internet service and currently provides service from Bloomfield VT in the north to Lisbon and Lyman NH in the south and from Jefferson NH in the east to Barnet VT in the west.

The specific project to create this unique opportunity for the region includes the following components to expand and enhance the Wireless LINC system:

1. Wireless LINC will source bandwidth out of SNS in Littleton, NH into the White Mountain LNG site in Northumberland NH. From here Wireless LINC will deliver the bandwidth to its tower site in Maidstone, VT. This effort includes transmission equipment and a one year lease of the NH fiber.
2. NCIC will then install up to four new point to multi point sites utilizing the ubiquiti system, with an area of focus along the Connecticut River Valley to bring affordable, reliable, redundant service to the residents and businesses of central Essex and eastern Orleans counties. Customer premise equipment will be provided under existing funding resources.
3. Project components include the design, permitting and legal work associated with the new sites.

The outcomes of this activity include:

1. High speed, affordable, redundant broadband service for underserved areas of Essex and Orleans Counties of Vermont
2. The creation of a unique asset with the unparalleled redundancy provided by the bi-state interconnection and delivery of bandwidth to the Wireless LINC system providing a business attraction tool for the region.

We anticipate the project to take 24 months for completion. During the first year we will install the connection to Northumberland and work on the final design for the point to multi point site. During the second year we expect to install the sites.

[10.] Project Funding: Give status of all additional funding sources for this project. i.e., approved and committed, application submitted & date/date anticipated source decision, application not made & why. The required project match of \$65,788 will be provided by Clear Energy in the form of a donation to NCIC for the construction of the connection between Littleton and Northumberland. A letter of commitment is attached. The funds are committed and available.

[11.] If the project is presumed to be "on-going", please detail the project's ability to sustain itself WITHOUT future NBRC funding. NCIC operates the Wireless LINC system which currently serves approximately 300 end users. Approximately 400 end users are necessary to keep Wireless LINC sustainable. With the expansion created as a result of this project we anticipate serving at least another 100 end users.

[12.] Include a resolution by the "board of directors" authorizing the executive to make and sign this pre-application to Northern Border Regional Commission, and the authority to sign any NBRC grant documents to bind this entity. The NCIC Board of Directors unanimously approved the resolution for this grant application on May 28, 2014. Resolution is attached.

PLEASE RETURN THE ORIGINAL and TWO COPIES OF THE NBRC UNIFORM PRE-APPLICATION and LIKEWISE THE ORIGINAL and TWO COPIES of the APPROPRIATE FEDERAL STANDARD FORMS 424 sent TO:

Your Local Development District.

In Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, the State Economic Development Department can assist you as to your Local Development District. In New York, contact the Department of State.

## Matching Funds Commitment Letter

Evan C. Coleman  
Clear Energy LLC  
241 Boston Post Rd W.  
Marlborough, MA 01545

Jon Freeman  
Northern Community Investment Corporation  
51 Depot Street / Suite #2  
Saint Johnsbury, VT 05819

June 10, 2014

Dear Jon,

After careful review and consideration of your request, Clear Energy would be willing to provide the matching funds of \$65,788 in the form of a charitable donation to your organization to allow the expansion of a fiber infrastructure throughout the NCIC territory. The provision of these funds would be contingent upon notification of receipt of the grant as well as the funds being used only within the defined scope of the grant for the full compliance period.

We appreciate your organization's commitment to the development of Northern New Hampshire and Vermont. Should you have any questions relating to our funding commitment, please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan C. Coleman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Evan C. Coleman  
Chief Operations Officer

## Business Letters of Support

---

June 6, 2014

Sanford Blitz  
Margaret Chase Smith FOB  
202 Harlow ST, Room 214  
Bangor, ME 04401

RE: Letter of Support – Northern Community Investment Corporation  
Improve Broadband Infrastructure – Essex & Orleans Counties – VT

Dear Mr. Blitz,

On behalf of my business P&S Furniture Inc, I would like to express my support for the application for funding being submitted to the Northern Border Regional Commission by Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC). The purpose of the NCIC application is to improve Broadband Infrastructure in the distressed Vermont Counties of Essex and Orleans.

