

DOWNEAST BROADBAND

Maine's First Municipal Broadband Utility

<http://www.downeastbroadband.com>

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The beginning.....

- ❖ Created the Downeast Economic Development Board - 2015
- ❖ Gathered ideas and gauged interest in economic development
- ❖ Decided to focus on improving broadband

The Need

- ❖ High Speed Symmetrical Broadband Internet access did not exist in Calais and Baileyville
- ❖ Frustration from the business community and the citizens of both Calais and Baileyville fueled the desire to do something to fix the problem
- ❖ Existing Internet Service Providers were not interested in improving their networks to address the needs of our communities

Our Solution. Timeline:

- ❖ 2016 Met with existing Internet Service Providers
- ❖ July 2016 Conducted a feasibility study
- ❖ June 2017 Commissioned a detailed cost analysis to build the network
- ❖ August 2017 Calais and Baileyville respective Town Councils and City Representatives voted overwhelmingly to build the network
- ❖ August 2017 Calais and Baileyville signed an inter-local agreement forming the State's first district municipal utility
- ❖ August 2017 Downeast Broadband Utility was officially formed

Off to the races:

- ❖ 2018 RFP's were sent out and a contractor selected. Construction begins
- ❖ Network completion took 24 months
- ❖ June 2020 Network operational and customers signing up
- ❖ August 2020 Alexander votes to join DBU. Estimating end of 2021 for network completion

What we built:

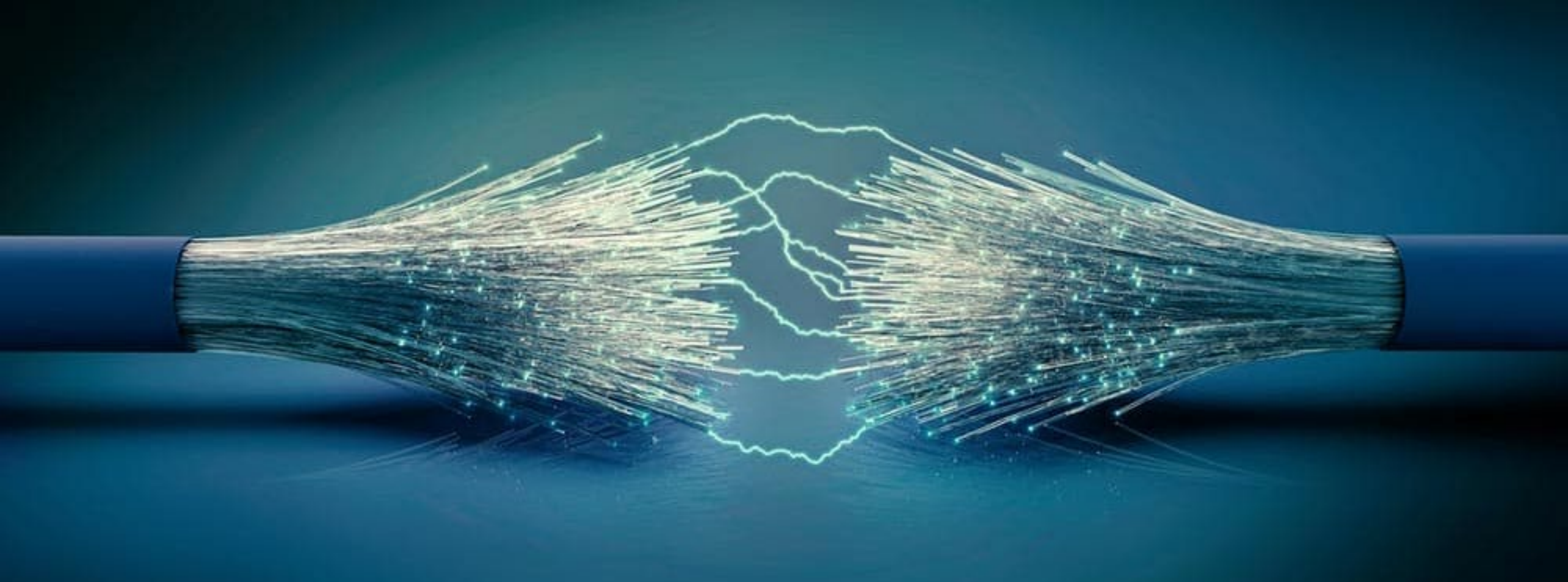
- ❖ Municipally owned dark fiber open access network
- ❖ A dedicated single fiber connection to every subscriber
- ❖ Open to all Internet Service Providers
- ❖ An asset owned by the citizens of Calais and Baileyville

Financials:

- ❖ Paid for by subscribers of the broadband service
- ❖ Citizen's taxes not raised. Loans have been secured by each town
- ❖ Estimated payback 20 years on this 100-year investment
- ❖ Revenues continue after loan payback

History Repeating Itself

- ❖ In the 1800's the U.S. government wisely invested in the cross-country railroad system
- ❖ In the 1930's the U.S. stepped up and invested again in the Rural Electrification Act that brought electricity to every corner of America
- ❖ In the 1950's Dwight D. Eisenhower wisely invested and completed the Interstate Highway System
- ❖ Now in the 21st Century it is time for the U.S. to invest in High Speed Symmetrical Fiber Broadband Internet
- ❖ Downeast Broadband has demonstrated future proof blazingly fast broadband is not only possible but it's here. Now is the time for it to be everywhere.



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