Town of Lincoln Access to Broadband

November 18, 2020

Town of Lincoln
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

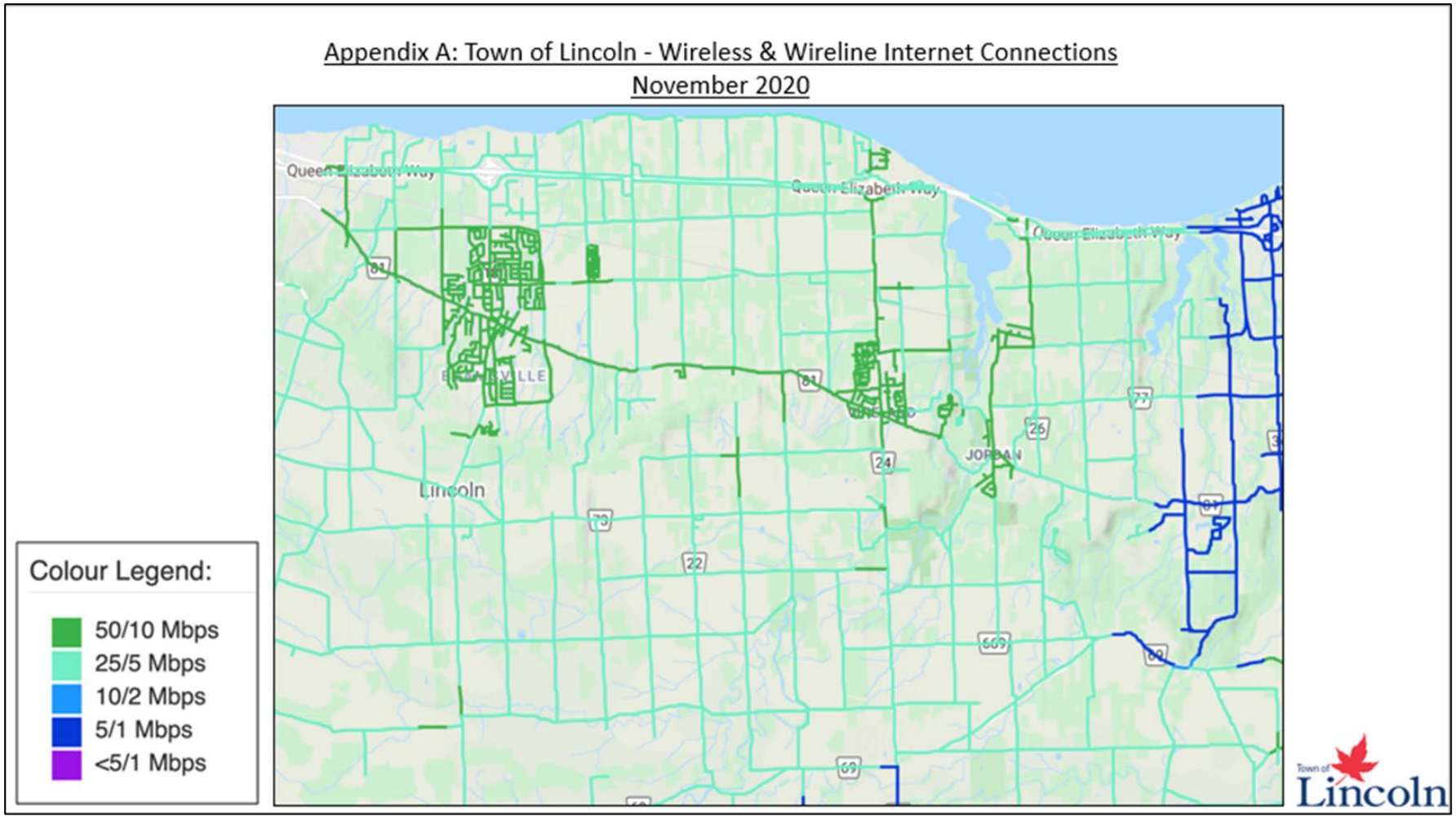
Executive Summary

- Access to highspeed internet has become an integral component of our every day lives, highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the drastic shift to online economic activity
- While there is internet access throughout the town, the speeds available are not uniform and only some areas meet CRTC minimum standards
- Telecommunication Service Providers do not have the incentives to invest in lower density populated areas
- The Provincial and Federal government have released multiple strategies and funding programs to connect 98 per cent of Canadians to high-speed internet by 2026
- The Town can play a role in coordinating with public and private stakeholders, community members, and other Local Area Municipalities on fast-tracking efforts to achieve the recommended internet service speeds in Lincoln