I understand that NCIC currently operates a Wireless Internet network that extends from Barnet to Bloomfield in Vermont, and into many NH communities. Reliable internet service is an essential part of business operations, and I support NCIC's effort to provide additional broadband services opportunities for businesses in the Northeast Kingdom.

I appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Derrers (Name – Signature)

P&S Furniture (Business Name)

223 West Main Str  
Concord VT 05824 (Business Address)

\$ (Business Address)

758 Meadow Str  
Littleton NH 03561

June 6, 2014

Sanford Blitz  
Margaret Chase Smith FOB  
202 Harlow ST, Room 214  
Bangor, ME 04401

RE: Letter of Support – Northern Community Investment Corporation  
Improve Broadband Infrastructure – Essex & Orleans Counties – VT

Dear Mr. Blitz,

On behalf of my business Demers Hearth & Fireplace, I would like to express my support for the application for funding being submitted to the Northern Border Regional Commission by Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC). The purpose of the NCIC application is to improve Broadband Infrastructure in the distressed Vermont Counties of Essex and Orleans.

I understand that NCIC currently operates a Wireless Internet network that extends from Barnet to Bloomfield in Vermont, and into many NH communities. Reliable internet service is an essential part of business operations, and I support NCIC's effort to provide additional broadband services opportunities for businesses in the Northeast Kingdom.

I appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Demers (Name – Signature)

Demers Hearth & Fireplace (Business Name)

758 Meadow Str. (Business Address)

Littleton NH 03561 (Business Address)



May 30, 2014

David Robinson  
Business Program Director  
USDA - RD  
P.O. Box 249  
Montpelier, VT 05601

RE: Letter of Support - NCIC - Rural Business Opportunity Grant  
Wireless LINC

Dear Mr. Robinson,

On behalf of Maurice's Motel, I would like to extend my support for the Rural Business Opportunity Grant application begin submitted by Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC) to develop a business plan for the expansion of the Wireless LINC broadband service in Northeastern Vermont and Northern New Hampshire.

I understand that NCIC has hired Secured Network Systems (SNS) of Littleton NH through a competitive process to operate and manage the Wireless LINC system. The Wireless LINC system provides affordable high speed internet access to customers along the Connecticut River Valley in the counties of Caledonia and Essex Vermont as well as Coos and Grafton Counties of NH. The intent of NCIC's grant application will be to contract with SNS to complete a long term business plan and feasibility study to establish the priorities for expansion and the most cost effective method to deliver broadband service to customers in order to increase the benefits to local businesses.

Improved broadband services are essential for small businesses in Northeastern VT and Northern New Hampshire. I support this application.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Francine R. Pendergast (Name - Signature)  
Maurice's Motel (Name of Business)  
135 State St (Business Address)  
Winooski, VT 05403 (Business Address)

May 30, 2014

David Robinson  
Business Program Director  
USDA - RD  
P.O. Box 249  
Montpelier, VT 05601

RE: Letter of Support - NCIC - Rural Business Opportunity Grant  
Wireless LINC

Dear Mr. Robinson,

On behalf of Maverick Moose Lodging, I would like to extend my support for the Rural Business Opportunity Grant application begin submitted by Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC) to develop a business plan for the expansion of the Wireless LINC broadband service in Northeastern Vermont and Northern New Hampshire.

I understand that NCIC has hired Secured Network Systems (SNS) of Littleton NH through a competitive process to operate and manage the Wireless LINC system. The Wireless LINC system provides affordable high speed internet access to customers along the Connecticut River Valley in the counties of Caledonia and Essex Vermont as well as Coos and Grafton Counties of NH. The intent of NCIC's grant application will be to contract with SNS to complete a long term business plan and feasibility study to establish the priorities for expansion and the most cost effective method to deliver broadband service to customers in order to increase the benefits to local businesses.

