

AGRICULTURE, PLANNING, TOURISM & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 24, 2016

AGRICULTURE, PLANNING, TOURISM & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PRESENT: Idleman, Shay, Haff, Armstrong, Moore, Skellie

AGRICULTURE, PLANNING, TOURISM & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ABSENT: Fedler

SUPERVISORS: Henke, Hicks, Gang, Shaw, O'Brien, Hogan, LaPointe

Debra Prehoda, Clerk of the Board

Al Nolette, Treasurer

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Chris DeBolt, County Administrator

Laura Oswald, Economic Dev. Director

Corrina Aldrich, Exec. Director, Soil & Water

Renee Bouplon, Ag Stewardship Assoc.

Laura Chadwick, Director, Real Property

Public

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Accept Minutes – September 23, 2016
- 3) Caitlin Wargo, Communication & Development Director, ANCA
- 4) AGRICULTURE
 - A. Ag & Farmland Protection Plan Update
- 5) PLANNING
- 6) TOURISM
 - A. County Tourism Map – Real Property
- 7) Other Business
- 8) Adjournment

In the absence of Chairwoman Fedler, Ms. Idleman called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

A motion to accept the minutes of the September 23, 2016 meeting was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. Skellie and adopted.

ANCA PRESENTATION – Kate Fish, Executive Director Adirondack North Country Association, addressed the committee. Also in attendance was Caitlin Wargo, Communication & Development Director, ANCA. Dynamic Local Economies, Sustain Thriving Communities strategic plan 2015 - 2020, handout distributed and on file. She stated Washington County has been a strong supporter of ANCA for years and they really appreciate that thanking the committee. ANCA is a not-for-profit agency that works across 14 counties; the entire northern area of the state. Their focus is economic development so they focus on how do we grow our local economies believing that locally owned businesses are the future of more rural areas. In particular, they focus on agriculture. They have done a lot of work supporting small artisan businesses. They have a large clean energy program and they are also focused on renewable/clean energy as an economic driver. The support from the counties allows them some flexibility in terms of tackling issues that are not necessarily part of their grant funded programs. They receive grant funding from NYSERDA, NYS Council of the Arts, Empire State Development, USDA and others for very specific programs. The funds from their member counties allows them to tackle issues that come up that are important to our constituents. They recently held an event in the Champlain Valley called Bike to Barns combining biking and the agricultural movement. She would like to look at doing something similar in Washington County. The counties funding allows them to take staff time to put such events together. They are taking on an economic analysis for the entire fourteen county region looking at the current situation and what are the emerging trends and how do you leverage the unique assets of an area for employment. Member counties are going to be able to get access to county level data hopefully finding this information very useful. They do promote Washington County tourism through the digital art trail. They do a lot that

attracts visitors. Washington County's allocation to ANCA is \$2,500 and the total amount of member funding is \$19,000. Questioned how Washington County benefits from their organization. Member counties have access to the data they produce. Mr. Haff does not think Washington County gets a benefit from the \$2,500 allocation. They are seeking a member to their Board from Washington County. An energy conference is planned for next year in Glens Falls. There are Washington County listings on their tourism guide, Northguide.org.

AGRICULTURE: AG & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN UPDATE – Progress report summary distributed and discussed, attached. This update is funded by a grant received from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Work on the update to the plan is progressing. This is an overarching document that supports agriculture as a whole throughout the County but also provides specific support to those local plans that were already adopted. Over 700 participants have contributed to this plan. After the draft plan has been reviewed, they plan to present it to this committee in December. The plan has to be adopted by the Farmland Protection Board and the Board of Supervisors, probably considered at the February Board meeting.

PLANNING:

County Planning Board – Handout distributed listing projects considered at October 11th meeting, attached.

