MARATHON COUNTY
BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING
Agenda

Date & Time of Meeting: **Monday, January 23, 2023, at 3:00 P.M.**
Meeting Location: **Assembly Room, Marathon County Courthouse, 500 Forest St, Wausau, WI**

Task Force Members: Chair John Robinson, Jacob Langenhahn, Gary Gisselman, Mike Ritter, Jennifer Aarrestad, Tony Sherfinski, Eric Budleski, Milton Olson, Wade Carroll, Kurt Schoenroch, Jon Euting

Task Force Purpose: *Develop recommendations identifying the potential role of Marathon County in facilitating the expansion of Broadband access in Marathon County. Review the Report: Broadband for Marathon County Broadband Assessment and Plan prepared by Design Nine and develop broad policies and partnership recommendations relating to the expansion of broadband/internet services throughout Marathon County.*

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages Task Force members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. Instead of attendance in person, Task Force members and the public may attend this meeting by **telephone conference**. If Task Force members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees.

Phone #: 1-415-655-0001   Access Code: 120 112 4516

When you enter the telephone conference, **PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Public Comments (15 Minute limit)**
3. **Approval of the December 19, 2022, minutes – tabled to February meeting**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
    A. Presentation on Telehealth – Wade Carrol
    B. Update on Grant Funded Broadband Projects
        1. Frontier (PSC 2022)
        2. Bug Tussel (PSC 2022)
        3. Charter (RDOF)
    C. Status Report on Bug Tussel's Project
    D. FCC Fabric Map Challenges
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action**:
    A. Approach to Funding Sources: County, State, and Federal
        1. PSC Grant - $14 million available
        2. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
        3. American Rescue Plan Act
        4. Affordable Connectivity Program – Federal Communications Commission (fcc.gov)
    B. Process for determining priorities for future broadband expansion efforts
6. **Next Steps**
7. **Next Meeting Date – February 27, 2023**
8. **Adjournment**

"***Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 or e-mail*** countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us ***one business day before the meeting.***

SIGNED /s/ John Robinson
 Presiding Officer or Designee

Emailed To: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and
                        Other Media Groups
Emailed By: T. Ranallo
Date/Time: 1/20/2023 at 3pm

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

BY: T. Ranallo
DATE/TIME: 1/20/2023 at 3pm

Marathon County
December 2022 Report

WE ARE PROUD OF WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR!

- Total Wireless Customers - 9,087
- Total Live Towers - 381
- Fiber Internet went live in Iowa and Forest Counties
- Community Impact Reports made available monthly for 8 counties
- New website launched (www.btussel.com)
- Updated Rhinelander office signage (from Northwoods Connect to Bug Tussel)

- Donated back to our communities through our donation program
- Attended WPS Farm Show, WI Farm Technology Days, Hodag, Country Boom, and more
- Sponsored 21 local community events
- Race car sponsors for River Valley Racing, Crystal Zemple #33Z, and Corey Manders
- Bug Tussel University Classes and growth: 81 classes, 230 attendees

NOVEMBER BUG TUSSEL UNIVERSITY CLASSES

- Tech Help | 12/3 | Marathon County Public Library - Wausau Headquarters

Learn about our upcoming classes at btussel.com/free-tech-education/attend-a-class

$500 raised for CASA of Brown County at Bug Tussel's employee holiday party on 12/10

COUNTY PARTNERSHIP

Bug Tussel is a proud partner of Marathon County!
- 2022 Grant (Leathercamp)
- 2021 Bond

The projects, **R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality** and **B.E.S.T. Program**, will equip the county with fixed wireless sites to facilitate rapid expansion, followed by fiberoptic cable. These fiber projects will cover more than 200 miles throughout the county and will provide a catalyst for future last-mile expansion.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Over 60 interested in fiber.

MARKETING & SALES

Ads & Sponsorships
- Daily Facebook wireless internet ads
- Wausau Cyclones Ice Hockey Sponsorship (including on-ice, podcast, dasher board, and PA announcement ads)
- January radio ads updated
- Facebook ads for holiday promotion
- Door hangers and flyers shared for holiday promotion

YOUR SALES REPRESENTATIVES

ASHLEY BOLDEN
📞 (920) 501-8717
✉ Ashley.Bolden@btussel.com

KRISTIN LAMBRECHT
📞 (920) 501-8515
✉ Kristin.Lambrecht@btussel.com

GET IN TOUCH

CUSTOMER SERVICE
📞 (877) 227-0924
✉ customerservice@btussel.com
🌐 btussel.com

Towers

On Air: 3

- Tower construction and installation complete.
- Internet is live and operational.
- Customers are ready to be connected, with unique installation for each connection taking additional time.

