



Broadband Strategy: Progress Report and Next Steps

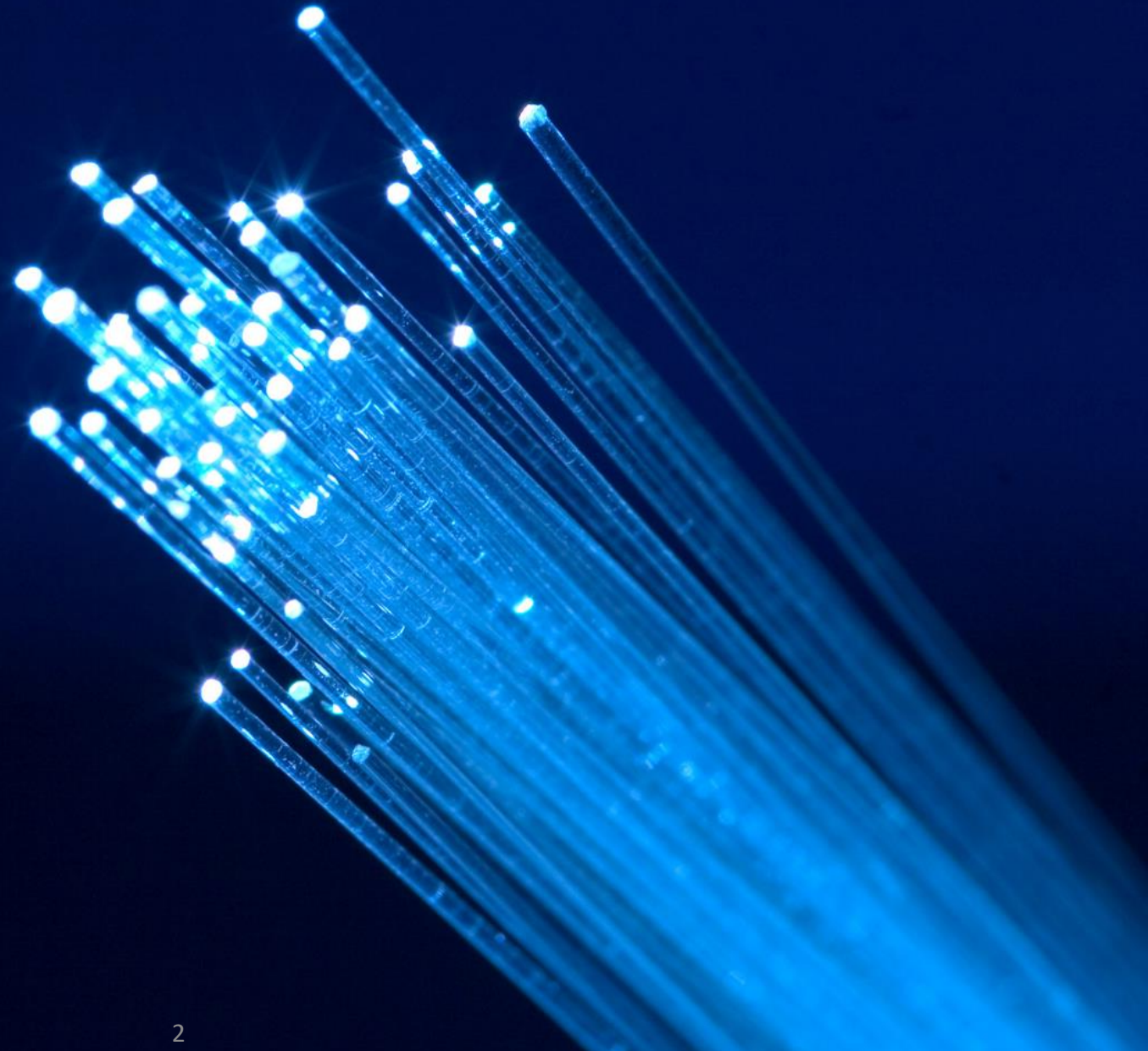
Council Presentation

May 5, 2021



Presentation framework

- Background
- Consultant report and proposed next steps
- Staff recommendations





Broadband expansion underway

- YorkNet's network now established in Udora:
 - Two ISPs rolling out fibre-to-the-home
 - Udora Community Hall connected to fibre
 - ✓ Complimentary Wi-Fi is available
- YorkNet's fibre available at Civic Centre and Georgina Ice Palace
- Grant funding applications submitted by broadband providers





BROADBAND STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Town of Georgina

BROADBAND STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN







GEORGINA'S BROADBAND VISION

All businesses and residents have access to affordable and reliable broadband connectivity options at the service levels they require based on technology advancements, private market forces and funding commitments from senior levels of government.