County Planning Board Membership – The larger issue is what is going to happen with the Planning Board. There was discussion that it might be a good idea to reduce the number of members down from 11 to 8 which would offset the problem of getting a quorum. They would like the Board of Supervisors to advertise for members. A motion to go from 11 to 7 was moved by Mr. Shay and seconded by Mr. Armstrong. Discussion. Mr. Haff recommends going to zero. Ms. Oswald stated at the budget workshop discussion started on obtaining someone to the 239 referrals. The County Attorney stated the Planning Board is extremely limited only to 239M referrals which are generally things within a certain distance of a town or county boundary, road or state road and even then their opinions are non-binding and can be overridden by a super majority of the local Planning Board. Several members also serve on local Planning Boards and have to recuse themselves in those projects that come before the County Planning Board. Messrs. Shay and Armstrong withdrew their motions. A motion that the County Administrator go and do the advertising for the person, RFP, for someone to fulfill these duties was moved by Mr. Moore but did not receive a second because it was stated that a motion to do this was done at a previous meeting. Mr. O'Brien stated Mr. Shay's motion to reduce the membership will work in the interim. A motion to reduce membership on the County Planning Board to seven members was moved by Mr. Shay and seconded by Mr. Moore. Discussion. The request by the County Planning Board was to advertise for members. The committee stated there is no need to advertise. The County Planning Board will determine who comes off the Board. Mr. Haff stated can we move forward with the process of finding someone to do the 239M referrals. The County Administrator stated he will move forward with that. The motion to reduce membership on the County Planning Board to seven members was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. Moore and adopted.

Planning/Zoning Board Training Options Flyer distributed, on file. These flyers are going to be mailed out to local Planning Boards to choose what training is needed.

BROADBAND- Laura Oswald, Economic Development Director, stated the phase II of the New York Broadband Program, state funding for providers to deliver broadband, came out a month ago but the State has revised how phase II is going to get rolled out. The State had to sign a nondisclosure

agreement with TWC regarding merger details. The broadband eligibility maps for phase II were all revised creating eligible space and negative space. Connect America Funds areas are areas where Verizon is not taking the funding. Any area in white is already or about to be covered at 100 megabits per second. Applications for funding are due in November. She anticipates more participation than last time. Nothing will happen unless a service provider bids on an area. Broadband maps attached.

TOURISM - I Love NY Funding – The deadline to apply for 2017 I Love NY funding is November 4th. The County Administrator stated the County can apply for that funding and then can make the decision on whether or not to accept. He budgeted for \$80,000 in the 2017 contingency account earmarked for tourism. Ms. Oswald stated she is not sure we can put forth a tourism application without more specifics on the application regarding what we are going to do with the funding. A motion to move forward with application for I Love NY funding was moved by Mr. Skellie, seconded by Mr. Moore and adopted.

DREDGING – Merrillyn Pulver-Moulthrop presented a resolution in opposition to any further dredging at the Board meeting, copy attached. The County Administrator stated his only reservation is that over the years it has been expressed the need for navigational dredging. He wants to make sure we are not advocating against navigational dredging. Don't let them open the dredging project that has been completed. Eight to ten years of data is needed to determine if it was effective. No action taken on the proposed resolution.

COUNTY TOURISM MAP - New map displayed. No major differences. Approved to move forward to print new maps. Funding is already in place.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CAMOIN TOURISM STUDY – Ms. Oswald stated Camoin is mailing post card surveys to second homeowners in the county around November 3rd or 4th asking them to fill out an online survey with responses due back by November 15th. Participants will have a chance at a \$100 gift certificate from Gardenworks. They are also doing an impact analysis of events. They have started to prepare a comprehensive list of events. Mailing letters to organizers of events to gather information. The next phase is orchestrating the Chamber meetings. They are using 2016 I Love NY funding for this study and would like to get as much as possible done and paid for by the end of the year. The Treasurer recommends encumbering the Camoin contract and I Love NY funds.

A motion to adjourn was moved by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Skellie and adopted. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors

Progress Report:

Washington County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan

The Washington County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan was originally adopted in 1996 to identify strategies to promote agricultural viability and protect farmland. Many of the goals of the original plan were met, but the plan became outdated. In February 2015, the county received a grant from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to update the plan to better serve the agricultural industry in Washington County. The Agricultural Stewardship Association (ASA), in partnership with Nan Stolzenburg, a rural planning specialist was contracted to assist with updating the plan. The project was initiated in spring of 2015 and following is an overview of our accomplishments thus far:

