



2022 Annual Report

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR A **BRIGHT FUTURE**





Vision

Helping create equitable
access to high-speed internet

Mission

Expanding open access to high-speed
internet throughout York Region

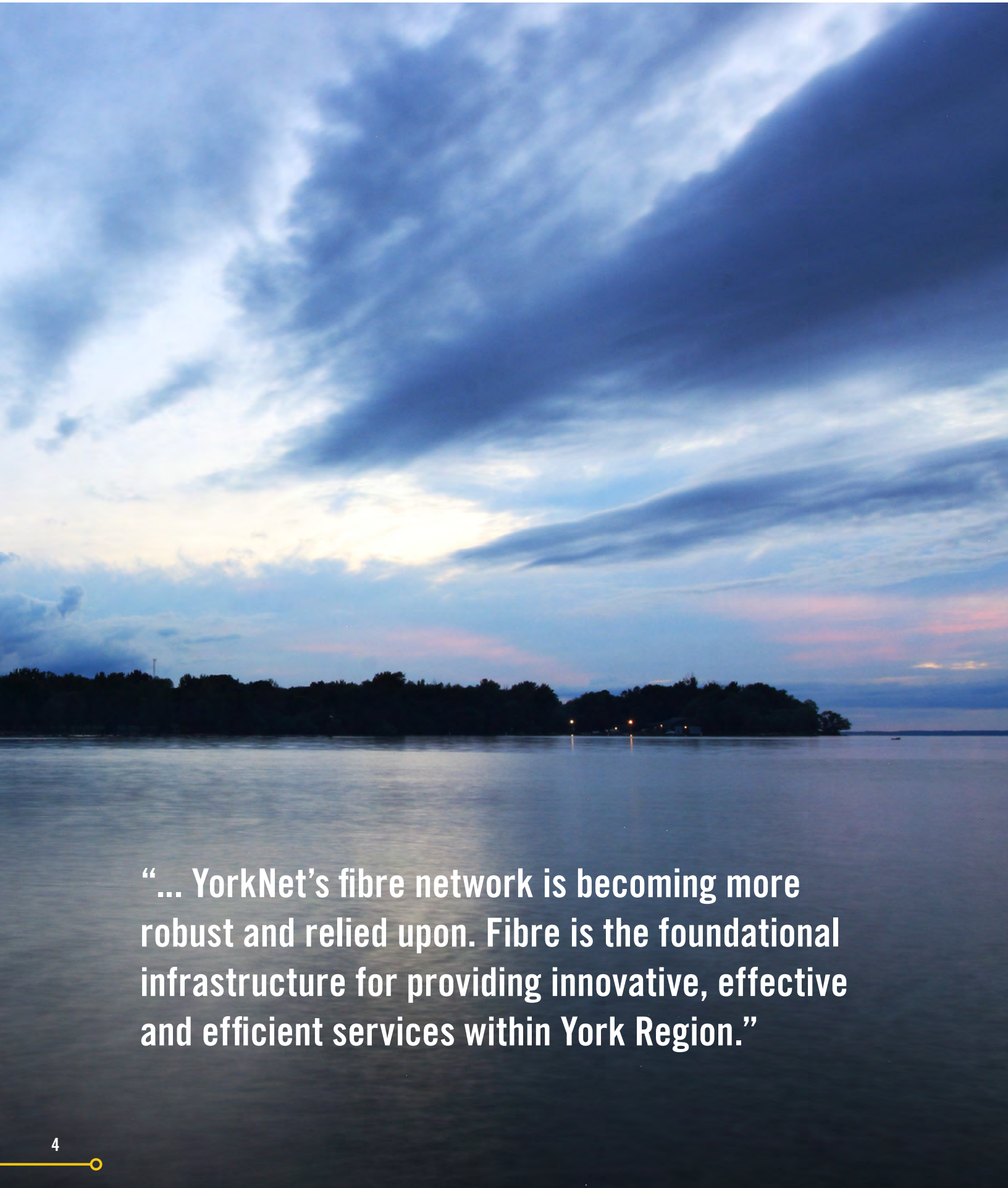
Focus

Planning, building and operating an affordable, reliable
and sustainable fibre network across York Region

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“... YorkNet’s fibre network is becoming more robust and relied upon. Fibre is the foundational infrastructure for providing innovative, effective and efficient services within York Region.”

