

City of Sanford



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



Memorandum

To: City Council
Subject: Manager's Report for July 5th, 2016
Date: July 5th, 2016

DECD Micro-Enterprise Grant Closeout:

On June 22nd, 2016 the City received notice that our Closeout Report sent on June 13th, 2016 stemming from the use of a 2014 Micro-Enterprise Grant had been accepted by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). Five businesses were awarded sub-grants totaling \$100,000 in the aggregate with the individual amounts listed in the table below. Funds were used to purchase equipment for each of the businesses to be used for expansion and or job creation.

Business	Grant Amount
Cannons at Noon Family Sheep Farm	\$18,028
Emily's Wood Fired Pizza	\$25,000
NeoPhoenix Studios	\$15,018
Rugged Sound	\$15,000
Possum Hollow Farm Soap	\$26,954

School Construction –

Construction on the New High School site is progressing rapidly. The City received weekly reports from onsite inspectors from Department of Environmental Protection as well as the Clerk of the Works. There have been no issues of note and one can start to envision the site and layout as can be seen in a video shot by the WSSR-TV Students at SRTC using an aerial drone purchased to provide visuals of the construction without having to go out on the site itself.

Construction Episode 1: Week Ending 6/24/16
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8AC076-rLk>

Progress also continues on the future renovation and remodeling work on Sanford's elementary and middle schools. Harriman Associates has been conducting assessments of Sanford's

remaining schools focused on creating three pre-K through 4 elementary schools of approximately 500 students each and a central Middle School for grades 5 through 8 of approximately 900 students. The outcome of the Feasibility Report will be made to the Department of Education and Core Building Committee II starting on July 14th, 2016. This work will then be disseminated to the public in the same manner as the High School Project was presented.

EDA Fiber Grant –

On June 29th, 2016 City Administration completed and sent to E-Gov an application for Economic Development funding in the amount of \$769,209, or 50%, to the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) to construct SanfordNet Fiber. SanfordNet Fiber will be an open access non-discriminatory fiber optic network of just over 43.35 miles of fiber network. It will consist of a Backbone of 15.63 miles of 144 strand fiber and 0.75 miles of 288 strand fiber connecting the 83 Community Anchor Institutions within Sanford/Springvale. It will contain over 17.17 miles of 24 strand fiber laterals off the Backbone connecting various Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) such as schools, libraries, municipal offices, and major employers. It will also contain 9.80 miles of 144 strand fiber middle-mile fiber optic lateral running south from the City Center Backbone to connect to the federally funded Three Ring Binder (3RB) middle-mile network in Wells.

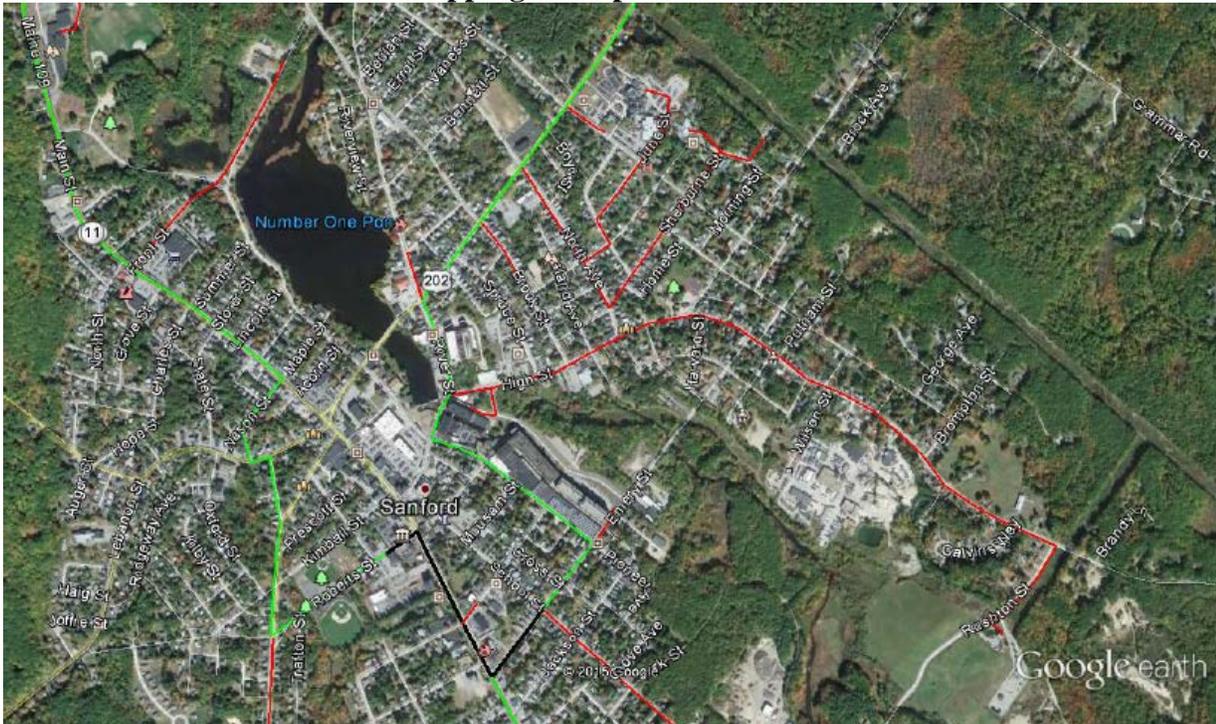
SanfordNet Fiber has been specifically designed to provide for existing businesses and government institutions and to provide the highest levels of broadband services required by today's information technology companies. The System has been designed to provide Sanford a development advantage to grow and attract business. There are 83 identified Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) that will initially be connected. When one closely examines the mapping of the Network, it is easy to see how the private sector will utilize the open access Network to implement hybrid broadband services to our residential base. Given the 15.6 miles of Backbone and an additional 17 miles of connectors, the majority of Sanford's densest neighborhoods are but a short distance from the first installation of fiber. Fiber to the node and other derivations using existing infrastructure can easily bridge the performance gap to capacities greater than currently offered.

