

focus BROADBAND



September/October 2010

HIGHLIGHTS:

See what the White House is saying about ION:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/100-Recovery-Act-Projects-Changing-America-Report.pdf>

Project 9: CENTRAL NEW YORK FIBER BACKBONE - 7 COMMUNITY NETWORK

ION will construct a fiber broadband network across a seven county area; starting from ION's Dryden network POP and ending at the ION network POP in Middleburgh. These counties and the areas within them are vastly under and un-served, and the ION fiber network will provide affordable and reliable broadband access for the creation of new services in these rural areas. The route will be connected to and intends to serve SUNY campuses in Cobleskill, Morrisville, Oneonta, and Cortland, as well as the other anchor governmental, educational, and healthcare institutions, such as Bassett Healthcare.

This build goes through 14 towns with a total population of 86,593; representing 34,834 households, 5,854 businesses, and 69 anchor institutions.



State Senator
James L. Seward

51st Senate
District

Connectivity is the key to success in upstate New York. Access to Broadband Internet opens up an endless world of possibilities and carries limitless potential to our rural communities. Without it, businesses struggle, schools fall short and families are unable to pursue their hopes and dreams. I have partnered with ION for a number of years because they understand how to make dreams come true.

AWARD UPDATE

- Environmental Assessment process completed, ION is awaiting release of FONSI (Finding Of No Significant Impact)
- RFQ and RFP released for Outside Plant Construction
- RFP released for Fiber Optic Cable

Partner Profile: NYSERNet

"NYSERNet is pleased to work with ION in helping bring the research network to colleges and universities, and to research facilities such as Corning Research, and potentially to improve the local loop to the BOCES and RICs for better connectivity for the K-12 community. For twenty five years, NYSERNet's mission has been to bring 'advanced' networks to the research and education community," said Dr. Timothy Lance, President and Board Chair of NYSERNet. "At the onset of the Internet, our initial backbone at 56 kbps was indeed groundbreaking. Today, we run an optical infrastructure from New York City to Buffalo, and house a preeminent peering facility for research and education at our collocation site in Manhattan."

But NYSERNet made a fundamental decision not to seek BTOP funding for reaching unserved and underserved areas, deciding instead to work with ION. As Dr. Lance put it, "Building in rural areas is not a core competency for us, while it is for ION." The ION build from Painted Post back to Buffalo, for example, will provided long needed advanced transport for Corning Research. "Once they reach our research network, they will have advanced network access through our network and the peering point in Manhattan to research partners around the State, country, and world."

"Corning Research is just one example," Dr. Lance added. "The ION-DANC BTOP award builds into Utica Rome, and adds key redundancy for the DANC infrastructure in the North Country, an essential improvement as the FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Project deploys in the DANC footprint."

NYSERNet is a private not-for-profit corporation created to foster science and education in New York State. Its mission is to advance network technology and related applications to satisfy needs common to the institutions comprising New York State's research and education community, providing a forum for exploration of the opportunities and challenges these innovations present.

COMMUNITY COMMENTARY

Now in construction, the \$4.5 million, 127-acre Finger Lakes East Business Park in Cortland County will benefit from an upcoming ION fiber build as part of its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus award. The build will run down Route 13 past the entrance to the park, where access to high speed, quality fiber will prove to be an excellent drawing card for future tenants.