Creation of a Steering Committee

The steering committee was created to pull together a group of people representing a wide variety of agricultural sectors to provide input throughout the process. The steering committee includes: Ted Blomgren (Windflower Farm), Dave Campbell (Mapleland Farms), Lisa Randles (White Clover Farm), Jay Skellie (Hi-Brow Farm/Farm Bureau/AFPB), Karen Weinberg (3-corner Field Farm), Dan Wilson (Hicks Orchard), Bob Wiederhold (Farm Credit East), Renee Bouplon (ASA/New York Forest Owners Association), Teri Ptacek (ASA/AFPB), Nan Stolzenburg (Community Planning and Environmental Associates), Laura Oswald (Washington County Economic Development), Layne Darfler (Washington County Planning), Brian Gilchrist (Cornell Cooperative Extension/AFPB), and Corrina Aldrich (Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District). The committee has met on a regular basis since the spring of 2015. Dan Wilson has recently stepped off the committee due to his schedule and work commitments.

Data Collection

Agricultural census data was compiled and analyzed, and relevant GIS mapping was provided by Washington County Real Property and ASA to create an initial profile of the Ag industry in the county. Existing land use, local plans and regulations, zoning, and other pertinent data was reviewed and summarized. This analysis made clear that Agriculture remains a critical industry to the county as more than a third of the land in the county is dedicated to agriculture; and the county has *significantly* more farmland than any other county in the Hudson Valley and surrounding areas. Close to \$140 million in agricultural sales are generated each year.

Public Participation

Initial public outreach was undertaken to ensure the general public had opportunity to voice an opinion. An online questionnaire (via Survey Monkey) was publicized and hard copies made available at the 2015 Washington County fair. This survey was intended for non-farmers and asked questions about residents' involvement, knowledge and support of local agriculture. Over 400 responses were received and tabulated.

Stakeholder Interviews

The committee created a list of key stakeholders compiled into three main categories and several sub-categories based on their operations. These categories included: Agricultural Producers, Ag supported Businesses, Organizations, and Community Members/Organizations/Interested Parties. ASA conducted the vast majority of interviews with several committee members also assisting. A total of 39 interviews were conducted either in person or on the phone.

Farmer Workshops/ SWOT analysis of Washington County Agriculture

Farmer workshops were held in both Easton and Hartford in early February of 2016. These workshops were a chance for the farmers and Ag related businesses to be heard and their ideas and opinions prioritized. Significant outreach was

undertaken to ensure maximum participation. Overall, approximately 80 people participated in these workshops. In addition, a questionnaire was mailed prior to the workshops to solicit feedback from those farmers that may not have been able to attend the workshops. 44 questionnaires were returned.

Focus Groups

In addition to the workshops above, smaller groups with a more specific focus were engaged in discussion. One Focus Group meeting took place in Easton focusing on service industries to agriculture. Several were interviewed on the phone, and HVADC provided a White Paper with recommendations to guide future agriculture development in Washington County.

Goals and Strategies

All public input was then compiled into a strength, weakness, opportunity, and threat (SWOT) analysis. When combined with the data analysis this huge volume of information formed the basis with which overall goals and strategies for the plan could be created. The committee formulated close to 100 possible action items/strategies which could be acted upon. The following vision statement was created:

Our vision for the future of agriculture in Washington County is: Agriculture and ag-related businesses are a driving force and critical to Washington County's economy and quality of life. Washington County communities and residents understand and embrace the vital role agriculture plays in the County and are committed to protecting the land base for farming. Our farms are diverse, thriving and financially successful. We promote and take advantage of emerging local and distant markets; cutting edge technologies and practices; renewable energy and cost efficiencies; and new opportunities to retain and expand agricultural commodities that are produced in the County. A skilled labor force supports our farm businesses. Farmers continue to be excellent stewards of the land and value sustainable agricultural practices.

Because of these conditions, agriculture attracts both the next generation of farmers and entrepreneurs as well as a supportive community that work together to ensure a long-term and vibrant future for farming in Washington County.

Farmers Survey

In order to prioritize the 100 or so proposed actions these were synthesized down to approximately 30. A survey requesting farmers to prioritize these actions was mailed directly to farmers as well as handed out to farms showcasing at the 2016 Washington County Fair. To date, 103 farmers have responded.

Draft Plan

An initial draft of the Ag and Farmland Protection Plan is in process of being developed and will be reviewed by the steering committee in early November. The plan will be a compilation of all the data analysis, committee work, and public participation gathered in the past year and a half that has segued to the identification of clear, achievable actions to support agriculture in Washington County.

