



**Town of Nobleboro**  
**Mapping and Survey Highlights**  
**Next Steps**  
**24 February 2022**

**Dear Nobleboro Residents, Business and Non-Profits,**

Hopefully you have had an opportunity to either hear or read the Nobleboro Broadband Committee's (NBBC) presentation (links inserted below) to our Select Board. This was an extensive report on both the current state of broadband service in town (mapping), and a survey of property owners to learn how residents feel about their service. We received a remarkable 361 survey responses from a total of 1285 town properties. The breadth of responses gives us comfort that we have heard from all corners of our town; from both full time and part time residents; local businesses and non-profits, from those who have fast, reliable internet service (fiber or cable) and those who don't. If you have not returned a survey, however, it is not too late—you can do so at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/26YLWNT](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/26YLWNT).

**What is unquestionably clear from the mapping and survey:**

- Nobleboro is too varied in needs and accessibility for any single broadband solution
- Using grants to bring broadband service to all residences along Nobleboro's public roads is a top priority, given current economic and political reality.
- There is overwhelming support on the part of those responding to the survey, for using some town funds to match those grants. *Town funds includes American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds.*

**So what is the NBBC's next step?**

The committee has sent out a Request for Information (RFI) to several internet service providers (ISP) for completion of an advanced engineering study. This will be our next step in determining what is feasible and how best to serve our community. The funding for this study should come from American Rescue Plan funds received by the town.

The study will analyze the cost to build out the infrastructure necessary to service our diverse community.

- Can we make broadband accessible to the entire town? Is this unrealistic?
- Should we focus on completing fiber backbone on all town-owned roads?
- Can we develop a phased plan that focuses on the unserved or underserved that are most dependent on internet access – our students, our lifelong citizens who desire to age in place, our home based businesses ?

The NBBC fully recognizes that there is significant concern over the cost of this potential project. In order to make any meaningful decisions, we must first complete the engineering study. Only then can we put hard numbers to each consideration; determine feasibility and come back to the Select Board and citizens with a proposal. It is up to Town residents to make the final decision—the Broadband Committee's job is to provide the best available information so an informed decision can be made.

**If you feel strongly about broadband accessibility, please attend the annual town meeting on Saturday 3/19, 10:00AM at NCS. Your voice and vote matter, especially in the determination of how Nobleboro's ARPA funds are allocated.**

Broadband Committee—<https://www.nobleboro.maine.gov/> (Town Govt—Committees tab)  
NBBC Select Board Presentation filmed by LCTV—[https://youtu.be/vbYT\\_08uXII](https://youtu.be/vbYT_08uXII)