



Southern Vermont
Communications
Union District
www.sovtcud.net

**Southern Vermont
Communications Union District**

210 South St., Suite 6
Bennington, VT 05201

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

2024 Annual Report

Draft

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2024: Our Fifth Year

Executive Summary:

The Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD) has had a very busy, and successful fifth year. Consolidated Communications, Inc. (CCI) completed construction of the fiber network in September 2023, funded by the Act 71 Construction Grant, and subsequent closeout and 6-month post-closeout reports have been submitted to the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB). Since the completion of the network, the CUD and CCI have continued to meet on a regular basis to discuss operational concerns and quarterly network performance reports. The CUD has also significantly advanced its sustainability planning through the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Otter Creek and Lamoille CUDs and the development of a joint sustainability plan.

2024 Activities and Plans for 2025

SoVT CUD continues to provide oversight of the fiber network through monthly meetings with CCI. CCI provides the SoVT CUD with quarterly performance reports that include net promoter scores, minimum performance testing, and the general state of the network, as well as other notifications required by the Master Services Agreement, including downtime and security breach notifications.

Throughout 2024, SoVT CUD members met regularly with representatives from Otter Creek and Lamoille CUDs to discuss shared sustainability goals. In July of 2024 the three CUDs executed a Memorandum of Understanding and jointly developed a ten-year sustainability plan which was presented to the VCBB. The sustainability plan outlines a transition to a tri-CUD model of joint compliance administration and oversight of CCI. Through the development of the sustainability plan, the three CUDs reached an agreement with CCI to fund administration and compliance from 2027-2034.

SoVT CUD recently secured \$220,000 in Preconstruction Grant funding to cover operational expenses in 2025 and 2026, including funding for a federal single audit to take place in 2025. Throughout 2025 and 2026, SoVT CUD will work with Otter Creek and Lamoille CUDs to transition to joint compliance administration and advance governance and succession planning.

SoVT CUD has also continued to explore solutions for the remaining hardest to reach addresses that constitute Phase 3. These addresses are primarily located in Arlington and Pownal and are unserved according to state data. In discussions with VCBB staff, it was decided that SoVT CUD's remaining addresses would be incorporated into the state administered Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD).

Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD) was voted into existence in March 2019 by 12 towns in Bennington County. The number of member municipalities has since grown to 14.

Arlington
 Bennington
 Dorset
 Landgrove
 Londonderry
 Manchester
 Pownal

Peru
 Rupert
 Sandgate
 Shaftsbury
 Sunderland
 Winhall
 Woodford

Public records for the CUD including bylaws, conflict of interest policy, meeting agendas, and minutes can also be found on the website: <https://public.sovtcud.net/>

The SoVT CUD governing board is led by:

- Chair, Terrence Dorsey.
- Vice-chair, John Hankin.
- Clerk, Sheila Kearns.

Town Name	Representative	Alternate	2 nd Alternate
Arlington	Cynthia Browning	Jamie Paustian	Nick Zaiac
Bennington	Eric Hatch	Ron Dubreuil	Beth Hardesty
Dorset	Jim Salsgiver		
Landgrove	Susan Lenox		
Londonderry	John Hankin		
Manchester	Terrence Dorsey		
Peru	Jon Mowry	Ben Foltz	
Pownal	Caitlin Randall	Karlan Eberhardt	
Rupert	Bill Meyer	Jed Rubin	
Sandgate	Sheila Kearns	Logan Weurslin	
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	Michael Corey	
Sunderland	Andrew McKeever	Todd Lawrence	
Winhall	Lissa Stark		
Woodford	Arlene Bentley		

Acknowledgements

All the representatives, alternates, and officers have given significant time and effort to the CUD and deserve respect and gratitude. They have made for a successful fourth year.

The CUD has greatly benefited from our partnership with the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC). The administrative assistance and expertise in navigating the public funding arena provided by Community and Economic Development Program Manager Jonathan Cooper and Regional Planner Callie Fishburn has been invaluable. The CUD is especially indebted to BCRC's ability to keep us grounded in the broad development efforts of the region.

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SOUTHERN VERMONT COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT
d/b/a CATAMOUNT FIBER

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET FUND POSITION
January 1, 2024- October 8, 2024

	Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Fund Position
OPERATING REVENUES:	
Opening Balance 1/1/24 (carryover from FY 2023)	84,653.34
Grant Income	8,922,448.85
Anticipated Grants	
Total operating revenues	9,007,102.19
OPERATING EXPENSES:	
Network Construction Project Expenses	(8,842,448.85)
Subscriptions	(970.00)
Treasurer Salary	(750.00)
Insurance	(5,007.00)
Legal services	(1,307.90)
Technical Assistance (BCRC)	(39,083.15)
VCUDA Membership Dues	(2,075.50)
Total operating expenses	(8,891,642.40)
NONOPERATING INCOME AND (EXPENSES):	
Interest income	6,581.29
Computer & Internet Expenses	(1,308.76)
Miscellaneous expenses	(60.00)
Total Expenses	5,212.53
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN FUND NET POSITION	(8,886,429.87)
AND NET POSITION	120,672.32

SOUTHERN VERMONT COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT
d/b/a CATAMOUNT FIBER

BUDGET
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2025

Revenues		Notes	
Act 71 Pre-Construction Grant	110,000	SoVT CUD was awarded a \$220,000 Preconstruction Grant for a 2-year period	
Total Revenues	<u>110,000</u>		
Expenses			
BCRC Operational Support	30,000		
Legal Services	15,000		
FY23 Single Audit	40,000		
General Operations & Admin			
<i>Insurance</i>	6,000		
<i>Bookkeeping Services</i>	8,000		
<i>Dues & Subscriptions</i>	15,000		
<i>Website & Record Retention</i>	5,000		
<i>Miscellaneous Expenses</i>	1,000		
Expenses Total	<u>120,000</u>		
Other income and (expense)			
Interest income	1,200	Estimate	
Total other income (expense)	<u>1,200</u>		
Revenue - Expenses (under)	<u>(8,800)</u>		
Net position, beginning of year	50,000	Estimate based on outstanding payments due in the last 3 months of 2024	
Net position, end of year	<u>41,200</u>		