

NSRBN Project Overview

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NSRBN Background

CDEC initiated the project in 2017.

Project was developed after a failed Connect to Innovate (CTI) application:

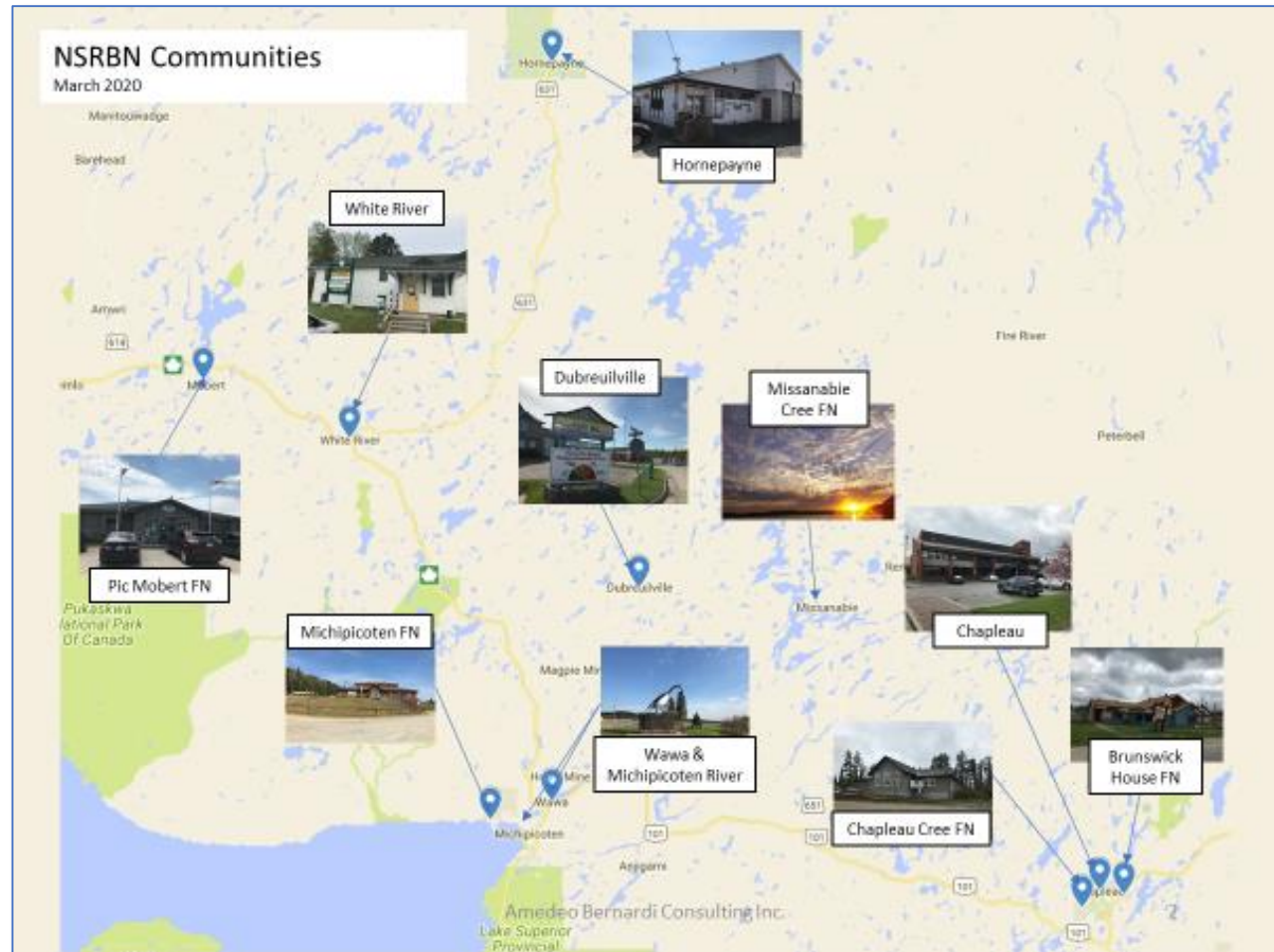
- Needed to do research first;
- Sourced subject matter expertise.