A message from the 2022 Chair of the Board



I’m pleased to report 2022 saw many notable achievements for YorkNet as it continued to build the foundation for a bright future.

YorkNet achieved some key milestones in expanding the dark fibre network to meet its mandate of increasing connectivity in York Region. By the end of last year, YorkNet had grown the Region’s dark fibre network to a total of 503 kilometres, bringing high-speed internet to more residents and businesses. Total network connections were increased to 823 adding more reliable, secure and fast connections to the network in support of essential services such as police, fire, paramedics, traffic control and public transit.

We continued to grow our relationships with key partners as YorkNet solidified funding approval from the federal and provincial governments for a joint investment of nearly \$50 million for an Expansion Project through the Universal Broadband Fund (UBF).

The funding for the Project will enable hundreds of kilometres of additional network to be built that will be used to join more Regional and local municipal facilities and support more connected communities. The Project will also add network to enable redundancies for York Region services ensuring minimal loss of connectivity, will connect more facilities like traffic controllers and paramedic stations, and deploy fibre across the Region to support future opportunities.

Work is already underway to add nearly 400 kilometres to the network and connect close to 200 essential and public services by the end of 2023.

At a time when fibre has never been more valuable, YorkNet’s fibre network is becoming more robust and relied upon. Fibre is the foundational infrastructure for providing innovative, effective and efficient services within York Region. As capacity increases, fibre enables the growth of new technologies and innovative services.

We are grateful to our many partners within the private and public sectors, helping to make our cities and towns more connected places. We’re driven to build out world-class digital infrastructure across York Region and as we continue to build the foundation, we are most certainly primed for a bright future.

Margaret Quirk
2022 Chair of the Board
Mayor, Town of Georgina



Governance

YorkNet is one of three York Region-owned corporations and is funded by the Region. It is governed by the *Ontario Business Corporations Act*, the *Municipal Act Regulation* and Shareholder direction.

2022 Board of Directors

Reporting to the Shareholder (Regional Council), Directors of the Board are required to oversee YorkNet’s business and affairs, approve the annual business plan and budget, appoint or hire officers of the Corporation and delegate day-to-day management to officers.

Board of Directors



Chair of the Board
Margaret Quirk
Mayor
Town of Georgina



Vice Chair of the Board
Steve Pellegrini
Mayor
Township of King



Director and CEO
Wayne Emmerson
York Region
Chairman and CEO



Director
Iain Lovatt
Mayor
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville



Director
Frank Scarpitti
Mayor
City of Markham



Director
Michael Chan
Regional Councillor
City of Markham



Director
Joe DiPaola
Regional Councillor
City of Richmond Hill



Director
Mario G. Racco
Regional Councillor
City of Vaughan



Director
Tom Vegh
Regional Councillor
Town of Newmarket

Executive Leadership Team



Dino Basso
Vice President

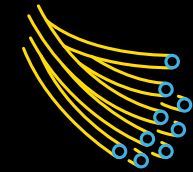


Laura Bradley
General Manager



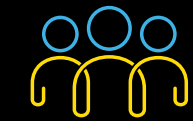
David Di Giovanni
Chief Financial Officer

Mandate



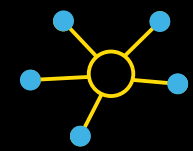
Growing York Region’s dark fibre network

Improve the delivery of Regional services, such as traffic management, transit systems, water/waste water control management, security monitoring, policing and cloud-enabled applications



