

# The County of Northumberland EORN Cell Gap Project Update

May 21, 2025



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EASTERN ONTARIO  
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# Agenda

- Cell Gap Project update
- EORN Strategic Plan 2024-2028
- Questions

# Cell Gap Project Update



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# EORN Cell Gap Project Goals



Achieve **99% coverage** in the eastern Ontario region where people live, work and travel on major roadways so that they can make and receive cell phone calls.



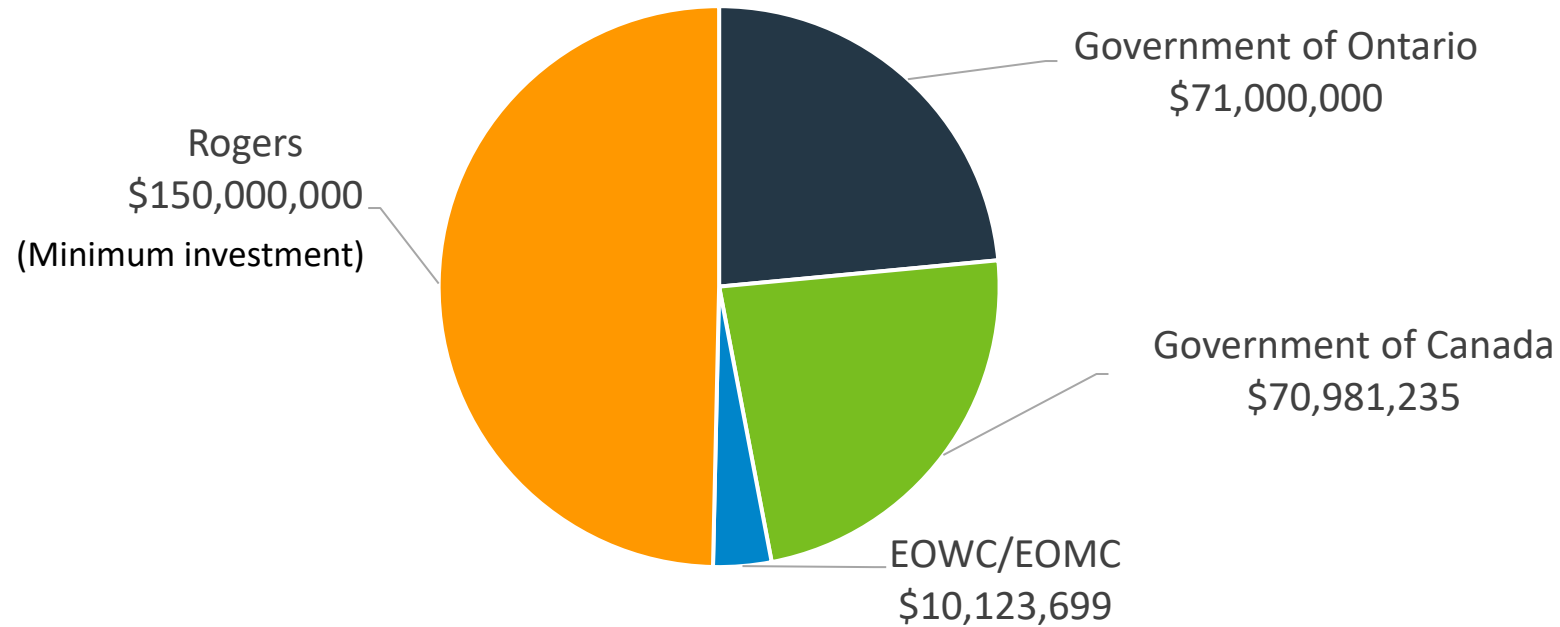
Achieve **95% coverage** in the eastern Ontario region where people live, work and travel on major roadways with standard definition service level which can support email, web browsing and social media services.



Achieve **85% coverage** in the eastern Ontario region where people live, work and travel on major roadways with high-definition service level which can support video conferencing, movie streaming and other more data intensive applications.

# Financial – Funding Details

Over \$300 million dollar investment in eastern Ontario before in-kind contributions and community benefits.