Construction: 13

- Design and plan the tower build (civil construction).
- Construct tower by stacking from bottom to top.
- Install utilities such as equipment, antenna and lines.
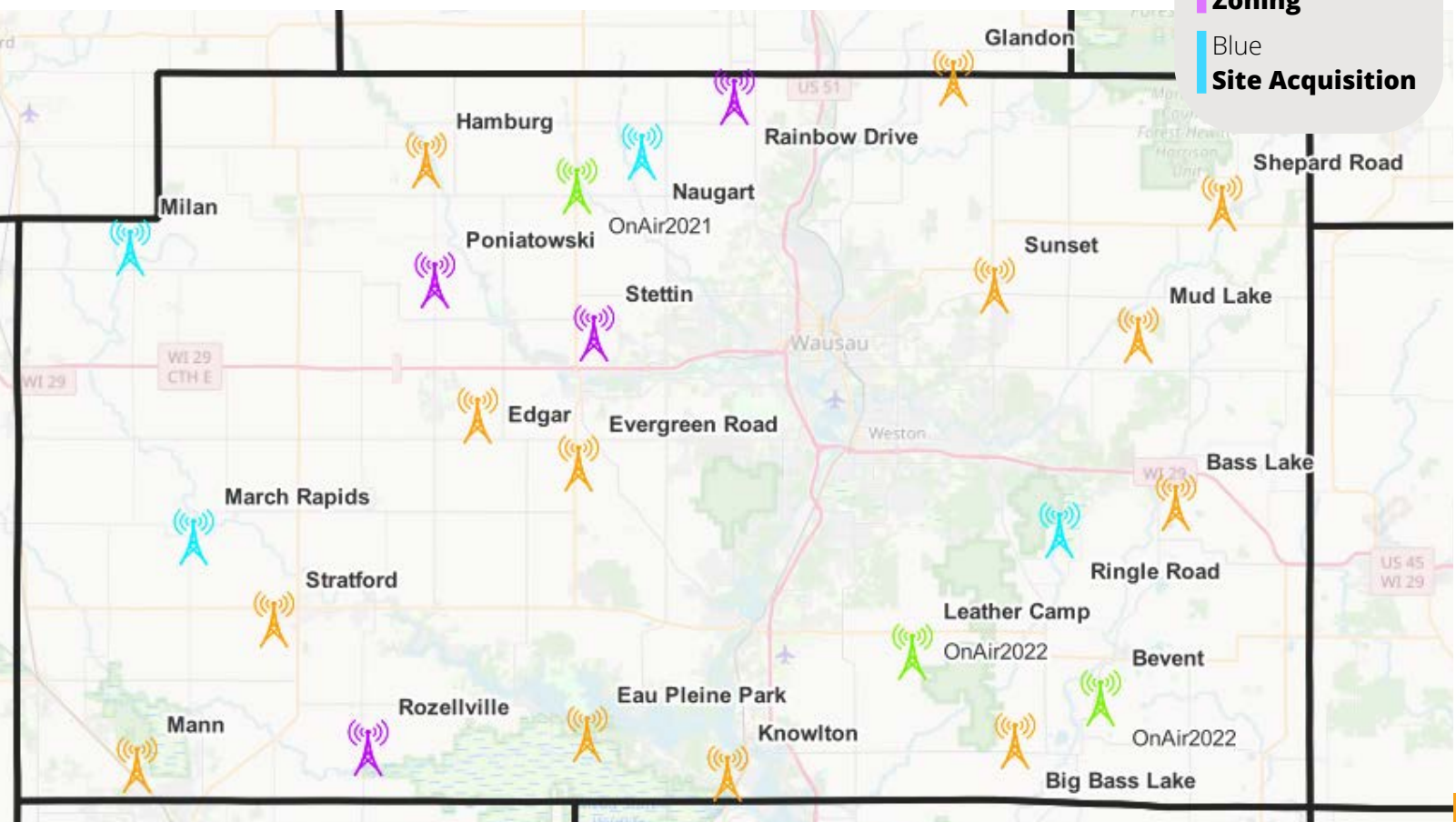- Integrate connections to internet network.

Zoning: 4

- Submit permits.
- Awaiting approval from local and federal agencies.

Site Acquisition: 4

- Search for and determine tower site.
- Negotiate and sign lease in cooperation with landowner.

Green
On Air

Orange
Construction

Purple
Zoning

Blue
Site Acquisition

This map includes a rough estimate of site locations and may not accurately reflect actual tower placement.

Site Acquisition Timeline

6-12 MONTHS

BOND EFFORT

Meet with county and municpalities, plan funding, provide due diligence, plan county network (towers and fiber). Several votes with different county committees. Final county board vote (often requires supermajority).

1-3 MONTHS

SEARCH

Connect with property owners within a search ring (about 1 month). Evaluate properties, choose preferred location (about 1 month).

1-3 MONTHS

LEASING

Work with landowner to agree to tower layout, lease terms, address title issues, etc. Often requires attorney review.

6-12 MONTHS

GOVERNMENT APPROVALS

Obtain local permits (driveway permit, address, zoning/conditional use permit, etc). Often requires public notice and hearings.

