

**Roger Tidball**, Town Supervisor  
**Jennifer Howe**, Town Clerk  
**Brandy Fall**, Deputy Town Clerk



**John D. Ganther, Jr.**, Council Member  
**Charles Leoni**, Council Member  
**Francis R. Potter**, Council Member  
**Jeffrey Senecal**, Council Member

5853 Western Turnpike  
Duanesburg, New York 12056

Phone 518-895-8920  
FAX 518-895-8171

## **Town of Duanesburg**

### **Schenectady County**

---

November 15, 2019

#### **Ex Parte**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection WC Docket No. 19-195  
Modernizing the FCC Form 477 Data Program, WC Docket No. 11-10

Dear Secretary Dortch,

The Duanesburg Broadband Committee makes this submission to share our community broadband mapping experience with the Commission. The Town of Duanesburg is a rural community with about 2000 homes a short commute from Albany, New York; the state's capital. Our town has been adversely impacted as a direct result of faulty mapping by the FCC's use of 477 data. We are also adversely impacted by regulatory structures that allow incumbent cable internet companies to hide information about where their service lines are.

The Duanesburg Broadband Committee was formed by the Duanesburg Town Board in early 2018 for the purpose of advocating for high speed broadband internet service to 100% of our residents, farms and small businesses. In order to obtain grant funding to serve all locations in Duanesburg, the committee needed to know precisely where service was available and where service was still needed. Time Warner, now Charter Communications, has a franchise agreement with the town and has steadfastly refused to provide useful service availability maps. The maps posted by the FCC and the NY Broadband Program Office (BPO) are based on FCC Form 477 data provided by this same incumbent provider. The data are notoriously inaccurate creating availability maps that are just plain wrong. The Committee used boots on the ground information and surveys of all town residents to determine who was and who was not served. We then created our own Google map precisely showing the location of unserved homes. In May 2018, 1/3 of the homes in our community were not served. Of those – more than half (313)

received no BPO grant award because they were incorrectly reported as served by Charter in Form 477 data. This is a link to the Google map of unserved homes in the Town of Duanesburg, NY as of May 2018 -

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1DiqgVC\\_ZRmNVBrWC1ZtKetZB-2aK1Tn1&ll=42.79238673819087%2C-74.19643494557533&z=12](https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1DiqgVC_ZRmNVBrWC1ZtKetZB-2aK1Tn1&ll=42.79238673819087%2C-74.19643494557533&z=12)

Our mapping method is similar to the Fabric method proposed by US Telecom and reported in the Broadband Mapping Initiative: Proof of Concept Summary of Findings dated August 2019 with one notable exception – cost. Rural communities that lack high speed internet access are more than willing to work for it by providing existing line and service information. All you need do is ask. Alternatively, CostQuest Associates estimates a nationwide broadband map can be created for \$8.5 to 11 million in upfront costs and \$3 to 4 million in annual updates. This would, in effect, pay incumbent providers for their existing service line data. In either case, the data should then be made publicly available and easily accessible.

The Duanesburg Broadband Committee overcame the mapping challenges and the FCC must overcome these issues nationwide as well. Don't delay. Do it now because the Duanesburg Broadband Committee is seeking 75% to 90% FCC grant funding to complete buildout of wired broadband to the 256 homes still unserved in our community. Here is a link to the map of unserved in the Town of Duanesburg today -

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1gut6mQN2PBdcakPHl6dixzfcUx2s1-wl&ll=42.782880563991405%2C-74.25165049506916&z=12>

Also submitted herewith is an October 9, 2019 presentation made by the Committee to update our elected officials on the progress of broadband line extension in town since May 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Annabel V. Felton

Chair, Duanesburg Broadband Committee