Next Steps

Once the draft plan has been completed a public presentation and review will be scheduled, currently anticipated to be January of 2017. Shortly thereafter the plan will then need to be approved and adopted by both the county Ag and Farmland Protection Board and the county Board of Supervisors. Once adopted at the local level, it must be reviewed and accepted by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.



**WASHINGTON COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**
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Agriculture/Planning/Tourism/Community Development Committee Update
Meeting Date: October 24th, 2016

County Planning Board:

Meeting Date: October 11th, 2016

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
David Cronk, Mike Otruba Summit Environmental Services	T/O Kingsbury	Approval of Site Plan	Office/Storage/ Equipment- Open industrial cleaning company	Matter of Local Concern
Christopher Mastantuono, The Car Shope	T/O Fort Edward	Approval of Site Plan	Car Maintenance facility	*Approve with Conditions and Recommendation;

* Conditions: 1. Applicant put planter boxes at the front of property to landscape property line, 2. Applicant construct fence on boundaries of property as discussed by the local board, 3. Require stormwater management for at least the new impervious (crushed stone) parking areas.
Recommendation: 1. Town Planning Board consider phasing of parking as applicant needs it.

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Cynthia King Cutler	V/O Hudson Falls	Granting a Use Variance	Allow farm animal (goat) in village	Matter of Local Concern

Other Business:

Future of the Planning Board was discussed; motion was made to ask Laura Oswald, Director of Economic Development, to carry a request to the Ag/Planning/ Tourism Committee for an advertising budget to advertise for new planning board members in the designated newspaper.

Next regularly scheduled meeting is November 8th, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Annex II.

L.D

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Supervisors represents a large percentage of the Upper Hudson River residents most affected by the Hudson River PCB dredging project, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Washington County have been forced to contend with untold impacts related to the dredging project, including 24-hour-a-day noise, lighting, traffic and river navigation, and decreased property values near project-related support facilities since 2007 when construction of project-related support facilities began, and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of this body to protect Washington County communities, the citizens that live here and our treasured Hudson River, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that the Hudson River PCB Superfund dredging project has been a "success" and "a historic achievement" and has removed more than two times the volume of PCBs initially anticipated, and

WHEREAS, certain downstate advocacy groups, namely Scenic Hudson, Hudson Riverkeeper, Natural Resources Defense Council and Sloop Clearwater, are demanding that GE, which has completed the environmental dredging project selected by EPA in 2002, unnecessarily expand the environmental dredging project, and

WHEREAS, none of the downstate advocacy groups have had to live with the consequences of this massive environmental dredging project, and

WHEREAS, EPA has determined there is no new scientific evidence justifying a larger dredging project, and that no additional dredging in the Hudson is warranted, and

WHEREAS, GE has met the five-year schedule EPA set for the second, final phase of the project, which was initiated in 2011 and completed in 2015, and

WHEREAS, expanding the environmental dredging project would violate EPA's commitment to the citizens of Washington County that the second, final phase of the dredging project would not continue beyond five years, and

WHEREAS, per its agreements with EPA, GE has dismantled the processing and dewatering facilities it constructed to support the dredging project so the

properties can be redeveloped to support new and robust economic investment, and

WHEREAS, EPA is requiring GE to monitor PCB levels in fish, water and sediment for the years to come to assess the Hudson River Dredging Project's effectiveness and ability to protect human health and the environment, and

WHEREAS, EPA has initiated its second five-year review of the dredging remedy it selected for the Upper Hudson and anticipates issuance of such report in April 2017, and

