The City of Kawartha Lakes EORN Cell Gap Project Update

June 3, 2025

EORN
EASTERN ONTARIO
REGIONAL NETWORK

Agenda

- Cell Gap Project update

- EORN Strategic Plan 2024-2028

- Questions

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Cell Gap Project Update

EORN Cell Gap Project Goals

99%

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.
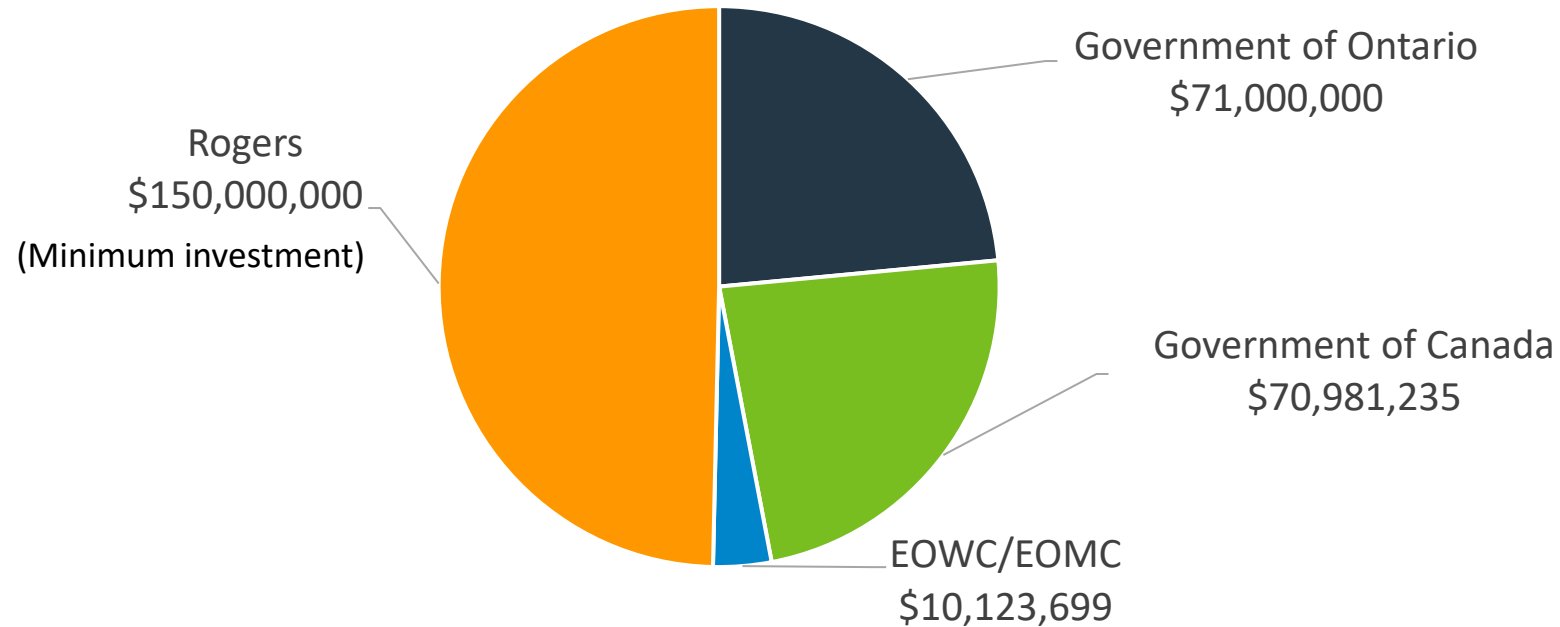
95%

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.

85%

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.

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Financial – Funding Details

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

Government of Ontario
$71,000,000

Government of Canada
$70,981,235

EOWC/EOMC
$10,123,699

Rogers
$150,000,000

(Minimum investment)