Improved broadband services are essential for small businesses in Northeastern VT and Northern New Hampshire. I support this application.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

<u>Mark Chiquetto</u>	(Name - Signature)
<u>Maverick Moose Lodging</u>	(Name of Business)
<u>4555 VT Rt 114</u>	(Business Address)
<u>Canaan VT 05903</u>	(Business Address)

May 30, 2014

David Robinson  
Business Program Director  
USDA - RD  
P.O. Box 249  
Montpelier, VT 05601

RE: Letter of Support - NCIC - Rural Business Opportunity Grant  
Wireless LINC

Dear Mr. Robinson,

On behalf of PRIDE BUILDERS, LLC, I would like to extend my support for the Rural Business Opportunity Grant application begin submitted by Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC) to develop a business plan for the expansion of the Wireless LINC broadband service in Northeastern Vermont and Northern New Hampshire.

I understand that NCIC has hired Secured Network Systems (SNS) of Littleton NH through a competitive process to operate and manage the Wireless LINC system. The Wireless LINC system provides affordable high speed internet access to customers along the Connecticut River Valley in the counties of Caledonia and Essex Vermont as well as Coos and Grafton Counties of NH. The intent of NCIC's grant application will be to contract with SNS to complete a long term business plan and feasibility study to establish the priorities for expansion and the most cost effective method to deliver broadband service to customers in order to increase the benefits to local businesses.

Improved broadband services are essential for small businesses in Northeastern VT and Northern New Hampshire. I support this application.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Mason A. Smith

(Name - Signature)

PRIDE BUILDERS, LLC

(Name of Business)

511 FOLLARD HILL

(Business Address)

CANAAN, VT 05903

(Business Address)

I USE THE INTERNET DAILY, BUT HAVE EXTREME DIFFICULTY USING IT TO THE DEGREE BUILDERS IN OTHER LOCATIONS CAN. THIS LIMITS THE RATE OF GROWTH FOR MY BUSINESS. I THINK HIGH SPEED INTERNET WOULD REVOLUTIONIZE THE WAY I DO BUSINESS. PLEASE CONSIDER THE OUTLYING AREA AROUND CANAAN FOR IMPROVEMENT. MANY BUSINESSES WILL BENEFIT!  
-HAZE SMITH

June 3, 2014

David Robinson  
Business Program Director  
USDA – RD  
P.O. Box 249  
Montpelier, VT 05601

RE: Letter of Support – NCIC – Rural Business Opportunity Grant  
Wireless LINC

Dear Mr. Robinson,

On behalf of Buckwheat Hill Farm, we would like to extend our support for the Rural Business Opportunity Grant application begin submitted by Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC) to develop a business plan for the expansion of the Wireless LINC broadband service in Northeastern Vermont and Northern New Hampshire.

We understand that NCIC has hired Secured Network Systems (SNS) of Littleton NH through a competitive process to operate and manage the Wireless LINC system. The Wireless LINC system provides affordable high speed internet access to customers along the Connecticut River Valley in the counties of Caledonia and Essex Vermont as well as Coos and Grafton Counties of NH. The intent of NCIC's grant application will be to contract with SNS to complete a long term business plan and feasibility study to establish the priorities for expansion and the most cost effective method to deliver broadband service to customers in order to increase the benefits to local businesses.

Improved broadband services are essential for small businesses in Northeastern VT and Northern New Hampshire. Large areas within this region still do not have access to high speed internet, which is essential for business growth at this time. We support this application.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Morgan and Dan Wade  
Buckwheat Hill Farm  
1337 Clay Brook Road  
Canaan, VT 05903  
(802) 266-7066

June 4, 2014

David Robinson  
Business Program Director  
USDA – RD  
P.O. Box 249  
Montpelier, VT 05601

RE: Letter of Support – NCIC – Rural Business Opportunity Grant  
Wireless LINC

Dear Mr. Robinson,

On behalf of Morgan Wade/LexisNexis, I would like to extend my support for the Rural Business Opportunity Grant application begin submitted by Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC) to develop a business plan for the expansion of the Wireless LINC broadband service in Northeastern Vermont and Northern New Hampshire.