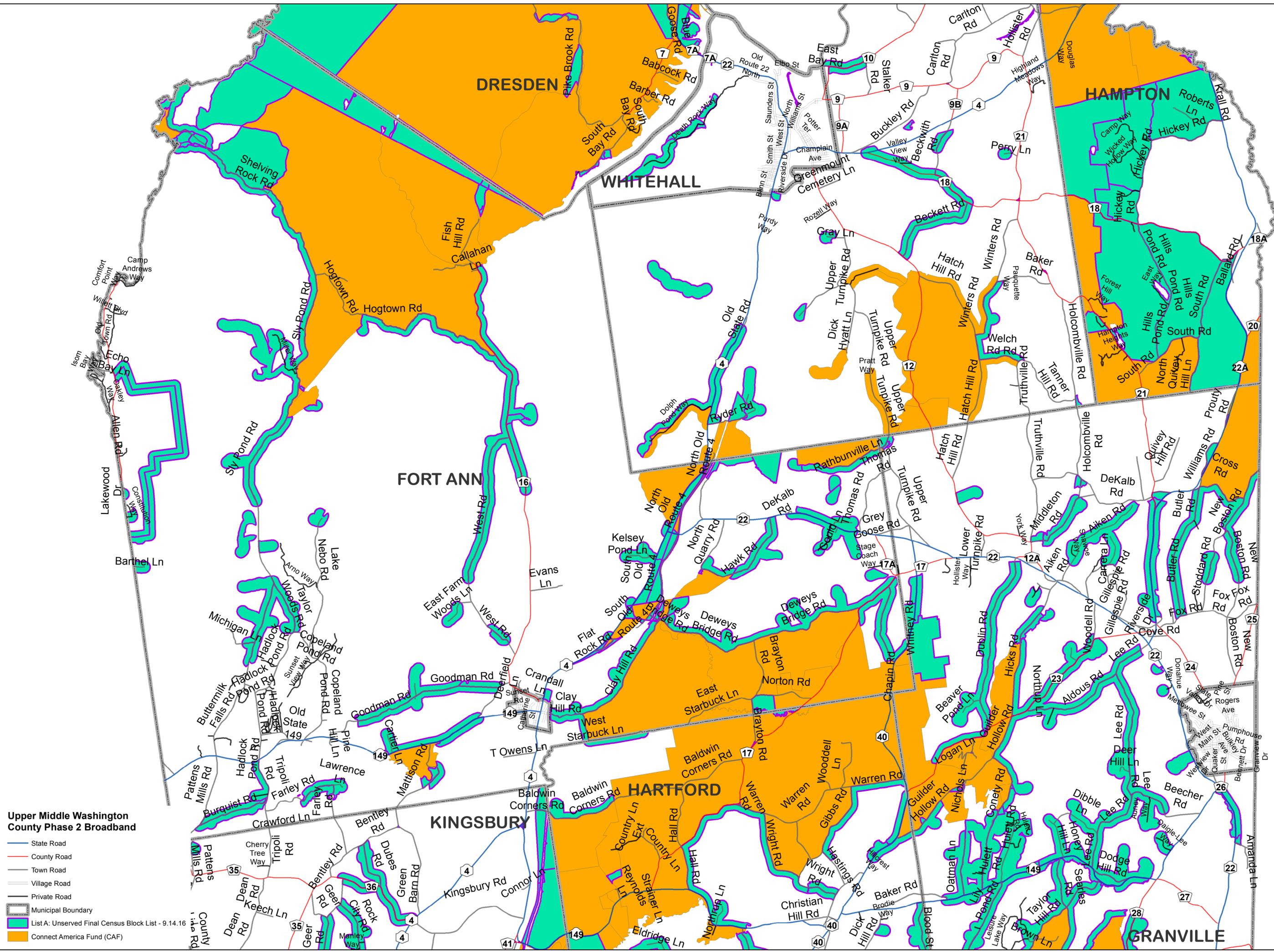
WHEREAS, EPA has stated publicly that it will take eight to ten years for the Agency to collect enough fish, water and sediment data from the Hudson to comprehensively assess the project's ability to reduce PCB levels, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Supervisors hereby expresses its continued opposition to any expansion of the environmental dredging project that has been undertaken and completed in the Upper Hudson River, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Supervisors asks our counterparts in Saratoga and Rensselaer counties to join us in opposing any expansion of the Hudson River environmental dredging project, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Supervisors supports EPA's effort to monitor and evaluate Hudson River conditions in the long-term in order to assess the project's effectiveness at meeting EPA's environmental goals, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Supervisors urges EPA not to expand the scope of the now completed dredging project until EPA has obtained and analyzed all of the fish, sediment and water data needed to make such a decision, a period EPA has estimated to take eight to ten years.