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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.
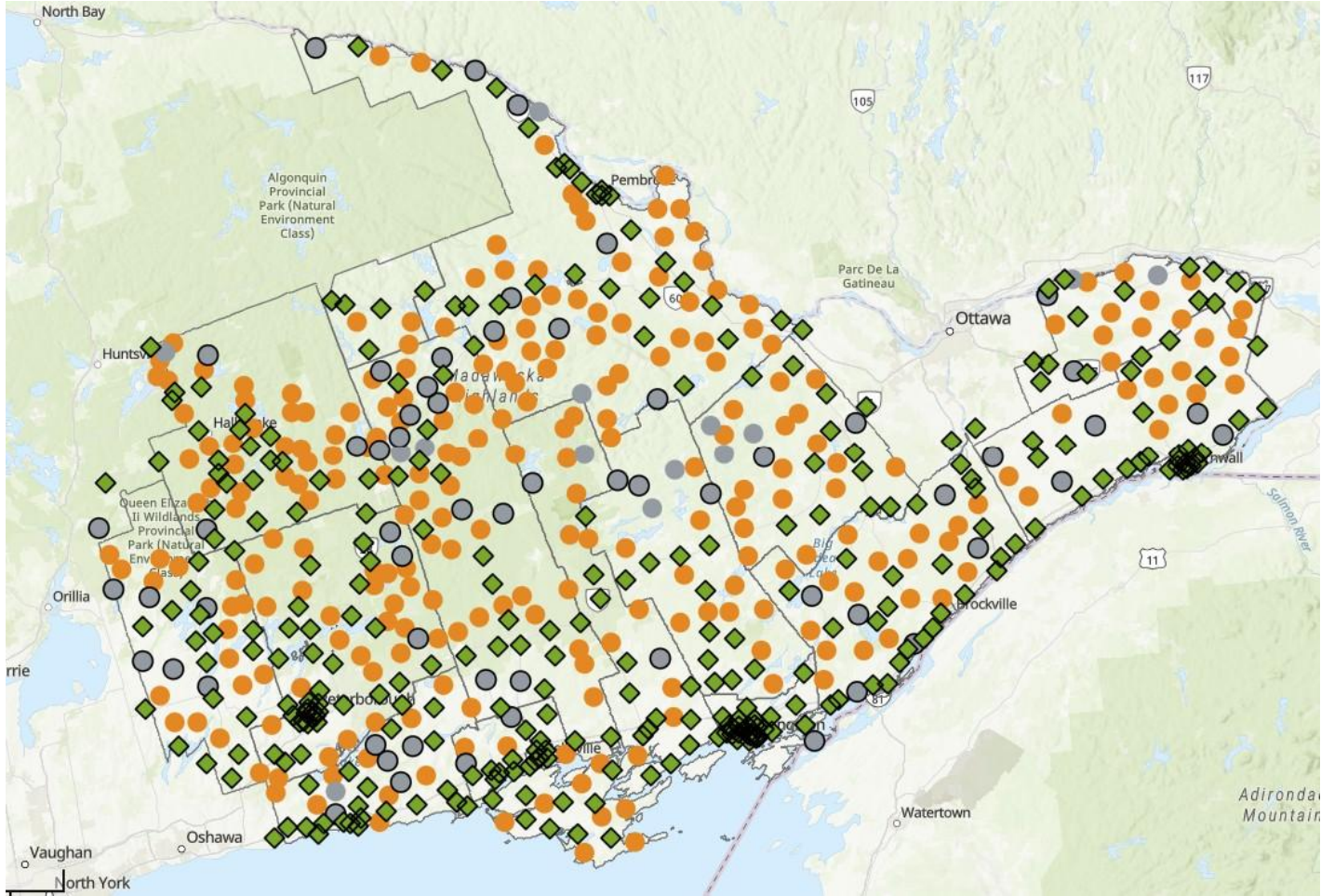
Legend:
- New towers planned
- New towers in-service
- Uplifts completed
- Co-locations planned
- Co-locations in service

Subject to change April 15, 2025

City of Kawartha Lakes

City of Kawartha Lakes has invested $715,711.00 with $20.6 million of infrastructure being made in the county. 29:1 return on investment

Type	Total project	% In-service
New builds	17	12%
Upgrades	14	100%
Co-locations	6	100%

All upgrades are completed, and all six co-locations are completed. Two of 17 new sites are in service.

60% of City of Kawartha Lakes sites completed.