Obtain federal regulatory approval, including from FAA, FCC, EPA, and other entities. Requires on-site soil, archeological, geologic, historical, etc. studies.

bugtussel BTUSSEL.COM/ABOUT-US/PARTNERSHIPS

Fiber

Connected:
- Fiber network is complete and connected.
- Internet is live and operational.
- Customers are ready to be connected, with unique installation for each connection taking additional time.

Fiber: 100 miles completed
- Fiber is sent through installed conduit via fiber blowing, a technique using a machine on wheels that blows air to push the fiber through the cable.
- Sections of fiber are connected to each other via Splicing, the fusion of fiber with an optical laser.

Conduit: 125 miles completed
- Conduit, the protection cable that will house the fiber, is installed via boring (with a drill) or plowing.
- Access hatches that house utilities and connections (such as handholes, flowerpots, and cabinets) are installed.

Permits: 135 miles completed
- Permits for work in areas along the route are submitted.
- Awaiting approval from local and federal agencies.
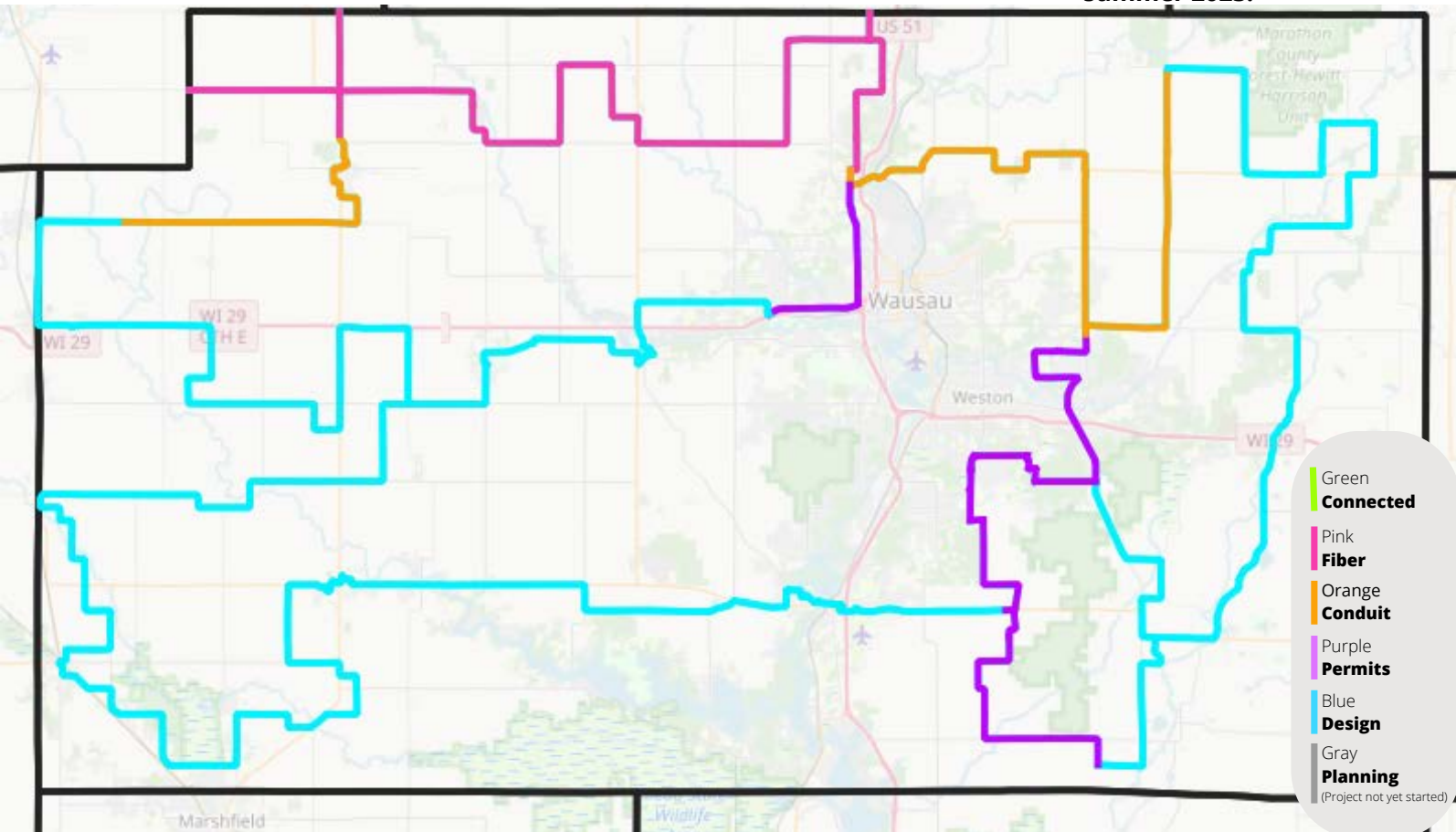
Design: 350 miles completed
- Fiber route is mapped.
- Route is traveled to determine equipment and landscape needs.
- Sections are re-designed as needed.