Upper Middle Washington County Phase 2 Broadband

- State Road
- County Road
- Town Road
- Village Road
- Private Road
- Municipal Boundary
- List A: Unserved Final Census Block List - 9.14.16
- Connect America Fund (CAF)

DRESDEN

WHITEHALL

HAMPTON

FORT ANN

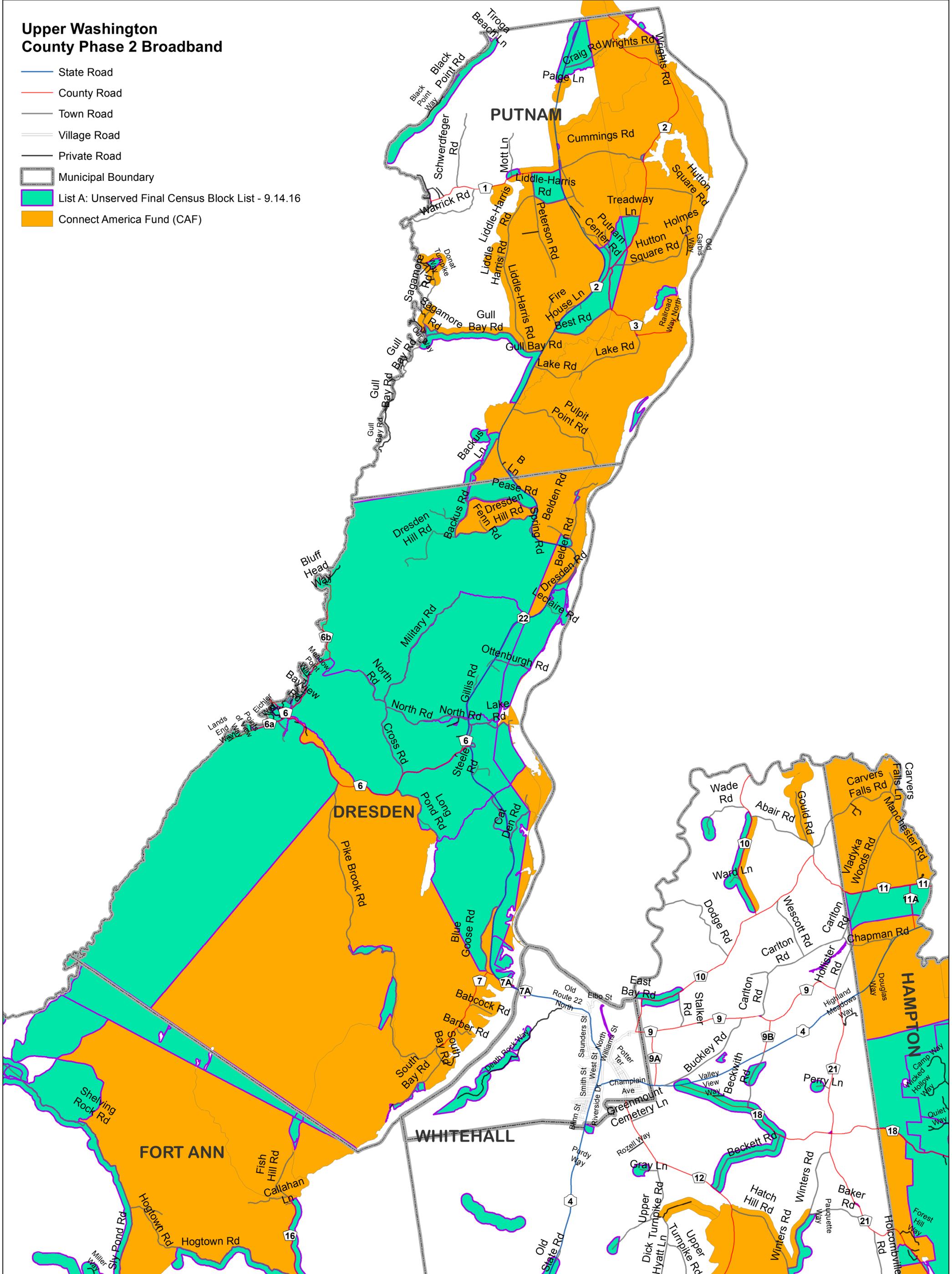
HARTFORD

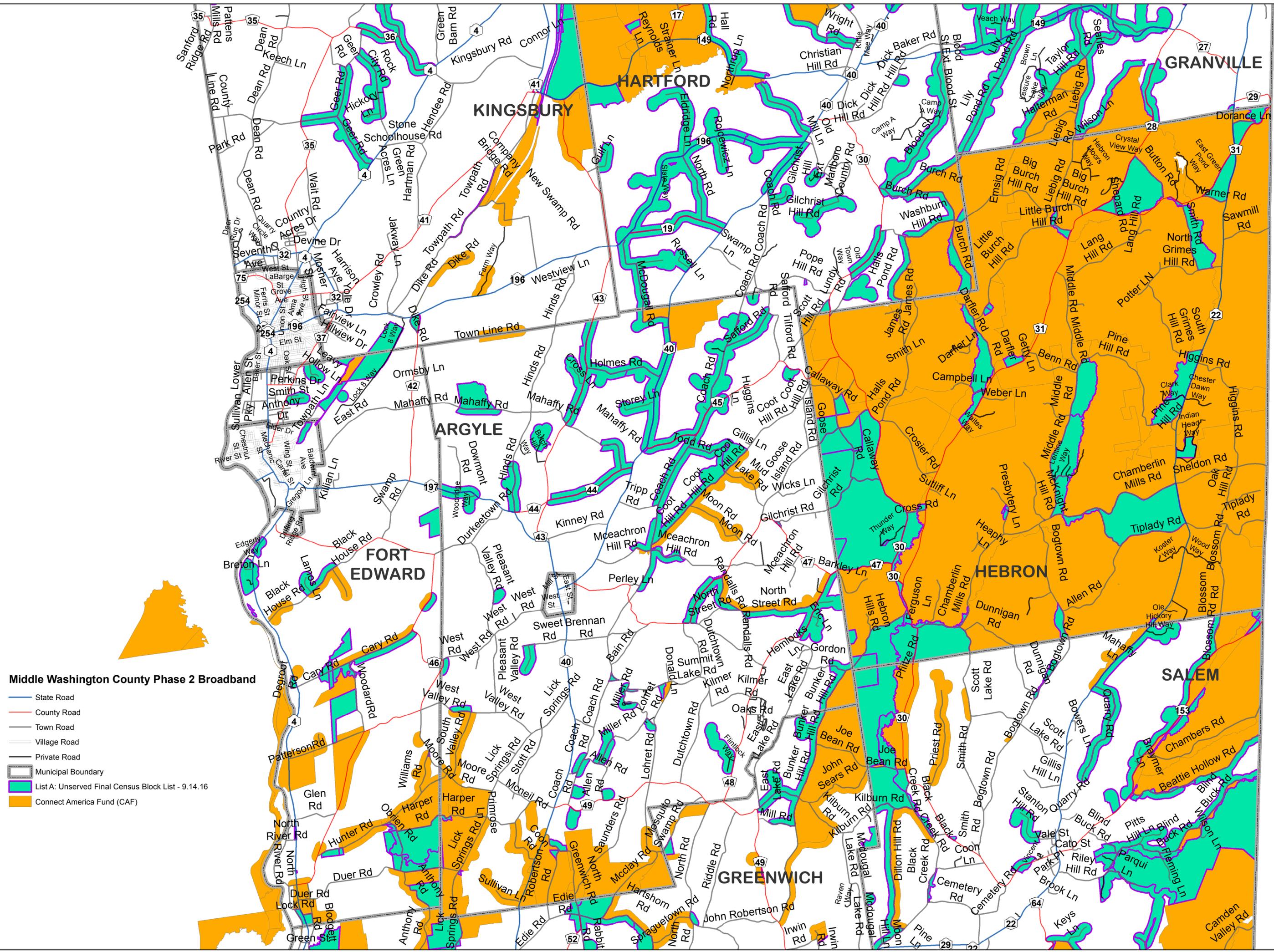
KINGSBURY

GRANVILLE

Upper Washington County Phase 2 Broadband

- State Road
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Middle Washington County Phase 2 Broadband

- State Road
- County Road
- Town Road
- Village Road
- Private Road
- Municipal Boundary
- List A: Unserved Final Census Block List - 9.14.16
- Connect America Fund (CAF)

Lower Washington County Phase 2 Broadband

- State Road
- County Road
- Town Road
- Village Road
- Private Road
- Municipal Boundary
- List A: Unserved Final Census Block List - 9.14.16
- Connect America Fund (CAF)