- 🟠 New towers planned
- 🟠 New towers in-service
- 🟢 Uplifts completed
- ⚪ Co-locations planned
- ⚪ Co-locations in service
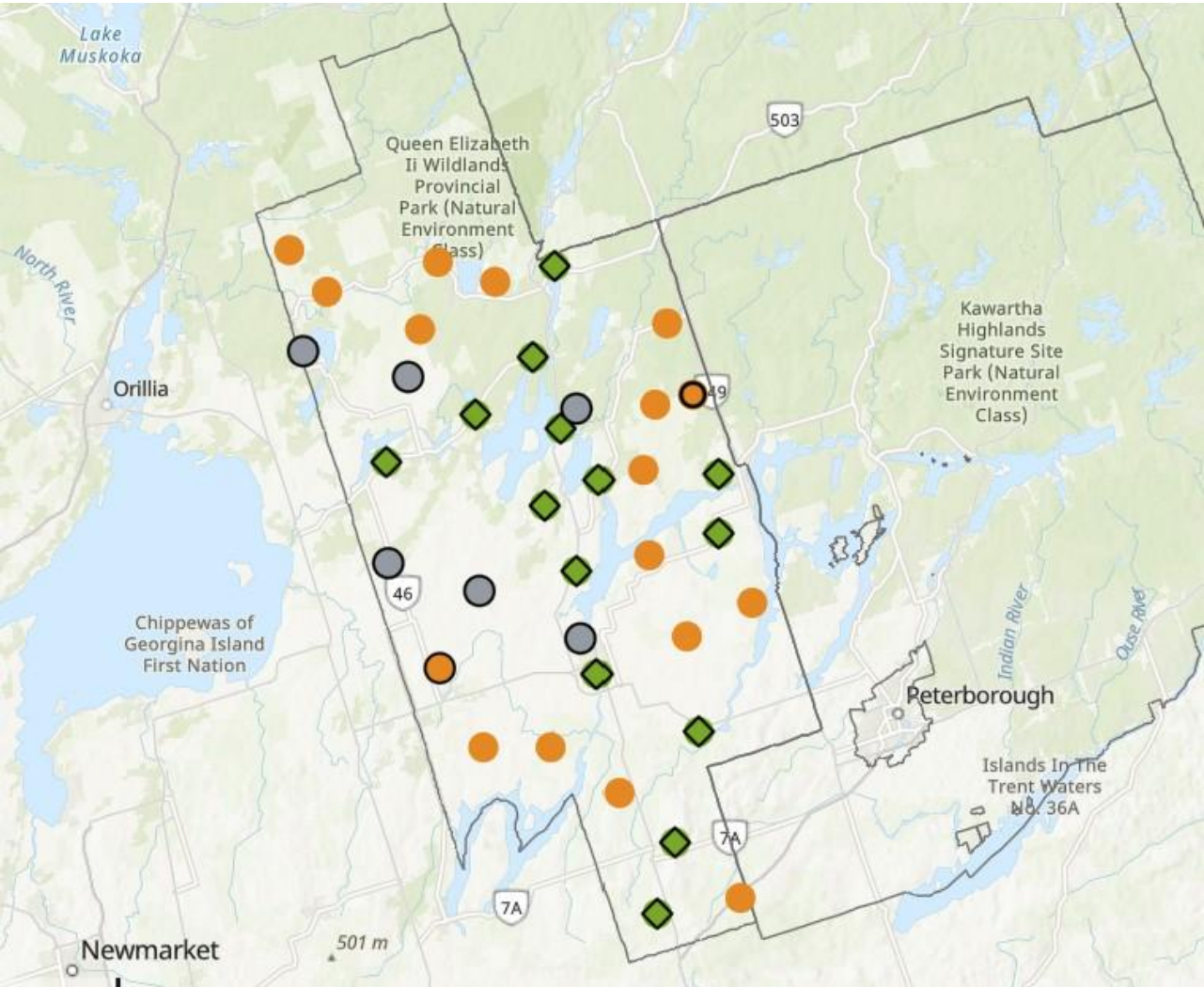
Subject to change April 15, 2025

EORN Cell Gap Project Construction Plan

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

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

City of Kawartha Lakes Construction Plan

| Tower identifier	Site name	Municipality	In-service plan
New Towers			
C3641	Highway 115 and Glamorgan Road	City of Kawartha Lakes	2025
C4119	Highway 35 at Janetville	City of Kawartha Lakes	2026
C4380	Kings Wharf	City of Kawartha Lakes	2025
C8505	Bulmers Road and Country Road 8	City of Kawartha Lakes	2025
C8541	Zion Road and Valentia Road	City of Kawartha Lakes	2026
C8547	Fox's Corner	City of Kawartha Lakes	2026
C8579	Burys Green Road and Walkers Road	City of Kawartha Lakes	2025
C8580	Victoria Road and Alvar Road	City of Kawartha Lakes	2025
C8581	Digby Township West Quarter Line and Monck Road	City of Kawartha Lakes	2026
C8582	Monck Road and Lake Dairymple Road	City of Kawartha Lakes	2025
C8584	Chisholm Trail at Sadowa	City of Kawartha Lakes	2025

