Carroll County Broadband

Carroll County Maryland
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Agenda

- Broadband basics
- Current highspeed broadband in Carroll County
- Current federal and state grant awards
- Current active builds and their status
- Upcoming federal grant opportunities
- New county broadband programs
- County broadband accomplishments in the last year
- Alternative broadband options
- FCC broadband mapping - Demo
- County broadband mapping - Demo
- Results of the county's broadband survey and why it is important

- Q&A: Feel free to ask questions as we go a long

Current County Highspeed Broadband Status

Est. 65,793 Homes

Estimated Currently Unserved and Underserved Homes: 7000 + (10%)

Approximately 3000 of these are covered by grants already awarded (5%)

Internet Access for All has become a high priority for the Country!

What has changed in the last 3 years?

Covid and the realization that access is critical to function in society. Like electricity and phone services

This has sparked the federal and state governments to created programs similar to the rural electrification act of the 1930s

What is Broadband

- FCC Definition of high-speed broadband
    - 25 Download by 3 upload
    - New definition is becoming 100 down by 100 up
    - Fiber can have rates of 1 mgb to 10 mgb
    - Copper wires are more limited
- Types of broadband technology
    - Fiber
    - Coax
    - Wireless 5G and WIFI – What's the difference
    - Satellite
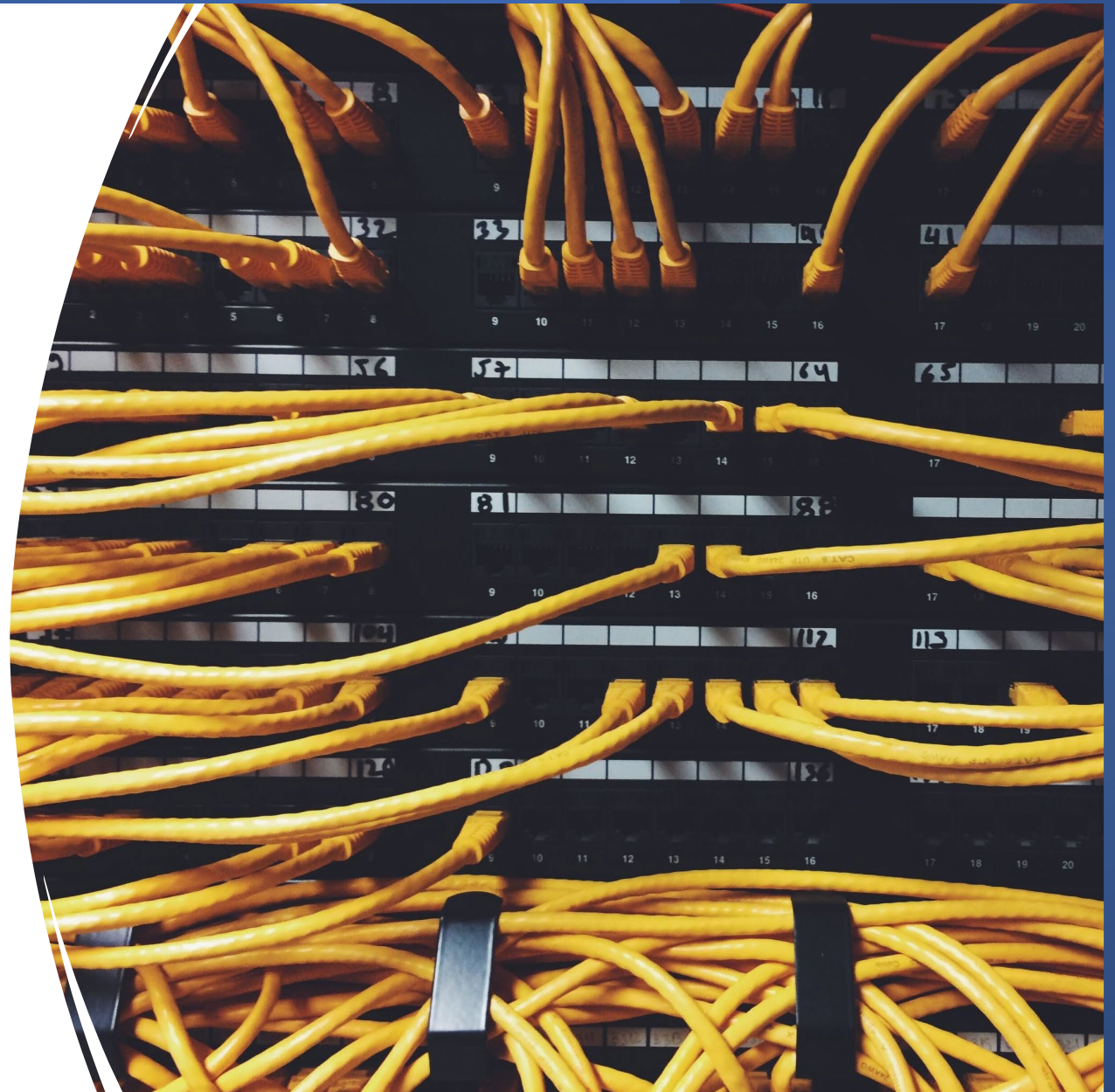
Current Active Grants Status

Grants

- **Construction for all current granted areas is scheduled to be complete by 2026**

  Carroll Receive approximately $36 mill in grant money. The highest of any county in the state.

- **Comcast Neighborhood Connect Grant** – Completed June 23

  Halter Road - 36 Homes

  Garret Road – 53 Homes

- **Quantum – Awarded 4 grants**

  Sullivan Road Grant – 80 Homes – Completion date Dec 23

  1 year extension granted

  Status: Under construction ahead of schedule – Functional network with first customers by end of Sept.

  Neighborhood Connect Grant – Mid Carroll County – Completion date Dec 23

  Broadbeck Rd, Gablehammer Rd, Gorsuch Rd, Hoffman Mill Rd, Shiloh Rd

  119+ Homes

  Status: Construction to start by the end of September. First customers to start turnup mid-October

  Construction order is: Shilo Rd, Gorsuch Rd, Broadbeck Rd, Gablehammer/Hoffman Mill - TBD

Current Active Grants Status

- **Network Infrastructure 22** – West Carroll - Completion date August 2025

    1206 Homes – Taneytown, New Windsor, Union Bridge

    Status: In the engineering phase

- **Network Infrastructure 23** – West Carroll Expanded – Completion Dec 26

    1663 Homes – See map

    Status: Will be built in conjunction with NIG 22

Carroll County was awarded $37 million the most of any county in the state

Federal Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Grant - BEAD

- $267.7 million awarded to the State of Maryland
- The States are required to submit an Initial Plan by end of Dec 23
- The State is required to create a "Challenge" process. Only Counties, Service Providers can submit challenges
- After completion of the Challenge process providers will be allowed to submit proposals for funding to the State. Then the State will send a formal propose to the NTIA for approval
- Grant Awards expected by 2026
- The State may bundle areas together rather than let the providers pick their own. This avoids the "Orphaned Homes" syndrome.
- We don't know how much Carroll County will get yet. Amounts are based on unserved homes identified on the new FCC Broadband map version 3
- We are proactively sending our mapping results to the State and filling Challenges to the FCC map