UPDATES

Progress has slowed due to wintery conditions and crews off for the holidays.

Additional distribution fiber (sections of the route that branch from main route connect to homes, businesses, or other locations) has been placed in the Northern part of the county. Crews are exploring the option of doing a tie-in with Everstream in Abbotsford to be able to light up existing fiber before spring.

Completion of the Middle Mile (backbone) and Last Mile (distribution) in the county is anticipated in late summer 2023.

Green **Connected**

Pink **Fiber**

Orange **Conduit**

Purple **Permits**

Blue **Design**

Gray **Planning**
(Project not yet started)

This map includes a rough estimate of site locations and may not accurately reflect actual tower placement.

How is a Fiber Network Created?

Did you know? A fiber network is like a highway system.

Long Haul Fiber is like an *expressway* connecting main points across very large areas together. This is the *core* network that hooks up internet connections from state to state and, on a larger scale, country to country.

The **Middle Mile** is like a *highway* connecting cities together. This is the *backbone* that connects cities, counties, and states and creates a national network.

The **Last Mile** is like a *road* that travels from the highway to individual neighborhoods, including FTTH (fiber-to-the-home), FTTP (fiber-to-the-premises), etc. This is the *distribution* that connects the internet network to customer's homes, businesses, and government agencies. This is often the costliest and most challenging part of the network to create.

Bug Tussel specializes in building Middle Mile and Last Mile networks.

Installing a fiber network requires 4 major steps:
DESIGN THE ROUTE, **OBTAIN PERMITS**, **INSTALL FIBER**, AND **CONNECT TO CUSTOMERS**.

DESIGN THE ROUTE *(Engineering)*

Map the Route
Determine the best route for the network and outline in advanced mapping software.

Travel the Route
Travel the route to determine equipment and route needs based on the landscape. For example, areas with hard rock conditions will require specialized equipment such as a directional drill.

Update Design
Route design is then updated as needed based on landscape requirements, permit needs, etc.

OBTAIN PERMITS *(Zoning)*

Submit Permits
Submit permits to local and federal agencies in order to obtain authorization before beginning installation.

Await Approval
Await approval and re-submit or re-design if approval is denied.

INSTALL FIBER *(Construction)*

Deploy Conduit
Install conduit (a protective cable that will house the fiber) into the ground via plowing or boring (with a directional drill).

Install Access Hatches
Place access hatches in areas (often underground) where intersections will be made, the route changes direction, or fiber will be dispersed. These hatches (which include handholes, flowerpots, and cabinets) will act as utility boxes where fiber connections can be made.

Insert Fiber
Run fiber through the conduit. The most common way to insert fiber is through a process called fiber blowing, which uses a machine to move the fiber through the cable via bursts of air. This reduces friction and the risk of damage to the fiber.

Connect Fiber
Connect sections of fiber to one another by splicing, the process of fusing pieces of fiber together with an optical laser.

Connect to the Internet
Connect the fiber route to the internet, often by hooking up to the larger worldwide network via connection to a switch, a mobile tower, or another connecting point.

CONNECT TO CUSTOMERS *(On Air)*

Connect to Customer
Install fiber from the closest access point (a handhole) to customer's ONT (optical network terminal, which converts light signals to electrical signals) in their home or business.

Set Up Internet
Customer sets up home network system through router and ONT connections.

FCC Fabric & Challenge Process

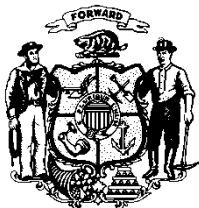The following links explain the FCC's Fabric, take you to the map and explain the challenge process:

[What is the Location Fabric? – BDC Help Center (fcc.gov)](#)

[Home | FCC National Broadband Map](#)

[How Entities Can Access the Location Fabric – BDC Help Center (fcc.gov)](#)

[Bulk Challengers – BDC Help Center (fcc.gov)](#)

[Bulk Fabric Challenge FAQs – BDC Help Center (fcc.gov)](#)

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Ellen Nowak, Commissioner
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

December 7, 2022

To: Persons Interested in the Broadband Expansion Grant Program

Re: FY 2023 Broadband Expansion Grants   5-BF-2023
        Announcement Opening the FY 2023 State Broadband
        Expansion Grant Cycle

The Public Service Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 State Broadband Expansion Grants. This round will make available approximately $14.1 million.

The Commission is introducing a significant change to the application process. An applicant in the FY 2023 grant cycle is required to submit the application using the new online PSC Grants System. The requirements of the new PSC Grants System are discussed below and in the attached Application Instructions. (PSC REF#: 454388) The Broadband Office will also schedule a series of webinars in December 2022 and January 2023 to discuss the application process, PSC Grants System, and mapping requirements.

Commission staff will evaluate the grant project proposals and prepare a briefing memorandum and merit list for the Commission's consideration. The briefing materials and merit list are intended for advisory purposes only and the Commission is not bound by the staff's weighting of the merit criteria in the Instructions or resulting merit list. The Commissioners utilize their experience, technical competence, and specialized knowledge. The Commissioners, as the finders of fact and decision makers, are charged with evaluating all available information and applying any relevant statutory and federal criteria to reach well-reasoned decisions.

