



**Town of Middlefield
Communications Committee
Selectboard**

P.O. Box 238, Middlefield, MA 01243

Date: October 26, 2015

Subject: The MBIs Commitment to Fund an Alternate Last Mile Broadband Solution

To: Eric Nakajima, MBI Director

Thank you for coming to Middlefield last month to express your support for our last mile broadband efforts, as well as for your approval of our broadband planning grant. We have two critical follow-up questions:

- Is Middlefield's "share of available state grant funds" \$580,000, as indicated in your March 4 email to us?
- The MBI's *Last Mile Broadband Policy* issued in July states that the \$40M in state funding will be split 45/55 for professional services and construction – does this split also apply to a wireless or hybrid installation? (If so, Middlefield would not receive its fair share of state funding for an all-wireless solution – perhaps the most prudent, fiscally responsible course – since professional services would likely be a much smaller proportion of total costs.)

While your policy states that "[t]he primary project of the Last Mile Program involves development and construction of a regionally-designed and constructed fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) network," we would welcome the MBI's leadership in designing and constructing wireless and hybrid solutions as an integral part of the regional effort. We are working closely with Royalston, and may request the MBI's assistance in conducting a pilot of next generation white space and antenna technologies next spring. We are also working with Hawley, and would be happy to combine our efforts with other towns that cannot afford all-fiber installations.

In sum, we are asking for your assurance that we will receive our *full share* of last mile funds should we implement an alternate solution, and would welcome your leadership in pursuing same.

Communications Committee:


Stephen E. Harris, Chair


Howard Knickerbocker, Member


Joseph Kearns, Member

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Alan Vint, Chair


David Dinicola, Selectman