



Vermont Microcell Interest Survey

Proposal Summary

This survey is intended to gauge the interest of Vermont Cities and Towns in a proposal to deploy cellular mobile wireless service in unserved areas through a partnership between State of Vermont and individual Vermont towns. If towns express sufficient interest the State will pursue the proposal.

In 2013 the State acquired 400 microcell devices intended to fill coverage gaps in existing mobile networks. These devices have a range of about 1/4 mile and support voice and text but not mobile data. Through 2017 about half of these devices were installed on utility poles along roads in unserved areas of the state. The network has since been deactivated because the business model employed was not sustainable. The State has determined that the network cannot be operated sustainably without a subsidy, and such subsidy cannot be provided by the State alone.

In the plan under consideration, the State would retain a contractor to manage the network and arrange toll-free roaming for customers of major mobile wireless service providers. Vermont Towns would sponsor the direct operating costs of microcell sites deployed in their towns. These costs include internet access, electricity, and E-911 geolocation services. These operating costs are estimated to be approximately \$1,800 per site, per year.

Towns could choose which sites, if any, to sponsor. It would be simplest to re-activate sites that are already installed. It will also be possible to deploy sites in other suitable unserved locations. Operating costs may be lower at facilities where electricity and/or internet access are already available, unlike the current utility pole locations. Towns may consider allowing residents or businesses to sponsor individual sites, perhaps with signage for attribution.

The table below depicts a breakdown by town of the 193 sites that are already installed.

Town	Sites	Town	Sites	Town	Sites
Braintree	1	Morgan	1	Strafford	7
Brighton	4	Northfield	3	Thetford	18
Canaan	7	Norton	5	Topsham	3
Chelsea	23	Randolph	1	Vershire	10
Goshen	1	Reading	2	WarrenGore	1
Granville	5	Readsboro	3	Washington	5
Groton	12	Ripton	4	WestFairlee	4

Halifax	4	Rochester	15	Whitingham	11
Hancock	7	Roxbury	7	Wilmington	2
Jamaica	1	Ryegate	3	Wolcott	7
Middlebury	1	Sockbridge	7	Woodstock	8

Users can view the locations on this [interactive map](#). Questions: [psd.telecom@vermont.gov](mailto:psd.telecom@vermont.gov)

\* 1. Which Vermont town do you represent?

Town

\* 2. How Interested are you in having microcell sites operating in your town?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not at all interested

\* 3. Would your town be willing to sponsor the direct operating costs of microcells deployed in the town?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

\* 4. How many sites would your town be willing to sponsor? (Reminder, the operating costs are projected to be \$1,800 per site per year.)

0 Quantity of sites 10

\* 5. If your town finds the projected \$1,800 annual per-site cost not affordable, is there an annual per-site contribution that you could afford?

\$0 Annual per-site contribution \$1,800

6. How likely is it that businesses or groups of residents in you town would consider sponsoring microcell sites?

- Likely
- Unsure
- Unlikely

7. Do you have any comments or suggestions about this proposal?