1.   Schedule of Events

       The schedule of events related to this year's grant application is as follows:

DATE	EVENT
Dec. 7, 2022	Date of issue of the application instructions
Jan. 17, 2023	Last day to request clarification of the instructions
Feb. 21, 2023	Last day to request PSC Grants System assistance
Feb. 22, 2023 at 1:30 CT	**Applications due from applicants**
Mar. 13, 2023 at 1:30 CT	Objection to a grant application are due
Mar. 27, 2023 at 1:30 CT	Responses to objections are due

Telephone: (608) 266-5481   Fax: (608) 266-3957
Home Page: http://psc.wi.gov   E-mail: pscrecs@wisconsin.gov

2.   The Commission has created an online application form that applicants will use to submit a grant application. Applicants no longer will have to upload the application to the Electronic Regulatory Filing (ERF) System. The new PSC Grants System will automatically upload the application to ERF (<u>provided</u> the application is submitted on time).

The PSC Grants System will close the window for submitting applications on the due date and time stated above. Applicants should also note that the due time has been moved up to 1:30 pm on the due date. Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete and submit the application well ahead of the deadline. Staff are available to answer questions about the PSC Grants System up until February 21, 2023, the day before applications are due.

3.   As with recent grant rounds, the Commission will only accept letters, signatures, and other comments in supportof a grant application if those letters, signatures, and comments are included as part of an attachment to the grant application and filed with the grant application in a single document. The PSC Grants System provides a convenient 'Upload' tab to include supporting documents. The PSC Grant System will upload the entire document, including supporting materials, to ERF automatically when the applicant submits the document.

4.   The PSC Grant System was developed with several internal validation steps to catch errors in arithmetic and formatting. Applicants will not be able to complete the application and submit the application for consideration until those validation errors have been resolved. Step-by-step instructions have been posted on the PSC Broadband Grants webpage to explain those validation checks. Staff are also available to answer procedural questions about the PSC Grants System. (As with prior grant rounds, staff are not available to answer any questions about the content and merit review of an application).

5.   The total funds available for grants in this round is much smaller than was available in the ARPA and FY 2022 state grant cycles. It would be prudent for applicants to size their grant request accordingly.

6.   The funds for this round come from the segregated funds in the PSC Broadband Grant account. The requirements related to the state bonding process in the FY 2022 state grant round do not apply to grants awarded in this round.

7.   The Commission strictly enforces the filing deadline for submitting applications. The PSC Grants System has been developed to deny access to late filed applications. There is no grace period. The window for

submitting applications will close promptly on the date and time stated above. The clock in the server hosting the PSC ERF system is the sole authority governing the date and time for purposes of submitting an application. Applicants are encouraged to start the application process early, identify questions with the PSC Grant System and contact staff if necessary to resolve them, and submit the application well in advance of the deadline.

Sincerely,

Joe Fontaine
Division Administrator
Division of Digital Access, Consumer, and Environmental Affairs

JF:TK:AK:RT:DK:kle DL:01915470

Attachment
1. FY 2023 State Broadband Expansion Grant Application Instructions PSC REF#: 454388

THE BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM OVERVIEW
FUNDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

Where we are today...   ... and where we're going

Many Americans lack access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet

America runs on high-speed internet. A strong internet connection powers our economy and supports education. It fosters better public health. And, it connects loved ones and strengthens social ties. But not everyone is connected. Too many Americans are cut off from the opportunities that high-speed internet makes possible. That's why we're working to bring high-speed internet to all Americans.

The BEAD Program includes $42B for high-speed Internet access

Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, BEAD is a federal grant program that aims to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed internet. BEAD prioritizes unserved locations that have no internet access or that only have access under 25/3 Mbps and underserved locations only have access under 100/20 Mbps.

Select BEAD program details

Eligible entities

1. All 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
2. Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
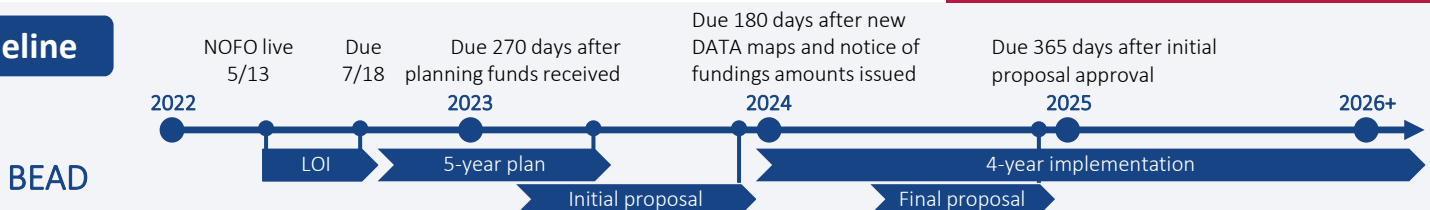
Example eligible uses of funds

1. Planning for the deployment of high-speed Internet, including conducting research, collecting data, outreach, and training
2. Deploying or upgrading Internet in unserved or underserved areas or improving service to community anchor organizations
3. Installing Internet and Wi-Fi in multi-unit residential buildings
4. Adoption and digital equity programs
5. Workforce development programs and vocational training

Ways to get involved

Eligible entities must conduct coordination with local governments, Tribes, community orgs, and individuals within their jurisdiction. Members of the public are encouraged to contact U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and territories to learn about more ways to get involved.

Timeline

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

BEAD

	NOFO live 5/13	Due 7/18	Due 270 days after planning funds received	Due 180 days after new DATA maps and notice of fundings amounts issued	Due 365 days after initial proposal approval
2022			2023	2024	2025 ... 2026+

LOI — 5-year plan — Initial proposal — Final proposal — 4-year implementation

January 13, 2023

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554
Phone: 877-232-7055

Marathon County Wisconsin is a large, mostly rural county with significant areas of the county that do not have high speed, reliable broadband.   The new broadband map is an improvement of the previous mapping data but still has many errors.

We request an extension of the challenge process and a change to the process that allows local municipalities to challenge errors en masse.   The reasons for this request are:

First, the short time frame, which was mostly in December – a traditionally busy time for everyone, made it impractical for the county to engage and educate rural citizens to challenge the data themselves.

Second, the map is unfriendly. The default view assumes that satellite service is acceptable broadband.   It is not obvious to the average citizen to know how to use the filters to remove satellite service.   In addition, unless the citizen understands that they must zoom down to the street level, the map shows coverage in areas that do not have coverage.

Third, we contacted the state PSC mid-December to ask how to challenge the map en masse and were told that we'd need to sign a license agreement with your technology partner that would take many weeks to get in place.   Based on the January 13th due date we determined that we could not negotiate a license to use the data in time to make meaningful contributions of corrections.