— GARRY VANGORDER
Executive Director
Cortland County IDA

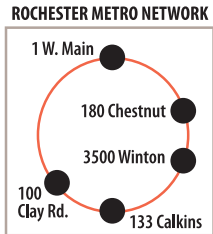
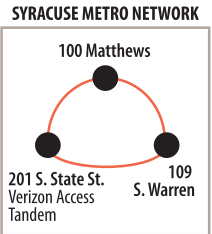
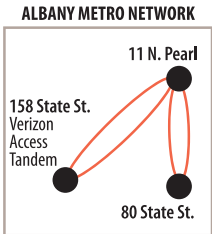
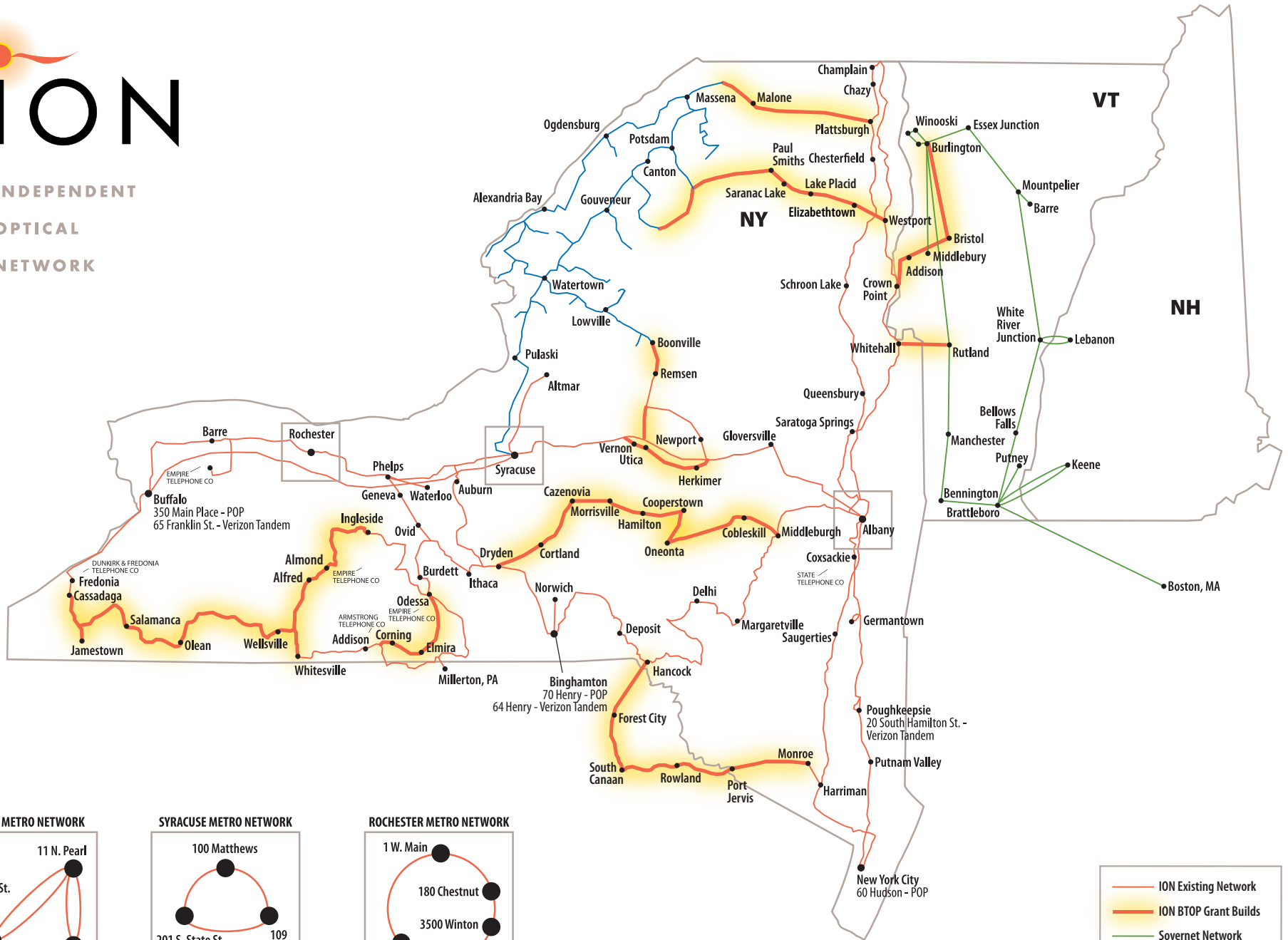
Projects like ION's Central New York Backbone will help tap upstate New York's boundless potential. Our rural communities offer many wonderful benefits, but without reliable, affordable access to Broadband service, many businesses and families overlook our wonderful region. On a daily basis, residents and businesses contact my office appealing for assistance in obtaining high-speed Broadband services. The service is imperative to facilitate job growth and provide economic opportunities. Schools also depend on Broadband service and families consider this an important quality of life issue.

Once implemented, ION's Central New York Backbone will elevate everyday life and further enhance our economic outlook in upstate New York.

Political Corner



INDEPENDENT
OPTICAL
NETWORK



- ION Existing Network
- ION BTOP Grant Builds
- Sovernet Network
- DANC Network