



**Serving a Public Power Community**

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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**TMLP expands fiber optic capacity through lease agreement with BSU**

(TAUNTON, MA) – A fiber optic license agreement with Bridgewater State University is enabling the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant to expand bandwidth offered through TMLP Online to meet the ever-growing demand for faster internet service to school districts, businesses and residential customers spurred by remote work and learning.

The license for two strands of fiber optic cable that run from the BSU campus to the Markley Group, a data center at One Summer Street, Boston, provides TMLP Online access to tier one internet service providers (ISPs) and to Markley's data center, which offers comprehensive services and direct access to the TMLP Online community.

TMLP Online has provided internet access to its service area – Taunton, Raynham, Berkley and North Dighton – since 1997.

“This agreement gives us more diversity in terms of where we are getting our services from and ultimately allows us to be more competitive,” said Kenneth Bell of TMLP Online. “The community knows us from the electricity side with our reliable service and lower rates. As we continue to grow our online foot-print we are always seeking to provide additional layers of offerings and a more solid foundation.”

The fiber optic cable network starts on the BSU campus, runs along the MBTA rail tracks into Boston and to the Markley Group. It was included as part of negotiations for the Old Colony Line's stop on BSU's East Campus, which was built in the 1990s.

Under the license agreement, TMLP Online will install its fiber into the BSU conduit system to interconnect with the MBTA fiber. The Boston internet exchange will provide the TMLP Online with access to bandwidth rates over 100 Gbps (gigabits per second).

Steven Zuromski, vice president for information technology and chief information officer at BSU and David DeLutis, director of networking at BSU, worked with Bell and the TMLP team.

BSU has been the sole user of its expansive fiber network to this point. “The university is looking to collaborate with other colleges, universities, municipalities and state entities to offer similar services,” said DeLutis.

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TMLP serves over 38,000 customers in Taunton, Raynham, Berkley, North Dighton and sections of Lakeville and Bridgewater.

General Manager, Kenneth Goulart; Commissioners; Mark Blackwell Sr., Peter Corr and Joseph Martin