

Down Bay Technology Task Force
Request for Information Questions and Answers

1. Who are the members of the Task Force?

Bob Howard, Sustainable Cliff Island

Mark Greene, Town of Long Island Broadband Exploratory Committee

Ron McKinnon, Town of Chebeague Broadband Committee

2. What are the decision metrics for a successful proposal?

A review matrix is currently being developed and will be completed before RFI responses are opened for review. The matrix will allow the task force to quantify responses.

- Section 5.4: Past project(s) presented by RFI respondents that demonstrate ability to work with areas similar to Down Bay islands will be scored higher.
- Section 5.6: Responses that demonstrate understanding of, and aim to meet, the goals and timeline (Section 3) will be scored higher.
- Section 5.7, regardless of the number of design(s) proposed: Responses that aim to meet the longevity desired will be scored higher, and responses that recognize the relationship between, and aim to balance the, cost and longevity will be scored higher.
- Section 5.8: The more detail provided on, and the relevancy of, the description of the engineered design(s), the higher the score.
- Section 5.9: Respondents demonstrating willingness and ability to provide internet service (whether as an ISP or in partnership with an ISP) across the designed network will be scored higher. Respondents who are willing and available for community meetings will be scored higher. Responses that indicate opportunities for islanders' involvement in the build-out will be scored higher. Bonus points may be awarded to respondents willing to roll the cost of the design into a build-out project, and/or willing to collaborate on grant opportunities. Variations on the business model proposed (Section 4) will not otherwise be scored lower unless they fail to meet the goals and timeline (Section 3).

The final matrix and scores of responses will be posted after responses are reviewed.

3. RFI mentions that engineered design by August 31; what is the intended timeline for the project completion in and of itself?

These islands have already experienced the effects of not having broadband and are eager to see deployment as soon as possible. One scenario would be that this RFI process leads right into negotiations with a respondent, and ground breaking could begin as early as spring 2018. Other scenarios may have longer timelines. Incumbent providers currently do not have set deadlines for any future upgrades or expansions. The task force aims to secure a set deadline for when broadband is brought to these communities.

4. How much municipal and nonprofit funding has been obtained? If future sources are being investigated, what is the expected timeline for notification/visibility on those funding events?

Enough funding from Sustainable Cliff Island, the Town of Long Island, the Town of Chebeague, and the Island Institute has been acquired by the three island communities (in-hand) to cover the cost of an engineered design; however in response to the RFI, it may be advantageous for the cost of the engineered design to be rolled into the cost of building the broadband network. Details about funding acquired and future funding being sought will be shared with the chosen RFI respondent.

5. Has a survey been conducted to determine what percentage of the population would subscribe to the broadband capabilities? Can minimum levels be guaranteed?

Preliminary community surveys were conducted on Chebeague and Long Island in 2015. The task force has the capacity and external support to collaborate with potential service providers on community surveys related to take rates and willingness to pay for subscriptions, once they ascertain potential subscriber fees, tax/community input, and cost of the system. Given the dismal levels of service currently, and willingness to collaborate on advertising, these islands expect a high take rate. If a guaranteed minimum level is required for your participation, please indicate that in Section 5.9 of your response.

6. Is there any update to the population and dwelling figures cited in the 2015 Tilson Technologies report?

Long Island confirms the 2010 Census estimate of 230 year-round residents, but suspects the summer population to be an additional 800. On Long Island, there is about 360 premises (parcel maps available [online](#)): about 7 municipal buildings, including a planned telehealth center, about 4 businesses, and residential dwellings, including about 7 home-based businesses and an unknown number of seasonal professionals or teleworkers. Chebeague and Cliff point to the Tilson Study for their populations and premises, and more specifics can be given once an RFI respondent is chosen.

7. Please provide an update to the Current Infrastructure section of Chebeague Island to confirm that the dramatic change cited on page 116 of the Tilson report actually took place.

FairPoint's planned upgrades are complete; their customers on Chebeague only have access up to 15/1 mbps. The upgrades on Long Island provide up to 15/1 mbps to just a small portion of the island; others experience speeds up to either 7/1 or 3/1 mbps. FairPoint provides Cliff Island with quickly diminishing 7/1 mbps from Long Island.

8. Does the ferry run year round to each island and what is the capacity of the ferry (fiber construction truck for fiber restoration purposes)?

The Casco Bay Lines ferry service provides year-round pedestrian access to these islands. Additionally, there are commercial barge services that can put construction vehicles on the islands any time of year. The task force will support the chosen respondent with travel coordination.

9. Are tax maps available (digitally)?

Cliff Island's tax map is available on the [Portland's Map Gallery](#). A more detailed map with GPS coordinates will be available soon on the [SCI website](#). Long Island's parcel maps are available [online](#), and they will provide shapefile layers for buildings, utility poles, and 911 roads. Tax maps for Chebeague, and other available maps from these communities will be provided to the chosen RFI respondent.

10. Do the islands have access to any subsea fiber currently that could be leased for this purpose?

Fiber in undersea cables to Chebeague and Long Island is owned by FairPoint. The FairPoint fiber on Long runs the length of the island. The undersea cable to Cliff Island is only copper, owned by FairPoint. As part of Section 5.8, respondents are asked to describe components of the proposed engineered design, including synthesis of current assets and potential leverage points, and backhaul options.

11. Is a redundant backhaul required for the design?

For Section 5.6, responses that aim to ensure the reliability and consistency goals of the communities will be scored higher. As part of Section 5.8, respondents are asked to describe components of the proposed engineered design, including backhaul options.

12. Is there any particular weight applied to implementation technology? For example, is fiber connectivity favored over wireless?

Responses that aim to meet the longevity desired will be scored higher, and responses that recognize the relationship between, and aim to balance the, cost and longevity will be scored higher.

Responses that demonstrate understanding of, and aim to meet, the goals and timeline (Section 3) will be scored higher.

The task force anticipates receiving responses by June 16, 2017, and having an engineered design completed by August 31, 2017. We hope to hear from you.

Please direct your questions about the project to:
Stephenie MacLagan, Island Institute, smaclagan@islandinstitute.org