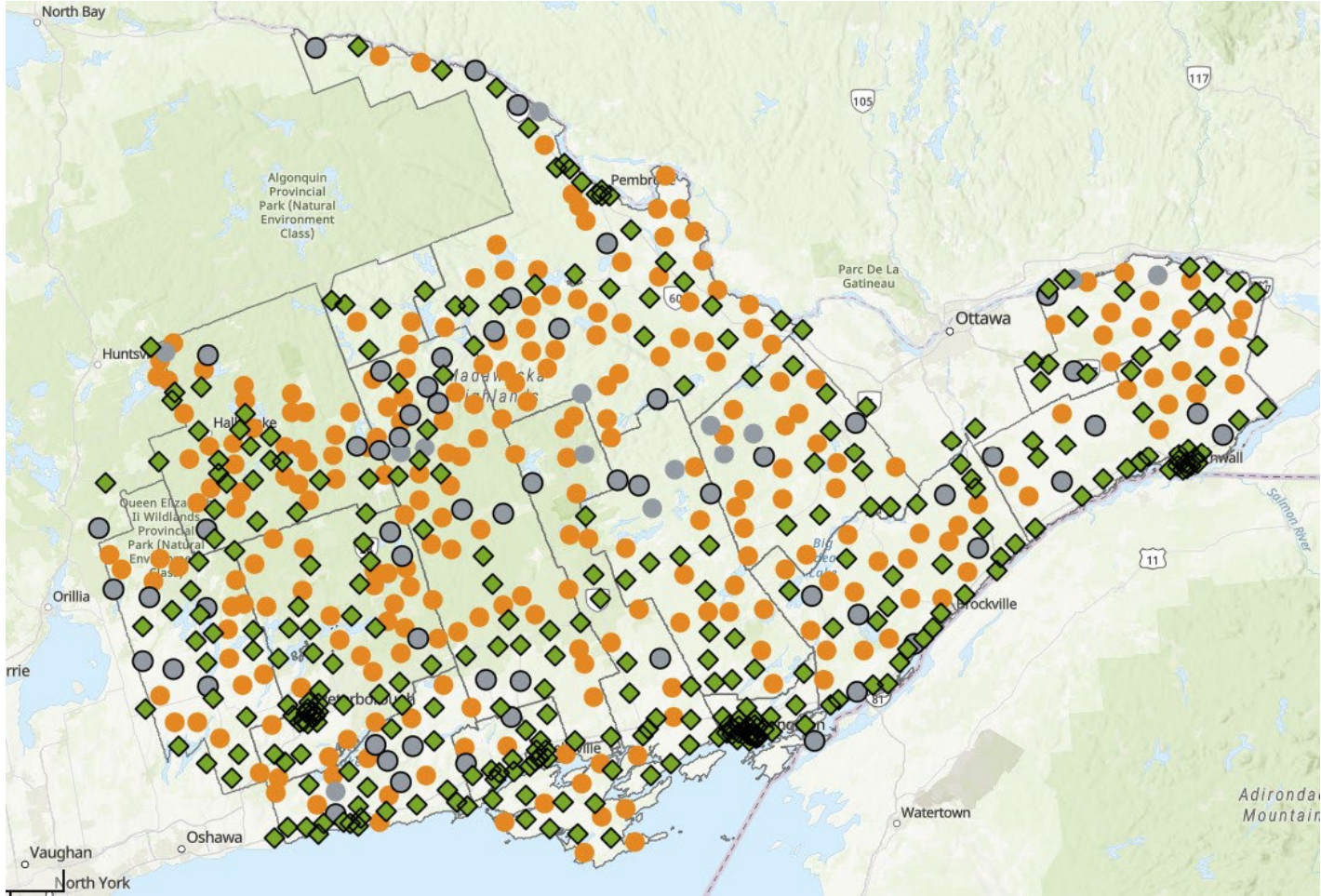
# EORN Cell Gap Project






Project investment in the region will result in an average of 30:1 return on investment for EOWC.

Type	Total project	% In-service
New builds	258	51%
Uplifts	311	100%
Co-locations	74	87%

Many of the sites in service may support home internet. Residents should check at their local Rogers outlet.

79% of project completed.