I understand that NCIC has hired Secured Network Systems (SNS) of Littleton NH through a competitive process to operate and manage the Wireless LINC system. The Wireless LINC system provides affordable high speed internet access to customers along the Connecticut River Valley in the counties of Caledonia and Essex Vermont as well as Coos and Grafton Counties of NH. The intent of NCIC's grant application will be to contract with SNS to complete a long term business plan and feasibility study to establish the priorities for expansion and the most cost effective method to deliver broadband service to customers in order to increase the benefits to local businesses.

Improved broadband services are essential for small businesses in Northeastern VT and Northern New Hampshire. In fact, I have a telecommuting position for my company, yet I have to rent office space in order to have access to broadband. For years, the state has been promising to bring broadband to our rural corner, yet it has not. NCIC is an excellent advocate for this sort of work – not only do they clearly define the problem, but they also work to find a viable solution. I have faith that giving this grant to NCIC is the best way to ensure that broadband will actually reach the last mile where I live. This would not only give me the opportunity to actually telecommute from home but also to expand our home business and start another that is just a concept until we get high speed internet access there. I support this application.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A. Morgan Wade  
LexisNexis  
118 Main Street, Suite 6  
Colebrook, NH 03576  
603-237-8334

RECEIVED

JUN - 2 2014

## Town of Norton

12 Vermont Route 114 East

Norton, Vermont 05907

802-822-9935

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Mr. David Robinson

Business Program Director

**USDA Rural Development**

PO Box 249

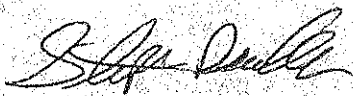
Montpelier, Vermont 05601

Re: NCIC Rural Business Opportunity Grant- Wireless LINC

The Town of Norton, the 1<sup>st</sup> town chartered in the new Vermont Republic, supports the RBOC grant application being submitted by NCIC to develop a business plan for the expansion of the Wireless LINC broadband service in northeastern Vermont which includes this town.

Improved broadband is essential for startup and independent businesses in a small international town like Norton.

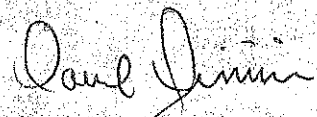
*We, the elected Select Board of Norton, Vermont ask that you approve NCIC's application.*



Stephan Isabelle



Kenn Stransky



David Diminico

May 30, 2014

David Robinson  
Business Program Director  
USDA – RD  
P.O. Box 249  
Montpelier, VT 05601

RE: Letter of Support – NCIC – Rural Business Opportunity Grant  
Wireless LINC

Dear Mr. Robinson,

On behalf of Stephane Inkil Inc., I would like to extend my support for the Rural Business Opportunity Grant application begin submitted by Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC) to develop a business plan for the expansion of the Wireless LINC broadband service in Northeastern Vermont and Northern New Hampshire.

I understand that NCIC has hired Secured Network Systems (SNS) of Littleton NH through a competitive process to operate and manage the Wireless LINC system. The Wireless LINC system provides affordable high speed internet access to customers along the Connecticut River Valley in the counties of Caledonia and Essex Vermont as well as Coos and Grafton Counties of NH. The intent of NCIC's grant application will be to contract with SNS to complete a long term business plan and feasibility study to establish the priorities for expansion and the most cost effective method to deliver broadband service to customers in order to increase the benefits to local businesses.