And last, but not least, it is clear that some Wi-Fi providers grossly over-estimated their ability to provide high speed service.   For us to correct that data without access to the aggregate data, we would need to manually zoom into each street address, evaluate if the data is accurate, then contact the resident and ask them to request the service. Then, when they are told that it is unavailable, we would need them to go through your challenge process. This is an unworkable method to correct inaccurate data.

We request an extension to the timeframe and a method for local municipalities to receive aggregate data from the providers and an easy way to challenge and correct inaccurate information being provided by the providers.

Kurt Gibbs
Marathon County Board Chairman

John Robinson
Marathon County Supervisor
Chair of the County Broadband Task Force

Marathon County Board of Supervisors – Courthouse, 500 Forest St., Wausau WI 54403 - P: 715-261-1500

Affordable Connectivity Program
Helping Households Connect

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service.

The Affordable Connectivity Program provides:

- Up to $30/month discount for broadband service;
- Up to $75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to $100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider if the household contributes more than $10 but less than $50 toward the purchase price.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

Who Is Eligible?

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least *one* of the criteria below:

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income internet program;
- Participates in one of these assistance programs:
    - SNAP
    - Medicaid
    - Federal Public Housing Assistance
    - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
    - WIC
    - Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits
    - or Lifeline;
- Participates in one of these assistance programs and lives on Qualifying Tribal lands:
    - Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
    - Tribal TANF
    - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
    - Tribal Head Start (income based)

Check out fcc.gov/ACP for a **Consumer FAQ** and other program resources.

Two-Steps to Enroll

1. Go to AffordableConnectivity.gov to submit an application or print out a mail-in application; and
2. Contact your preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete.

Eligible households must **both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.**
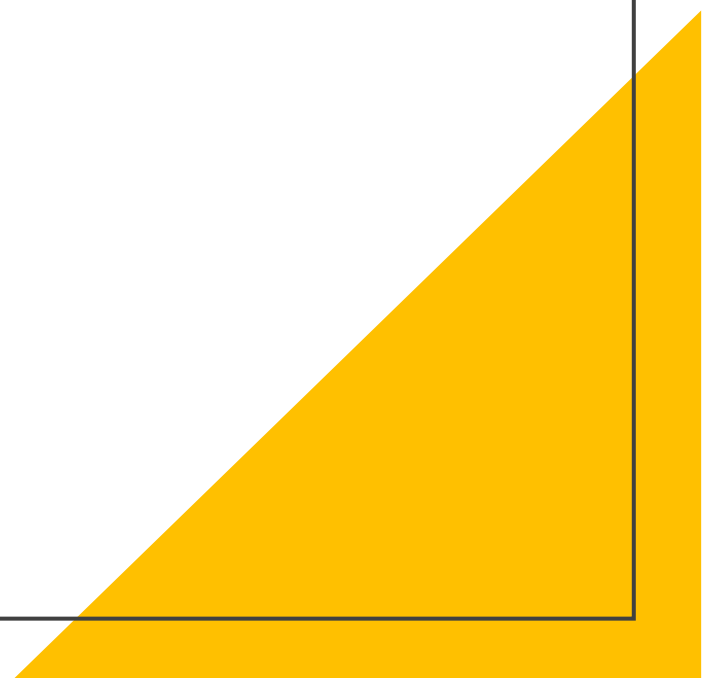
Call 877-384-2575

or find more information about the Affordable Connectivity Program at fcc.gov/ACP

Broadband Update

Marathon County Board of Supervisors

January 24, 2023

Recent Activities

- 2020 PSC Grant Applications
  - Targeted northern towns, 50/10
  - Partnered with ISPs
  - Only one funded
    - Wittenberg Tele
- FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)
  - LTD and CCO awards
  - 4 years to reach 40%
- 2020 CARES Act
  - Hot spots: libraries purchased equipment
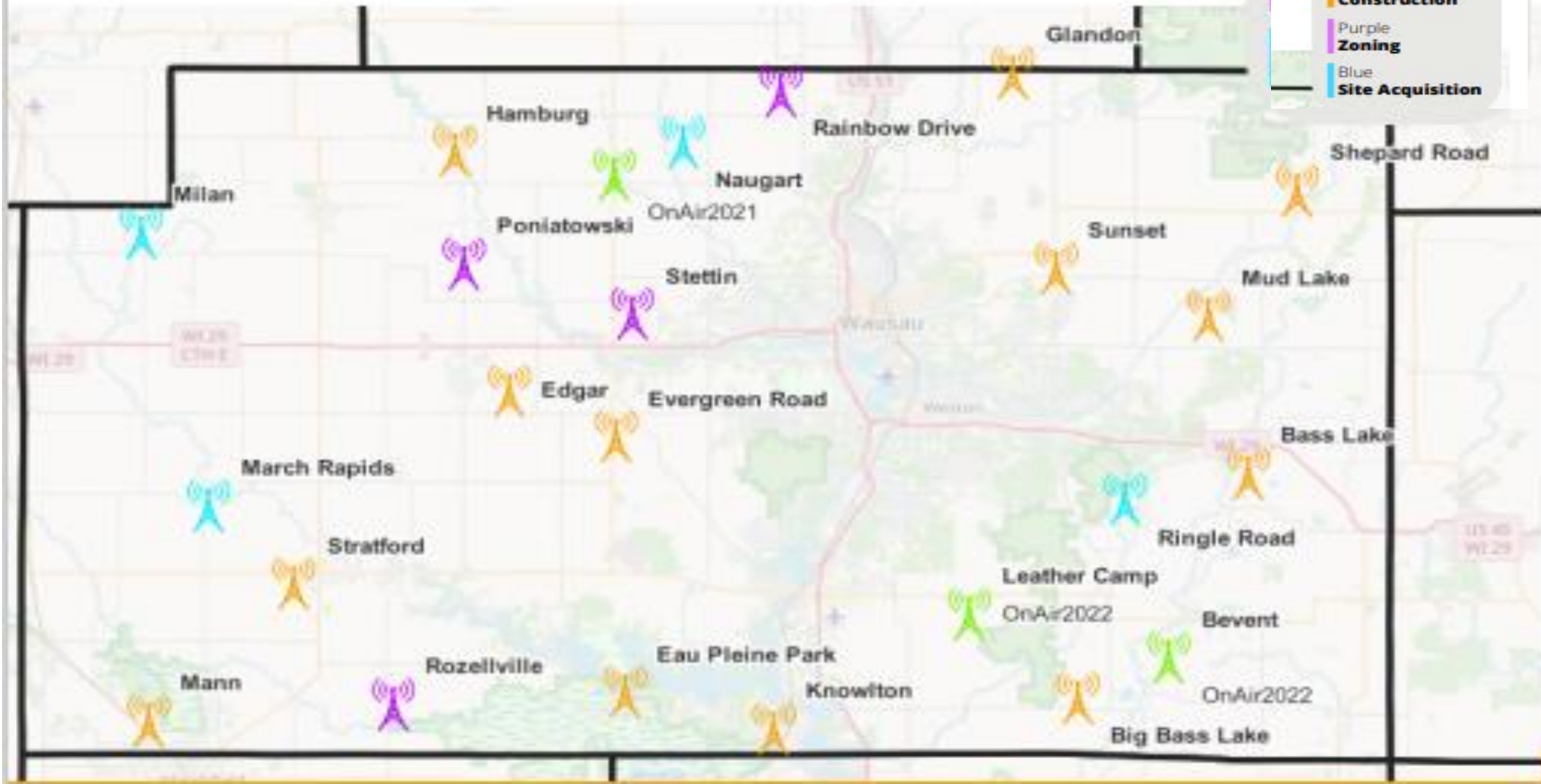 - Fiber runs: Hatley Library, DCE Elementary

