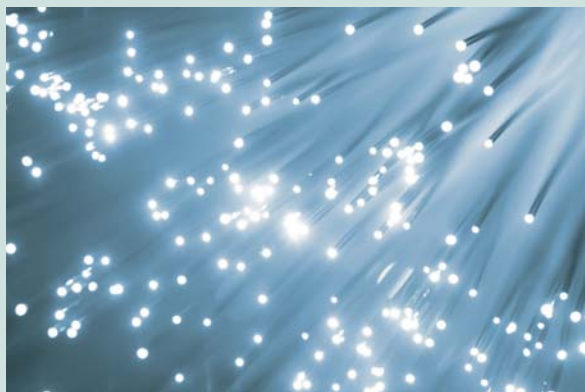


Developing Broadband in Maine



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THE CHALLENGE

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 was signed into law to create jobs, spur economic activity, and drive the adoption of new technologies that build our global competitive advantage. Major investment under the act is targeted to infrastructure repair and remediation and to the expansion of broadband and wireless service.

The US, once viewed as a high technology economy, has fallen significantly behind global contemporaries in the area of high speed communications systems. The demand for broadly available, interoperable high-speed communication technologies has increased in almost all aspects of daily life, from interstate commerce to health, education, and emergency response. Recent examples of a failing system are evident in our poor response to the 9-11 attacks and the devastation created by Hurricane Katrina. In both, communications systems did not support the needs of emergency responders, creating additional loss of life and property.

THE MAINE SOLUTION

To address the broadband challenge in Maine, the State legislature established the ConnectME Authority in 2007. The Authority's mission--to increase and improve the delivery of high-speed internet and wireless communications systems--specified that the Authority identify areas unserved or under-served by broadband capabilities and expand availability with sufficient bandwidth, synchronicity, reliability, and security to meet the needs of Maine businesses and agencies, educational institutions and consumers. Since then, the Authority has awarded more than \$3.6 million in grants and funded 43 major infrastructure buildout projects, developing service to unserved communities across the State.

The Authority's task at the outset was to identify the location of existing infrastructure in the State and to track changes in its condition and ownership. To assist in this effort, the Authority selected Sewall as GIS mapping consultant in July 2009. Sewall, working with the Authority and broadband internet service providers, has since launched a three-year project to identify and map the locations of services, georeferencing information on the method of delivery and speed of these services.

Funded in part by a \$2.65 million grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), an FCC-administered federal program, and the USDA Rural Utilities Service, Sewall is currently engaged in creating a broadband service map of Maine that will support the Authority's mission while contributing to a national map for broadband availability.

