

Dane County Broadband Task Force

July 2023



Background

The Dane County Broadband Task Force was created in 2021, and extended in 2022 to work through 2024 to improve broadband access and affordability in Dane County.

Over the last two years the Task Force has worked to develop and begin implementing recommendations to expand broadband throughout Dane County.

We've learned that broadband expansion is not a "nice-to-have", it's a need.

We've heard from hundreds of residents through our public meetings, survey work, and by email regarding ongoing access and affordability issues.



Membership

- Andrew Hoyos
- Bill Dickmeyer
- Bob Wipperfurth
- Jeff Glazer
- Deana Zentner
- David Digiovanni
- Joyce Tikalsky
- Kate McGinnity
- Melissa Ratcliff
- Michelle Jensen
- Peter Weil
- Renee Lauber
- Sarah Edgerton
- Sarah Ghee
- Todd Violante



Task Force Accomplishments

- Implemented a survey of the rural Dane County population to better understand limitations of the current infrastructure and because PSC and FCC maps were inaccurate in regards to reliability and coverage.
- Developed recommendations as to how the County can support a comprehensive broadband infrastructure.



Task Force Accomplishments

- Hired a consulting firm to conduct a broadband infrastructure engineering assessment to map existing coverage; analyze costs, timelines, business models, and range of high-speed technologies; and begin coordinating broadband expansion with local units of government.
- Secured County Board approval to create a Broadband Coordinator position within the Planning Department, to support municipalities in developing grant proposals for broadband infrastructure development. The hiring for this position is in process.



Task Force Accomplishments

- Cooperated with regional partners to obtain a Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) planning grant. The grant will be used to develop a 5 year action plan for broadband deployment and implementation.
- Applied for and obtained grant funding to raise awareness and participation in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program Outreach (ACP) which provides low cost internet service and up to \$100 toward the cost of a computer or tablet for qualifying households.

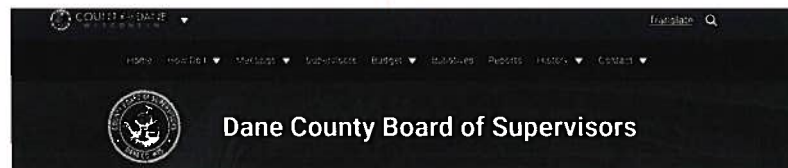


Ongoing work

By the end of 2023, we anticipate having a clearer sense of which areas to target for infrastructure development. The newly hired Broadband coordinator will be in place to support municipalities in developing grant proposals for broadband infrastructure development. This effort will be successful if Dane County is able to help create an equitable, reliable, and comprehensive broadband network capable of addressing the telecommunication needs for the 21st century.



For more information



Dane County Broadband Task Force

In 2020, the Dane County Board of Supervisors created the Dane County Broadband Task Force. The task force was created through resolution [2020 RES-415](#) and outlines the work the task force will do over the course of the next year including: collect data, research and explore various funding mechanisms, partner with stakeholders to identify where broadband access is and is not, explore alternative solutions, and make recommendations to the County Board on the role of Dane County in facilitating the expansion of broadband services to residents.

<https://board.countyofdane.com/initiatives/Broadband-Task-Force>

Questions?

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