City of Kawartha Lakes Construction Plan

Tower identifier	Site name	Municipality	In-service plan
New Towers			
C8585	Hiltons Point Road North and Acorn Road	City of Kawartha Lakes	2026
C6503	County Road 36 and Gill Mar Road	City of Kawartha Lakes	2025
C8607	Galena Hill	City of Kawartha Lakes	2025
C8724	Little Britain Road	City of Kawartha Lakes	2025
C8543	Quaker Road and County Road 46	City of Kawartha Lakes	2026

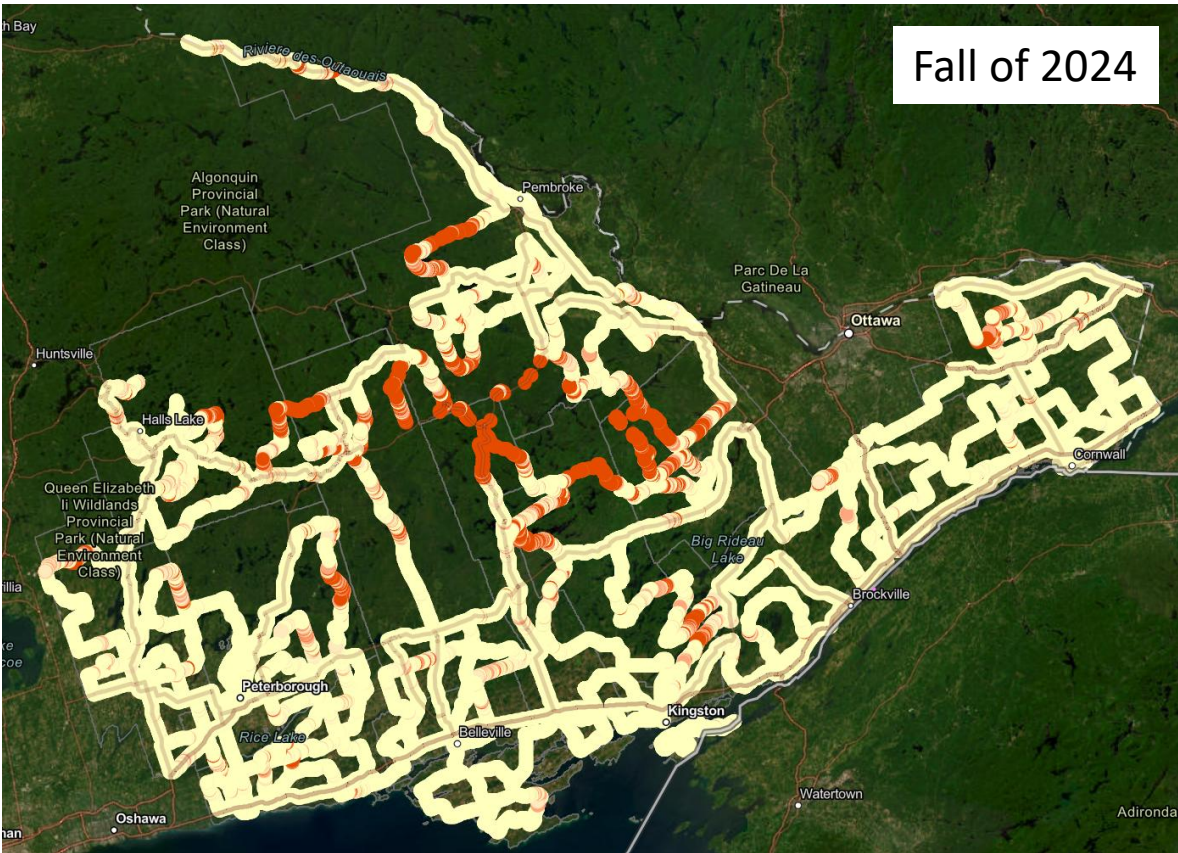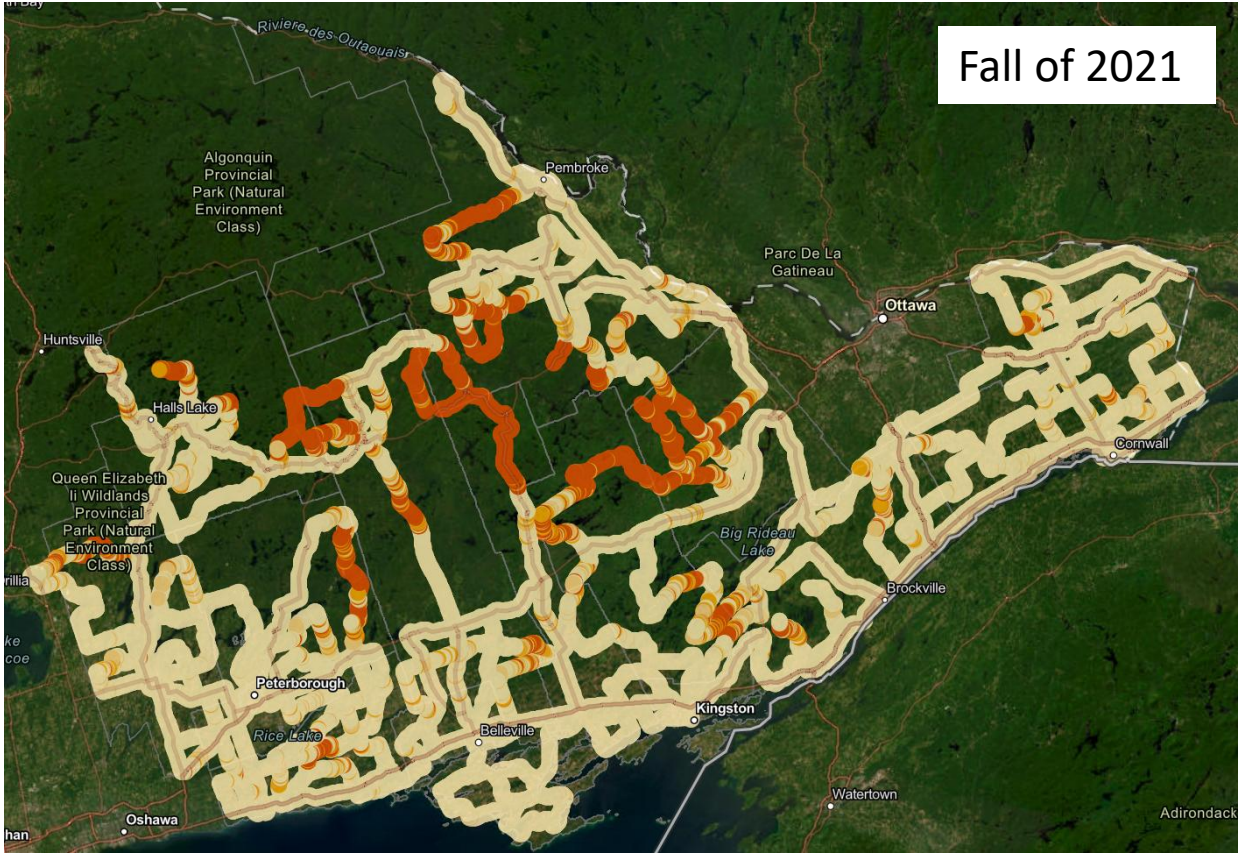# Current HD Coverage Versus Final HD Coverage
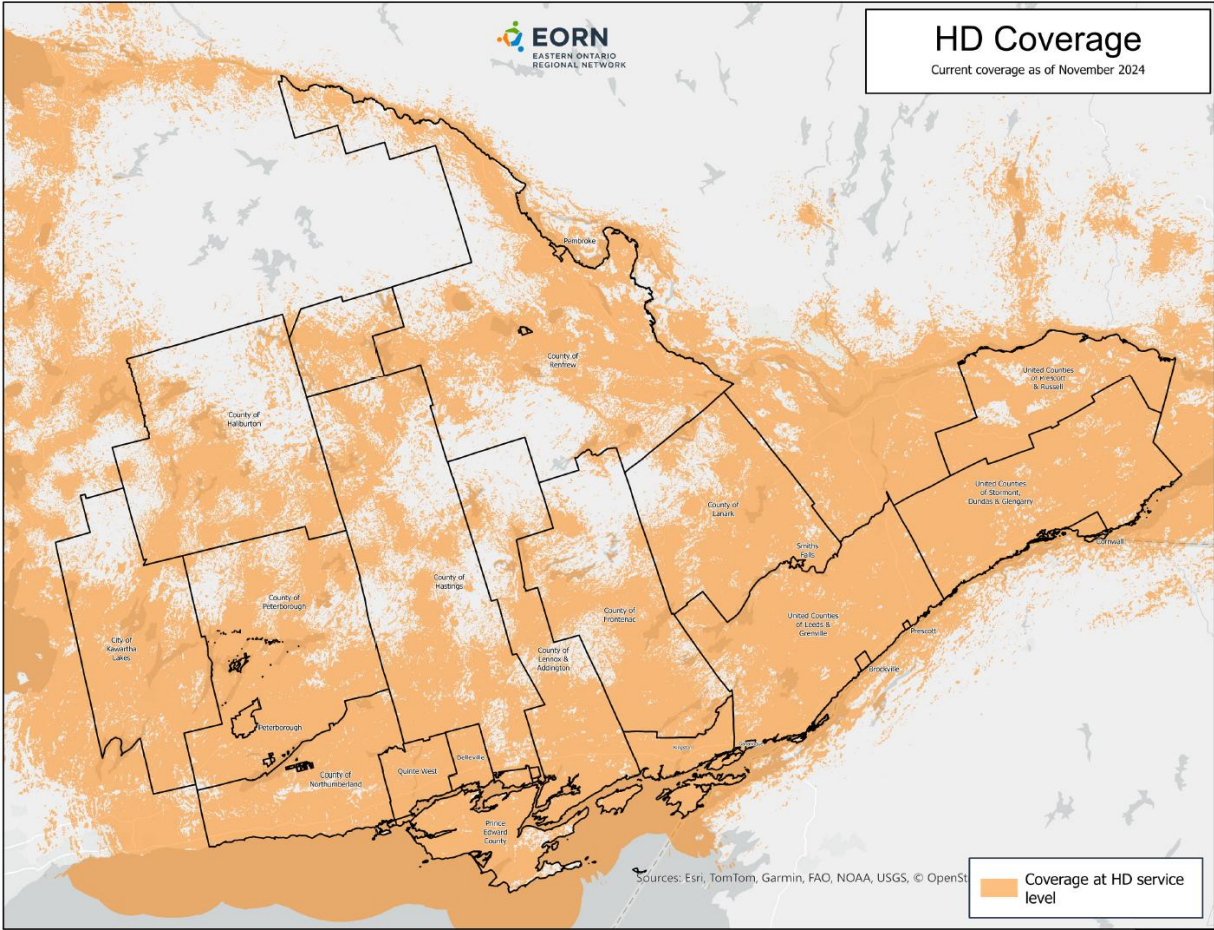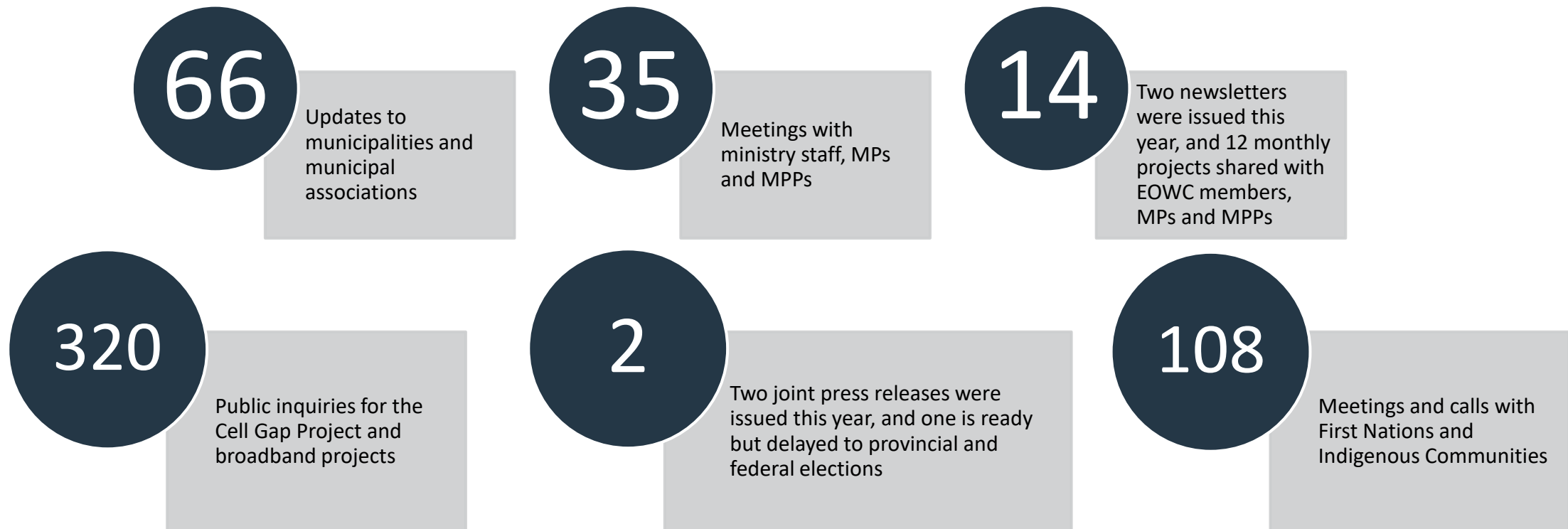

