

Quick Facts on Town of Cranberry Isles Broadband Initiative

More details can be found in these documents:

Broadband Working Group's Letter, Why Broadband Factsheet, and RFI links on the town's website

What is broadband? Why do we need it?

Broadband is high-speed internet service, essential for education, business, employment, emergency services, healthcare, and entertainment. Read more in the Letter and Why Broadband factsheet.

We need to act this year. Why now?

Islesford is scheduled to lose internet service in October 2017.

A positive vote on town funding provides us a higher probability that we will be awarded grants.

If we wait, we will likely lose opportunities to cover 85% of the cost of a 3-island project.

Read more about this in the letter sent out by the Broadband Working Group

What is the cost of bringing broadband to Islesford, Great Cranberry and Sutton? Who pays?

The current estimate is \$1.173 million with the town asking approval for spending of up to \$1.2million. Funding sources include:

- Axiom Technologies has offered to fund up to 15% of the capital costs for building the network.
- Grants are available through USDA, ConnectME & Northern Borders Regional Commission.
- We encourage tax-deductible donations designated for the project to the town.
- Approve town funding. Until we know the amount of funding from grants, it isn't possible know the impact to taxes, but there will be no effect on this year's property tax.

To make strong grant applications, we need to show town commitment by voting to contribute funding. We received a \$10k grant from the Island Institute to help with grants and designing the project.

Broadband Working Group: Malcom Fernald, Jim Fortune, Ingrid Gaither, Rosalie Kell and Skip Stevens

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Read more about the scope of the project in the RFI on the town's website.

This could be a big investment; how long will the project last?

The lifespan of optic fiber is greater than 40 years depending on installation and service load. Slightly less expensive options would not meet our broadband needs and would last just a few years.

Support this broadband project for the same reason as for education, municipal services, and roads, because the long-term well-being and survival of the entire community depends on it!