Improved broadband services are essential for small businesses in Northeastern VT and Northern New Hampshire. I support this application.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Stephane Inkil (Name – Signature)  
Stephane Inkil Inc. (Name of Business)  
PO Box 111 (Business Address)  
Canaan VT 05903 (Business Address)

May 30, 2014

David Robinson  
Business Program Director  
USDA - RD  
P.O. Box 249  
Montpelier, VT 05601

RE: Letter of Support - NCIC - Rural Business Opportunity Grant  
Wireless LINC

Dear Mr. Robinson,

On behalf of Adrien Intel Trucking I would like to extend my support for the Rural Business Opportunity Grant application begin submitted by Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC) to develop a business plan for the expansion of the Wireless LINC broadband service in Northeastern Vermont and Northern New Hampshire.

I understand that NCIC has hired Secured Network Systems (SNS) of Littleton NH through a competitive process to operate and manage the Wireless LINC system. The Wireless LINC system provides affordable high speed internet access to customers along the Connecticut River Valley in the counties of Caledonia and Essex Vermont as well as Coos and Grafton Counties of NH. The intent of NCIC's grant application will be to contract with SNS to complete a long term business plan and feasibility study to establish the priorities for expansion and the most cost effective method to deliver broadband service to customers in order to increase the benefits to local businesses.

Improved broadband services are essential for small businesses in Northeastern VT and Northern New Hampshire. I support this application. -

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

<u>Adrien Intel</u>	(Name - Signature)
<u>Adrien Intel Tek</u>	(Name of Business)
<u>P.O. Box 261</u>	(Business Address)
<u>Canaan VT 05903</u>	(Business Address)



