

# City of Sanford



**From the Desk of  
Steven R. Buck  
City Manager**



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## Memo

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To: City Council  
Subject: Sanford Manager's Report for May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018  
Date: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

**Post Road Foundation Initiative:  
Summary & History:**

The Post Road Foundation is a non-profit, research platform, with a mission to bridge the gap between communities and investors by exploring ways to reduce barriers to the development, financing, and deployment of sustainable, intelligent infrastructure, particularly in places lacking 21st century communications.

The Post Road Foundation is;

- A Spin-out from a Rockefeller-funded research project at Harvard Kennedy School
- Initially funded through seed grants from the Rockefeller Foundation
- A Collaborating with the Initiative for Responsible Investment at Harvard
- Pursuing a three-year plan to:
  - Promote digital inclusion
  - Drive efficient resource management through integrated infrastructure systems
  - Develop a new infrastructure investment model matching long term assets with patient capital

The City of Sanford has been engaged for over four years in the feasibility study and design of a Fiber Optic Network to be built and owned by the City and operated under contract by GWI as the Network Operator. The Network has been branded SanfordNet Fiber and will be a 45 mile middle-mile fiber network connected to Maine's Three Ring Binder and specifically designed for Business and economic development. The envisioned Network is now out to Bid and a selected Construction Vendor should be selected no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 with an anticipated 4 month construction schedule post make ready.

The Sanford City Council will complete a review of the Post Road Foundation Memorandum of Understanding at 6:00PM on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The MOU sets forth a Pre-Feasibility Study to start in May to;

“evaluate the utility and technical, legal, and financial viability of a high-speed, fiber optic communications network supporting digital inclusion, smart utility systems, and smart city

applications to benefit the residents, businesses, community anchor institutions, and other organizations” within the Service Region.

The City of Sanford recognizes the opportunity to work with the Post Road Foundation as the desired secondary business and financial modeling to extend SanfordNet Fiber from a Middle-Mile Network designed for business and 87 Community Anchor Institutions to a City-wide Fiber to the Home (FTH) Network of much broader scope and socio-economic benefits to include smart utilities grids and other future applications.

**Please refer to the two (2) Press Releases Below:**

## **Post Road Foundation**

1935 Addison St., Suite A, Berkeley, CA 94704 | 510-859-8575 | [www.postroadfoundation.org](http://www.postroadfoundation.org)

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AT 10:00 A.M. EDT, TUESDAY, MAY 1.

### **The Post Road Foundation Announces Selection of Community Partners for Pilot Program on Digital Inclusion and Intelligent Infrastructure**

The Post Road Foundation has selected partners in five communities for a national pilot program to evaluate innovative ways of integrating ultra-high-speed internet with other utility infrastructure to promote digital inclusion, sustainable resource management and economic development. The community partners selected are the Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation in Georgia and North Carolina, the Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op in Michigan, and, in Maine, the City of Sanford, Old Town – Orono Fiber Corporation, and a collaboration of community groups in the Downeast region, including Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative and Downeast Broadband. Funding for the Post Road Foundation program, and related research at Harvard University, has been provided by The Rockefeller Foundation.

The President and co-founder of the Post Road Foundation, Waide Warner, commended the community partners: “We are very gratified by the exceptional response to our program from a number of deserving applicants around the country, but the leadership of these initial community partners was particularly impressive. We are excited to have the opportunity to work with these communities, and our research colleagues at Harvard, to explore the potential for bringing high-speed Internet to underserved areas of America. We are also grateful to The Rockefeller Foundation for the funding that made this program possible.”

Saadia Madsbjerg, Managing Director of The Rockefeller Foundation, remarked: “We are excited about this significant milestone towards increased digital inclusion in rural communities and are grateful to the communities for taking the journey with the Post Road Foundation. To scale our innovative finance solutions and make them a reality, we need a network of partners willing to push the boundaries and set the example for the rest of the country. We look forward to the next phase of the important work of the Post Road Foundation and Harvard University.”

Senator Angus King applauded the selection of the communities in Maine. “Today’s announcement by the Post Road Foundation represents a major investment in our state’s future, and reflects the ingenuity, talent, and work ethic that define Maine people,” said Senator King. “In the 21st century economy, nearly every industry, ranging from boatbuilding and manufacturing to technology startups and financial services, relies on the Internet. There is, quite simply, no tool more vital to modern life than high speed Internet – but unfortunately, far too many rural communities are being left behind. These public-private partnerships will build upon efforts to close the digital divide in regions in Maine that are struggling with slow connectivity and advance innovative approaches to deploy smart fiber networks – two important steps that will strengthen Maine’s economy and infrastructure. The Post Road Foundation has been an ideal collaborator throughout this process, and their support will open up a new world of possibilities for Maine communities; I can’t wait to see what comes next.”

The Post Road Foundation's non-profit, research platform bridges the gap between communities and investors by exploring ways to reduce barriers to the development, financing, and deployment of sustainable, intelligent infrastructure, particularly in places lacking 21st century communications.