Up Coming County Programs

State Long Driveway/Hard to Connect/Connect the Barn grant

- $1.1 million grant to the state Counties
- To be announce to counties October
- Money will flow through the Counties to administer
- Rules and regulations – State will provide up to $8,000 with 25% match
    - Match can come from county, homeowner, provider or a combination
    - County may provide all of the match
    - Max of $25,000 per home – this should cover up to 1000 foot driveway. If allowed by the state

Connect Carroll RFP

Released – Applications due from ISP's Nov 1

$4 million of FRF funds will be used. Not local tax $$ (Previously approved by Commissioners)

Providers must provide a 25% minimum match

The object is to connect as many homes as we can

State FY23 Connected Devices Program

To provide Chromebook computers to give to low-income residents

Working in conjunction with CCTC and other Non-profits

Unlike past programs, the residents get to keep the Chromebooks

Carroll County awarded 5,000 Chromebooks

Digital Literacy Programs

- Library has skills training

- Workforce Development

- Telehealth

- Next Steps – Carroll Tech Council DL Program – In Development
  - Umbrella for the County's programs
  - Hotline / Help Desk
  - Training Events
  - Work with the States Digital Equity / Digital Inclusion programs
    - https://marylandersonline.umd.edu/

  - Affordable Connect Program (ACP)
    - Low income based
    - Provides $30 Fed / $15 State a month for Internet service

Accomplishments

- **Updated County Website with residential broadband service information**
  - https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/residents/carroll-county-residential-broadband/
- **Mapping of the County Broadband**
  - More accurate than the States map
  - Is available for public viewing on the County's web page. This will allow residents to see where construction will take place.
  - Carrollbroadband.info
- **Broadband Survey.   More than 550 responses to date**
  - Survey went out in a press release. This was a Carroll County Times front page article
  - Rack Card created to distribute throughout the county.
  - Results will be graphed and used to verify our map results, used as data to understand internet service experiences, used to discover Long Driveways, etc.
  - Carrollbroadband.info
- **Representation on NACOs Technology & Telecommunications Steering Committee** – Jay was appointed by MACo to be MD's representative

- **Representation on CAPATOA (Capital Area Telecom Officers and Admin)** – Monthly discussions of issues around Cable TV and Broadband. Both locally and nationally

New Broadband Provider

Antietam Cable is building in the municipalities

- Building now
- They have plans to expand outside of the cities to cover all of Carroll
- They are in negotiations to rent office space in the county for their headend on Rt 140
- Will be leasing County fiber
- Will be hiring in the area
- Plans to deliver service the beginning of 2024

Alternative Broadband Options

STARLINK SATELLITE SERVICE IS AVAILABLE IN THE COUNTY

T-MOBILE AND VERIZON ARE EXPANDING 5G FIXED WIRELESS TO MORE RURAL AREAS

FIXED WIRELESS WIFI TOWERSTREAM AND TELEGIA

FCC Broadband Map

- https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov
  - Displays Serviceable Locations
    - What is it and why?
    - Shows available ISP's for the location(Wired and Mobile)
    - You may file a challenge if the information is inaccurate
      - Service or Location
    - Encouraged to do so
  - Online Demo – invite someone to come up

