

## **Dane County Broadband Task Force Information**

The 15 member Dane County Broadband Task Force was created in 2021 by the County Board to focus on how to provide broadband access to all of Dane County's residents, particularly those who live in rural areas where broadband access may be lacking or non-existent.

The Task Force aims to create a greater community understanding of Dane County's challenges related to high-speed, reliable and affordable internet access for the County as a whole. They are working to prepare local partners in Dane County to have the background and knowledge (e.g. accurate maps, data on speeds, access, etc.) to apply for various grants and funding to expand access to unserved and underserved areas of the county, and increase awareness of the issues those without reliable internet access face.

The Task Force is collecting data, researching and exploring various funding mechanisms, partnering with stakeholders to identify where broadband access is and is not, exploring alternative solutions, and will make recommendations to the County Board on the role of Dane County in facilitating the expansion of broadband services to residents. The Task Force is working to survey rural residents that comes out at the end of March, 2022, in specific areas to identify homes and neighborhoods in which service is not available, and communities and internet service providers will be able to use this information to be able to apply for grants to expand access to these areas.

**Visit their website for more info:** <https://board.countyofdane.com/initiatives/Broadband-Task-Force>

### **They are asking for your help!**

To bolster the effort to create more accurate maps of service coverage and speeds, the Task Force is encouraging members of the public to take 2 minutes to complete the MadREP speed test. The more data that is collected the fuller the picture of broadband access issues in Dane County, that will be utilized by the many organizations and units of government to expand access and provide affordable, reliable service to every resident.

The speed test can be found here: <http://madisonregion.org/industry-and-innovation/broadband/>

Please contact the Task Force at [Dane.Broadband.Task.Force@countyofdane.com](mailto:Dane.Broadband.Task.Force@countyofdane.com), contact County Board Supervisors Kate McGinnity [McGinnity.Kate@countyofdane.com](mailto:McGinnity.Kate@countyofdane.com) or Melissa Ratcliff at [Ratcliff.Melissa@countyofdane.com](mailto:Ratcliff.Melissa@countyofdane.com), or call 608-266-5758 and let them know of your broadband issues and how it has impacted you.