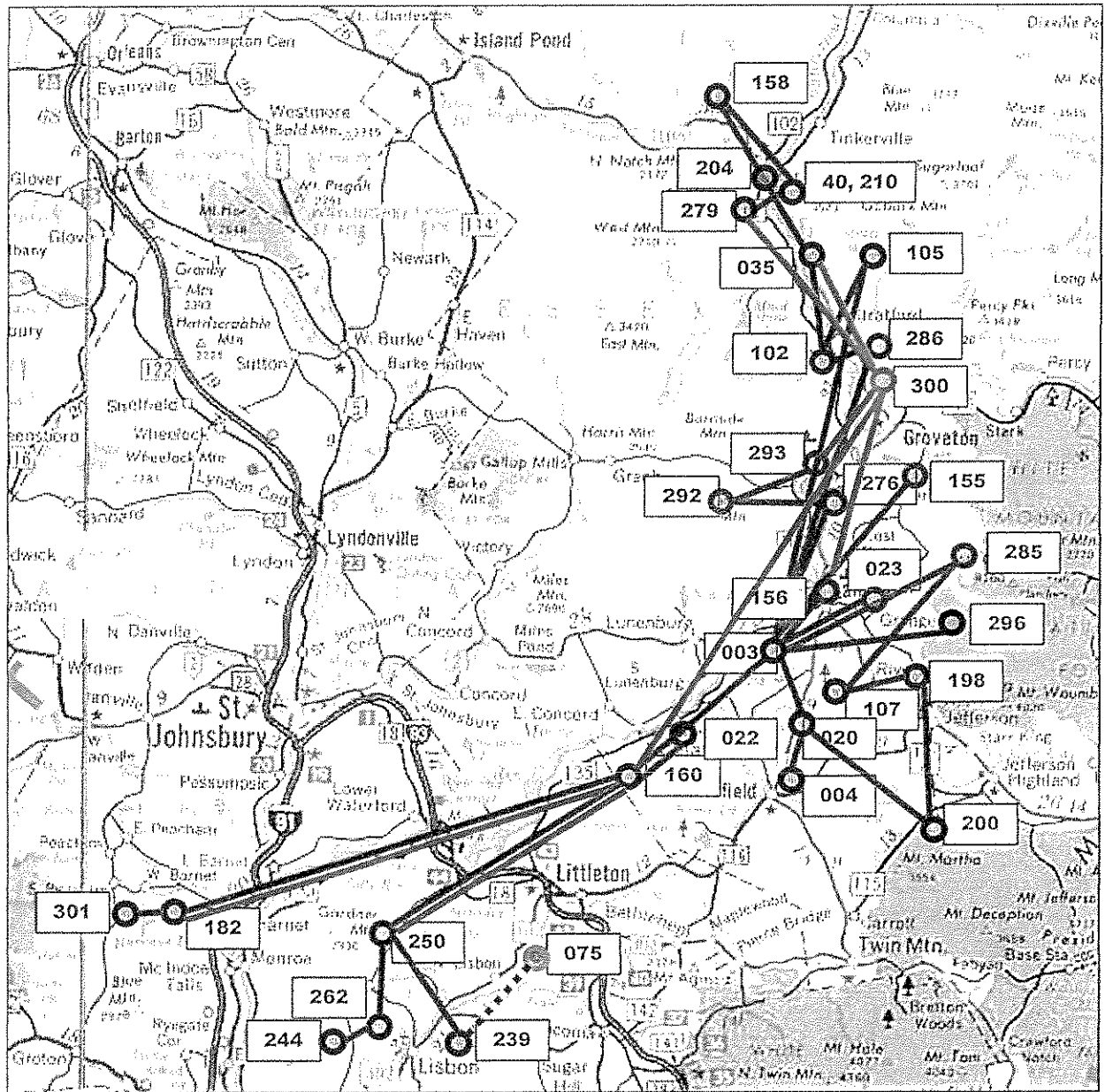
# Budget Detail

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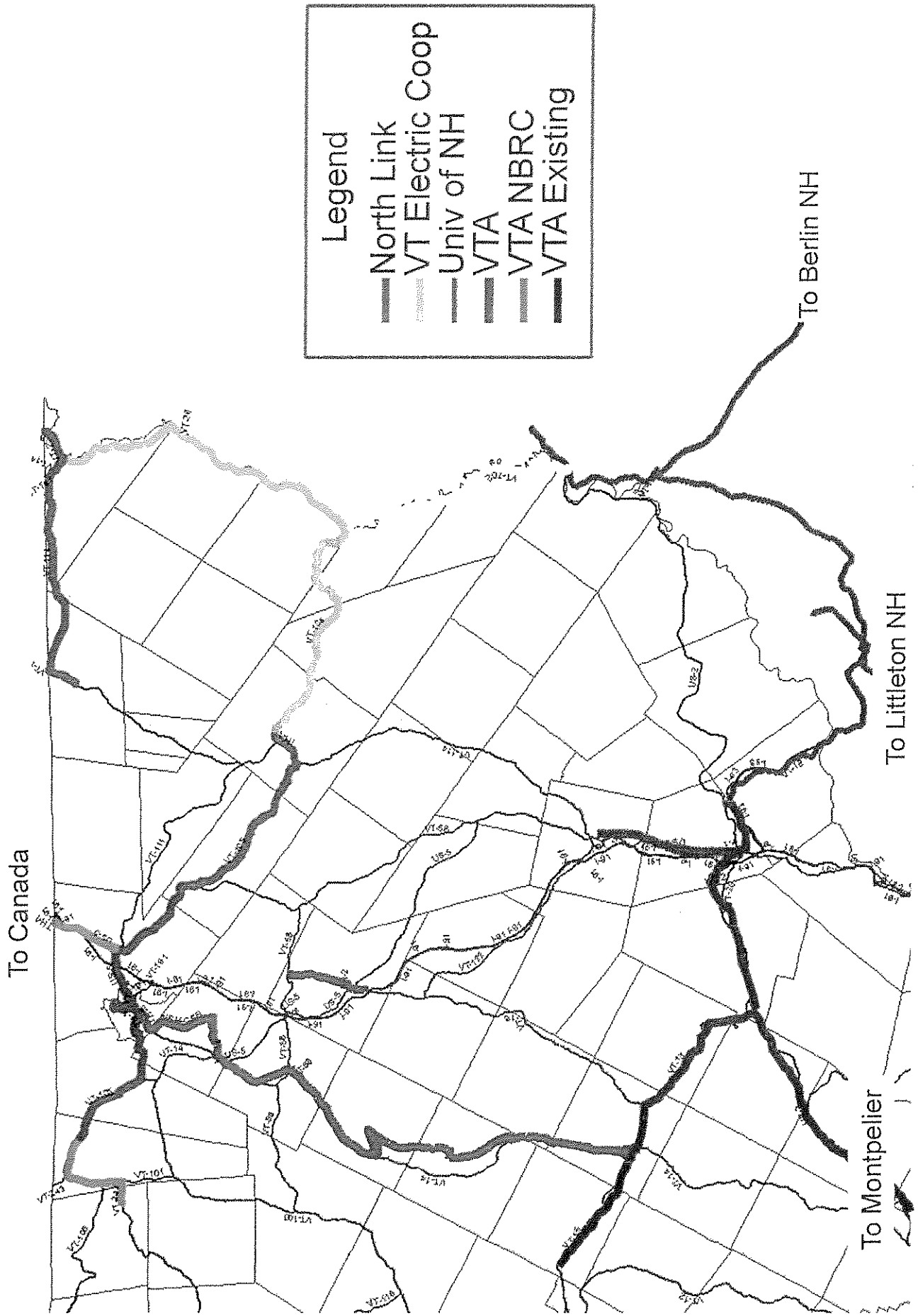
NBRC VT Wireless LINC June 2014 Budget			
TASK	COST	NBRC	MATCH
Fiber Connection			
Transmission Equipment	\$35,000.00		\$35,000.00
1 Year Fiber Lease	\$30,788.20		\$30,788.20
Wireless LINC Sites			
Design and Legal	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	
Construction	\$175,000.00	\$175,000.00	
NCIC Project Management	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	
	\$315,788.20	\$250,000.00	\$65,788.20
		79.17%	20.83%