Recent Activities

- 2021 County Budget
  - $250,000 in Capital Improvement Fund
- 2021 American Rescue Plan
  - $26.3 million to County for Eligible Activities
  - Broadband expansion
  - Public input
  - Partnered with Charter
- 2021 NTIA Grant Application
  - Partnered with Charter
- 2021 Bug Tussel Conduit Borrowing for Fiber and Towers

Recent Activities

- 2021 PSC Application (ARPA Funds 100/100)
  - Marathon County partnered with 4 ISPs on 5 applications
  - I successful award Cirrinity Norrie and Pike Lakes
  - $20 million
- 2022 Working with Regional EDAs NCWRPC on Speed Test
- 2022 PCS Applications
  - Marathon County partnered with 3 ISPs
  - 2 successful awards Bug Tussel and Frontier

summer 2023.

Green	**Connected**	
Pink	**Fiber**	
Orange	**Conduit**	
Purple	**Permits**	
Blue	**Design**	
Gray	**Planning**	

Fiber

Connected:

- Fiber network is complete and connected.
- Internet is live and operational.
- Customers are ready to be connected, with unique installation for each connection taking additional time.

Fiber: 100 miles completed

- Fiber is sent through installed conduit via fiber blowing, a technique using a machine on wheels that blows air to push the fiber through the cable.
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Conduit: 125 miles completed

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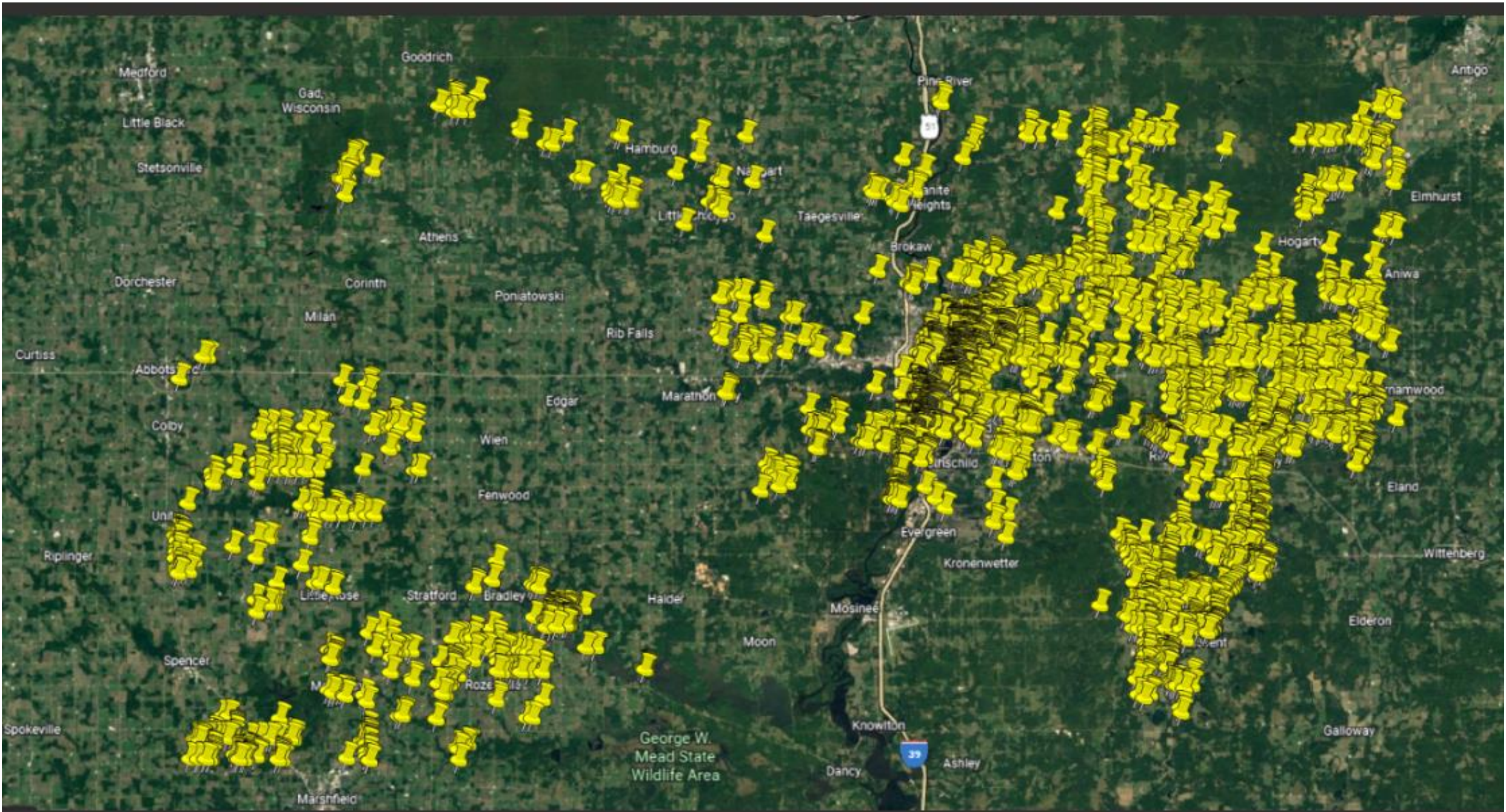
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- Fiber route is mapped.
- Route is traveled to determine equipment and landscape needs.
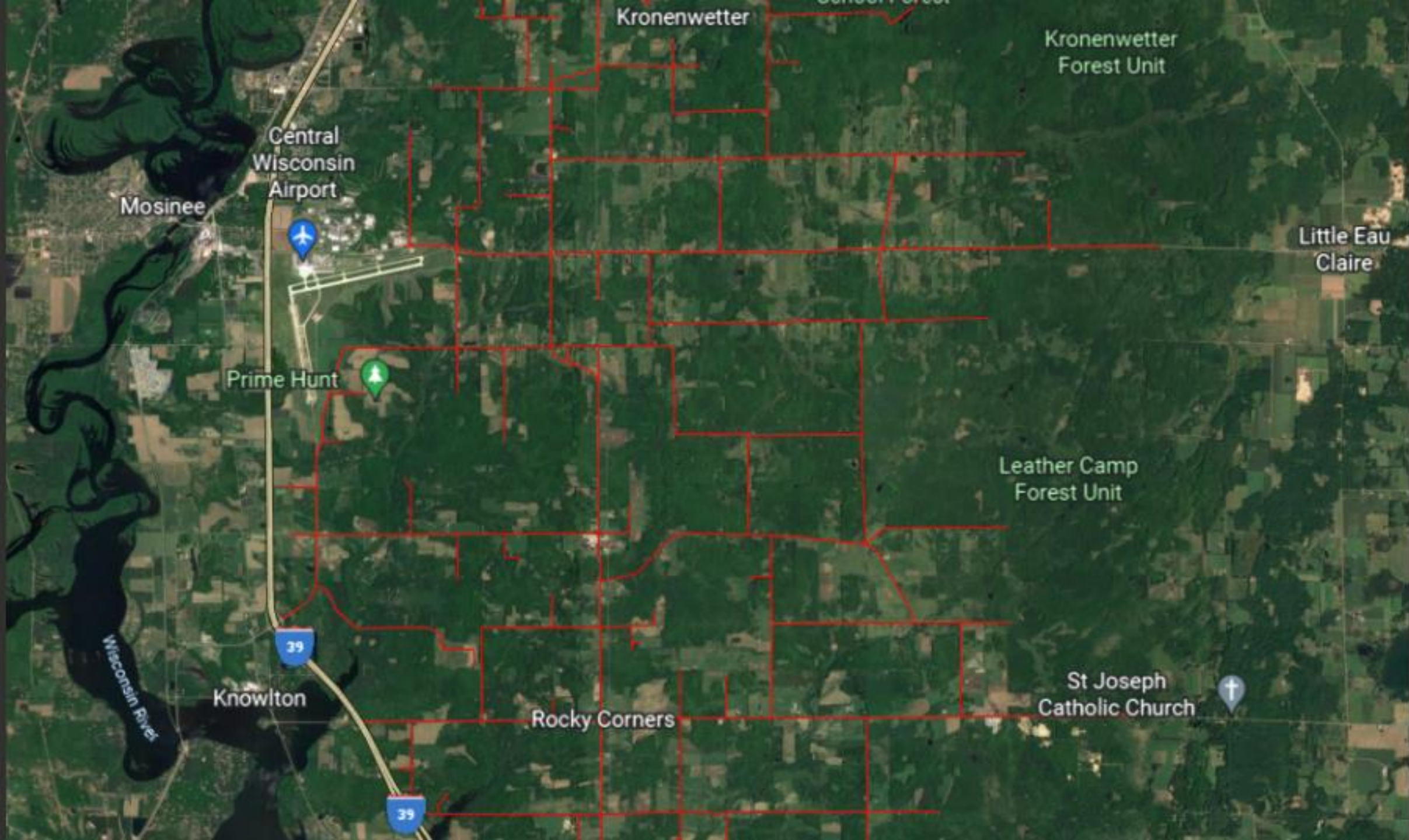- Sections are re-designed as needed.

