



Lead: Danvers

Middleton, Essex, Topsfield, Wenham, Hamilton, Manchester-by-the-Sea

Colby Cousens: Town of Danvers

Brian Luther: The Metropolitan Area Planning Council



In 2019 the communities conducted a feasibility study for pursuing a regional IT strategy

This study focused on 3 areas

- IT service delivery
- General town operations
- Infrastructure

Areas of Improvement

- IT Planning and Strategy
- Policy and Process
- Standards
- Purchasing Leverage
- Lifecycle Planning



In 2020 the communities began meeting monthly. In the midst of the pandemic, meetings could take place virtually.

Topics of Discussion and Goals

- Centralizing IT budget to understand costs
- Collecting short/mid/long term needs
- Service/cost sharing agreement
- Infrastructure challenges
- Identifying funding sources



In 2021 the communities finalized and executed a Memorandum of Understanding to formally establish the Collaborative

MOU Overview

- FY22 Base Community Assessment: \$4,018.24
- Annual budget and plan of action process
- Each community retains autonomy to additional purchases
- 2-year initial period

Scope of Services

- Access to Danvers IT Staff
- Special Project Support
- Procurement Assistance
- Infrastructure/Capital Planning
- Regional Vendor Support



The Collaborative established two priorities for FY22 - Cybersecurity

- Total Purchase: \$201,904.23
- Fall Community Compact Grant
- Services Included
 - Email Security
 - Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR)
 - Multi-Factor Authentication
 - Data Loss Prevention (DLP)
 - Traffic Analysis (SOC)
- Other Benefits
 - MIA Insurance
 - Regional Consistency and Management
- Vendor: ePlus Technologies
- Installation: Spring 2022



FY22 – Fiber Infrastructure

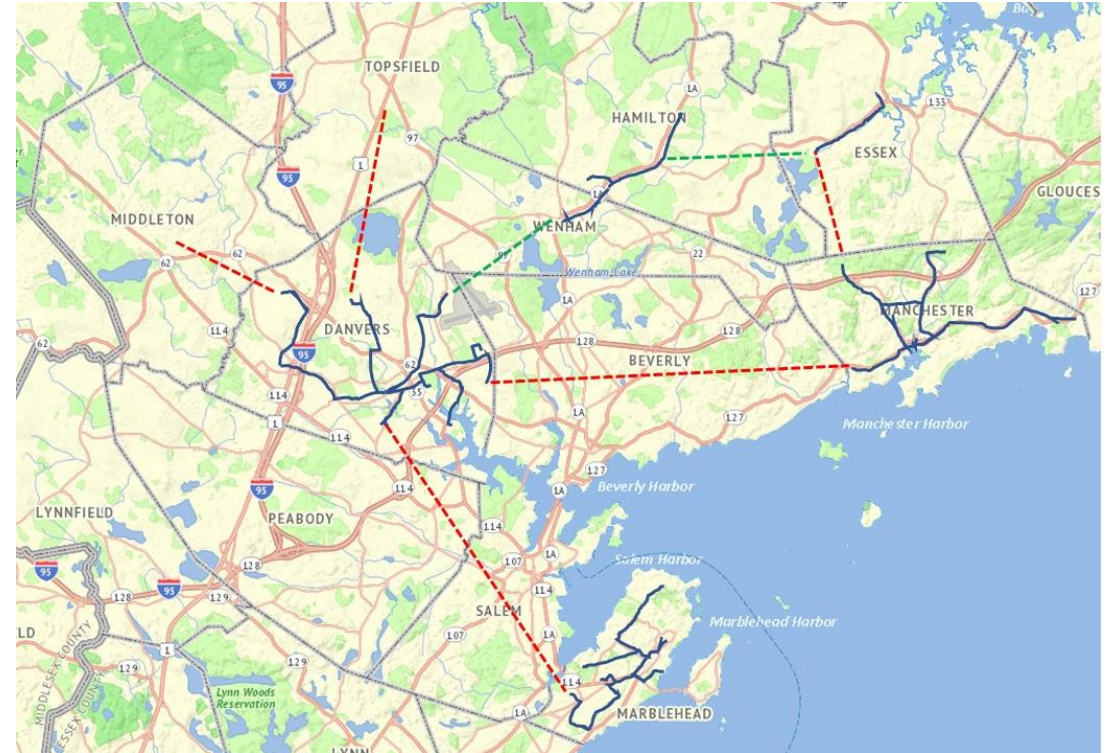
Missing Connections

- Topsfield to Danvers \$119,750
- Middleton to Danvers \$84,756
- Manchester to Essex \$107,775
- Regional 911 Center \$9,860

\$100,000 ERG Grant awarded in Spring 2021

Benefits

- Access to Danvers Data Center
- Aggregating ISP
- Continuity of Services



Other Ongoing Projects

- Regional ISP
- Regional Helpdesk Services Provider
 - Vendor selected and communities to onboard as funding available
- Online Permitting
 - Two communities
- Regional Data Center
 - Danvers in the process of refreshing Data Center
 - Essex intends to move all servers



What the future looks like for the North Shore Regional IT Collaborative

- 5-year refresh cycle on all hardware
- Consistency of vendors
- Staff pooling/sharing
- Complete transition of town servers
- Potential expansion

