

Southern Vermont Communication Union District

The Southern Vermont Communication Union District (SoVT CUD) aims to bring broadband Internet service to under-served areas of Southern Vermont.

Following the model of Act 79, last year's "broadband bill"

(<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/30/082>), this effort will:

1) Create the SoVT CUD by town meeting vote of citizens in 13 Bennington county towns (Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Landgrove, Manchester, Pownal, Peru, Rupert, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, Sunderland, Winhall, Woodford)

2) Seek a grant under Act 79 for a feasibility study and three-year business plan

(<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/broadband-innovation-grant-program>)

3) Contract with an internet service provider (ISP) to build out fiber optic cable to under-served areas, providing world class Internet speeds.

SoVT CUD will fund this effort through grants, loans, and subscriber fees from the people who buy the Internet service. SoVT CUD is not a taxing authority, so this effort will not raise your taxes.

Lack of broadband Internet service is a major restraint on the growth of our economy and on our effort to attract people and business to our region.

If you have any questions about the Sandgate vote to join the SoVT CUD, please contact Sheila Kearns at 802-375-6821 or smhkearns@gmail.com.