Fast and affordable internet connectivity is critical to the ability of both our residents and businesses – whether located in an urban or rural area – to fully participate in and leverage the digital world. Enhanced connectivity across Georgina will directly support the strength and resiliency of our community. Enhanced broadband will also foster the growth and competitiveness of our local economy in a time when all things are rapidly moving online.

- Mayor Margaret Quirk

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The way we will achieve the Vision is to:

1. Leverage private public partnerships - form partnerships with service providers and seek private investments.
2. Establish policies to promote broadband deployment, such as dig once and shared infrastructure.
3. Reserve funds to leverage external funding opportunities.
4. Partner with neighbouring municipalities and First Nations.
5. Not become a competitive ISP or compete with the private sector.
6. Leverage the proposed 100+km of YorkNet fiber infrastructure.
7. Leverage our South Shore Community Broadband (SSCB) infrastructure:
 - Maintain infrastructure for Town's business continuity and internal needs.
 - Explore leasing existing towers (colocation) and potential tower enhancements based on a sustainable business plan.



TOP PRIORITIES

1. Connectivity for all residents (e.g. education, healthcare, telework) allowing them to participate fully in the digital world.
2. Leveraging broadband to foster economic development, business attraction, expansion and retention.
3. Provide community Wi-Fi, including at libraries, tourist destinations and other public facilities.
4. Connectivity for the Town of Georgina's municipal needs.



ACTION PLAN



Establish a Broadband Champion

The Broadband Champion will drive the vision, guiding principles and top priorities as well as provide direction and reduce barriers to success.

Develop a Request for Information (RFI)

Issue a Request for Information (RFI) to gather input from internet service providers (ISPs) and other entities that may be interested in providing services in line with Georgina's vision. The objective of the RFI is to inform the next steps of the Broadband roadmap. The RFI will seek input on a variety of options:

- Provide the Town with recommendations on the kind and type of broadband infrastructure needed to enhance service that takes into consideration: maximizing the SSCB network, leveraging YorkNet's proposed 10-year plan as well as the potential implementation of community Wi-Fi.
- Evidence that such solutions will attain and exceed the CRTC's broadband objectives with a demonstrable growth trajectory.
- Recommendations for possible joint pilot projects that can enhance connectivity and/or technology selection.
- Maximizing Georgina's positioning in upcoming federal and provincial funding programs including defined roles, responsibilities and contribution expectations.

The results of the RFI will inform the next steps with regards to moving forward. Recommendations will be provided to Council for approval.

Policy Development

Undertake the development of key policies that clearly define and outline Georgina's requirements for broadband deployment projects with the intent of providing clarity, reducing barriers and increasing predictability for proposed implementation projects.

Such policies might include:

- **Dig Once Policy:** reduce the cost of broadband deployment and road repairs by requiring internet service providers to place their conduit during road construction projects or by the Town placing its own conduit that can then be leased by ISPs.
- **Development Approvals Process:** review of current criteria to include support for improved connectivity, fibre conduit in developments.
- **Municipal Access Agreement:** develop a MAA that is harmonized with those of York Region and other municipal partners.
- **Wireless Tower Master Plan:** adopt a plan that maximizes and standardizes access to the SSCB assets.





