



6/7/2007

Where is Broadband Available?

A complete list of Massachusetts municipalities and level of broadband available in each municipality

BROADBAND DEFINITION: Broadband is a connection that can deliver at least 1Mbps download service. As an example, a broadband connection includes cable, fiber, DSL, WiMax, and Wifi but DOES NOT include dial up or satellite.

For years, legislators and regulators have been frustrated by the lack of comprehensive data on broadband availability in Massachusetts. As a result, MTC's John Adams Innovation Institute has assembled the following data for all 351 Massachusetts municipalities. We recognize that there are variations of broadband availability within a city/town and we have done our best to capture these variations in our data set.

We have classified municipalities according to their access to broadband service based on the following criteria:

Unserviced	The entire town has no access to broadband
Underserved	Broadband is only available in a limited area. Even if the data indicates that a city/town has cable or DSL, if limited coverage is self reported, a city/town is classified as Underserved.
Monopoly	Access to only 1 broadband provider
Duopoly	Access to 2 broadband providers
Competitive	Access to 3 or more broadband providers

The following is a definition/description of each of the data columns:

Cable Company	The primary cable company in a city/town. We have assumed that the cable company is delivering both cable TV service as well as cable broadband service
Cable Overbuild	When a company literally lays cable on top of the cable of another existing cable provider
Fiber to the Premise (FTTP)	When a provider runs fiber optic cable directly to the premise to deliver broadband service. This is currently the fastest available broadband connection
DSL	A technology that delivers broadband over existing copper phone lines
Wifi	A broadband service delivered wirelessly using a specific protocol, 802.11 also known as wireless fidelity (wifi) technology
Town Hall	Indicates whether the city/town currently has broadband
Notes	Allows for self reporting from municipalities

We are still in the process of gathering data, and a blank data cell indicates that we have not yet obtained information for the specific town and technology. If you *know* any of this data to be incorrect, we invite you to contact us at burnes@masstech.org.

(for detailed sources see the end of the document)