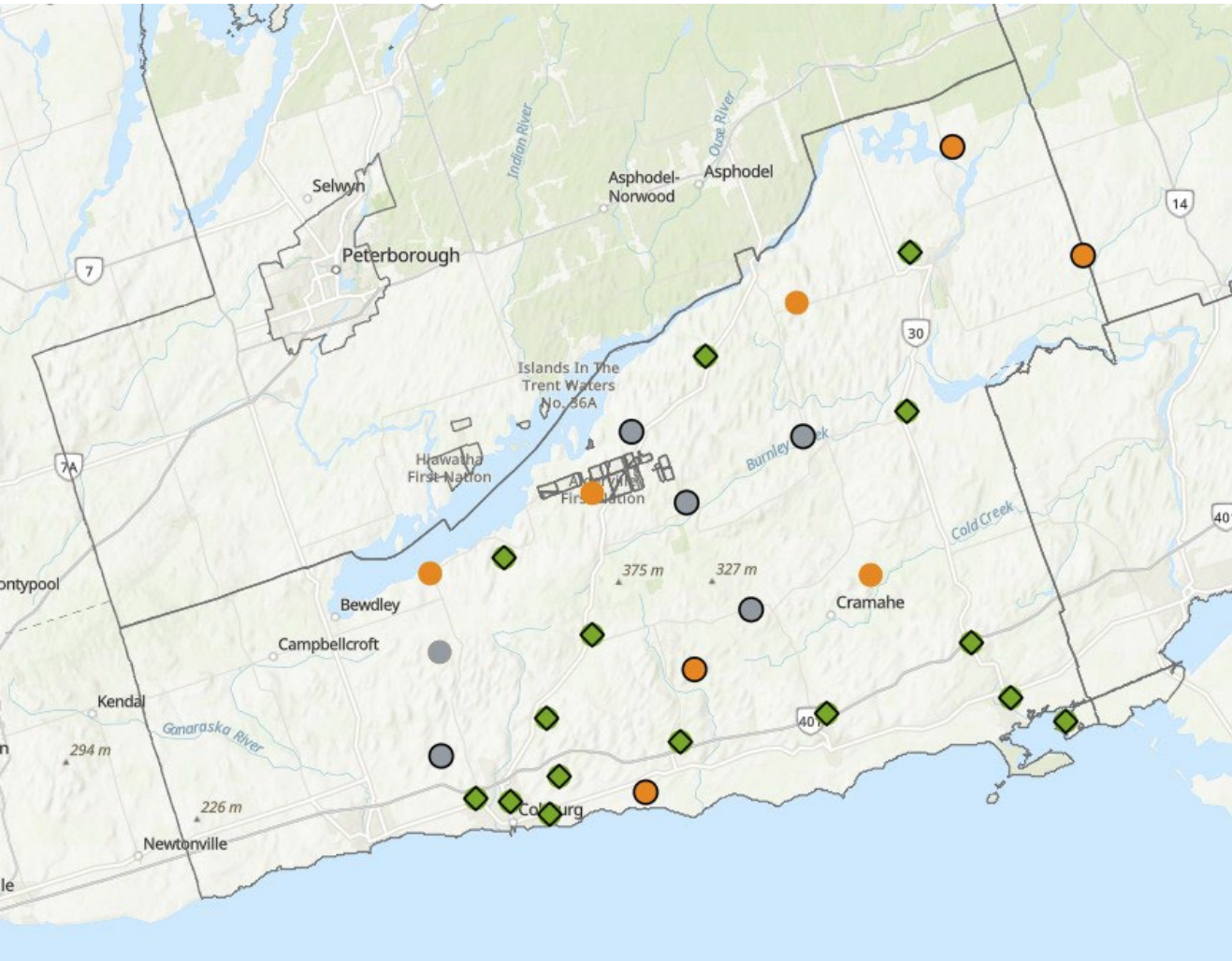


-  New towers planned
-  New towers in-service
-  Uplifts completed
-  Co-locations planned
-  Co-locations in service

Subject to change April 15, 2025

# Northumberland County

Northumberland County has invested \$668,867 with \$16 million of infrastructure being made in the county. 24:1 return on investment



Type	Total project	% In-service
New builds	10	40%
Upgrades	20	100%
Co-locations	6	83%

All upgrades are completed.  
Five of six co-locations are completed, and four of 10 new sites are in service.

81% of Northumberland sites completed.

New towers planned

New towers in-service

Uplifts completed

Co-locations planned

Co-locations in service

Subject to change April 15, 2025

# EORN Cell Gap Project Construction Plan

	New builds	Co-locations
Previous years in-service	77	54
Year 4 in-service	44	13
<b>*Current total in-service</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>64</b>
Year 5 planned	113	8
Year 6 planned	24	2
<b>Total project</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>% of total in-service</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>86%</b>