Council's Top Priorities

- Connectivity for all residents
- Broadband to foster economic development
- Provide community Wi-Fi
- Connectivity for municipal needs





Council directives

- Engage Internet Service Providers (ISPs) through RFI
- Develop enhanced set of broadband-related policies
- Create a roadmap for implementing strategy





Request for Information (RFI)

- RFI issued Fall of 2020
- Nine responses received
- Engaged with 17 stakeholders overall





Benefits from RFI

- Message “Georgina is open for broadband expansion”
- Introduced ISPs to YorkNet for funding applications
- Attracted interest in leasing the SSCB towers
- Marketed YorkNet’s fibre opportunities
- Informed Roadmap and Policies
- Triggered an ISP to apply to UBF
- Discussions with companies on pilot projects



Top RFI and interview takeaways

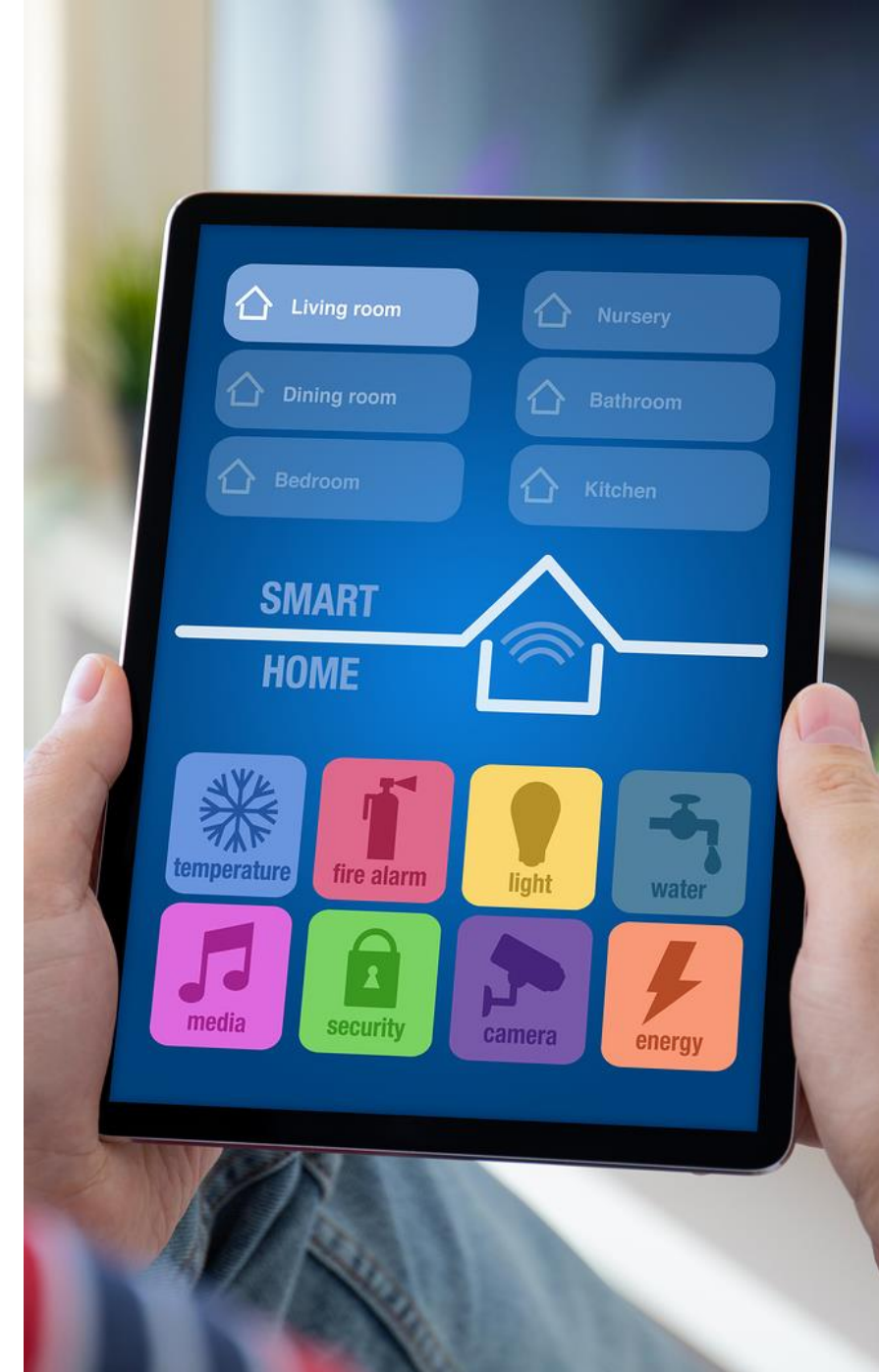
- Broadband Champion is critical
- Cooperation with service providers is paramount
- Consistent and streamlined process is key
- SSCB tower infrastructure was of interest to all respondents
- YorkNet's fibre is an important tool for service providers

