

Fiber Project FAQ

Last Updated: 21 May 2021

Why does the town require a fiber network?

The fiber network is essential for connecting various town facilities and operations. It allows for communications and operation of services between those facilities.

How are those locations connected now?

Current connectivity relies on fiber owned by Spectrum.

Why not just keep using Spectrum's fiber?

Recent federal legislation makes it likely that the Town of Bar Harbor would incur a cost of \$45,000 per year due to the changes in legislation and the franchise agreement. This loss would be an additional burden to the town's tax payers. The town can build and maintain its own fiber network for less than Spectrum will charge.

Can the fiber network be used for other purposes?

Though the primary purpose is to provide connectivity between town facilities, the fiber has plenty of bandwidth for other uses. Partners could lease access to the fiber to provide services to residents. Also, businesses could lease access to the fiber to provide communications between their locations or other services to their customers.

Might partnerships reduce the cost of developing and maintaining the network?

Partnership opportunities could significantly reduce expenses. Casco Bay Advisors predicts that the development cost alone could be reduced by at least 50% through partnerships, and annual operating costs be substantially reduced, if not eliminated.

Exactly where will the fiber go?

The route has been carefully planned to connect all town facilities as efficiently and cost effectively as possible. Details are available in the [Municipal Fiber Design Project document](#).

Is there town support for the fiber project?

Both the town council and the warrant committee voted unanimously to support the project.