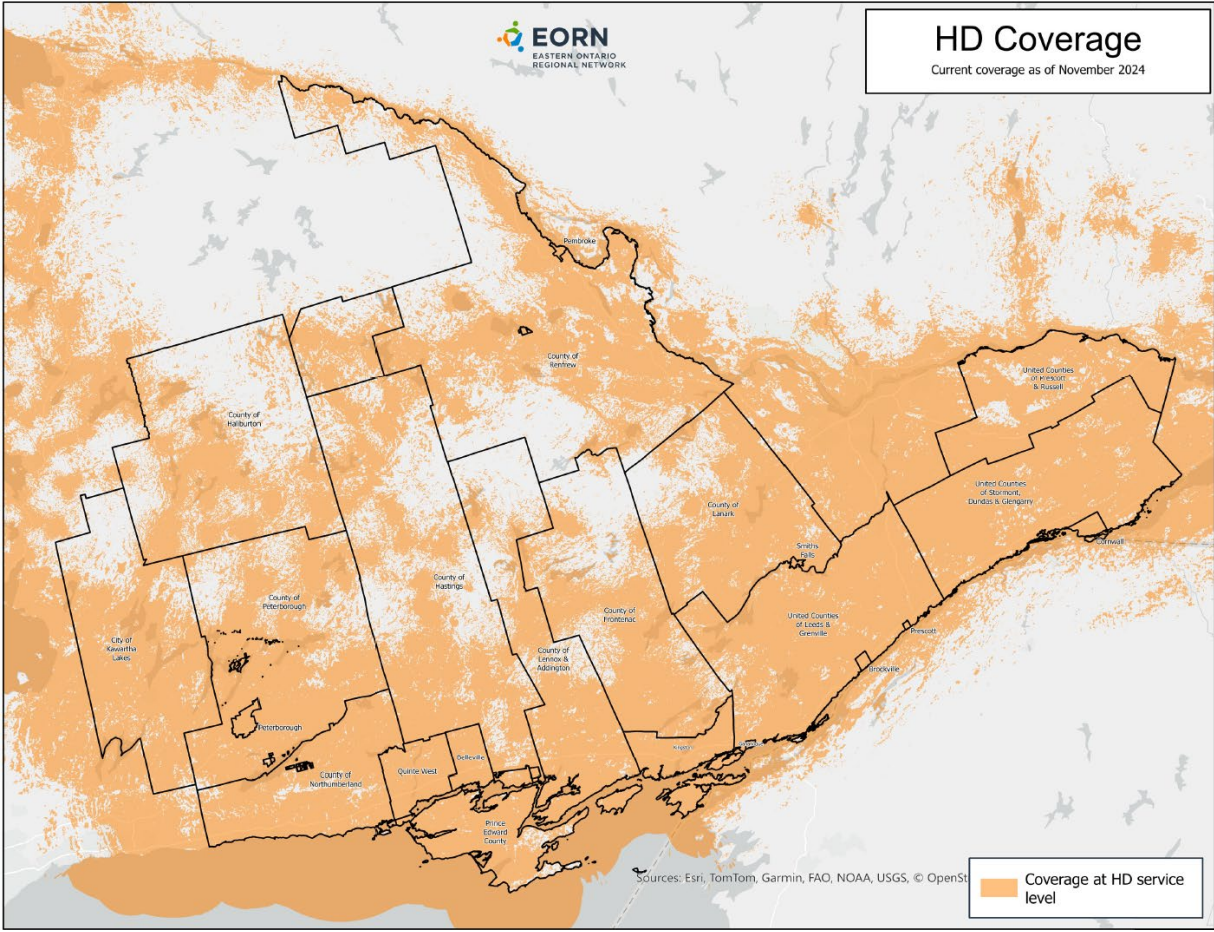
Note that many Year 3 sites which were delayed were constructed in Year 4.

# Northumberland County Construction Plan

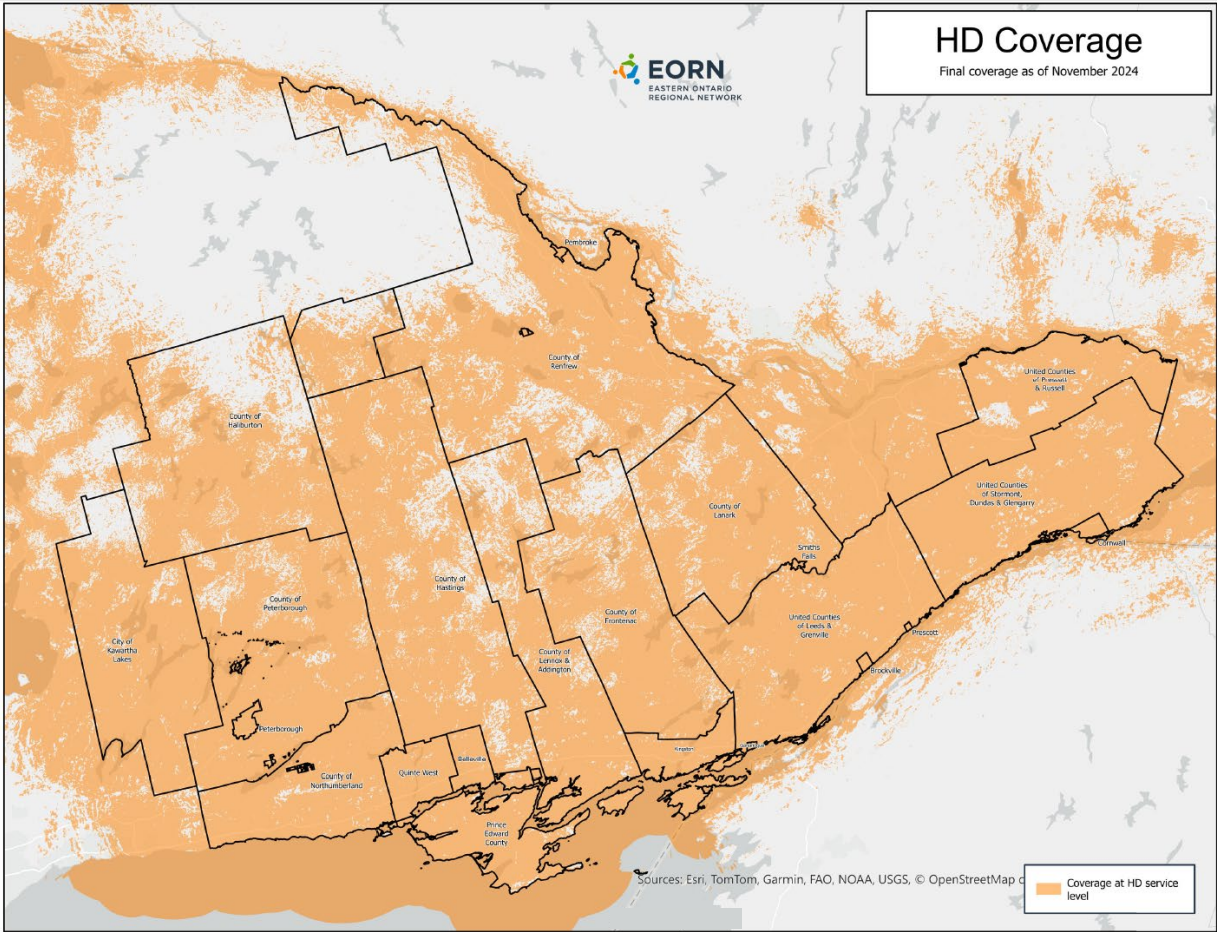
Tower identifier	Site name	Municipality	In-service plan
Co-locations			
C7772	Cold Springs	Township of Hamilton	2025
New towers			
C8280	Highway 38 and Line Road 5	Municipality of Port Hope	2026
*C8726	Oak Hill Road and Trew Road	Municipality of Port Hope	2026
C8519	County Road 35 and Faux Road	Municipality of Trent Hills	2025
C8728	County Road 18 and Brock Road	Township of Alnwick-Haldimand	2026
C8686	Pinewood School Road and Huycke Road	Township of Cramahe	2025
C6505	Gores Landing	Township of Hamilton	2026

