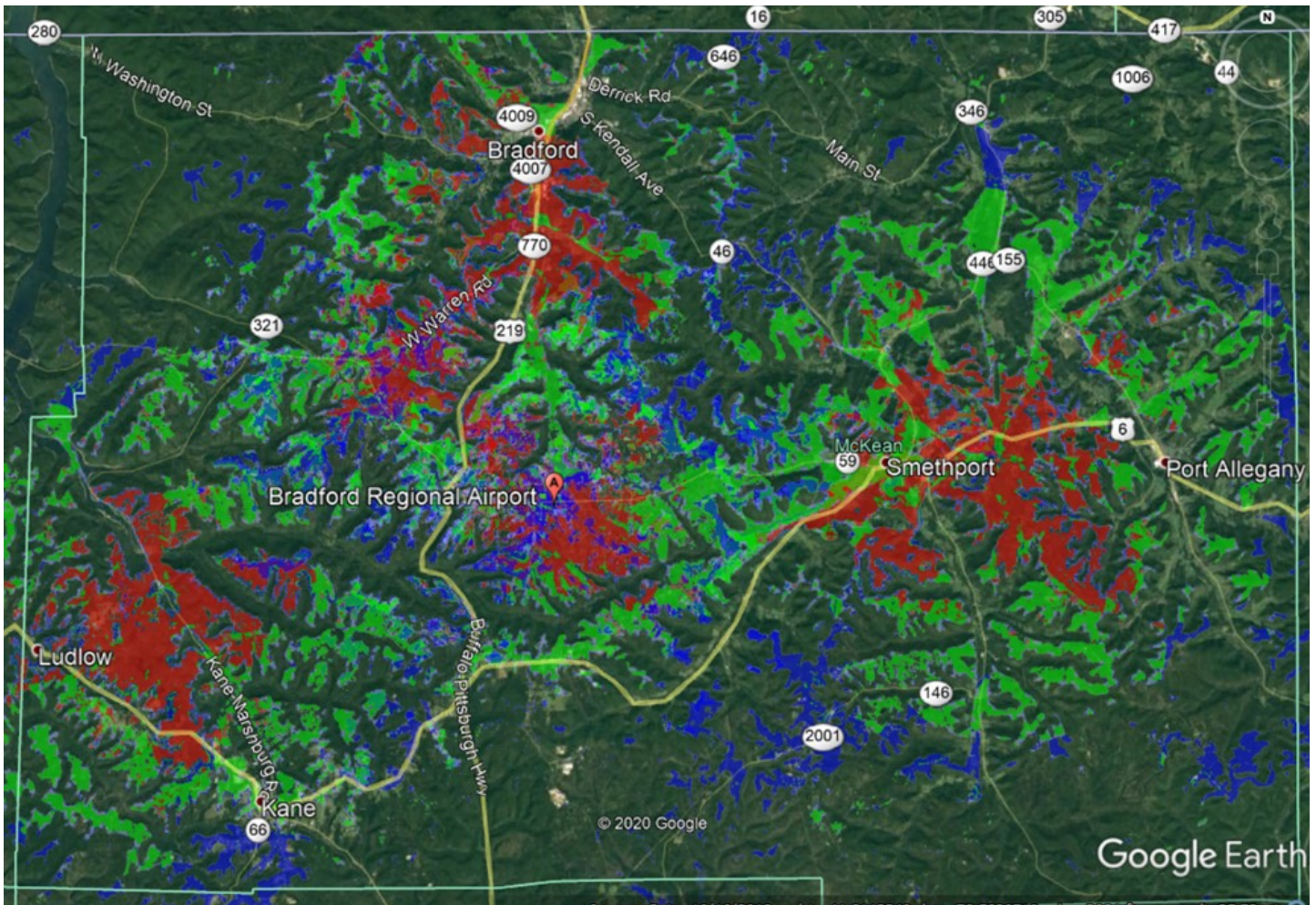


McKean County Broadband Project—Phase 1 Update—11/10/2020 Commissioner’s Meeting



McKean County has entered into an agreement with ConxxNE for the design and construction of a fixed wireless broadband network to improve access to high speed internet throughout McKean County. McKean County will own the network, but one or more internet service providers will provide the end user internet service. Phase 1 is expected to cost approximately \$1.2 million and be completed by December 30, 2020. The propagation map above shows the projected service area and expected speeds throughout the county following completion of phase 1. Areas shaded in red have expected download speeds of approximately 100 mbps, light green areas have expected download speeds of 50 mbps, and blue areas have expected download speeds of 25 mbps. Additional areas of the County will receive speeds of below 25 mbps, however since phase 1 of the project is being funded entirely through CARES Act funding and the minimum download speed for grant purposes has to be 25 mbps or greater.

The County’s Fixed Wireless Network will utilize the Citizen Broadband Radio Service which was recently approved by the FCC for use to provide high speed internet service to residents of the US. The CBRS is much different than traditional wireless technology and is better able to penetrate through signal clutter including trees, foliage, and buildings making it ideal for providing broadband service in rural areas.

Equipment for phase 1 is proposed to be installed at the 911 Center in Smethport, the Prospect Hill 911 Tower, the Gibbs Hill 911 Tower, the Bradford Water Authority Water Tank at the Bradford Airport, a communications tower owned by the Area Transportation Authority, and at the Pine Acres Golf Course. While lease agreements are being finalized, phase 1 is only possible because of the partnerships the County has developed with these partners.

Planning for phase 2 is in progress with construction planned for 2021 and will try to address gaps located throughout the County including the Northwest, North East, and South East corners of the County and the North Central and South Central portions of the county. Once Phase 1 and Phase 2 are complete, additional micro-cells will be developed to address needs in communities or neighborhoods that cannot be reached by the Phase 1 or Phase 2 build out.