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CONTACT: **[Name, phone & email of authorized contact]**

The Internet is coming to **[library].** And it’s coming fast.

**[Library town]**, MA – The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) announced another mile-stone in its mission to bring fiber-optic internet connections to **[Library town]** through the federally funded MBI project called MassBroadband123. MBI and cooperating specialized agencies like the Massachusetts Library System, will make internet access available to the entire state of Massachusetts by 2013.

MLS, through a $250,000 Gates Grant Award, will offer equipment and training to rural libraries receiving fiber-optic internet connections. Said Gregory Pronevitz, Executive Director of MLS, “This initiative is a long needed game-changer for the rural communities that are affected. We’re working with the MBI, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the C/WMARS network to assist the libraries. This project is essential to the success of rural libraries and we are excited to work together to see the entire state internet ready.”

Grant monies will fund a Circuit Rider position, specifically dedicated to the project. A new staff member has begun work, based out of MLS’s Whately office. MLS reports that the Circuit Rider’s first responsibilities are to assess the equipment needs of the 120 libraries getting fiber optic connections. Future responsibilities include technical support and a commitment to offering 80 training sessions to library staff.

**[Insert quote about impact of fiber-optic connectivity & wi-fi, details about library, or other content.]**

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