\*Land use authority required.

# Current HD Coverage Versus Final HD Coverage

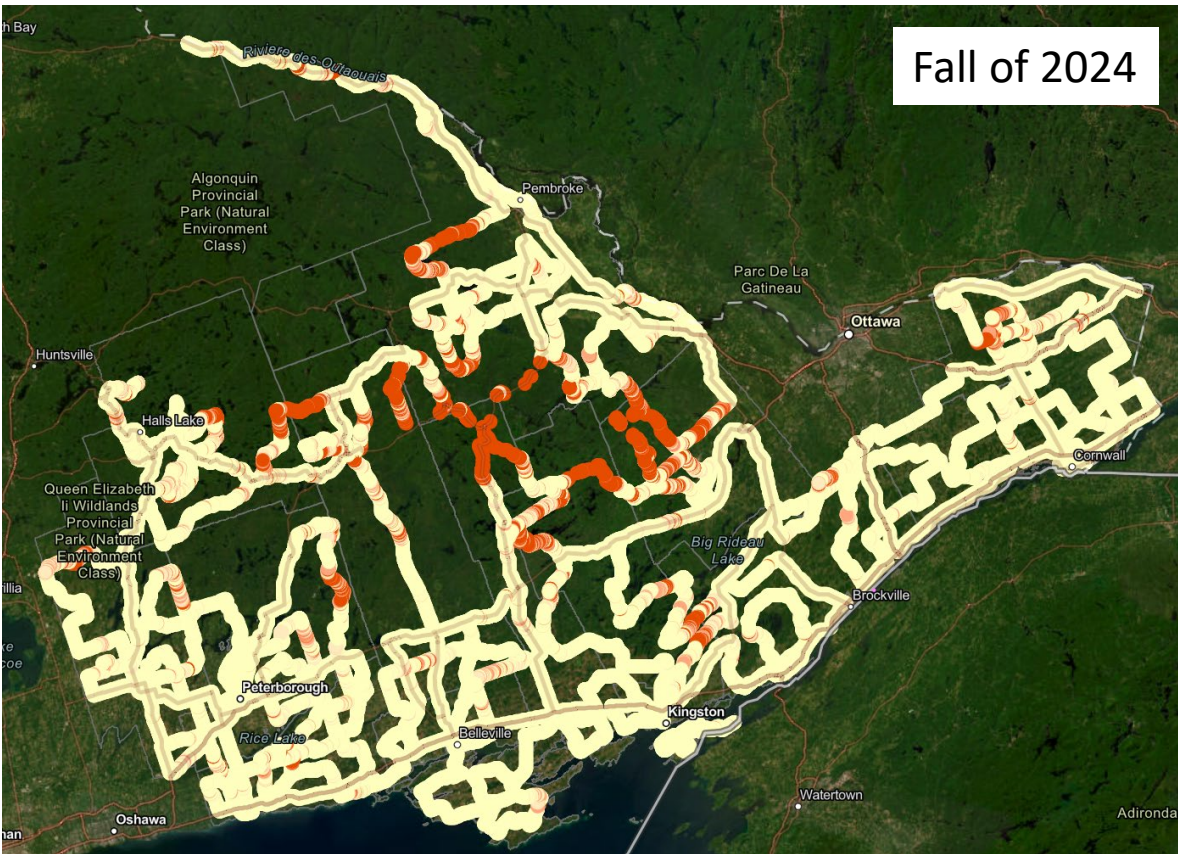
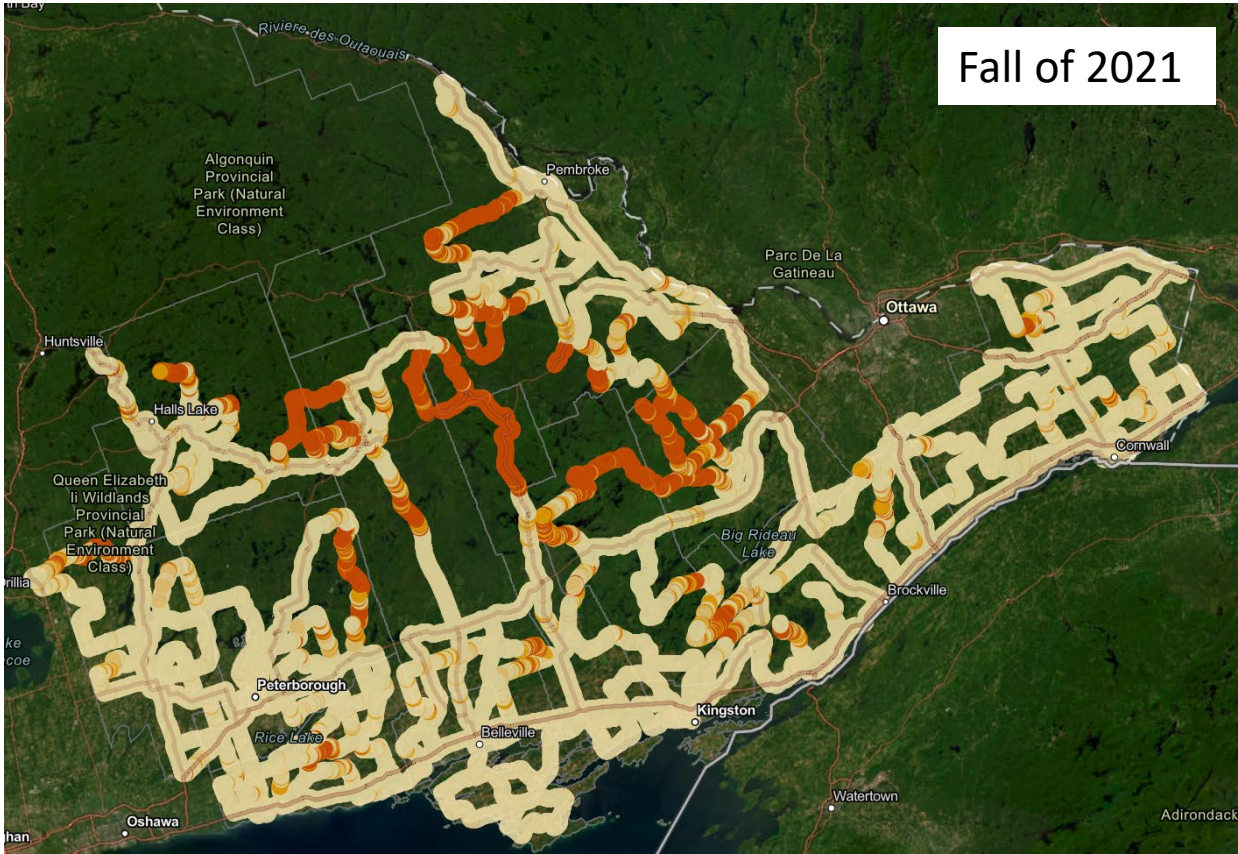