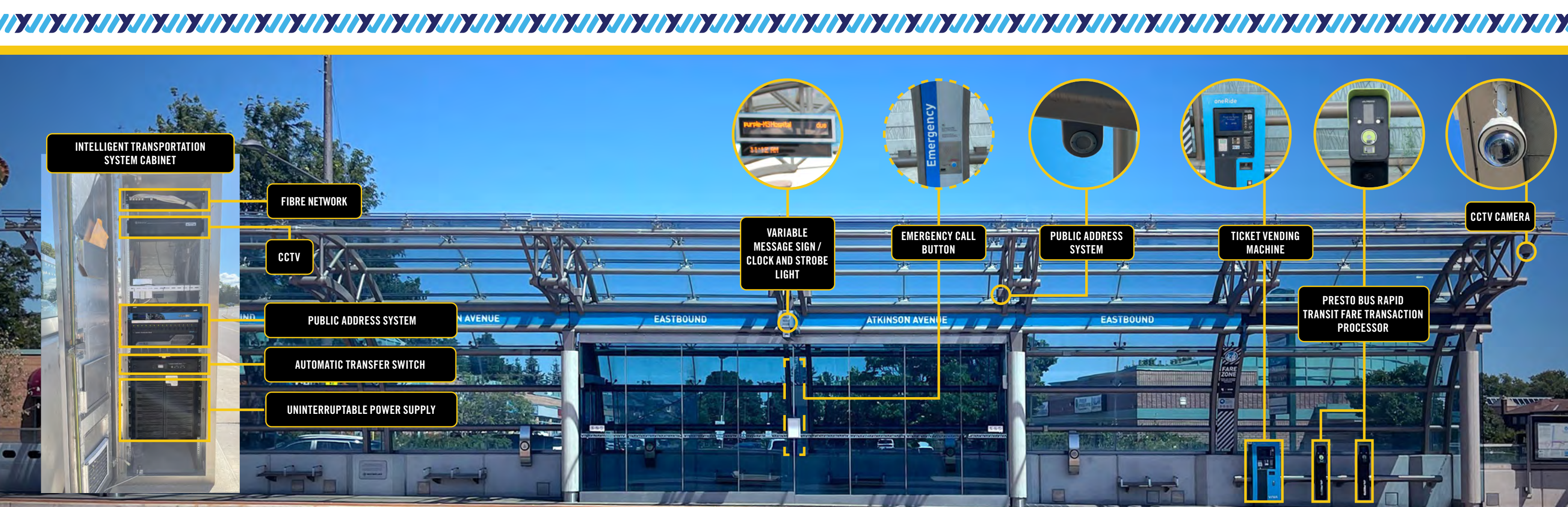
Collaborating with public-sector organizations to improve high-speed internet service

Work with municipalities, hospitals, libraries, fire halls, schools, community centres and other public-sector organizations to improve broadband services they deliver using our network



Providing private-sector organizations with open access to the network

Drive economic and social benefits and enhance broadband service for the Region’s residents and businesses, particularly in rural and underserved areas of the Region



The power of dark fibre

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic extend well beyond public health, and have highlighted the urgent need for ongoing digital transformation. Our businesses need it as we look at the health of our economy, and our communities need it – especially those in underserved and remote areas.

Digital transformation and transformative digital technologies create tremendous amounts of data. In order to be effectively used and shared, the volume of data requires networks to have high capacity and deliver high speeds. Networks need to be highly flexible, scalable and cost-efficient. That’s where YorkNet comes in.

The power of a dark fibre network is virtually unlimited, meaning businesses can make themselves future-proof against the need for greater bandwidth. With bandwidth demands constantly changing, dark fibre connections require only a simple equipment update as needed.

As an example to illustrate the power of dark fibre, York Region Transit has many Terminals and Rapidway stations, with each location containing Intelligent Transportation Systems networked via YorkNet.

These systems are supported by the Transit Management Systems team. As a part of continuous improvement, the team reached out to YorkNet for support in creating an Intelligent Transportation Systems lab to:

- Test all equipment before deployment
- Troubleshoot existing firmware/software/hardware issues
- Support a preproduction push for passenger announcements and variable messaging sign messages
- Help support educational and training opportunities for new staff