Recognized that success would also be predicated on a more regional scope:

- Scope of Work (SOW) was broadened to include 8 other communities;
- One other community joined a full year later.

Original NSRBN Member Communities

- Brunswick House FN
- Chapleau
- Chapleau Cree FN
- Dubreuilville
- Hornepayne
- Michipicoten FN
- Missanabie FN
- Pic Mobert FN
- Wawa
- White River



Project Phases Overview



Phase 1 A&B - COMPLETED

Desktop & Detailed Analysis



Phase 2 - COMPLETED

Secure Vendor Partners



Phase 3 – IN PROGRESS

Secure Funding



Phase 4

Project Implementation

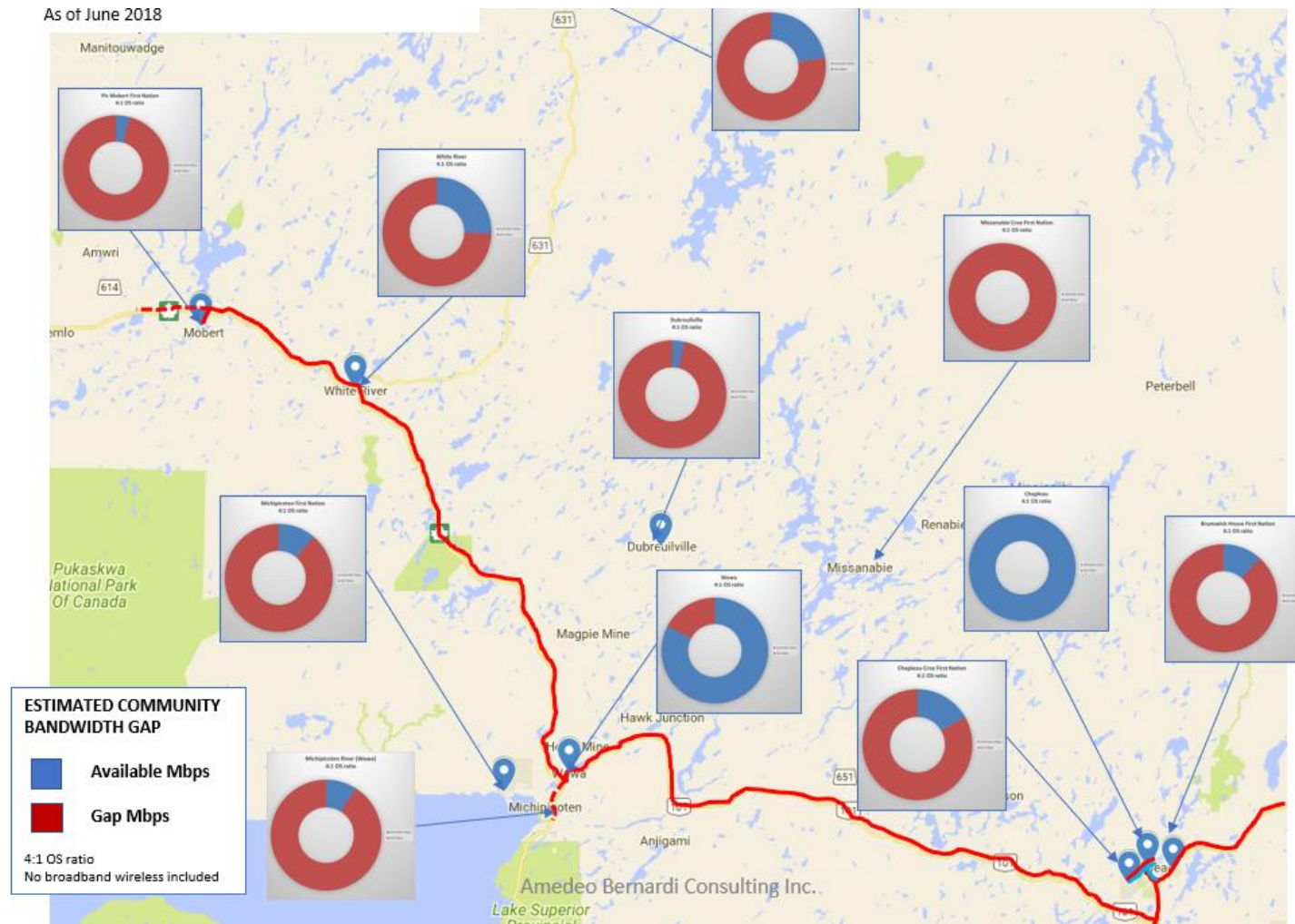


Phase 1 A&B - COMPLETED

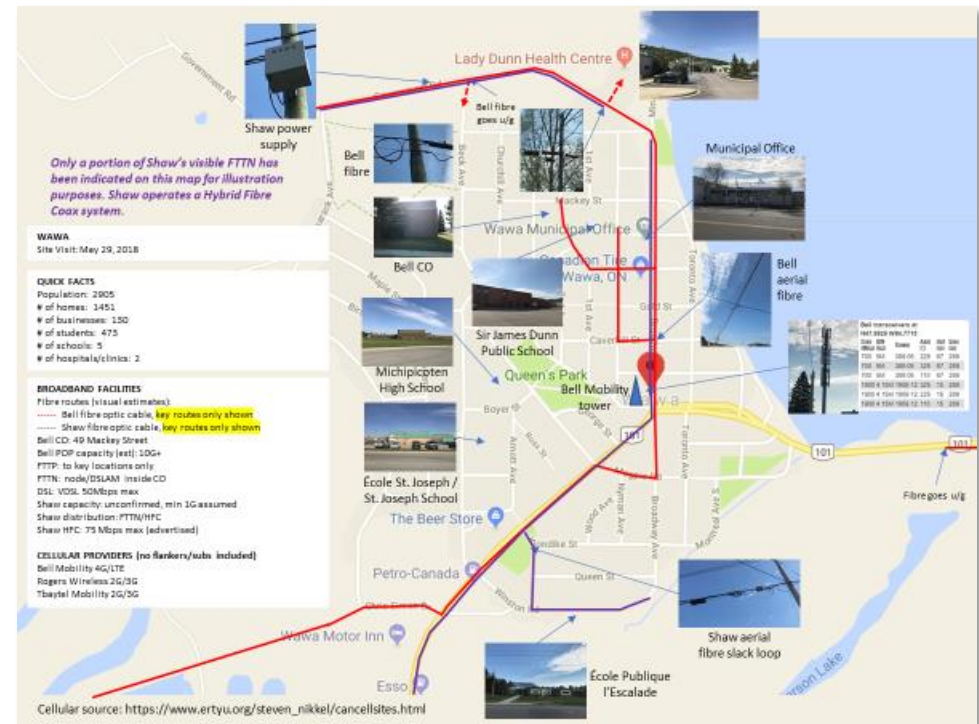
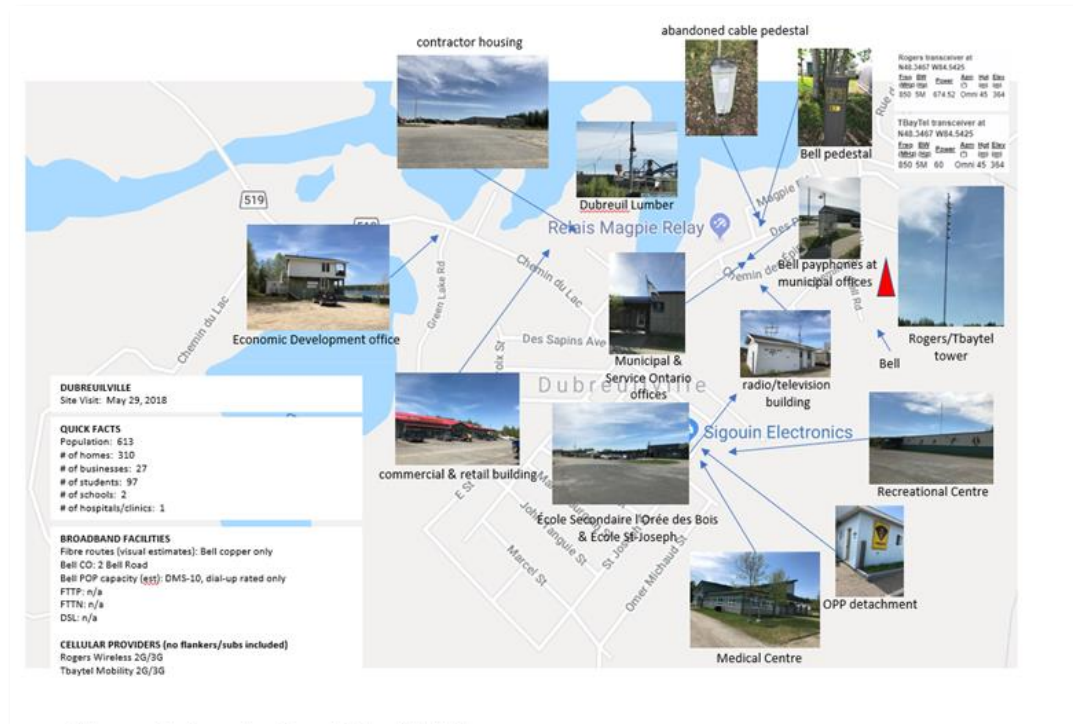
Desktop & Detailed Analysis