86.9% against demand



94.3% against demand

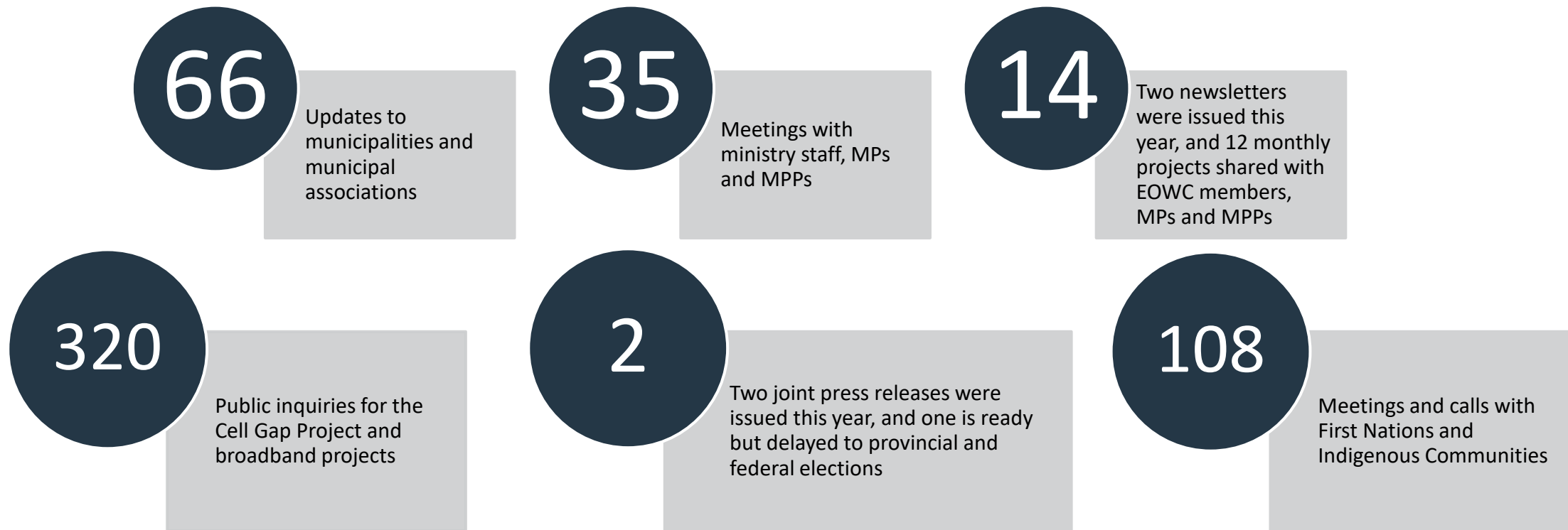
# Drive Test Data



Red is weak coverage

# EORN Activities 2024

Due to public funding and support for the project, there is an expectation by elected officials and the public for regular updates on the status of the project.



# Timelines and Next Steps

- |                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| • Upgrades to existing towers     | 2021 - 2024 |
| • Land use authority process      | 2021 – 2025 |
| • Indigenous consultation process | 2021 - 2026 |
| • New tower construction          | 2022 - 2026 |
| • Announcements                   | 2022 – 2026 |
| • Pursue other initiatives        | 2022 - 2030 |

# Evolution of the Canadian Telecommunication Landscape

Telecoms are working with third-party investors to reduce their debt, increase shareholders profits and maintain and grow their networks.

- Blackstone Networks
  - Rogers Communications announced that it has finalized an agreement to sell a 49.9% stake in a portion of its wireless traffic transport infrastructure for \$7 billion to Blackstone.
  - Blackstone will hold a 20% voting stake, while Rogers retains the remaining shares and maintains full operational control of the infrastructure network.
  - Rogers has the option to buy back the minority stake between 2033 and 2037.
- Redwood Infrastructure
  - Rogers Communications recently finalized a significant financial agreement with Redwood Infrastructure, which involves the sale and transfer of critical vertical real estate assets that form part of Rogers' wireless infrastructure.
  - Model could create a more competitive landscape as Redwood Infrastructure is a supporter of co-location models.
  - Redwood has also been introduced in the fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) network build.

# Evolution of the Canadian Telecommunication Landscape

- Bell Canada
  - November 2024 Bell announced the purchase of Zipl Networks the largest, regionally-focused fibre internet provider in the U.S. Pacific Northwest, with operations and assets in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.
  - Bell divested their stake in MLSE and paid \$7 billion for Zipl.
  - Reaction to an ongoing battle between Bell and the CRTC on the CRTC direction for Bell to open their FTTH network to smaller ISPs.
- Telus Announcement
  - March 2025 Telus announced that it is selling a minority stake (49.5%) in the 3,000-tower portfolio to raise funds to reduce its debt.
  - Valued between \$1-3 billion.
- Xplore Networks
  - Announced the release of their 5G Ultra Highspeed network across Canada.
  - A number of towers in eastern Ontario will be upgraded with this technology allowing speeds of up to 250 Mbps.