County Broadband Maps – What is Mapped

Maps accessible on the County web page – carrollbroadband.info

- Currently served homes - By provider and type of service

- Comcast Footprint

- Currently granted homes - Each grant area - Quantum

- Unserved and Ungranted homes

- County Unserved vers FCC Unserved data

▶ MAP DEMO
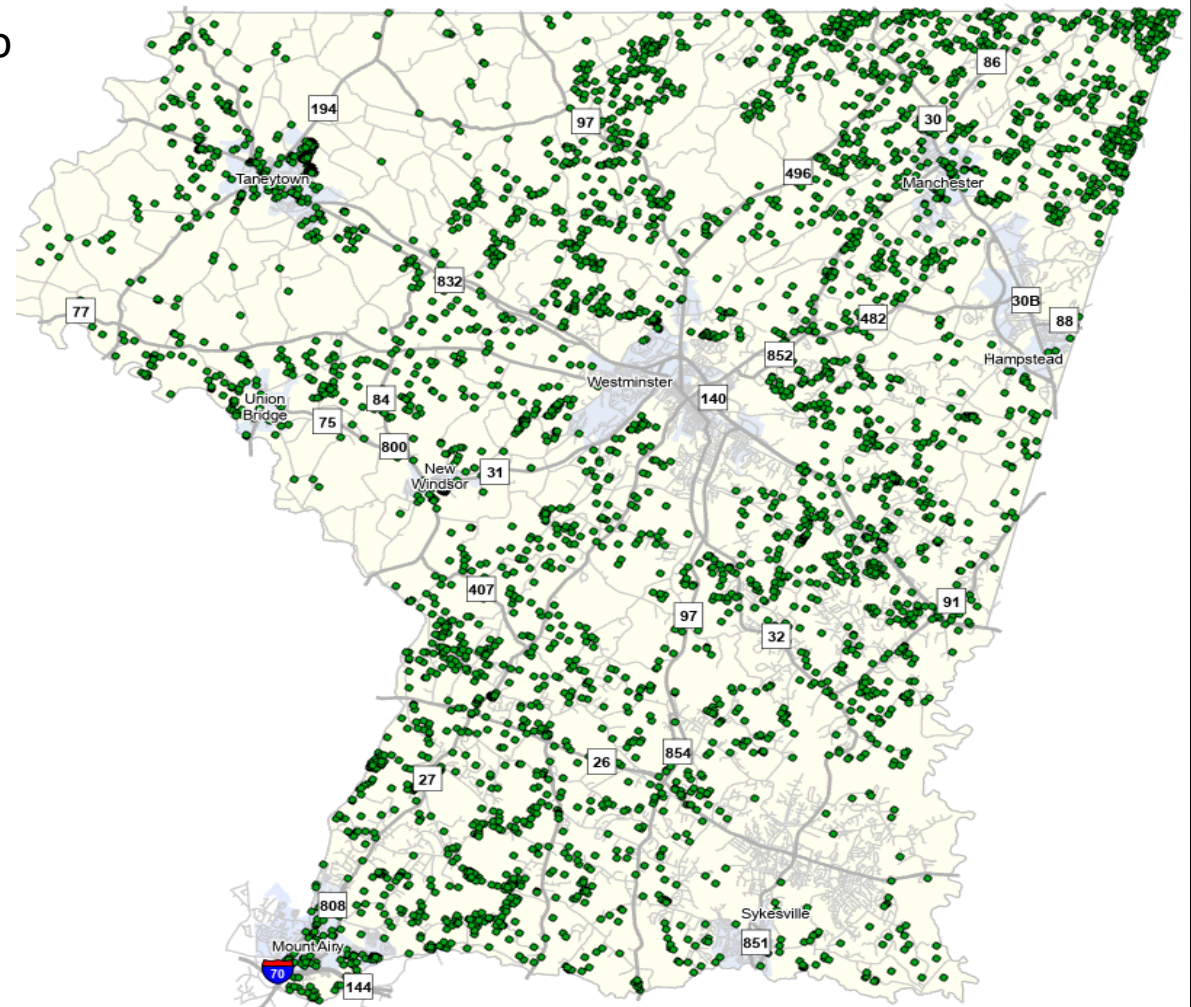
Q&A

Currently Served Households

Circles are unserved homes
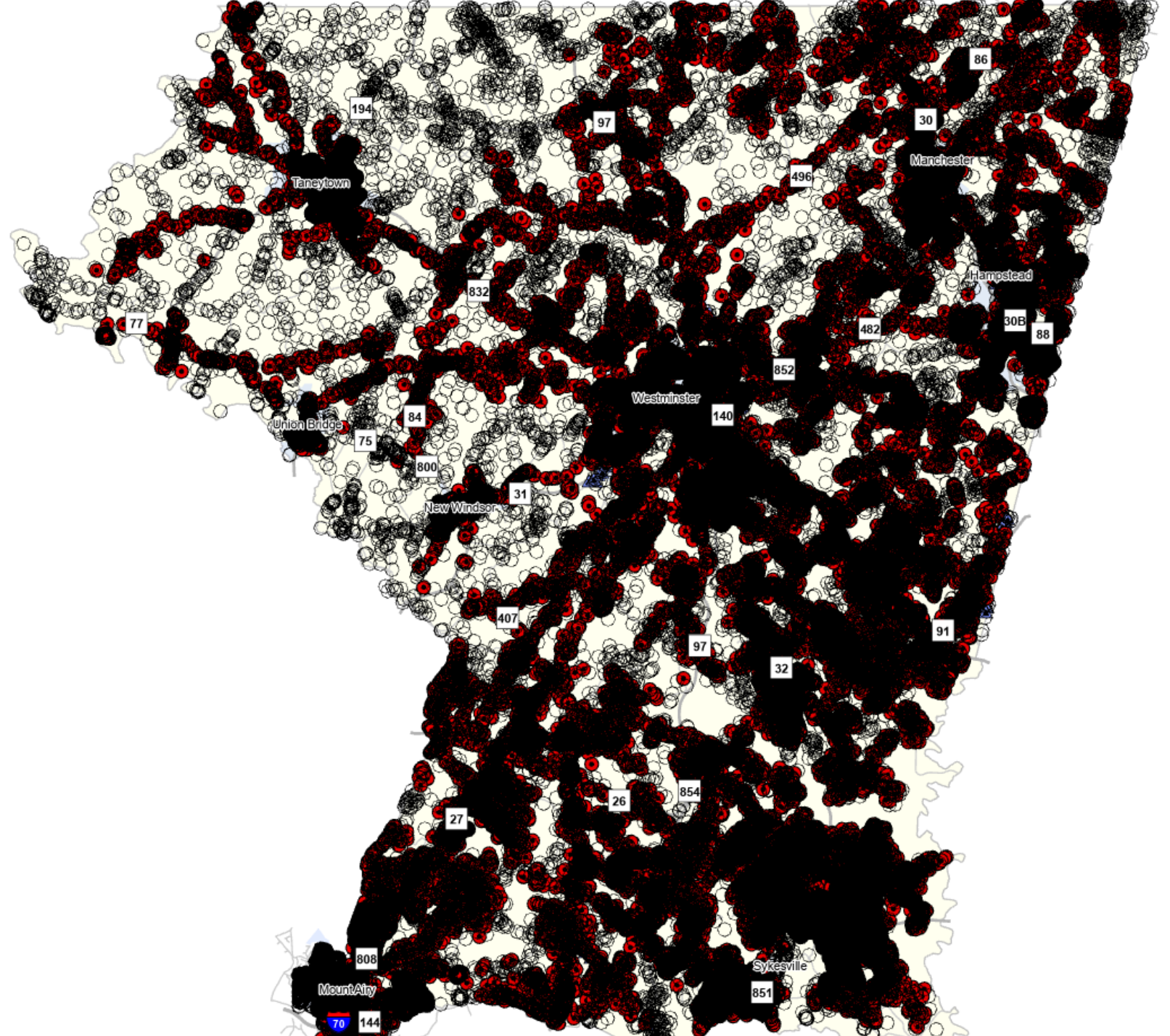
Comcast
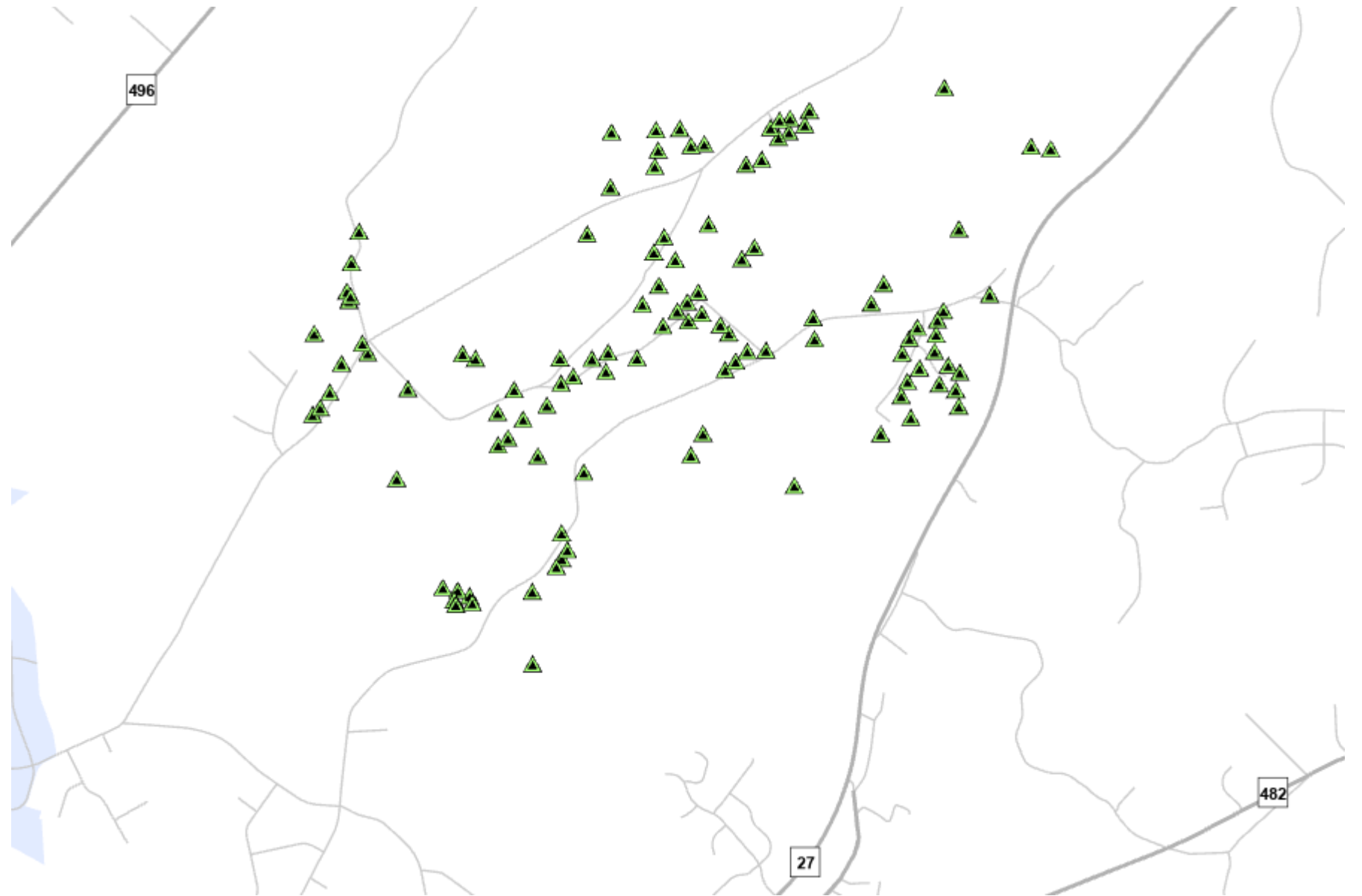Footprint
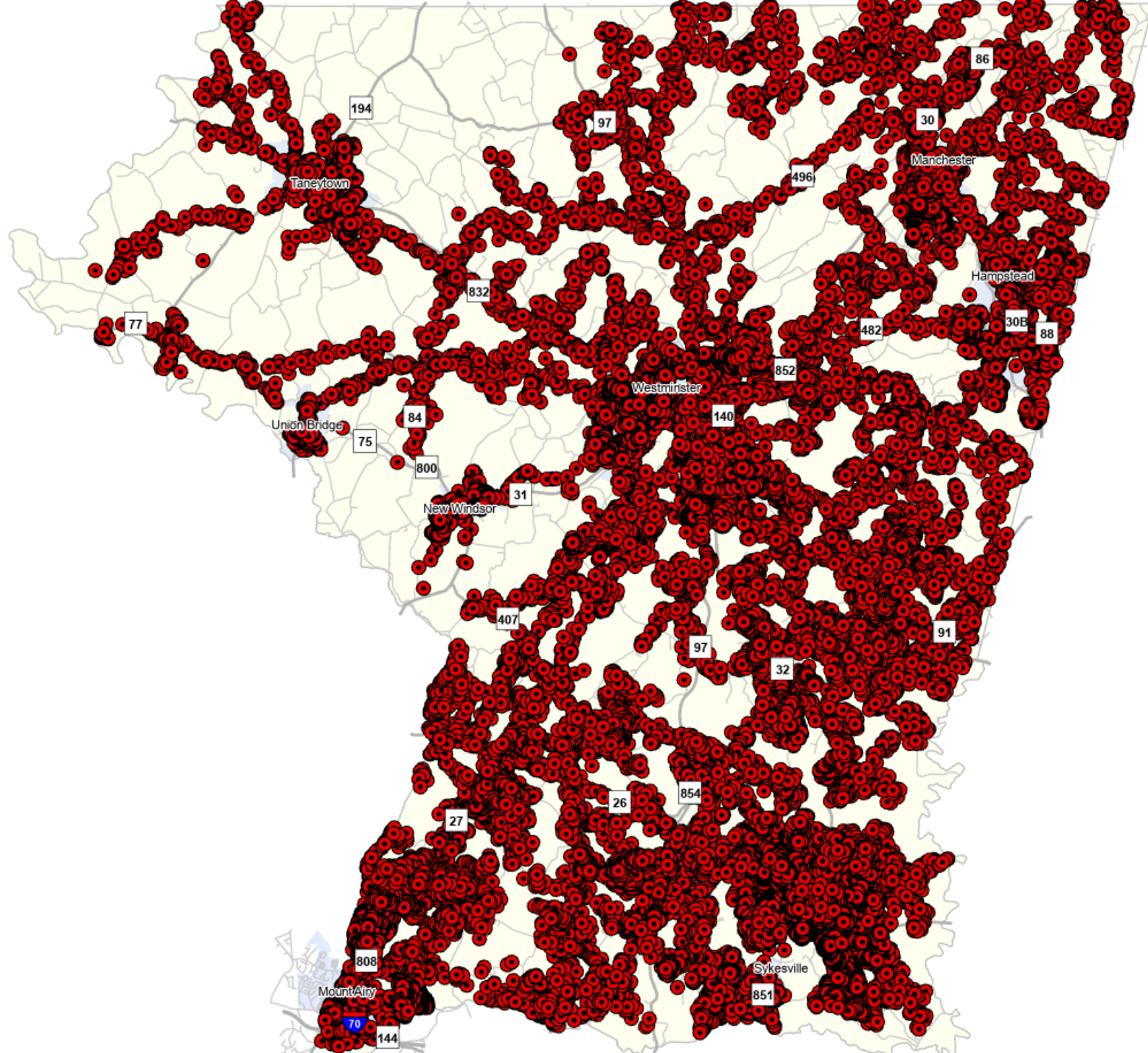
Other Fiber Companies