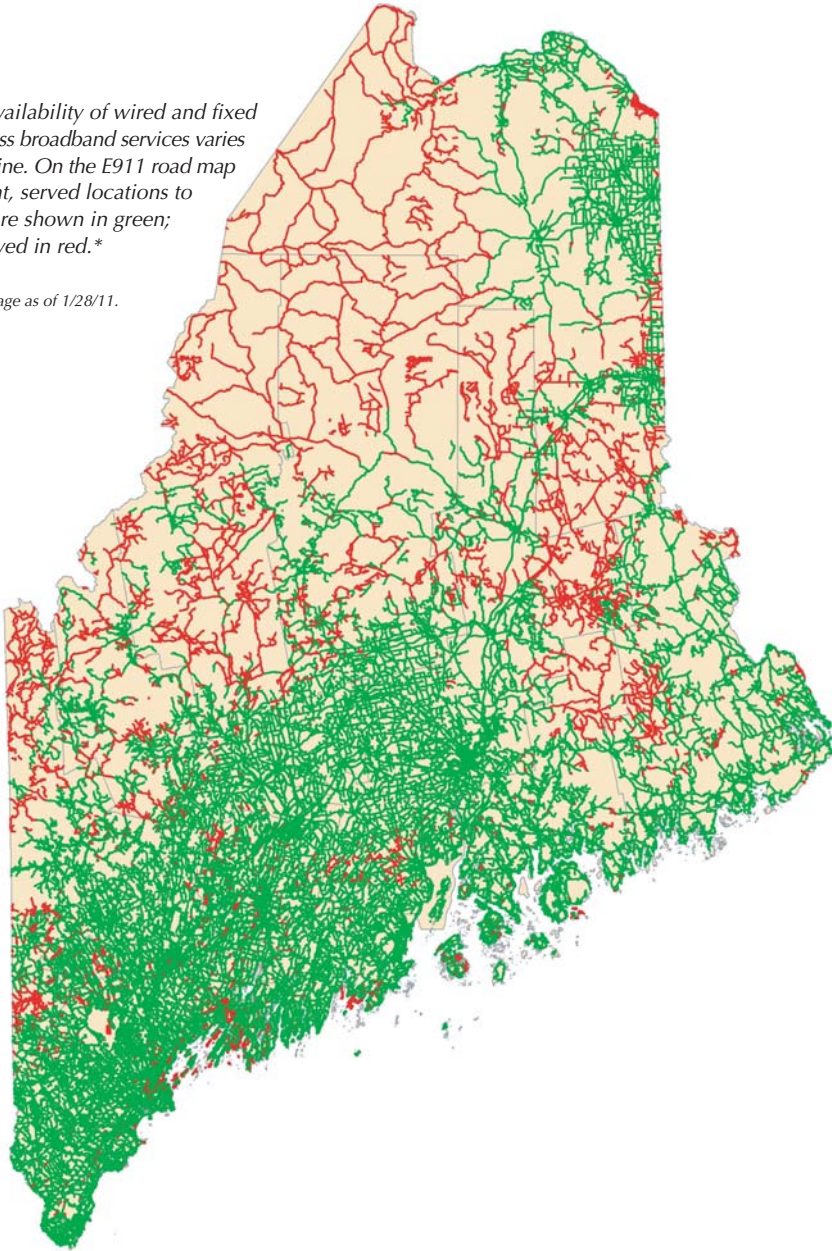
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THE DELIVERABLES

Sewall, in collaboration with industry service providers, state and federal agencies, and local communities, is developing a geodatabase for a searchable system map, indicating where broadband service is available from one or more technology platforms--fixed wire, fixed or point-to-point wireless, and mobile or satellite wireless systems. The end product will enable community leaders, consumers, and businesses to access information on service options and potential service providers for their locations of interest. The map, scheduled for initial release in March 2011, will enable the Authority to define and react to areas of need with greater speed and accuracy.

The availability of wired and fixed wireless broadband services varies in Maine. On the E911 road map at right, served locations to date are shown in green; unserved in red.*

* Coverage as of 1/28/11.



For information on the ConnectME Authority, its programs, and this project, visit: www.maine.gov/connectme/ or www.broadbandusa.gov/
For information on Sewall and our services, contact Clarence Young, Senior Project Manager, at 207 827 4456; cyoung@sewall.com; www.sewall.com

Project-related tools:

INFORMATION VERIFICATION

Data collection tools that establish a high level of confidence in map accuracy

Mobile-enabled laptops for testing wireless delivery speed in the field

Online user community surveys for testing speed of cable and DSL services

Interactive web site measuring data transfer rate from user's point of connection to Sewall web server, accessible at: connectmespeedtest.maine.gov

Information form on ConnectME web site at: maine.gov/connectme/staying_informed/index.htm

MAPPING SOLUTIONS

Collaborative tools:

Web-enabled tools enabling service providers to post infrastructure information

Consumer survey for gathering independent information on service extent and reliability

ArcGIS processing tools:

Wireless signal evaluation (propagation) modeling

Wired and wireless infrastructure to street segment relationship tools

END USER

ESRI ArcGIS geodatabase for use with searchable online map, indicating service provider options at specific addresses