For inquiries, please contact Waide Warner at [waide.warner@postroadfoundation.org](mailto:waide.warner@postroadfoundation.org) or Seth Hoedl at [shoedl@postroadfoundation.org](mailto:shoedl@postroadfoundation.org).

### **City of Sanford, Maine**

919 Main St., Sanford, ME 04073 | 207 324 9172 | [www.sanfordmaine.org](http://www.sanfordmaine.org)

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AT 10:00 A.M. EDT, TUESDAY, MAY 1.

The City of Sanford is pleased to announce selection by the Post Road Foundation for a study to evaluate the costs and benefits of deploying a fiber optic communications network to homes, businesses and other institutions within the city limits of Sanford. Sanford is one of only five communities in the nation to be selected by the Post Road Foundation. The Sanford study, targeted for completion by September 30, 2018, will build off of existing efforts by Sanford to bring high speed connectivity to residents and businesses and will be used to evaluate means for deploying high-speed internet and intelligent infrastructure in the most effective ways possible for digital inclusion, efficient resource management and economic growth. Funding for the Post Road Foundation program, and related research at Harvard University, has been provided by The Rockefeller Foundation.

Steve Buck, Sanford's City Manager, commented: "The City of Sanford is proud to become a public-private partner with Post Road towards identifying a progressive fiber optic business model of the future. The City has been working independently on a business model for middle mile fiber for economic development and now has the opportunity for a larger integrated sustainability model incorporating utilities and digital inclusion, ultimately a Fiber to the Home Model. We believe there is not a more cost effective investment for Sanford at this time than a world class fiber optic network and we are ready for business."

The President and co-founder of the Post Road Foundation, Waide Warner, commended Sanford and the other community partners: "We are very gratified by the exceptional response to our program from a number of deserving applicants around the country, but the leadership of Sanford was particularly impressive. We are excited to have the opportunity to work with Sanford, the other communities, and our research colleagues at Harvard, to explore the potential for bringing high-speed internet to underserved areas of America. We are also grateful to The Rockefeller Foundation for the funding that made this program possible."

The City of Sanford, Maine has a population of just over 22,500 people, was once dominated by textile industries, and is now a City focused on a diversification of economic development initiatives through public-private partnerships and infrastructure investments. The City has invested in energy diversification, education and workforce development, and strives to complete a new business model of broadband connectivity within today's globally competitive environment.

The Post Road Foundation's non-profit, research platform bridges the gap between communities and investors by exploring ways to reduce barriers to the development, financing, and deployment of sustainable, intelligent infrastructure, particularly in places lacking 21st century communications.

For inquiries, please contact City Manager Steven R. Buck at [srbuck@sanfordmaine.org](mailto:srbuck@sanfordmaine.org) or Director of Economic Development James F. Nimon at [jfnimon@sanfordmaine.org](mailto:jfnimon@sanfordmaine.org)

**Brownfield Grant Award:**

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Mayor Thomas Cote received the notification below from the EPA Region 1 Headquarters that the City has been awarded a Brownfield Area Wide Assessment Grant in the amount of \$300,000. The Grant comes in two parts of \$200,000 for hazardous substances assessment and \$100,000 for petroleum assessment related to former industrialized sites.

The Honorable Thomas P. Cote Mayor of Sanford  
919 Main Street  
Sanford, ME 04073 Dear Mayor Cote:

On behalf of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I am pleased to congratulate you and confirm that the City of Sanford was selected as one of the entities EPA will begin negotiations with to award cooperative agreements for two assessment grants. The City of Sanford submitted an outstanding grant proposal, and we deeply appreciate the tremendous commitment of time and energy that went into its preparation.

Through the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002, as amended by the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2018, EPA is working to help states and communities around the country clean up and revitalize brownfield sites. We fully expect that these brownfield projects will provide benefits to the environment and economy of local communities.

Frank Gardner, your Regional Brownfields Contact, will work closely with the City of Sanford to negotiate the cooperative agreements prior to the grant awards. Please contact Frank Gardner at 617-918- 1278 or [gardner.frank@epa.gov](mailto:gardner.frank@epa.gov).

Again, congratulations on being selected! We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,  
David R. Lloyd, Director  
Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization

Planning Director Beth Della Valle was responsible for writing and submitting the Grant and the extensive amount of planning and supporting documentation that was the successful Grant Application. The funds are to be targeted towards the Stenton Trust Buildings and Site, the former International Woolen Mill Site, and the former Gendron Lumber Building off Route 202. Funds remaining beyond these assessments may be authorized on a case by case basis. The City will work with TRC as our registered engineers for the Phase I & II Assessments as well as technical advisement.

**Stenton Trust:**

City Administration will meet with Region I EPA Officials on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 at the Stenton Trust Site to begin the demolition scoping and to place the Project in the hands of a new Projects Administrator, Katherine Young. If all goes according to current plans, EPA will administer the demolition of the North Tower and possibly the one-story connector building taking and disposing of all mixed/contaminated waste and leaving the Site/City with the inert materials of structural steel, concrete, and brick. Administration will report out after the scoping meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.