

Broadband Initiative Project Update

February 22, 2022
Council Meeting

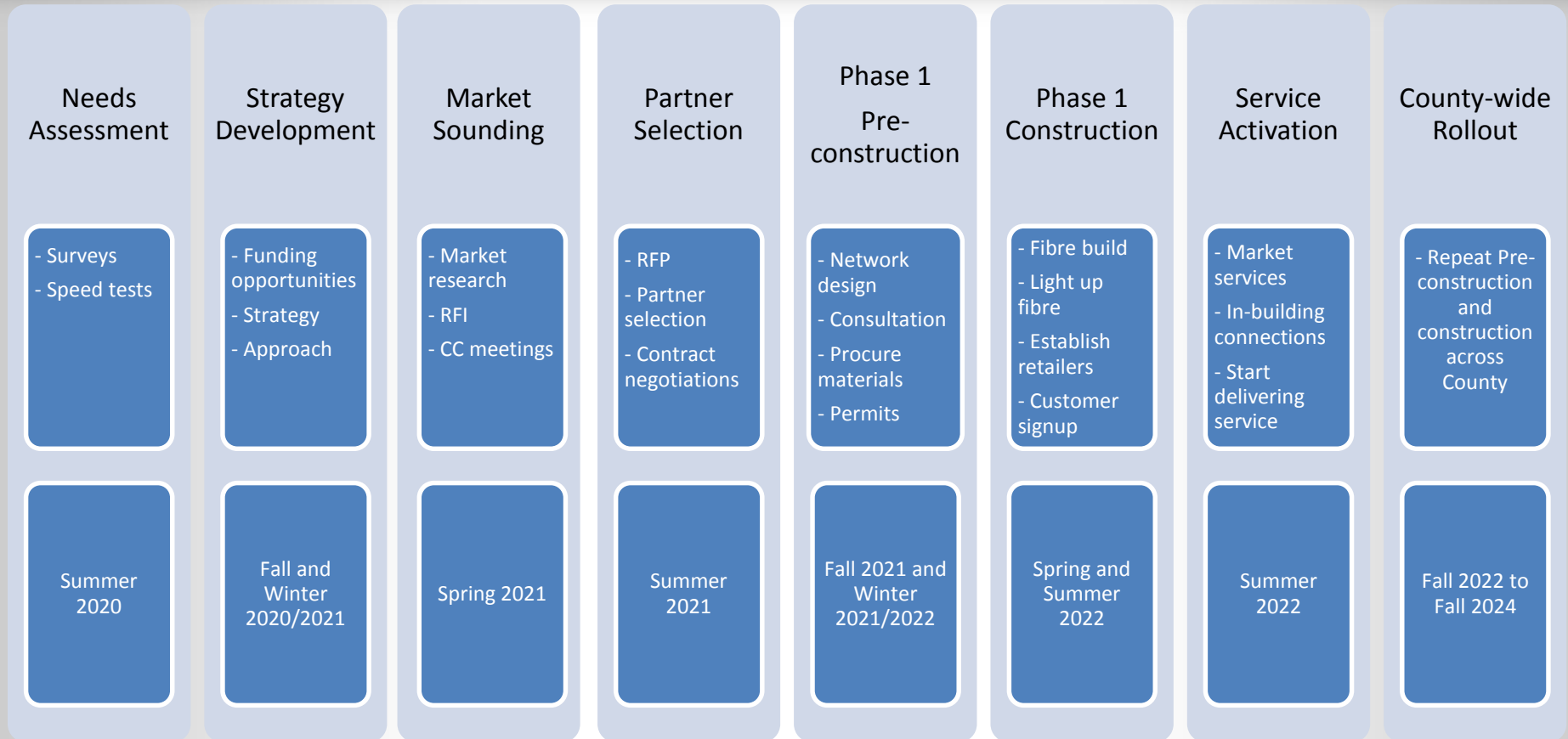
Approach

- Build and operate a fast, reliable, and affordable broadband network
- County partners with a Network Provider to jointly fund network build
- Network Provider builds, operates, and maintains the network
- Retailers offer services to residents and businesses

Principles

- Invest along with the private sector to expand fibre-based broadband service availability in the County
- Ensure that taxpayer investments are protected
- Provide services that are reliable, fast, and affordable
- Encourage innovation
- Allow residents and businesses to obtain broadband services from their choice of competitive retail provider
- Provide fibre to the premises in hamlets, subdivisions, and business parks
- Enable rural residents not serviced by fibre to the premises to benefit from improved backhaul and potential future fibre network expansion

Overall Plan



CFOC Partnership

- The County undertook an intensive procurement process to select a partner as the Network Provider
- The County is partnering with Canadian Fiber Optics Corporation (CFOC)
- CFOC will design, build, maintain, and operate the fibre network
- Shared Risk/Shared Reward
 - Both putting in capital
 - Both reliant on subscribers for return

Recent Activity

- Completed preliminary design
 - Connect all in-scope subdivisions, hamlets and business parks together efficiently while maximizing subscribers
 - Distribution backbone reviewed by County departments and adjusted to ensure optimal design
 - Geography – manage construction costs
 - Be prepared for future expansion, growth and development
 - Potential conflicts with planned roadwork, environmental challenges and existing utilities
- Securing fibre/conduit/other materials – potential supply chain challenges
- Engaged with Edmonton International Airport regarding Villeneuve Airport tenants; strong support and collaboration
- Preparing permit applications
 - Provincial Highways
 - Train Crossings
 - Gas/Electrical Utility Crossings
 - County Road and Utility Crossings

Looking Forward

- Working on detailed design
 - Precisely where the fibre will be built
 - Where in the road allowance (left side, right side, both sides)
 - Keeping adequate distance from existing road allowance uses
 - Where will it cross roads, train lines, other utilities
 - Fibre connection and splice points
 - Creating detailed construction plans
- Engaging existing Internet Service Providers (ISPs)
 - Establish service retailers
 - Tower backhaul to improve wireless service
- Engaging residents and businesses
 - Website updates
 - Community meetings/signups
- Starting construction (March 2022 – weather dependent)
- Developing preliminary design and cost proposal for rest of the County

Key Messages

- Project is on schedule to have service to all in-scope residents and businesses in Phase 1 by the end of 2022
- There will be online and community-based engagement with Phase 1 residents and businesses in the spring and summer 2022
- Construction may seem sporadic as different crews are involved, and weather and geography dictate timing
- Cannot yet advise when specific residents or businesses will have service
- Costs to expand fibre broadband to the rest of the County will be brought to Council before summer

Other Efforts

- Continued advocacy for federal and provincial funding for Sturgeon County's initiative
- Continued discussions with other municipalities / Alexander First Nation
 - Will continue to share information on the status of the County's initiative
 - Potential to collaborate in the future

Next Steps

- Finalize Phase 1 Detailed Design (February / March 2022)
- Present Public Communications & Marketing Plan to Council for approval (March 2022 Council meeting)
- Advertise community meetings / open houses (March / April 2022)
- Hold community meetings / open houses (April / May 2022)
- Phase 1 construction (March – December 2022 (weather dependent))

Questions?

www.sturgeoncounty.ca/internet