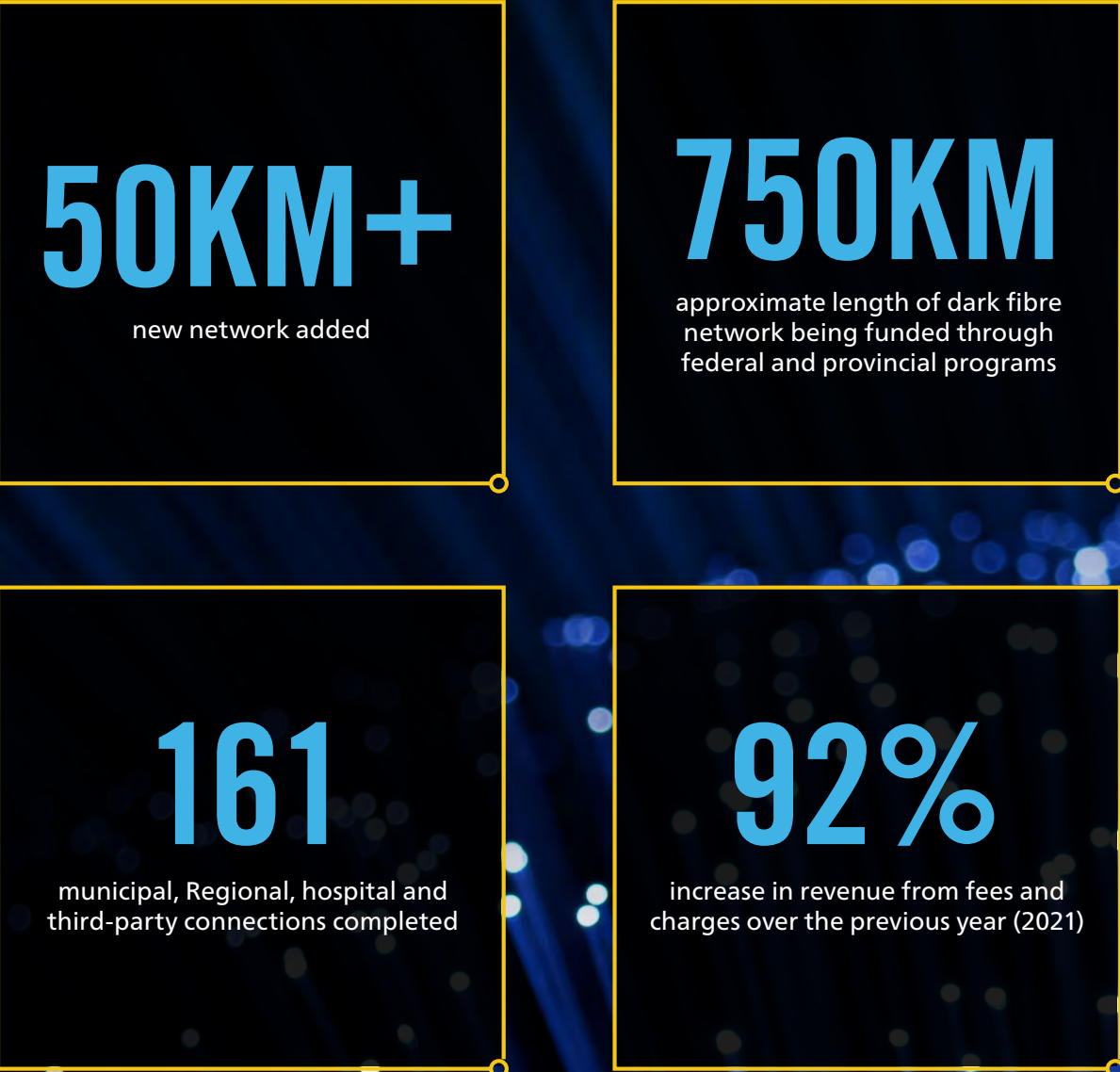
Through the partnership with YorkNet, the Transit Management Systems team has a fully functioning lab today, enabling improved operational support.

As YorkNet continues to expand its reach, the dark fibre it uses is a long-term, scalable technology that will accommodate York Region’s rapidly growing communities now and well into the future.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION...

...FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

2022 accomplishments

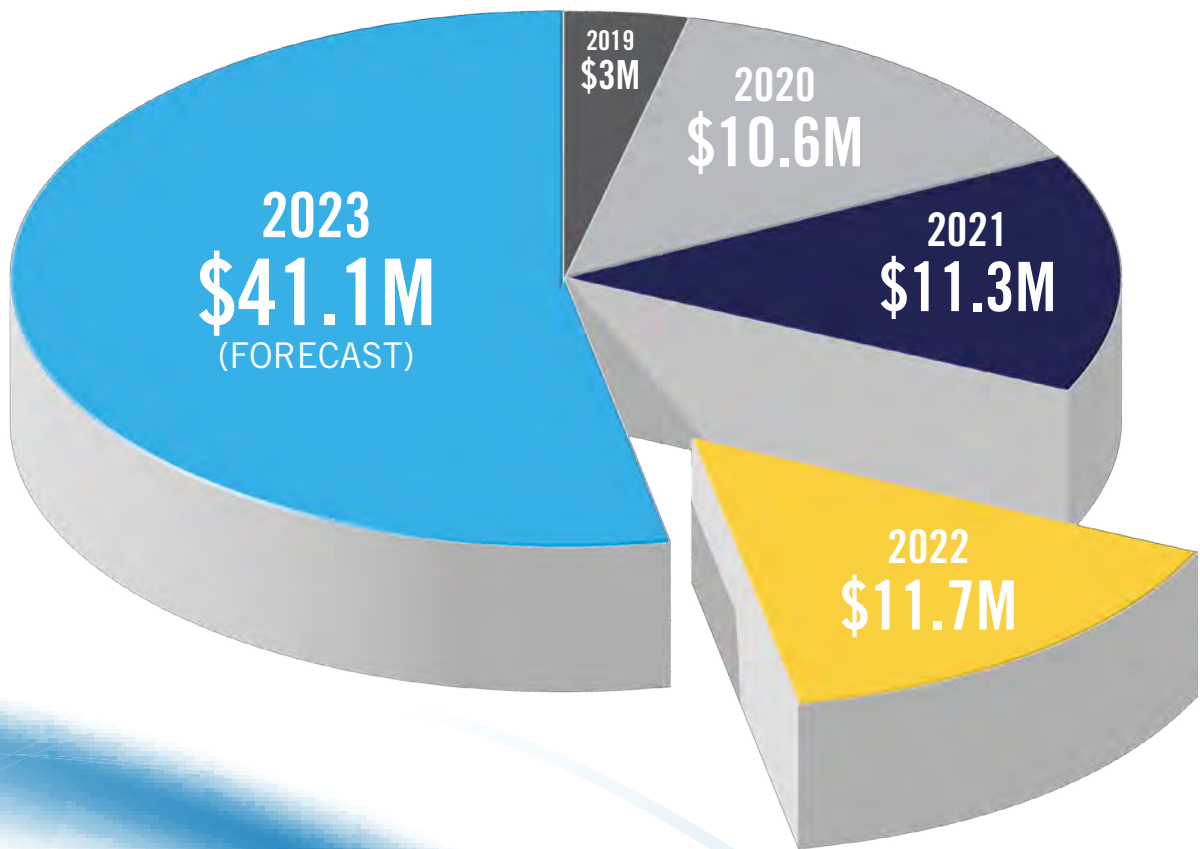


2023 key priorities

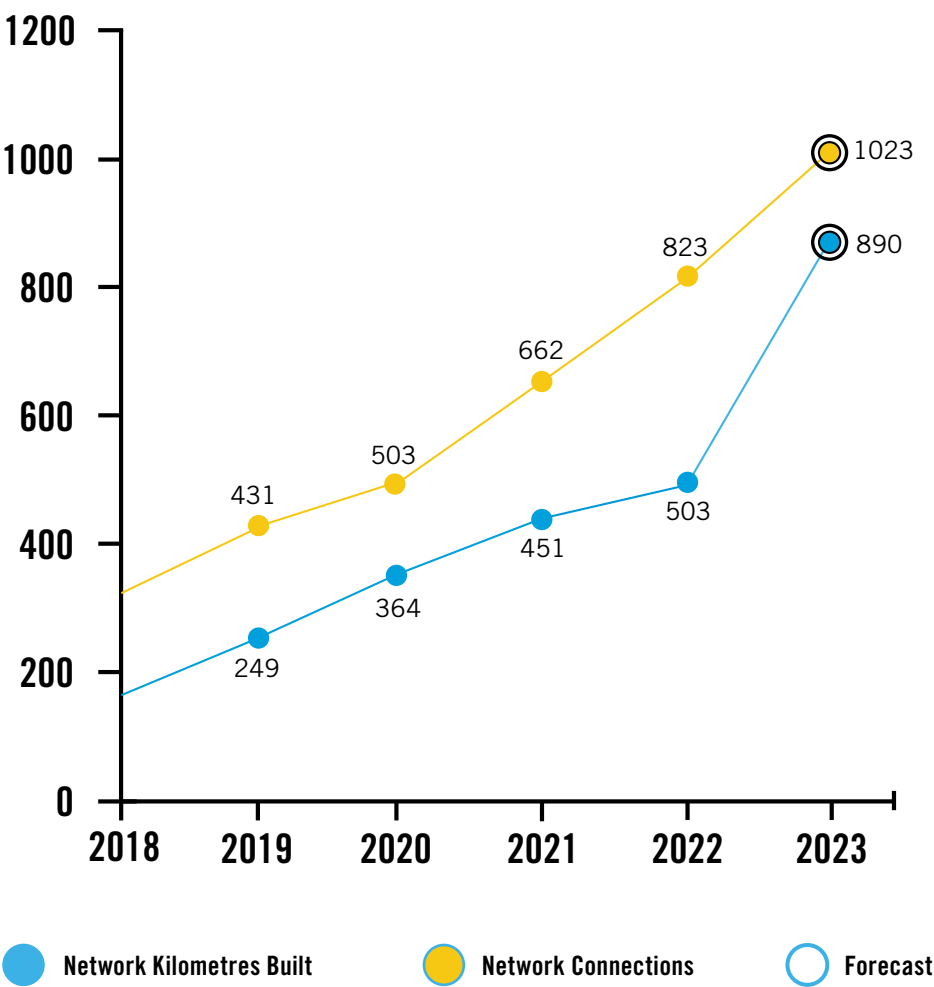


The evolution of YorkNet

BUDGET SPENT



NETWORK CONNECTIONS AND KILOMETRES BUILT

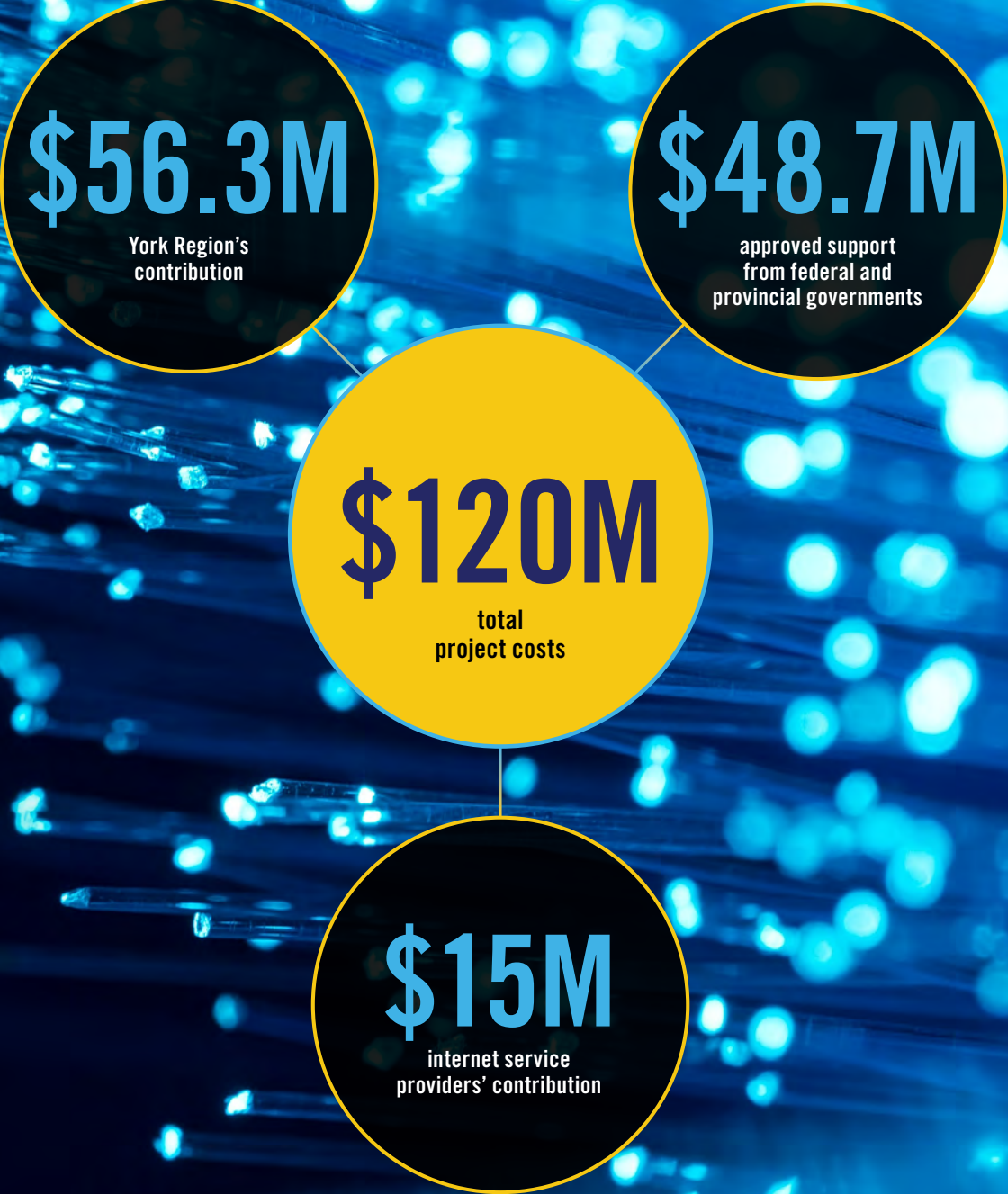


YorkNet Expansion Project

YorkNet has and continues to make considerable progress to deliver equitable access to reliable, cost-effective broadband in its underserved communities. Guided by the YorkNet Expansion Project, what was once a vision to connect all corners of the Region is starting to become an exciting reality.

In 2022, YorkNet received conditional funding through the federal government’s Universal Broadband Fund program to support its Expansion Project, which entails:

- Expanding the network by more than 750 kilometres, serving more than 3,800 underserved homes
- Enabling internet service providers to connect to YorkNet’s open-access network
- Preparing York Region to adapt to future technologies while providing connectivity solutions



A trusted fibre partner

YorkNet connections in 2022

YorkNet's strategic partnerships are instrumental in the continued expansion of the network and in fostering key connections. As a trusted fibre partner, YorkNet connected 161 additional Regional and municipal sites and worked with third-party providers to further expand. By the end of 2022, there were a total of 823 network connections, up from 662 the previous year.