- Researched the current broadband infrastructure in the region:
 - Performed a “desktop” gap and needs analysis using publicly available resources and data.
 - Conducted a ground-truthing of participating communities and area.
- Researched available funding sources for broadband services.
- Provided a summary of governments’ roles and responsibilities with regards to broadband targets, relevant proceedings and decisions, and related regulations.
- Prepared community-based surveys and speed test analysis.
- Prepared a high-level project budget based on the recommended methodologies.
- Prepared a consolidated report detailing the current status of connectivity, regional needs, infrastructure gaps, risk matrix and recommendations.

Gap Analysis



Ground Truthing





Phase 2 - COMPLETED

Secure Vendor Partners

- EOI was posted on MERX and via communities
- Formed a review team and created an assessment matrix
 - Melanie Pilon – CDEC
 - Joe Moses – Pic Moberg FN
 - Matthew Dupius – Chapleau Cree FN
 - Jason Morrison – Wawa
 - Amedeo Bernardi – ABC
- Received 8 parties interested in submitting
- Final packages received from 3 groups
 - Several joined together to submit
- Vendor Partner was selected
 - Group included interested parties from process including; an engineering firm, national software provider and registered service provider (this was a requirement of the CRTC funding application).
- Executed a non-binding MOU

EOI Considerations

1

Combine Phases 2 & 3

- Timing of potential new Federal and Provincial funding,
- Importance of selecting the optimal vendor with potential funding models,
- Keep momentum going on the project.

2

Develop preferred vendor partner profile

- Min/max size,
- Location,
- Experience working with First Nations communities including training, employment and use of local resources,
- Contribution and revenue sharing,
- Possibly include other telecom services (ie: telephone, cellular, TV).

3

Consider Regional ISP options

- Vendor partner(s) could white-label ISP service,
- Member community could become an ISP,
- Possibly include other telecom services (ie: telephone, cellular, TV).



- The NSRBN has been aggressive in applying for funding:
 - Connect to Innovate (CTI);
 - Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA);
 - Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corp (NOHFC) Strategic Economic Infrastructure Fund;
 - Superior East Community Futures Development Corp. (CFDC);
 - Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commissions (CRTC) Broadband Fund;
 - Improving Connectivity in Ontario (ICON) - in progress;
 - Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) - once released;
 - Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) - declined and
 - Centre of Excellence in Next Generation Networks (CENGN) - declined.