# Maps of Fiber & Wireless Network

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# NEK Cooperative Fiber Network



## NCIC Board Resolution

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Northern Community Investment Corporation  
*Strengthening businesses, communities, and employment opportunities.*

## RESOLUTION OF DIRECTORS

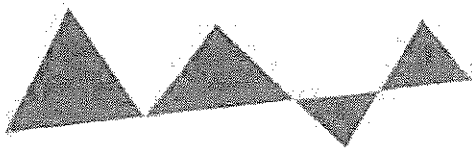
**RESOLVED:** That the President or the Vice President of Economic Development be, and hereby is individually authorized to submit the application, and sign all forms, associated with the Northern Border Regional Commission Federal Grant Program, to receive up to \$250,000 of NBRC grant funding for its Wireless LINC Infrastructure, and to take other actions as needed to apply for and accept any such funding that is awarded.

I, the undersigned, as Chairman of the Northern Community Investment Corporation Board of Directors and Executive Committee, hereby certify that on the 4rd day of June 2014, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the affirmative vote of five said directors in writing; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

NORTHERN COMMUNITY INVESTMENT CORPORATION

By: Nathan Houghton  
Nathan Houghton, Chairman

Date: June 5, 2014



**Vermont Telecommunications Authority**

June 16, 2014

David Robinson  
Business Program Director  
USDA-RD  
P.O. Box 249  
Montpelier, VT 05601

RE: NCIC – Rural Business Opportunity Grant Application

Dear Mr. Robinson,

At the Vermont Telecommunications Authority, our mission is:

“To ensure that residences and businesses in all regions of the State have access to affordable broadband, mobile voice and data communications.”

I am very familiar with the work that has been done by Northern Community Investment Corporation in both wireless infrastructure development, and in working with the VTA, and others, on interstate and international fiber initiatives.

The VTA continues to work with telecommunications providers and developers on the provision of reliable and affordable broadband coverage to everyone in Vermont.

I support NCIC's initiative to work with a private vendor to complete a long-term business plan to continue to advance, and improve, access to broadband services in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Campbell  
Executive Director