Current Broadband Accessibility in Lincoln

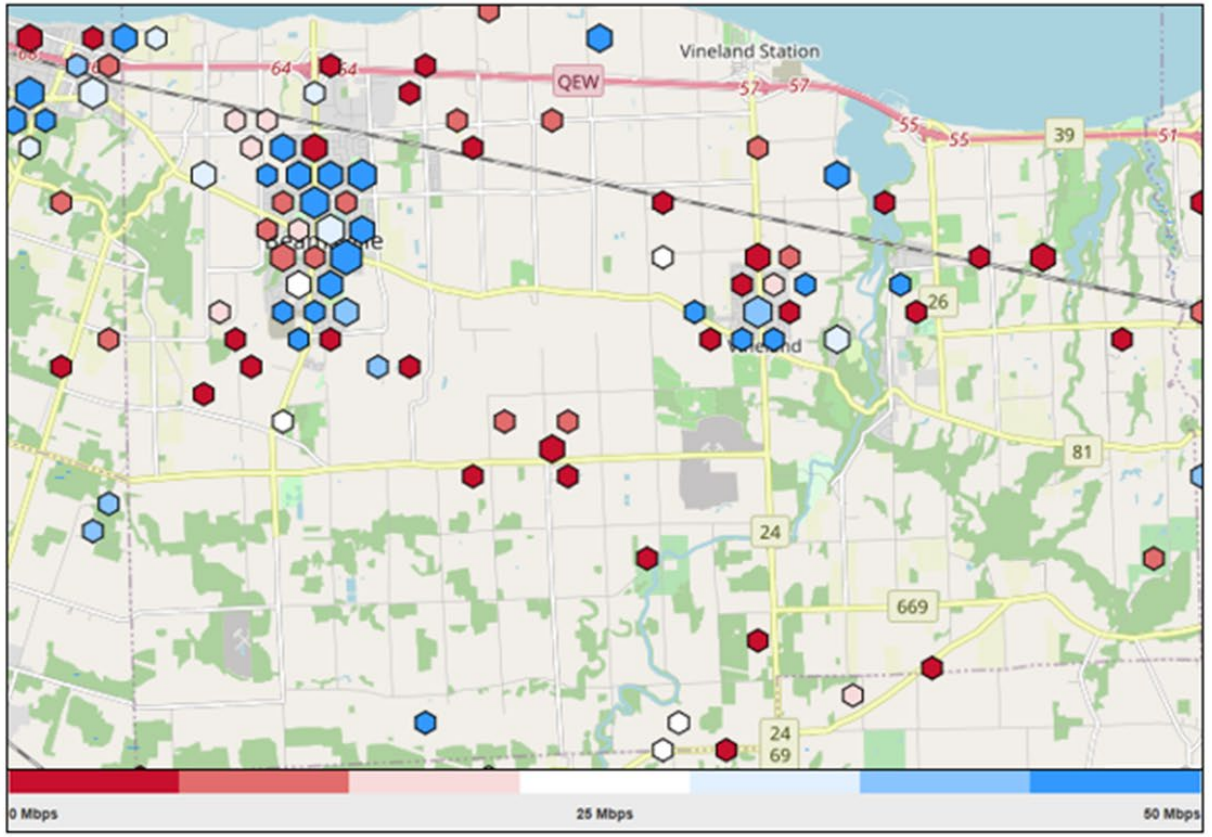
- Broadband in Lincoln has never been an overarching concern to our business and residential community until COVID-19 hit
- Universal speeds of at least 50-10 Mbps (CRTC minimum standard) only exist in the main centres of Beamsville and Vineland
- Aside from a few outliers in Jordan, Jordan Station and along King Street, the remaining areas cover speeds of at least 25-10 Mbps, half of the CRTC minimum standard
- Even 50-10 Mbps speeds are becoming too slow with increasing internet usage at home and in our business community (video conferencing, TV streaming, etc.)
- Rural areas in Lincoln are the most underserviced areas in the Town, especially important for our agricultural and agri-tourism businesses

Connection Speeds are Not Evenly Distributed



Real Time Tests Further Showcase Connection Speeds in Lincoln

Appendix E: Town of Lincoln – Real Time Internet Speed Test Connections
November 2020



Town of Lincoln

Current Actions from Economic Development Staff

- Developed a detailed report for Council on the importance of Broadband and the available opportunities for the Town
- Partnered with NWIC on the Improving Connectivity in Ontario program (ICON) that is now in Phase 2 of the application process
- In conversation with the Niagara Regional Broadband Network (NRBN) on developing detailed mapping and community engagement opportunities
- Investigating the recently released Universal Broadband Fund by reviewing the application process and speaking with local partners about a joint application, as the private sector will be a key component in delivering these infrastructure projects

How can the Town Help?

- Through coordination with public and private stakeholders, the Town can fast-track efforts to achieve the recommended internet service speeds by:
  - Identify funding and program opportunities for the Town to partner with local telecommunication providers (grants);
  - Provide expedited permitting applications to those providers wishing to undertake infrastructure projects to increase broadband availability;
  - Investigate the opportunities for incentives to reduce overall costs associated with large infrastructure projects
  - Include the laying of wires and fire-optics as standard practice when conducting road work in the right-of-way

Questions?
Comments?
Clarity?