

# Why High Speed Broadband matters!

Rick Bates, Town of Rockport, Maine  
ICMA Conference Presenter



## Rockport, Maine



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Things are changing faster than  
most of us care to believe

[Did You Know Shift Happens, 2014 remix  
\(1\).mp4](#)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcZg51l9no](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcZg51l9no)

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What is the key to our economic  
future?

- Small business makes up about 70% of the new job market.
- “Place” and “Quality of Life” are critical factors in the new economy
- And connectivity

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## Co-Work Space – Cross Campus



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## The Think Tank – Co-Work Space



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## Super Fast Internet is no longer an option it is a necessity!

- The internet “allows people to work free of geography” - Senator King
- It is **as** important or to some extent **more** important than Water, Sewer and Natural Gas!
- Speeds of 10, 25 or 50 Mbps are not good enough.
- We need symmetrical internet speed

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## Download vs. Upload

- Download data **FROM** the Web
- Upload data **TO** the Web

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So why does this matter?

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Download is us as consumers



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## Upload is us as producers



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## Uploads with slow speed



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So, what is the problem ?



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And other places not so much...



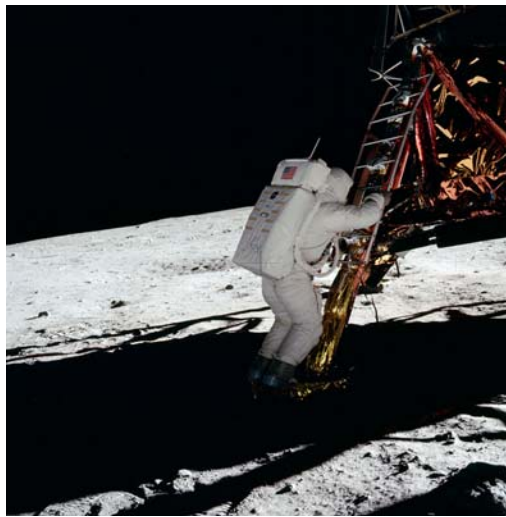
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## Is this a technology question?

- No, it is a public policy question

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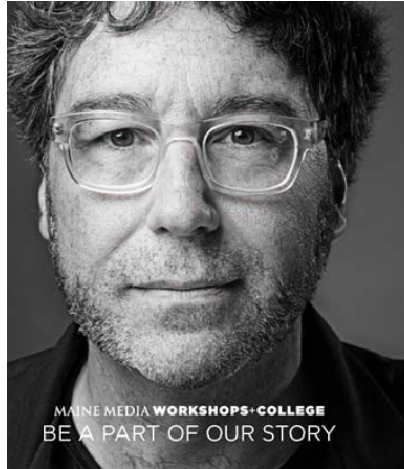
## Policy should drive technology



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# So what got us started?



**MAINE MEDIA WORKSHOPS COLLEGE**  
WORKSHOPS and LONG TERM PROGRAMS IN PHOTOGRAPHY  
 FILMMAKING, MULTIMEDIA, and DESIGN

For more than 40 years, Maine Media Workshops has educated and inspired visual artists and storytellers from around the world.

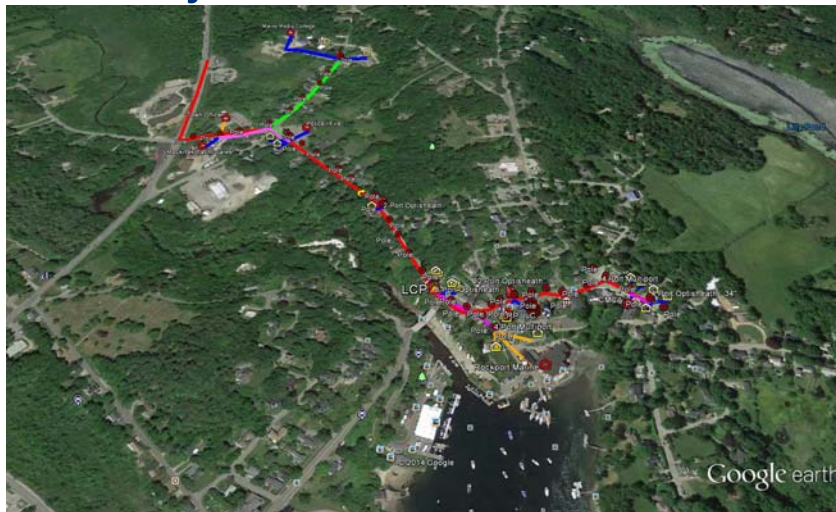
What began as a secluded haven for a small group of photographers has become a vibrant locus for filmmakers, writers, photographers, teachers, book artists, and designers.

