

Dane County Broadband Task Force



Background

The Dane County Board of Supervisors approved 2020 RES-415 in mid-2020 that created the Dane County Broadband Task Force.

The 15-member task force was appointed shortly after with representatives from:

- The Dane County Board
- Healthcare provider
- A school district in Dane County
- An economic and/or agricultural perspective
- A Town Board
- Senior focal point
- Internet/broadband service provider
- Youth community-based organization
- Community/General Public Members at large
- Dane County Executive or designee
- President of the Dane County Towns Association or designee
- President of the Dane County Cities and Villages Association or their designee



Membership

- Andrew Hoyos
- Bill Dickmeyer
- Bob Wipperfurth
- Cathy Sutter
- Dave Ripp
- Deana Zentner
- James Danky
- Joyce Tikalsky
- Kate McGinnity
- Melissa Ratcliff
- Michelle Jensen
- Peter Weil
- Renee Lauber
- Sarah Ghee
- Todd Violante



Goals

- 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
- 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
- Increase awareness of the issues those without reliable internet access face



Purpose

- Understanding the complexities of broadband access as it relates to improving access to those unserved and underserved in Dane County;
- Collecting data points on underserved and vulnerable populations to determine if there is a greater percentage impacted by lack of access to reliable and affordable broadband than indicated by the maps
- Understanding the various funding mechanisms used for improving broadband access, to include state and federal grants, with the intention of identifying strategies, partners, and potential funding sources that will support the expansion of broadband services;



Purpose

- Partnering with various stakeholders to identify where access to broadband is and is not available;
- Exploring alternative solutions to inadequate broadband service including but not limited to hot spots, satellite technology, and wireless service;
- Making recommendations to the County Board on the role of Dane County in facilitating the expansion of broadband services to residents; and
- Holding two public hearings to hear from local officials and residents about challenges related to broadband. Feb. 28th 6:00 pm; March 4th 9:00 am



Speed test data points map from MadRep

- <https://expressoptimizer.net/public/publicreport.php?state=Wisconsin&type=county&name=Dane%20County>

Timeline

July 2021 – First Meeting

November 2021 – Budget amendment approved to pilot conduit placement in county highway projects

March 2022 – Survey roll-out

May 2022 – Receive survey results

June 2022 – Provide recommendations to County Board



Presentations the Task Force has Received

- County Authority and Funding Possibilities
- Map Coverage and Surveys
- Grant Funding Opportunities and Requirements
- Presentations on Grant Requirements
- Town of Vermont community champion
- Presentation on MadRep speed test/mapping effort and technology options
- Middle Mile Overview



Outreach

Survey – Will be mailed to a sample initially, with a subsequent online collector for additional participation

MadRep Speed Test

<http://madisonregion.org/industry-and-innovation/broadband/>

Broadband Task Force website

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

Social Media

Press Releases

Public hearings – Dates to be determined



Meetings

Dane County Broadband Task Force meetings take place the first Thursday of the month at 9:00am.

Agendas can be found here:

<https://dane.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Until further notice, meetings are held virtually

Comments can be sent to staff to be forwarded to task force members. Email:

kuhl.lauren@countyofdane.com



Questions?

Contact:

County Board Supervisor Melissa Ratcliff – District 36

Chair of Task Force

Ratcliff.Melissa@countyofdane.com

County Board Supervisor Kate McGinnity – District 37

Vice-Chair of Task Force

McGinnity.Kate@countyofdane.com