- ting
- Quantum
- Verizon
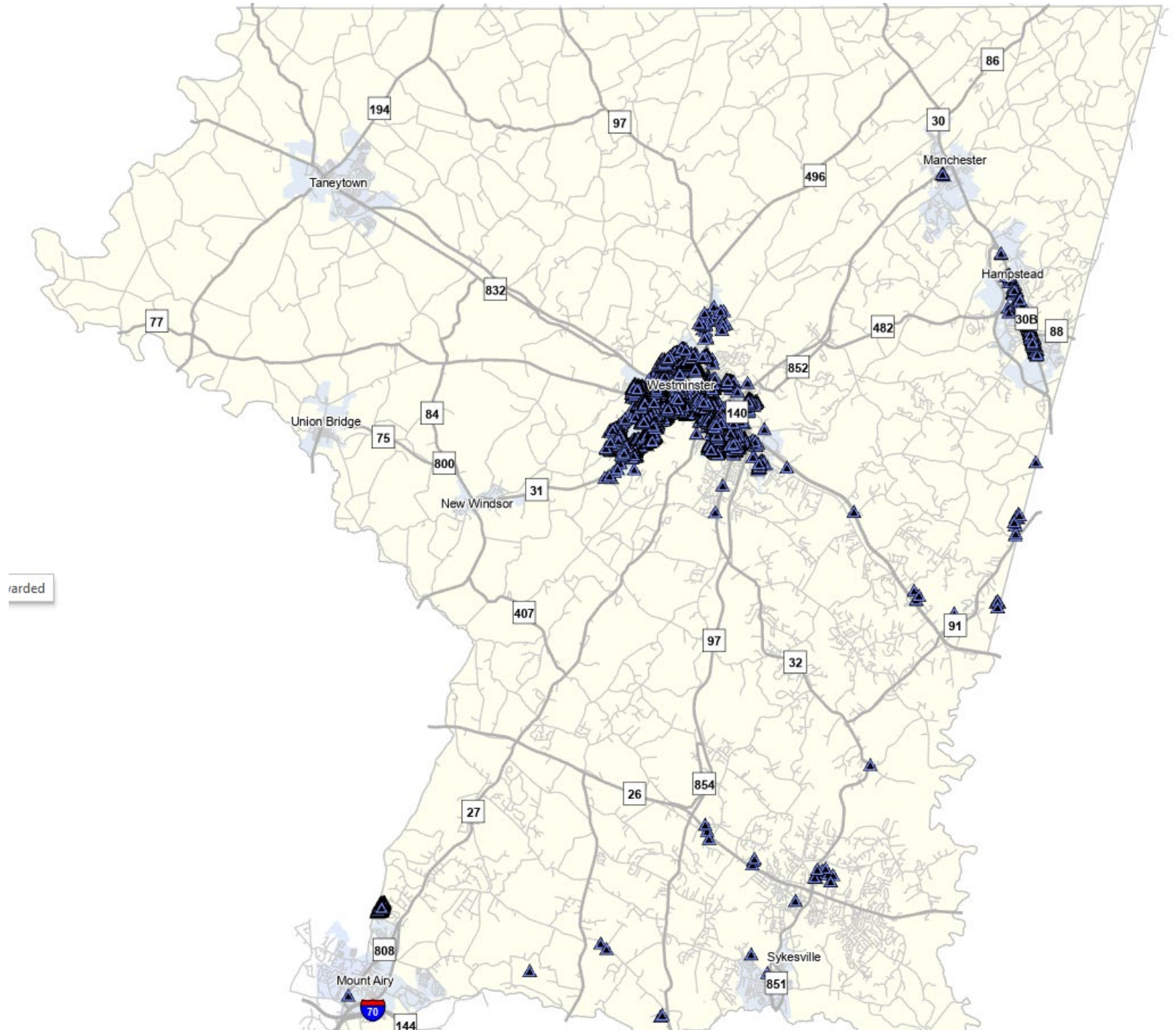
Granted –Quantum

