



Support Broadband

- State of play today:
 - Provincetown residents lack true gigabit broadband service options. This deficiency limits the town's ability to attract new residents who need higher speed connectivity to work remotely.
 - The need for high-speed internet access – for residents - was noted in Provincetown's 2000 Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP) when the drafters stated: The Town should encourage the development of new services such as highspeed internet access or highspeed digital subscriber lines.
 - The pandemic demonstrated that remote work could bring both jobs and property owners to Provincetown on a full-time basis.
 - The creation of [OpenCape](#), a middle-mile fiber-optic broadband network, has provided a partial solution for the town. This provider has linked municipal buildings across the cape – including most town owned offices and buildings in Provincetown - and offers them true gigabit internet.
 - A recent Cape Cod Commission study said it is critically important to take the next step and **link [OpenCape](#) with homes and businesses** (i.e., build the last mile).
 - This same study noted that access to high-speed internet can provide significant opportunities for remote work and healthcare, allowing more people to live and work on the Cape.
 - Elected state officials representing Provincetown have helped:
 - State Senator Cyr and State Representative Peake successfully inserted \$1.7 million in the 2020 IT Bond Bill to support Outer Cape initiatives (\$400k was earmarked for Ptown).
 - The Governor has yet to authorize release of the funds, however.
 - PPRTA and many of its members have written the governor urging him to release these funds.
- PPRTA recommends:
 - The Select Board send a letter to the Governor supporting release of IT bond funds.
 - The Town Manager or Select Board charge one of the boards/committees with the ownership of this topic and directing them to develop proposals to address this opportunity.
 - The town's Economic Development Committee is the most likely group to own this issue as one of their objectives states below. Unfortunately, nothing has been done on this topic based on minutes of the committee's work on the town's website.
 - The Economic Development Committee will: Promote activities, initiatives and investment that make it easier for small businesses and entrepreneurs to operate in Provincetown. Our focus includes, but is not limited to; infrastructure (phone, internet, etc.), workspace/facilities, fostering a sense of community and entrepreneurs helping one another, and off-season travel to and from Provincetown.