Broadband Roadmap

Action 1:

Exploring and expanding broadband investment attraction, partnerships and funding opportunities

- Engaging external parties to remain top of mind for future projects
- Collaboration with the Region, communities and industry showcasing Georgina's broadband initiatives

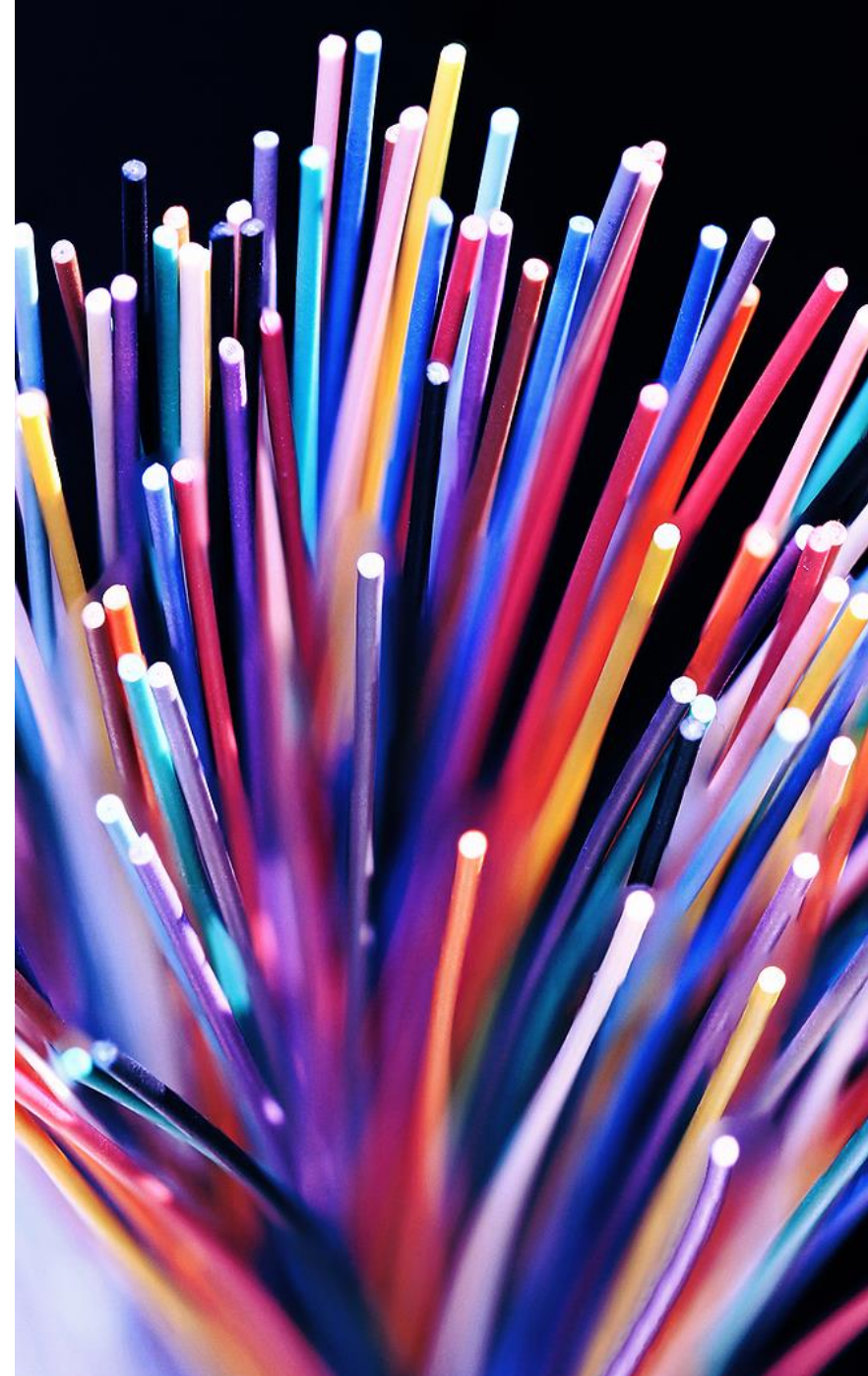


Broadband Roadmap

Action 2:

Maximizing YorkNet's dark fibre network in Georgina

- Work with YorkNet and ISPs to maximize YorkNet's fibre to service residents and businesses
- Facilitate and streamline information sharing with ISPs to address customer requests





Broadband Roadmap

Action 3:

Leveraging the SSCB wireless tower infrastructure

- Addressed tower related policies, protocols, processes
- Engaging with ISPs interested in providing broadband coverage in rural areas
- Cataloging tower portfolio for future colocation inquiries
- Commence leasing towers to enhance connectivity in underserviced areas