Green – Sullivan Rd
Purple – Neighborhood Connect
Brown – Network Infrastructure 22
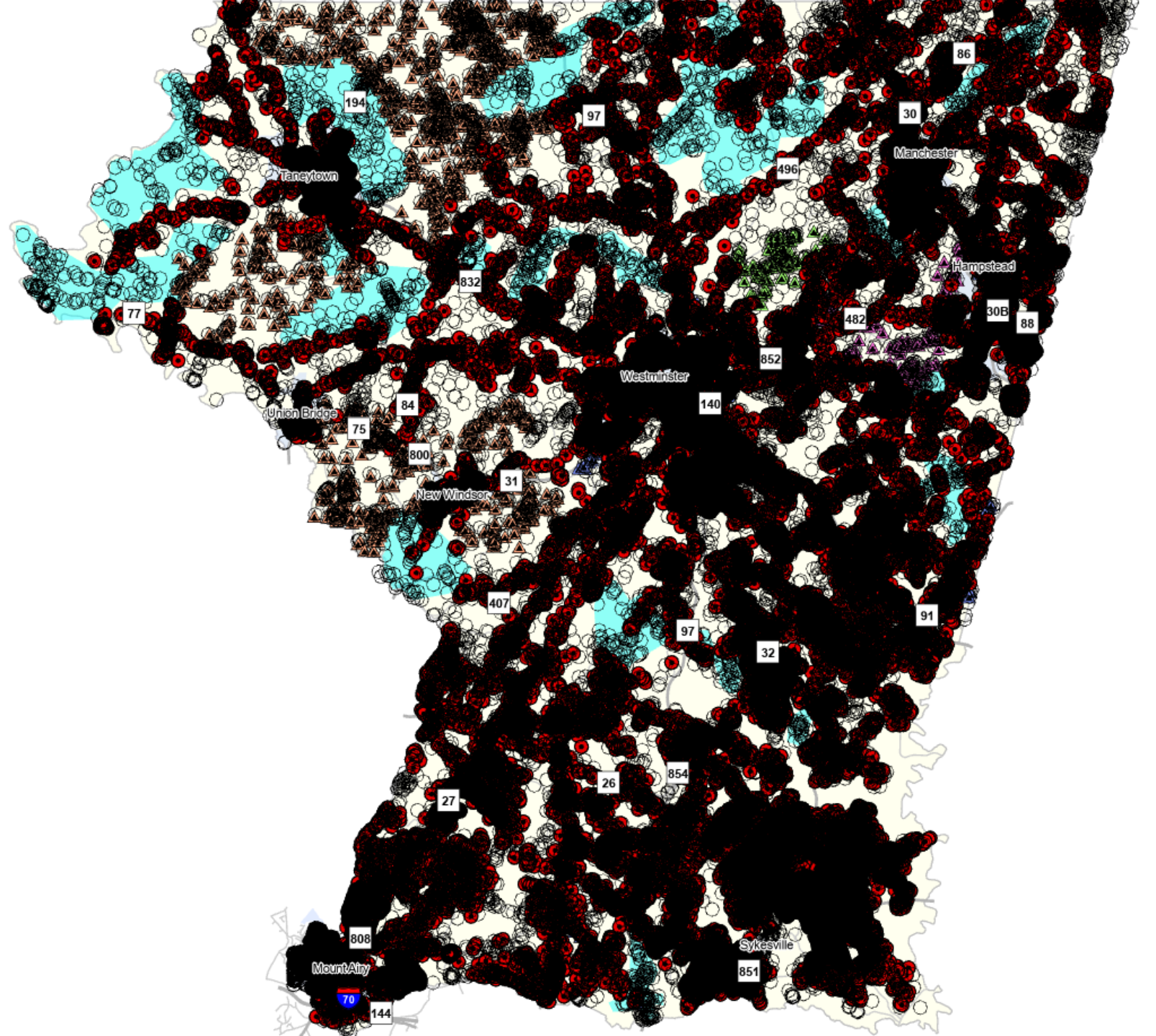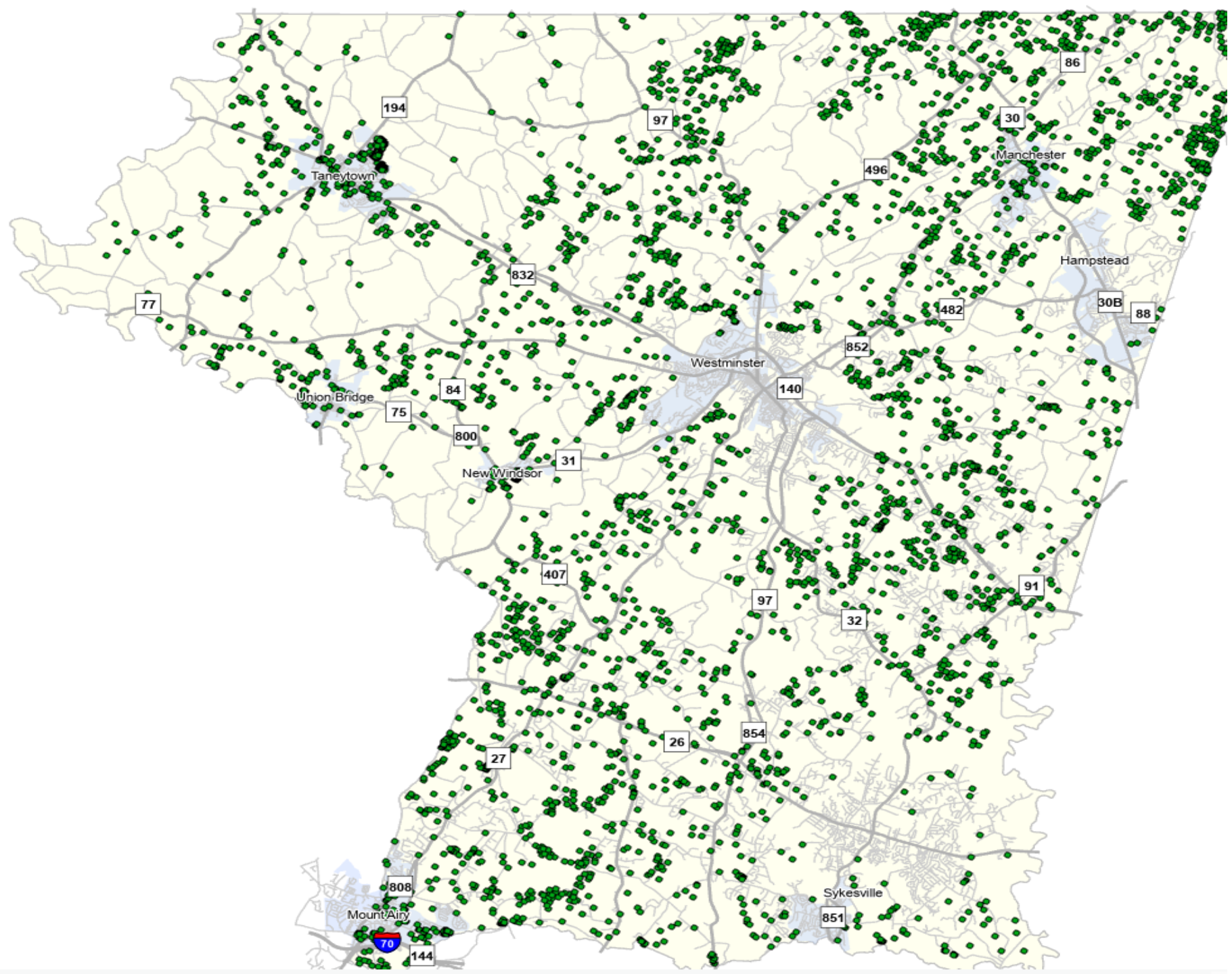Blue – Network Infrastructure 23