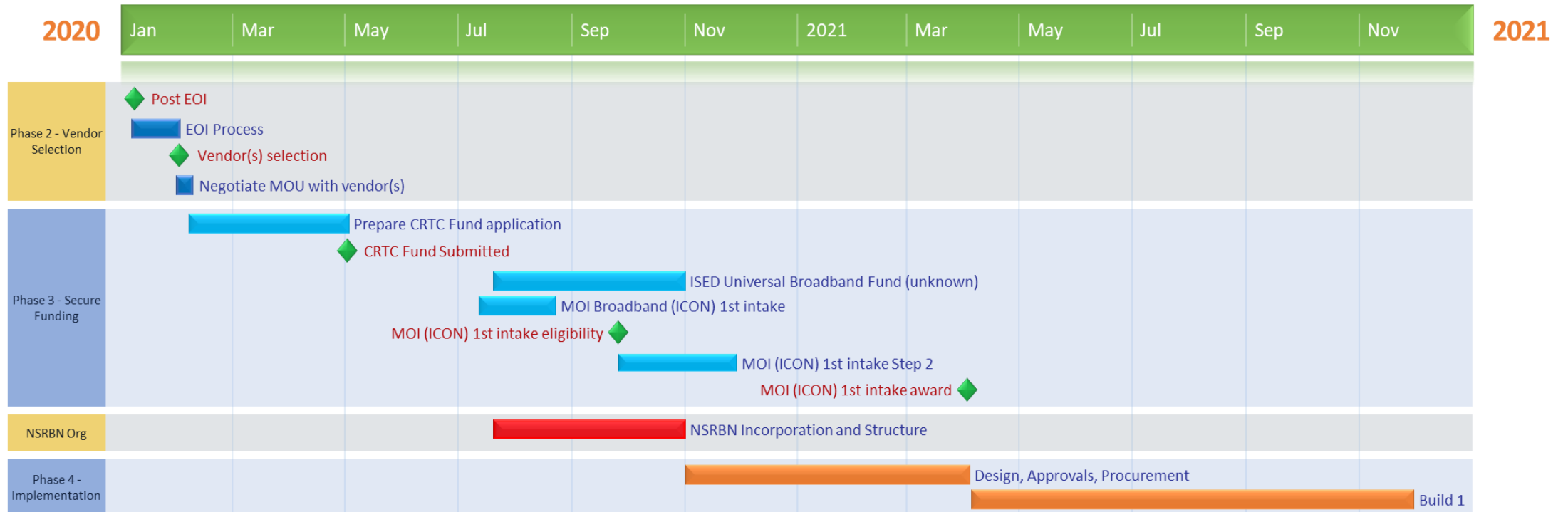
Phase 4

Project Implementation

Taking the project through its lifecycle including:

- initiation,
- planning,
- execution,
- performance/monitoring, and
- project close.

NSRBN Project Timeline



Lessons Learned

- Appoint a Broadband Champion.
- Do the research:
 - Define your need,
 - Assess the gap,
 - Take an inventory (desktop and ground-truthing),
 - Prepare a budget, and
 - Look at options (third-party, P3, other).
- Prepare a roadmap.
- Assemble the Team:
 - Project Lead (Broadband Champion)
 - Indigenous and Municipal Community Liaisons
 - Project Manager & Advisor (subject matter expert)
 - Financial Advisor
 - Legal Counsel
- Be flexible within the plan (keep the objective in sight).

Considerations

- Allocation of Resources;
- Communication;
- Engagement;
- Prepare a collaboration agreement, outline items such as:
 - Membership clause;
 - On & off-ramps mechanisms;
 - Good faith & best efforts clause ;
 - Decision making model, and
 - Dispute resolution.
- Sustainability of Community Networks;

The time for action is now.

Resources

1. Northeast Superior Regional Broadband Network Collaboration Agreement – v. October 3, 2018
2. #Next150Challenge – Indian Horse
 - <https://next150.indianhorse.ca/challenges/digital-equity>

Chi-Miigwetch-Thank You!

