MISSION STATEMENT

Mission Statement (What):
Through public/private partnerships, THE SOUTHERN TIER NETWORK strives to enrich the quality of life in regions we serve by providing quality open access through high speed broadband connections.

Guiding Principles (Why):
- enable economic development in the region by attracting industry and encouraging the development of additional employment and job opportunities
- enable enhanced scientific and educational research for universities, colleges, and schools encouraging economic growth
- enable the retention of existing businesses and industries
- provide fiber infrastructure for perpetual, reliable, and compliant county emergency management (E-911) systems
- enable improved communications among health care professionals and providers
- expand broadband services to the rural and underserved markets in the region
- lessen the burdens of government
- enable collaboration and healthy partnerships with the private sector, enhancing affordable service offerings throughout the region

STN is an open access fiber network, encouraging many carriers to use STN’s infrastructure to deliver services. This has the effect of increasing the supply of services and ultimately reducing the cost of high speed services in the area it serves.
The Southern Tier Network, Inc. (STN) formed in January 2011, is a Not-for-Profit, Local Development Authority, charitable organization, affiliated with county government. STN has built an open access optical fiber network through a partnership between Corning Incorporated, Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board, and Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties.

The network was built to support and encourage the creation of new jobs and the retention of existing jobs, support the needs of public safety, improve broadband internet access in the rural areas, increase competition and the level of telecommunications services throughout the region, and lessen the burdens of government.

STN has contracted with service providers to bring fiber to their cell towers, to extend service reach into new markets and communities, and to affect quality of service and lower prices in the region. This resource is being marketed for local and regional economic development as well as public safety, education, municipal government, and health care benefit. For more information, interested entities can write to info@southern-tier-network.org.

Growth

In partnership with Yates County (2013), STN has extending its Open Access dark fiber infrastructure throughout Yates County, making connections into the communities of Geneva, Penn Yan, Watkins Glen, Branchport and Dundee.

In December 2015, STN partnered with Broome and Tioga counties to extend its fiber ring throughout Broome and Tioga Counties, including connections to Cornell, Binghamton and Alfred Universities. With the fiber connectivity to Cornell and Alfred Universities, the STN fiber reaches into Tompkins and Allegany counties. This extension was completed in August 2017.

The original 235 fiber ring (2011) designed to run through Schuyler, Steuben and Chemung counties, grew to over 300 miles with customer requested lateral builds in these three counties. With the expansion into Yates, Tioga, and Broome counties the STN fiber ring now encompasses over 500 miles of contiguous fiber network.

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Saving Money

Businesses look for the most cost effective high speed connection.

The rules of supply and demand dictate that in areas where the demand for service is high and the providers are few, the cost for that service will be relatively high. Likewise, if the number of service providers is high in those areas, the price should come down as carriers compete for your business.

STN is an open access fiber network, encouraging many carriers to use STN’s infrastructure to deliver services. This has the effect of increasing the supply of services and ultimately reducing the cost of high speed internet in the areas it serves.

Customer Types

STN contracts with two primary categories of customers; Carrier/Service Providers and Enterprise organizations. A Carrier/Service class customer is a provider such as a; Telephone, Cable, Wireless, or Internet company, that desires dark fiber for high speed/large volume, unlimited data transport. An Enterprise customer can be an; health care organization, college, financial organization, business, school district/BOCES, or governmental agency that has multiple locations spread throughout the area and desires to connect each location with private-dedicated fiber. The interconnection of remote buildings with STN fiber creates a private, secure, reliable network with unlimited data transmission between buildings. STN has multiple options for customers to choose from for provisioning its fiber: Lease, Indefensible Right of Use (IRU), or via a term agreement.

Reliability

The STN network has been designed and built with state-of-the-art, carrier-grade fiber optic cable made by Corning Incorporated. STN has designed its fiber network to enable diverse routing of fiber pathways: if a fiber is cut along one path, communications will still flow via the diverse or back-up path. Some companies require their high speed connections to enter and leave their buildings through uniquely different paths so their service will never be interrupted, STN can provide that diversity.

STN is leasing dark fiber to several carriers today who deliver services to customers in the communities it serves. For more information, check the Southern Tier Network website at www.southern-tier-network.org.

Business and High Speed Communications

Any business needs a reliable, high speed data/voice telecommunications connection to effectively compete in today’s global market. The fiber optic cable that STN provides is exceptionally reliable and enables some of the highest speeds possible, limited only by the electronics used to light the fiber.

Along with utilities (electricity, sewer, water), transportation (rail, highway and air) and a solid talent pool from which to hire, fiber and ultra-high-speed internet is essential to the success of nearly every business when considering new locations.

Community Oriented/Civic Good

The Southern Tier Network is a municipal based organization. Its purpose is focused on community and civic betterment. The STN board of directors supports and guides organizational resources and goals towards projects that improve and bolster our region. Examples can be found within the four county Public Safety Governance Committee developing systems that produce interoperability and redundancies for times of needs during emergencies. Or, with the foresight of STN’s Strategic Planning Committee in developing and releasing an RFP for establishing partnership with service providers to effect high speed internet services in the rural unserved/underserved areas within our counties.