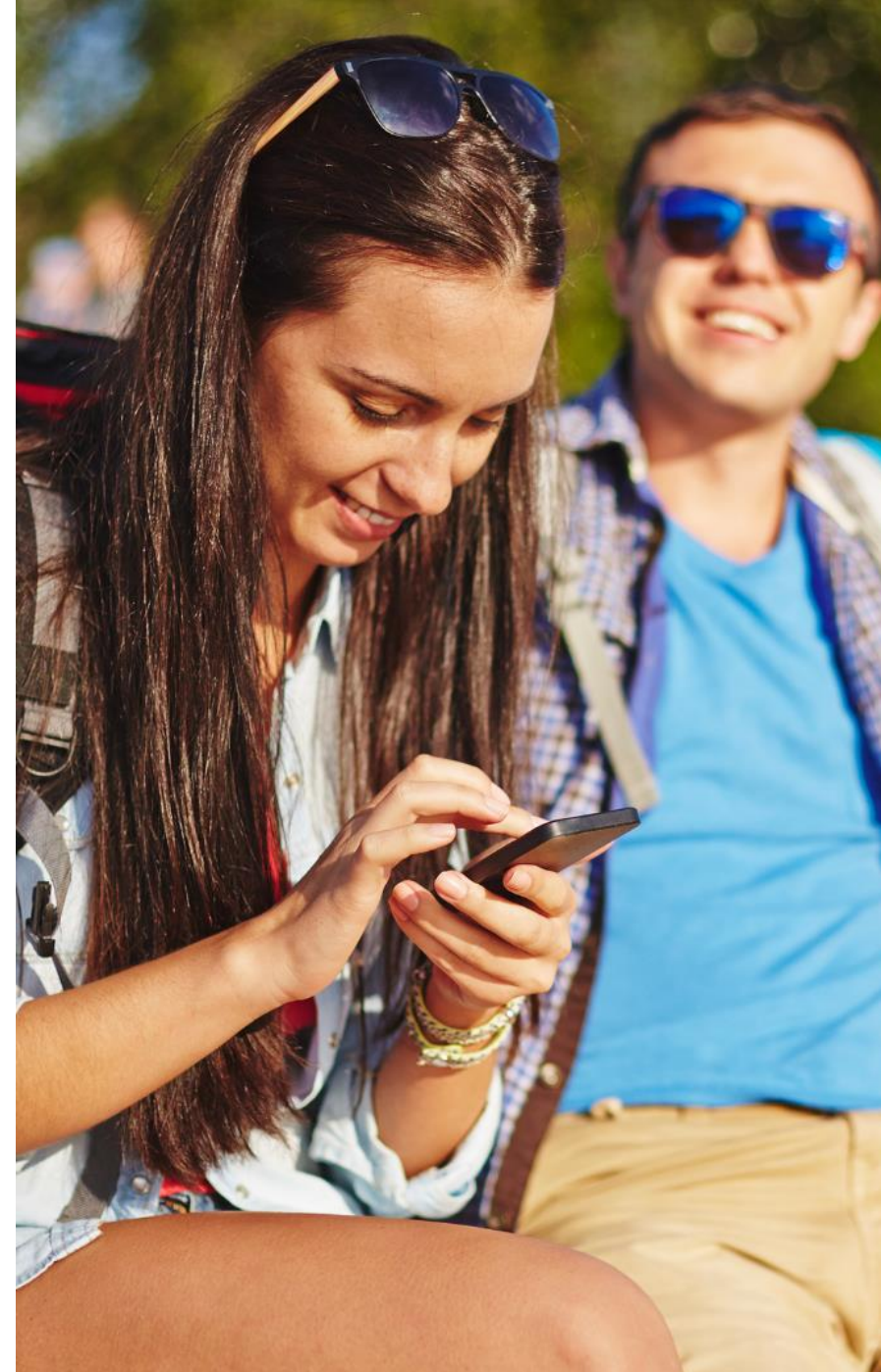


Broadband Roadmap

Action 4:

Implementing community Wi-Fi in key locations

- Udora Community Hall is connected
- De La Salle Park, Pefferlaw Ice Pad and Community Lion's Hall, Link (Farmer's Market) and Ice Palace Skate Park planned for 2021
- Annual ongoing addition to new locations



Broadband Roadmap

Action 5:

Exploring and implementing broadband pilot projects

- Staff identified key areas that could benefit from such projects
- Partnerships with ISPs and agencies such as the Centre of Excellence in Next Generation Networks (CENGN)