The EDA Application is still a competitive process that we should hear from by the end of August. Administration feels confident that Sanford's application is highly competitive given the detail, engineering, competitive process, and business modeling that was performed as the basis for our Grant Application. I would like to recognize the contributions of Tilson Company, Inc. for their consultations to perform the Feasibility Study and a resulting Request for Proposals. The open competitive process solidified a best business model and identified our two current partners of NextGen for construction and GWI for operations. I would also like to recognize the Sanford Regional Growth Council and their Director James Nimon for being the entity that administered the Feasibility Study, RFP, and continued contacts with the 83 Anchor Institutions who are partnering to achieve SanfordNet Fiber. Our Technical Writer Lee Burnett performed exceptionally as compiling all of the associated sections of the EDA electronic submission and ensuring that the technical information told a story of investment in economic development infrastructure that was readable without loss of detail. The final submission was uploaded to the E-Gov website in sections as the files became so large that we

could not even send individual Sections interoffice for review without breaking them down into smaller files. The team effort was enormous and I couldn't be more proud to be part of such a team and the quality of the end product.

I will continue to update the Council on progress as we are made aware. Upon award of the Grant, the City may implement contracts with both NextGen and GWI to construct and operate with an engineered timeline of 332 days from time of funding finalization to service activation. Should funding finalization occur on or before September 1st, 2016, SanfordNet Fiber would be operational on or before July 30th, 2017.

SanfordNet Fiber Network – Mapping Example



Black = 288 Strand
Green = 144 Strand
Red = 24 Strand

Solar Project Coverage:

Garrett Corbin from the Maine Municipal Association was in Sanford on June 22nd, 2016 to interview Airport Manager Allison Rogers, Ranger Solar Project Manager Aaron Svedlow, and City Manager Buck. Mr. Corbin is writing an article for the August issue of the Maine Townsman highlighted various communities' work on alternative/green energy production or conversions. We are aware that several other solar projects will be highlighted aside from Sanford's project at the Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport. Sanford's pending Solar Development of 50 megawatts is a utility scale project that is economically viable absent State or Local incentives that will produce both Lease revenue to offset Airport operations, as well as General Fund revenue to offset general property taxation. Sanford's reoccurring

observations is that there are multiple ways to derive an economic benefit from an alternative energy project (solar photovoltaics) if appropriately structured aside from netmetering.

Brownfield Assessment Funds:

The City's last Area Wide Assessment Grant from EPA Region 1 for Petroleum and Hazardous Waste assessment is nearing the end of its funding eligibility. To ensure that all funds are utilized before they lapse this October, Administration has been working with a number of Properties to provide Phase I and Phase II assessment work through our contract with TRC. Work continues on the City parcel J29-17E at the intersection of High Street and Heritage Drive. Other pending assessments are slated for the former Optical Disk building at 1 Eagle Drive, Stenton Trust, and portions of the International Woolen Mill properties.

MetroCast:

Administration has a meeting with MetroCast on the pending Franchise Agreement Renewal scheduled for this Thursday. As the negotiations are down to five items or less, Thursday's meeting should result in concurrence on an Agreement that could be pending before the City Council by the first meeting in August.