86.9% against demand
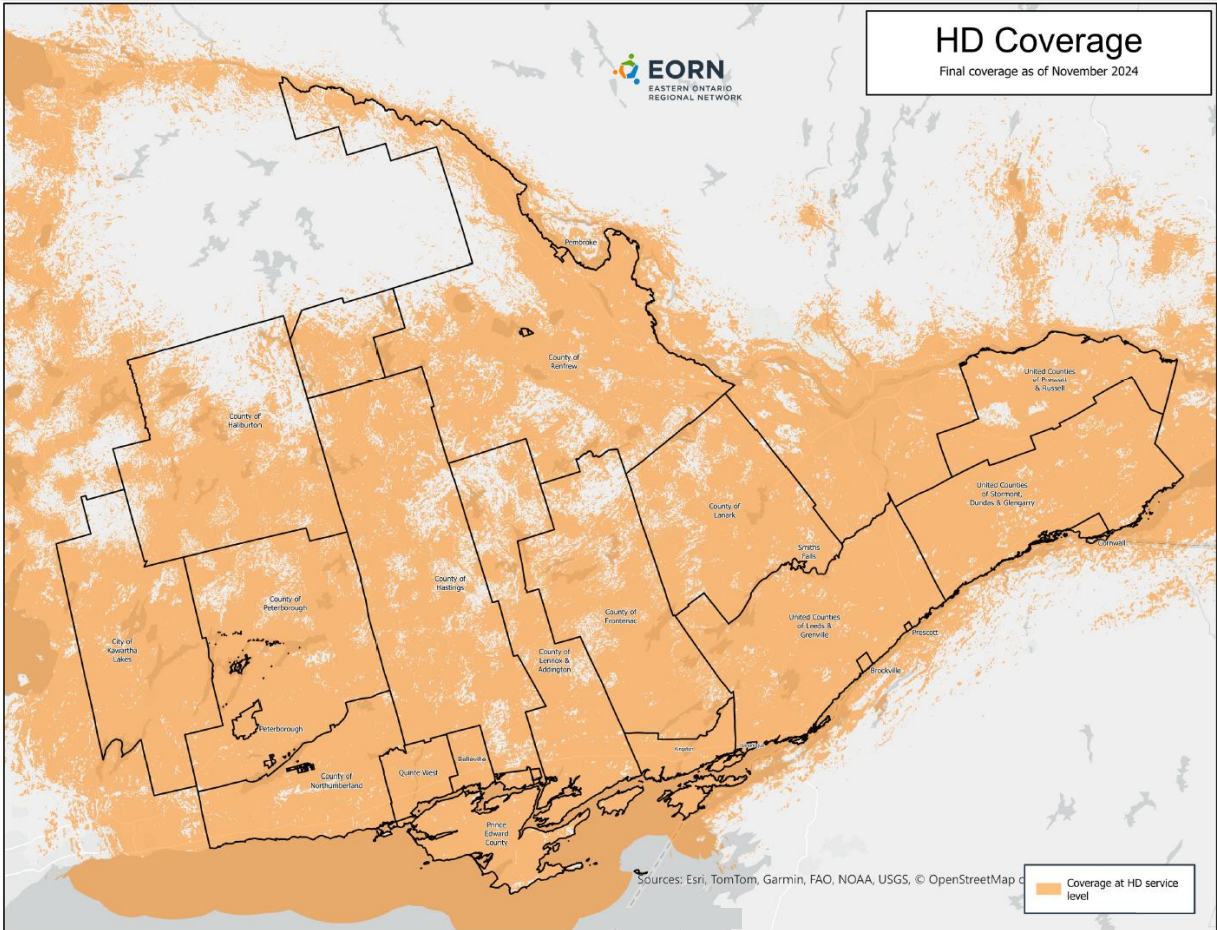
94.3% against demand