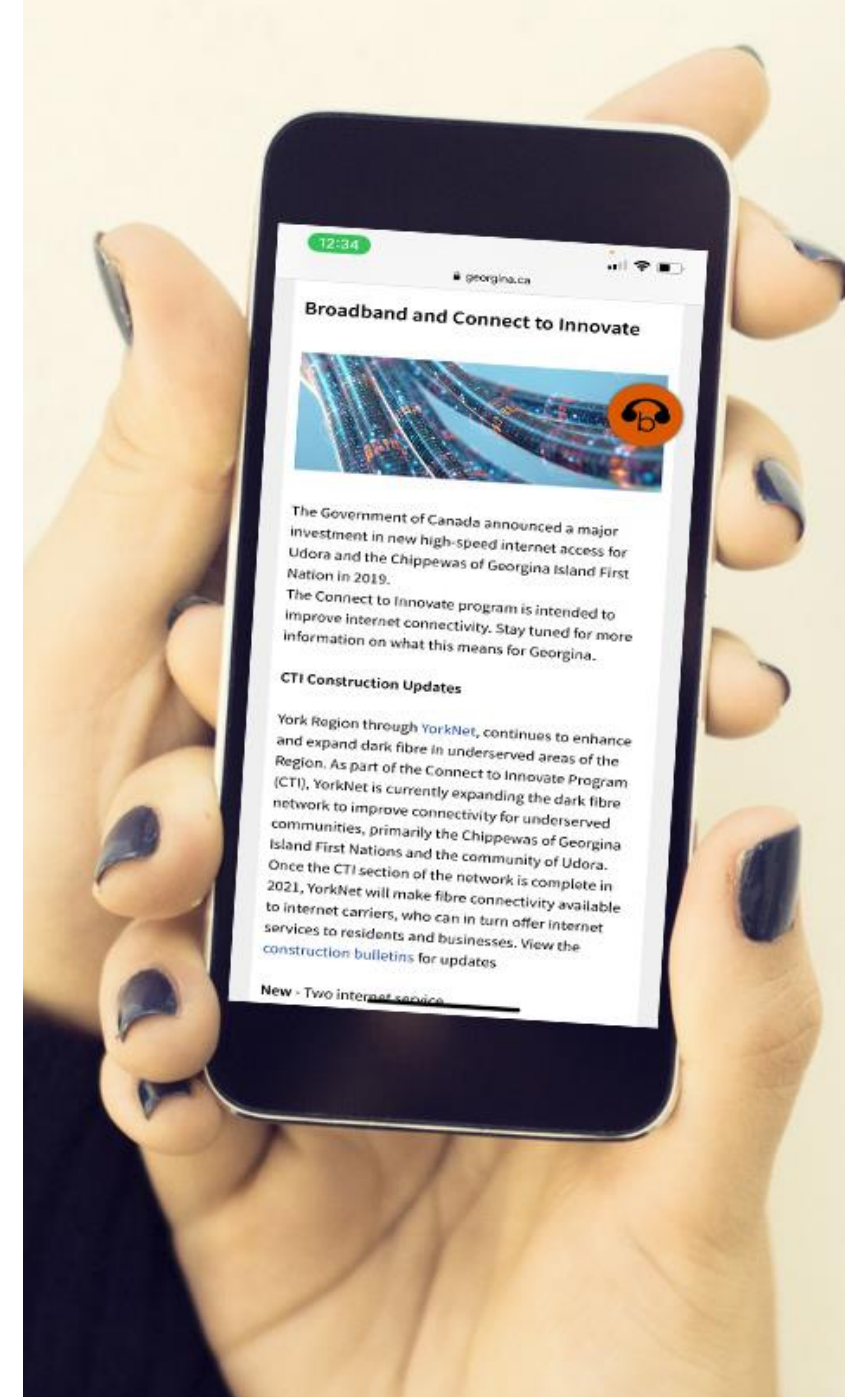


Broadband Roadmap

Action 6:

Enhancing the Georgina broadband webpage as a key information source for residents, businesses and ISPs

- Enhance broadband webpage consolidating current and future Georgina broadband information
- Develop a digital form for broadband information inquiries
- Maintain FAQs that include ISP deployment timelines
- Consider an annual innovation and connectivity forum





Broadband-related policy review

- 1. Developed Wireless Telecom on Municipal Property Policy**
 - Facilitates immediate leasing of towers to private ISPs
 - Delegated authority to CAO/Treasurer to amend licence fees
- 2. Prepared a Colocation Licensing Agreement template**
 - Supports wireless tower leasing opportunities
- 3. Updated the Antenna System Siting Protocol**
 - Minor revisions to align with the latest legislation



Broadband-related policy review

4. Reviewed the Municipal Consent process

- To be updated along with the Road Occupancy Permit process to include the requirements for security deposits

5. Created a draft Municipal Access Agreement (MAA)

- Covers a variety of areas related to municipal consent, road occupancy permits, maintenance and repair responsibilities
- Recommend further collaboration with York Region to facilitate alignment

Broadband-related policy review

6. Reviewed the Connectivity Criteria for New Development

- Provisions appropriate at this time – one minor adjustment

7. Recommended alternative to a Dig Once Policy

