

VAPDA

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

Regional Technology Teams Plan to Maximize Use of Broadband

Regional Planning Commissions across Vermont are currently assembling Regional Technology Teams made up of stakeholders who can envision what life could be like with universal high-speed broadband availability. Local government, schools, business, non-profits, and others will work together to implement strategies for using broadband access to enhance Vermont's way of life.

Emma Zavez, Planner at the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission in Woodstock explained "We have a unique opportunity to maintain Vermont's competitive edge in the region and around the world. Universal broadband access is coming to every corner of the state, and it's important that our communities are prepared in order to realize the maximum benefit."

Each Regional Technology Team will develop a strategic plan that identifies needs and opportunities related to new technologies, provide strategies to drive adoption of broadband, identify key partnerships that will benefit from the coordinated use of information technology (such as government services, education, health care, business, etc.) and set targets for improvement among those key partnerships.

Participants will also identify broadband technology gaps, set achievable goals for improving use, and convene local & regional events to inform the public about Regional and State Telecommunications Plans. The Regional Technology Plans will be used by state, regional and local officials, including the Vermont Telecommunication Authority.

Technology Team members are excited to get started. Ruth Wallman of the Lake Champlain Island Chamber of Commerce is a member of the team for Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. "This is a great opportunity to build on our strengths and use universal broadband access as a tool to enhance education, tourism, industry and community."

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