**We are the original workshop experience.**

No other school offers the range of courses that span all skill levels, the caliber of instructors, or the mind-blowing natural beauty of coastal Maine.



# Our Project



## So what has been going on in Rockport?

- Blazing fast fiber network has drawn national attention
- First municipally owned dark fiber network in the State of Maine
- Could be one of many viable models
- Allows for competition

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## How did we do it?

- Used a Combination of TIF Funds, Private Investment and Maine REN Funds to pay the 70K the network cost thus far.
- Used GWI to Engineer the Project
- Strung the Fiber in May
- Hooked up the Library and Maine Media in June
- Lit the fiber in late July
- Made a Public Announcement on August 11<sup>th</sup>

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## Then the Fire Started!

- Drew National Attention
- More than 40 Articles and Press Releases from around the Country
- <http://www.bloombergsview.com/articles/2014-08-13/how-maine-saved-the-internet>
- We were invited to Join Next Century Cities
- Maine Broadband Coalition
- 38 bills in this legislative session

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## What Next?

- Feasibility study has been completed.
- Community survey completed and 75% of respondents feel that we are on the right track.
- Design of a FTTH/FTTP to follow in the next couple of months.
- Go to the voters with a revenue bond to build next June.
- Build out to follow.

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## Are we crazy?

- Nearly 400 Mini Networks in the US today and growing.

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# SIMPSON COLLEGE



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**Construction is Underway!**

**See the status of  
your Neighborhood!**



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**CHANUTE'S GIG**  
One Rural Kansas Community's Tradition of Innovation Led to a Gigabit and Ubiquitous Wireless Coverage



**SPIRIT**  
AEROSYSTEMS™



KANSAS  
Chanute

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**1** **POWER & COMMUNICATIONS**  
CITY OF LONGMONT COLORADO  
1912 - 2012  
**YEARS OF SERVICE**

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The image shows the cover of a report titled "Santa Monica City Net: An Incremental Approach to Building a Fiber Optic Network". The cover has a light blue background with a network diagram of fiber optic lines. At the top, the title "Santa Monica City Net" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, the subtitle "An Incremental Approach to Building a Fiber Optic Network" is written in a smaller font. The Santa Monica logo, a stylized 'S' with a wave, is centered below the subtitle. At the bottom of the cover, the authors' names and contact information are listed: Eric Lampland (eric@lookoutpt.com) and Christopher Mitchell (christopher@newrules.org). Social media handles @communitynets and MuniNetworks.org are also present. The Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) logo and the date "March 2014" are at the bottom left. The ICMA logo is in the bottom right corner of the slide.

## Resources





## Resources

- Institute for Local Self Reliance
- Formed in 1974
- Focuses
  - Local Banking
  - Decentralized Energy
  - Main Street Businesses
  - Recycling – Waste to Wealth
- Telecommunications as Commons Initiative
  - *MuniNetworks.org*



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## Resources

### Broadband At the Speed of Light

How Three Communities Built Next-Generation Networks



By Christopher Mitchell

[christopher@newrules.org](mailto:christopher@newrules.org)

[@communitynets](https://twitter.com/communitynets)

[MuniNetworks.org](http://MuniNetworks.org)

Institute for Local Self-Reliance

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## Resources

- Next Generation network connectivity handbook  
<file:///M:/Departments/Economic%20Development/Fiber%20Optic/Next%20Generation%20Handbook.pdf>

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## In Closing .....

- Just how fast is the fiber network we installed?

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## Speed test

Client IP: 66.63.86.142

RESTART TEST  
NEW SERVER

Share Your Result  
Copy the URL below to share an image of your speed test result.  
[COPY URL](#) <http://results.speedtest.comcast.net/n>

<b>819.93</b> Mbps Download Speed Peak: 854.69 Mbps	<b>664.73</b> Mbps Upload Speed Peak: 740.47 Mbps
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Ping: **21** ms

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# Questions/Comments?

Additional Information...