- Installation of communications conduits during right-of-way work that can accommodate future fibre deployment projects
 - A good concept in theory but not highly implemented
- Recommend establishing a Utility Coordinating Committee (UCC)



Staff recommendations

1. Receive Staff Report
2. Receive consultant's progress report
3. Endorse Broadband Roadmap
4. Adopt the Wireless Telecommunications Policy
5. Endorse updated Georgina Antenna System Siting Protocol
6. Approve connection of Egypt Roads yard facility to YorkNet network
7. Endorse staff to explore partnerships and pilot projects
8. Endorse exploration of annual innovation/connectivity conference



Staff recommendations (cont'd)

9. Authorize CAO to enter into a new contract with Amedeo Bernardi Consulting, having an upper limit of \$40,000
 - To assist with the implementation of Broadband Roadmap
 - To be financed through the funding set aside for the Broadband Strategy implementation in the corporate reserve account
10. **Additional recommendation:**
 - That Council approve the provision of public WiFi access opportunities at De La Salle Park, Pefferlaw Ice Pad/ Lion's Community Hall, The Link (Farmer's Market), and the Georgina Ice Palace Skate Park.

A hand in a dark suit sleeve holds a glowing blue sphere. The sphere is surrounded by a complex, web-like pattern of blue lines, resembling a neural network or a data visualization. The text "THANK YOU" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font across the center of the sphere. The background is dark blue with faint, glowing patterns.

**THANK
YOU**