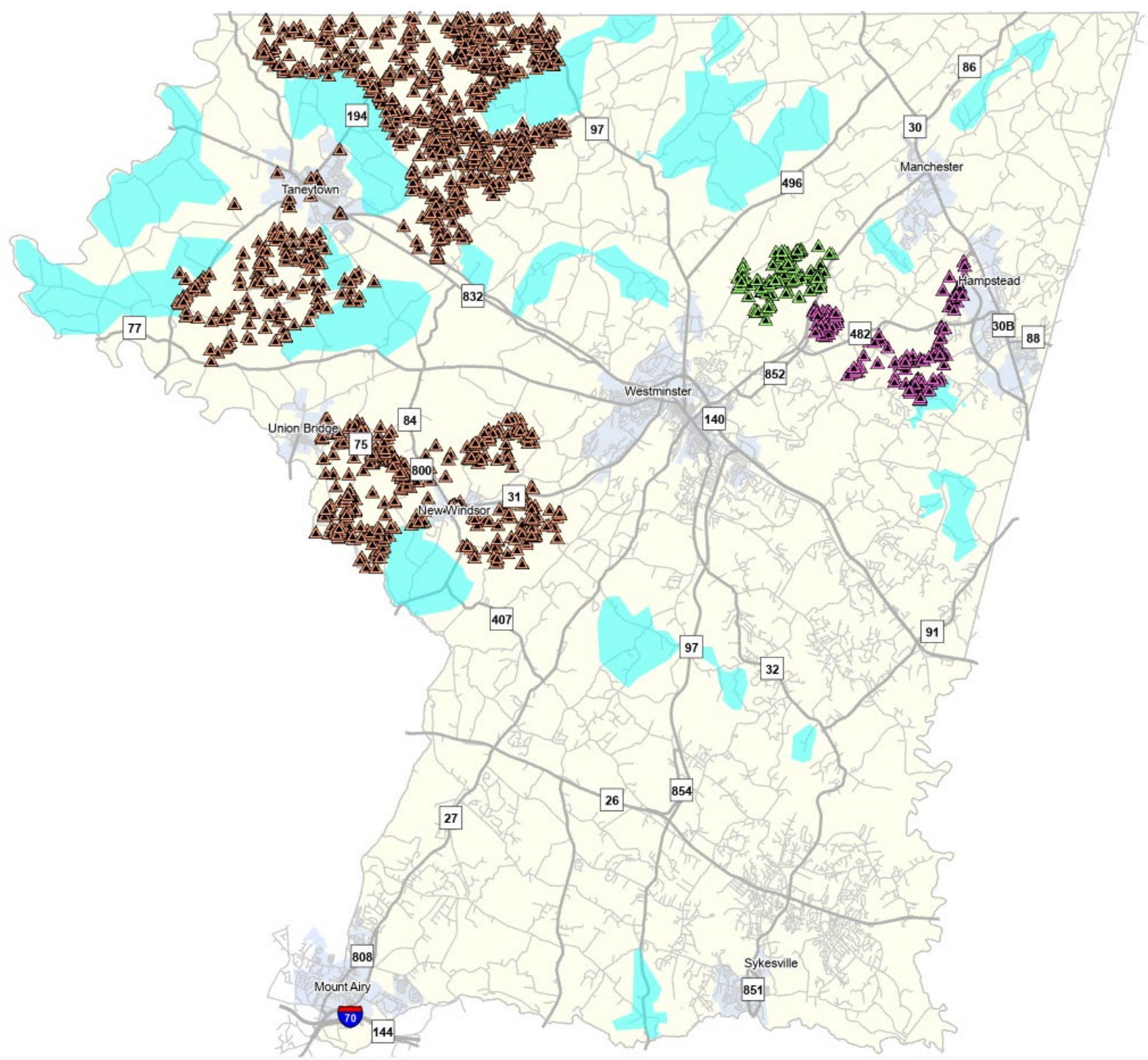
Sullivan Rd Project
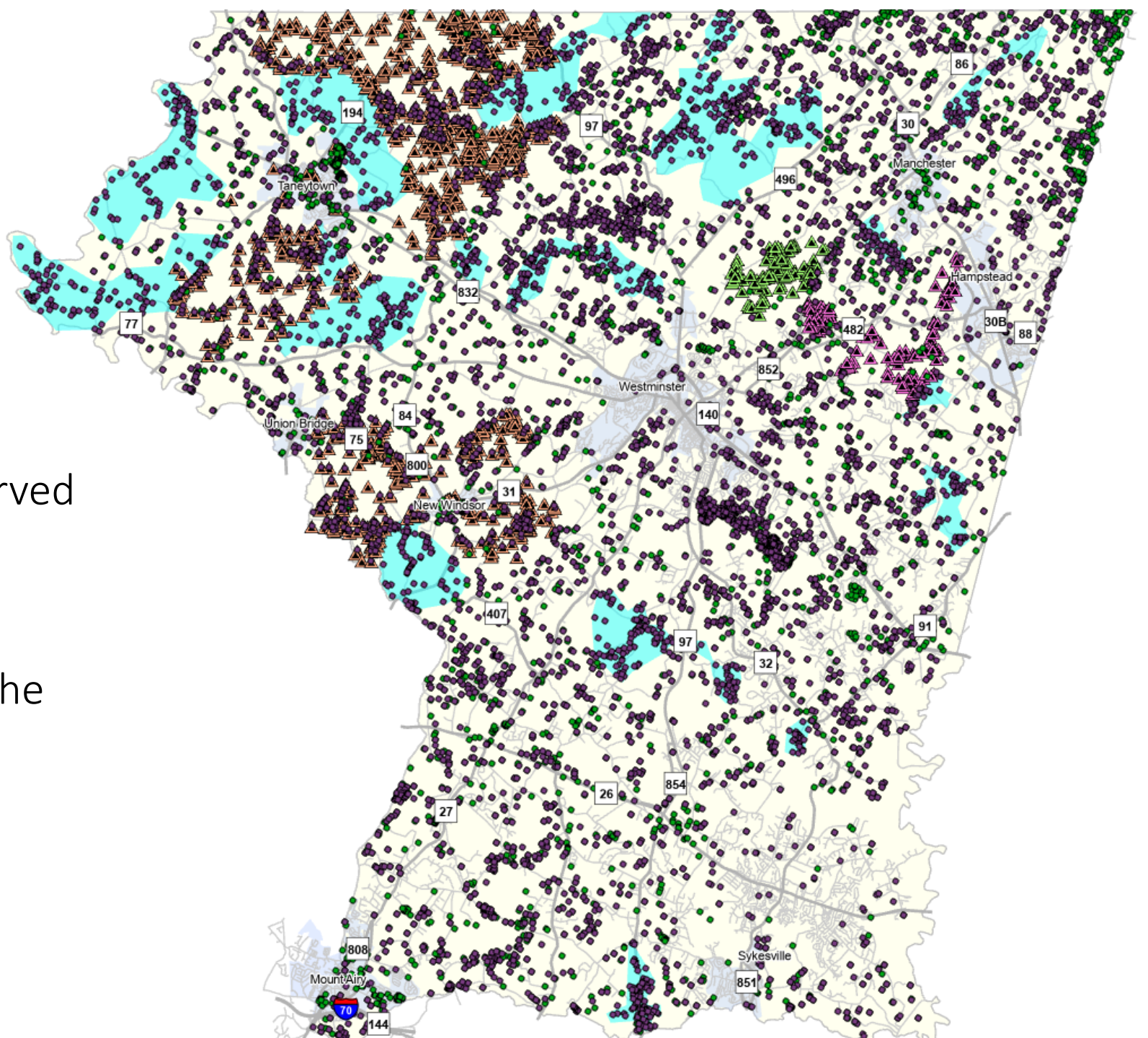
Neighborhood
Connect Project
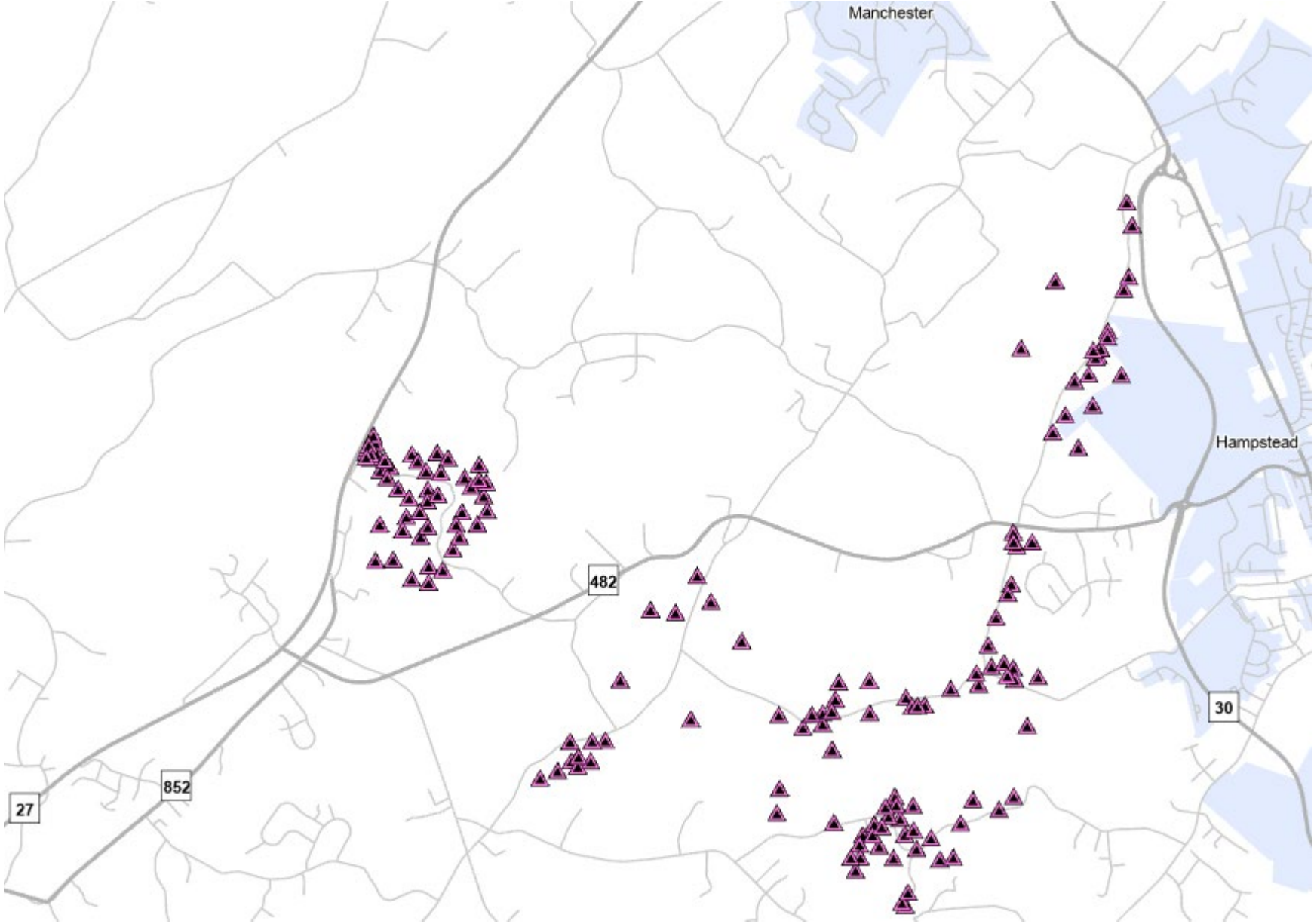
Served and Granted
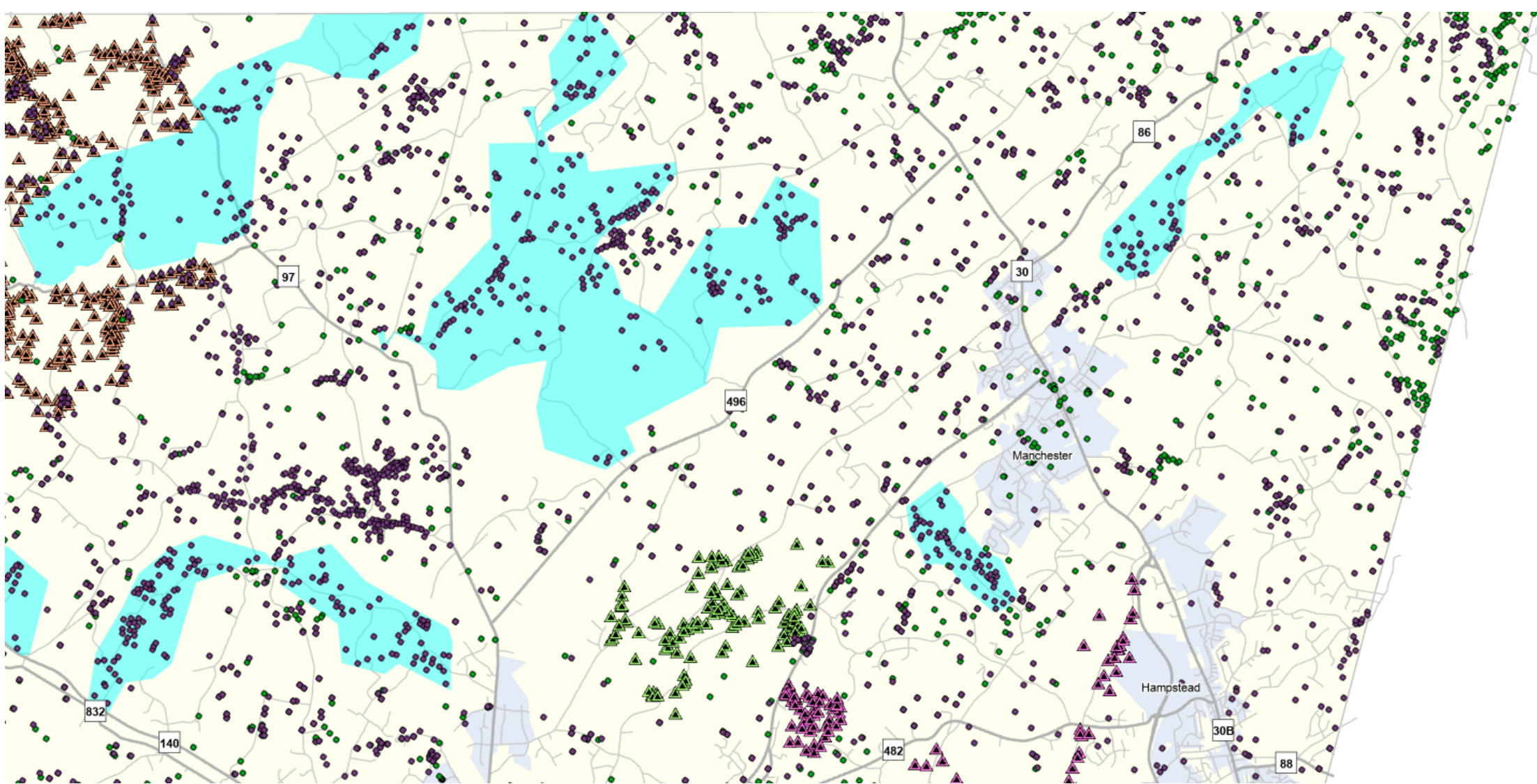
Unserved / Ungranted

County Unserved Vers FCC Unserved

Green dots are not in FCC map.

These addresses will be sent to the state and FCC as challenges

More granular – Green dots are not in FCC database