Drive Test Data

Fall of 2021

Fall of 2024

Red is weak coverage

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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.

66 Updates to municipalities and municipal associations

35 Meetings with ministry staff, MPs and MPPs

14 Two newsletters were issued this year, and 12 monthly projects shared with EOWC members, MPs and MPPs

320 Public inquiries for the Cell Gap Project and broadband projects

2 Two joint press releases were issued this year, and one is ready but delayed to provincial and federal elections

108 Meetings and calls with First Nations and Indigenous Communities

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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

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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.

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Evolution of the Canadian Telecommunication Landscape

- Bell Canada

  - November 2024 Bell announced the purchase of Ziply 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 Ziply.

  - 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.
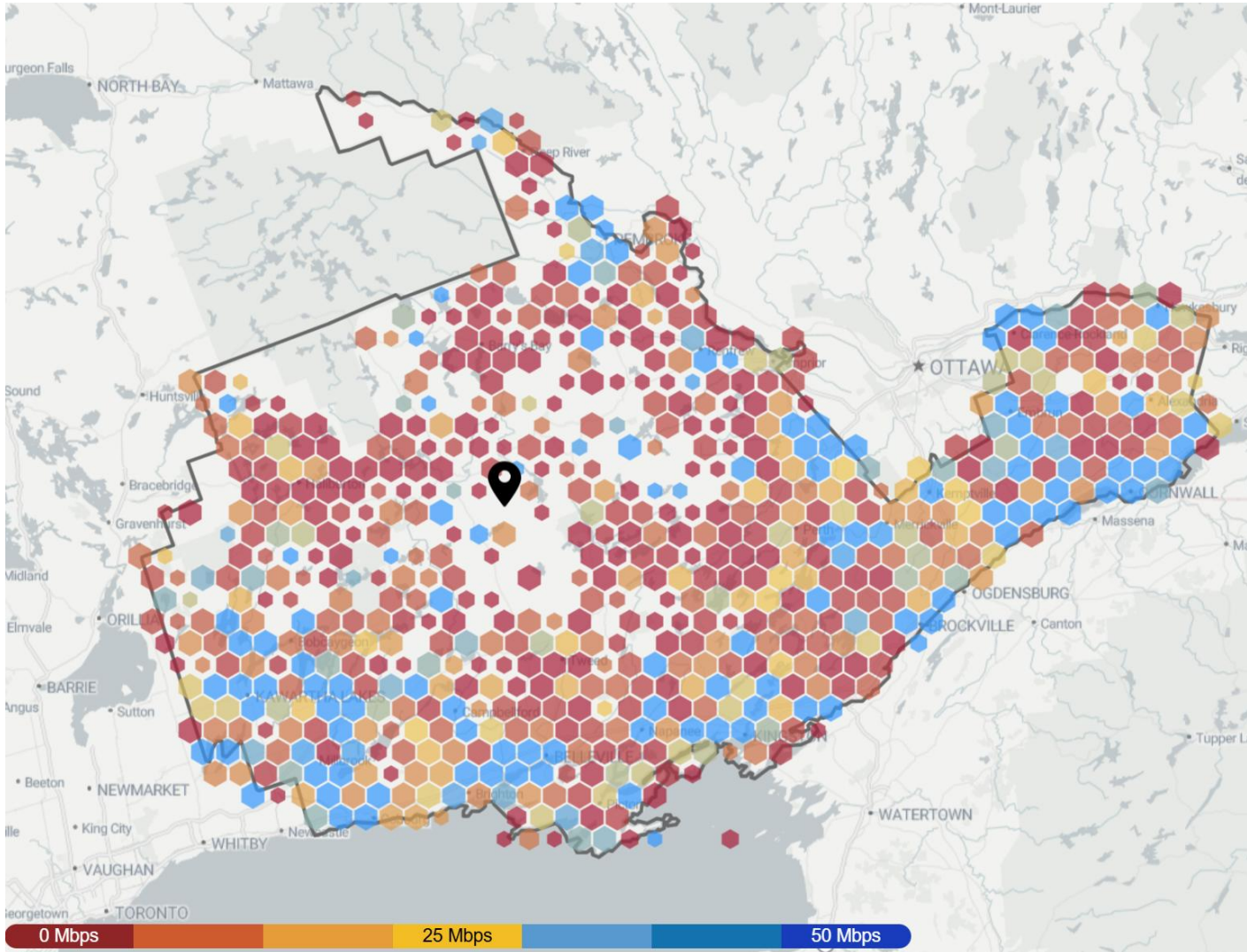
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EORN Strategic Plan

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

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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

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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