# EORN Strategic Plan



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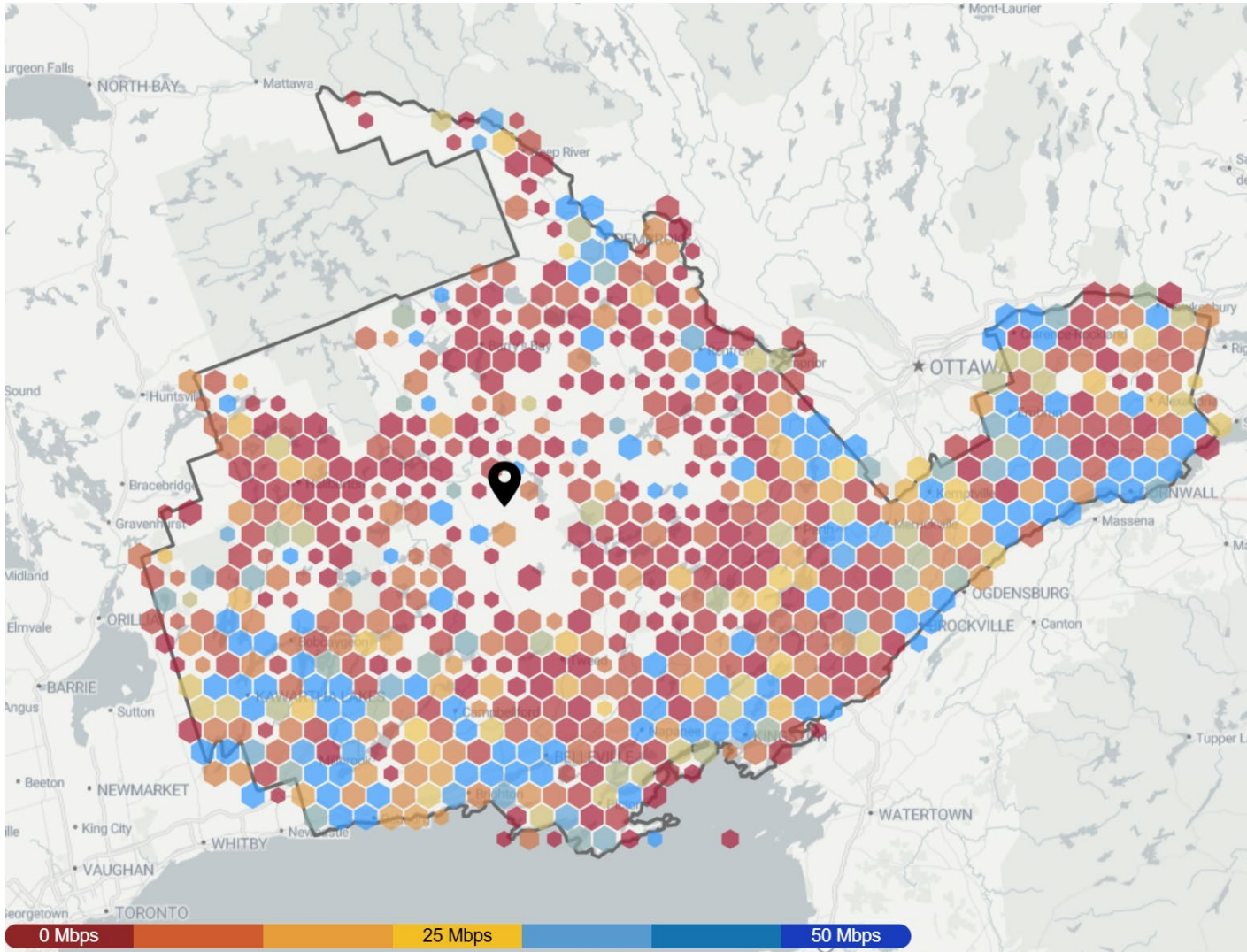
# EORN Strategic Plan 2024-2028

- EORN is almost one year into their four-year strategic plan
- The change to EORN's letters of patent allows for greater versatility to work on various projects within the region
  - EORN's four key services are:
    - Project management services
    - Infrastructure project services
    - Technology services support
    - Municipal support
- EORN works closely with the EOWC and EOLC to ensure possible projects align

# EORN's Current Initiatives

- Development and successful implementation of a duty to consult process
- Automated speed enforcement introduction and review with Lanark
- Canadian Internet Registry Authority (CIRA) partnership in broadband performance
- Very last premise (VLP) projects to close the gaps in the provincial broadband projects
- Geographic information system (GIS) mapping exercise working to support digital twin (EOLC)
- Regional procurement model for joint services, such as cybersecurity

# CIRA Performance Testing



All tests since 2015

- EORN has signed on as a community partner with CIRA to help gather data about internet speeds across the region.
- EORN will use the data to help identify real gap areas and develop programs to fill them.
- Need participation from residents across the region.
- Prior to testing, important to move the black pin as close as possible to the test location.
- <https://performance.cira.ca/>

# Questions



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