These important partnerships are critical in ensuring the building of an affordable, reliable and sustainable high-speed network that not only enhances Regional services, but also bridges the digital divide to ultimately connect every corner of the Region.

2022 Regional locations

- 41 traffic controls that support the Roads and Operations Centre
- 5 paramedic response stations
- 2 bus terminals
- 6 bus platforms
- 8 properties for Housing York Inc., York Region's housing corporation (see page 19)
- 22 supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) sites, supporting security cameras and monitoring
- 2 data centres at 17250 Yonge Street (York Region's headquarters) and 50 High Tech Road

Local municipal connections

- 41 in the City of Markham including fire halls, community centres and libraries
- 6 in the City of Richmond Hill including community centres and libraries
- A new roads yard in the Town of Georgina
- A new fire station shared by the Towns of Newmarket and Aurora
- The Georgina Waste Transfer Station (see page 19)



Partnership success stories

Delivering valuable fibre to Housing York Inc.

In July of 2022, a massive network outage to one internet service provider resulted in the loss of internet or wireless services for millions of Canadians. Despite the nation-wide outage, Housing York Inc. staff were able to continue critical business operations using office locations that were connected to YorkNet’s dark fibre network.

Connectivity is especially critical at Housing York facilities, as it not only ensures staff are able to continue providing vital housing and support services to the Region’s most vulnerable populations, but these facilities also have critical life safety measures such as emergency phones in elevators that rely on connectivity. Being able to continue business operations is a testament to YorkNet’s secure, independent and reliable network that ensures critical Regional services remain undisturbed in times of crisis and due to other external factors.



Providing real-time updates at the Georgina Transfer Station

In 2022, an onsite camera feed was added to the Georgina Transfer Station, Household Hazardous Waste Depot using YorkNet’s dark fibre. The real-time camera feed refreshes every three minutes and allows those planning a visit to the Depot to see how busy it is before they leave home.

This functionality is a great benefit to residents as they can effectively manage their time and plan a trip around low-traffic times.





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