UPDATES

Progress has slowed due to wintery conditions and crews off for the holidays.

Additional distribution fiber (sections of the route that branch from main route connect to homes, businesses, or other locations) has been placed in the Northern part of the county. Crews are exploring the option of doing a tie-in with Everstream in Abbotsford to be able to light up existing fiber before spring.

Completion of the Middle Mile (backbone) and Last Mile (distribution) in the county is anticipated in late summer 2023.

- WS04E- Goal to be 100% complete by the end of this month (125 homes total, previously activated some homes)
- WS19E- Construction in progress. Goal to complete in June or sooner
- WS10E- Delayed with weather and pole permitting. Goal to activate 42 passings in Jan and the remainder in the March timeframe
- WS18E- Construction in progress. Goal to complete this OLT in May or sooner
- SP14E- Pending pole permitting and make ready. Looking to complete in the March timeframe
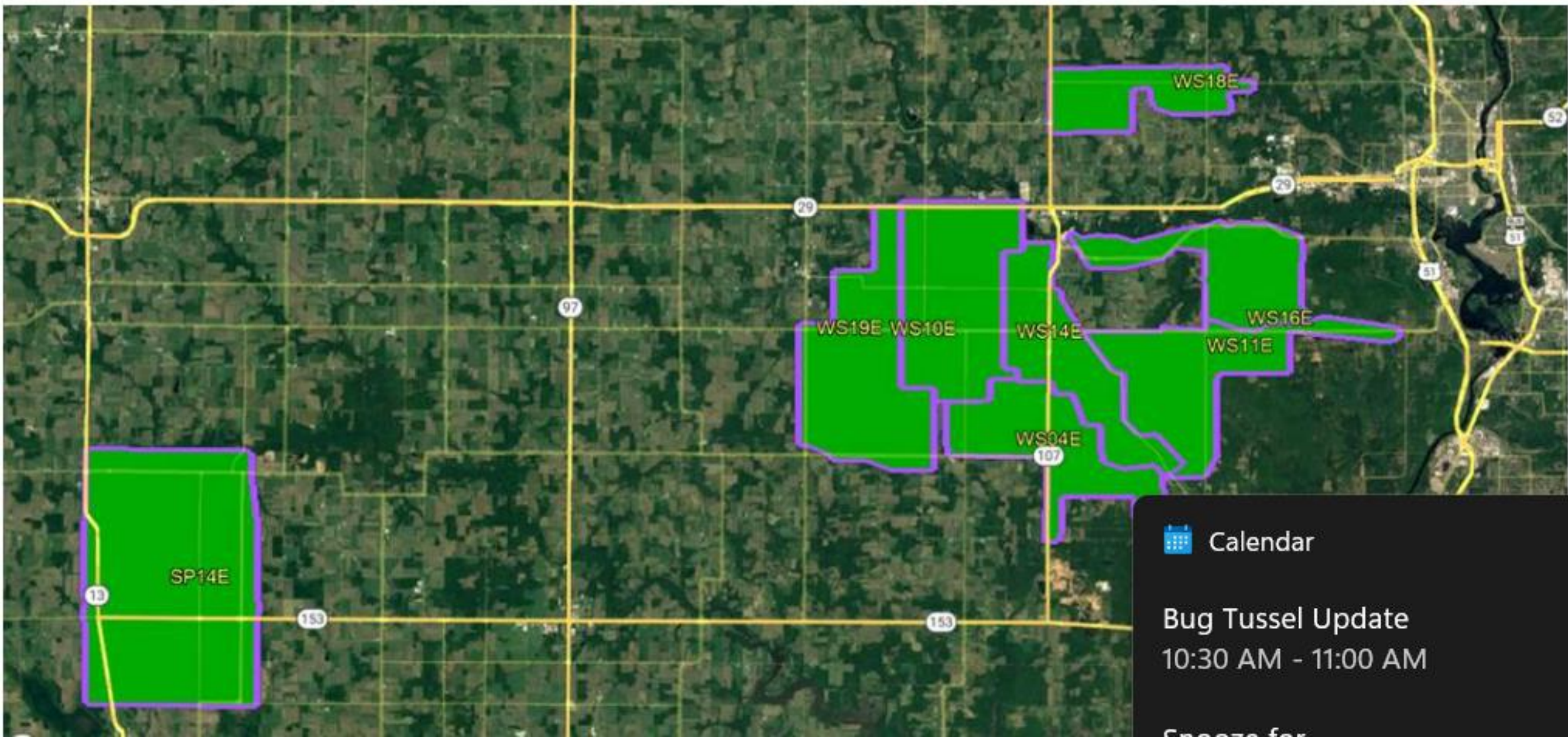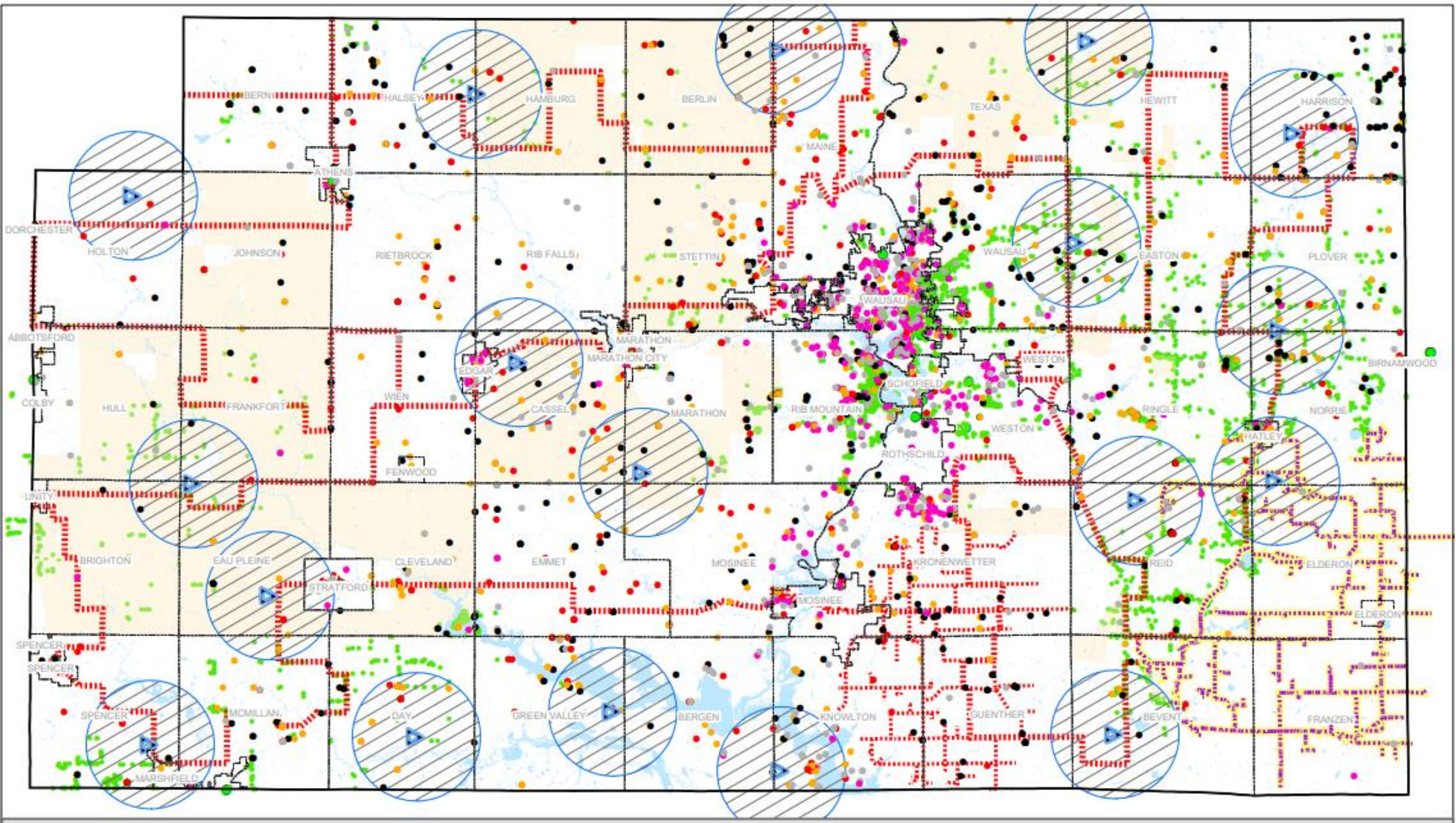
The Affordable Connectivity Program

Stay connected and save up to $30/mo.* on your Internet service.

Great news! You may be eligible to receive high-speed Internet service at no cost* from Spectrum through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

This program was created to ensure eligible households like yours will have the services you need.

The need for fast, reliable Internet is more critical than ever and Spectrum is committed to bringing you the best speeds available. Find out if you are eligible for this great program and start enjoying fast Internet speeds. We look forward to welcoming you as a Spectrum Internet® customer.

QUALIFYING GROUPS:

- Lifeline eligible*
- Free or reduced school lunch or breakfast eligible
- Pell Grant recipient
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit

SPECTRUM INTERNET®

for $0 /mo*

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET AT NO COST*

Depending on level of Spectrum Internet service. Benefit expires upon termination of ACP.

FAST SPEEDS

We've made it easy to find out if you qualify:

1 STEP 1:
CONFIRM QUALIFICATION

Your household may qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program. Visit **acpbenefit.org** to find out more.

2 STEP 2:
REDEEM YOUR SAVINGS WITH SPECTRUM

Call Spectrum at **1-833-660-0447** or visit Spectrum.com/ACP to sign up for high-speed Internet and save up to $30 a month if you qualify.
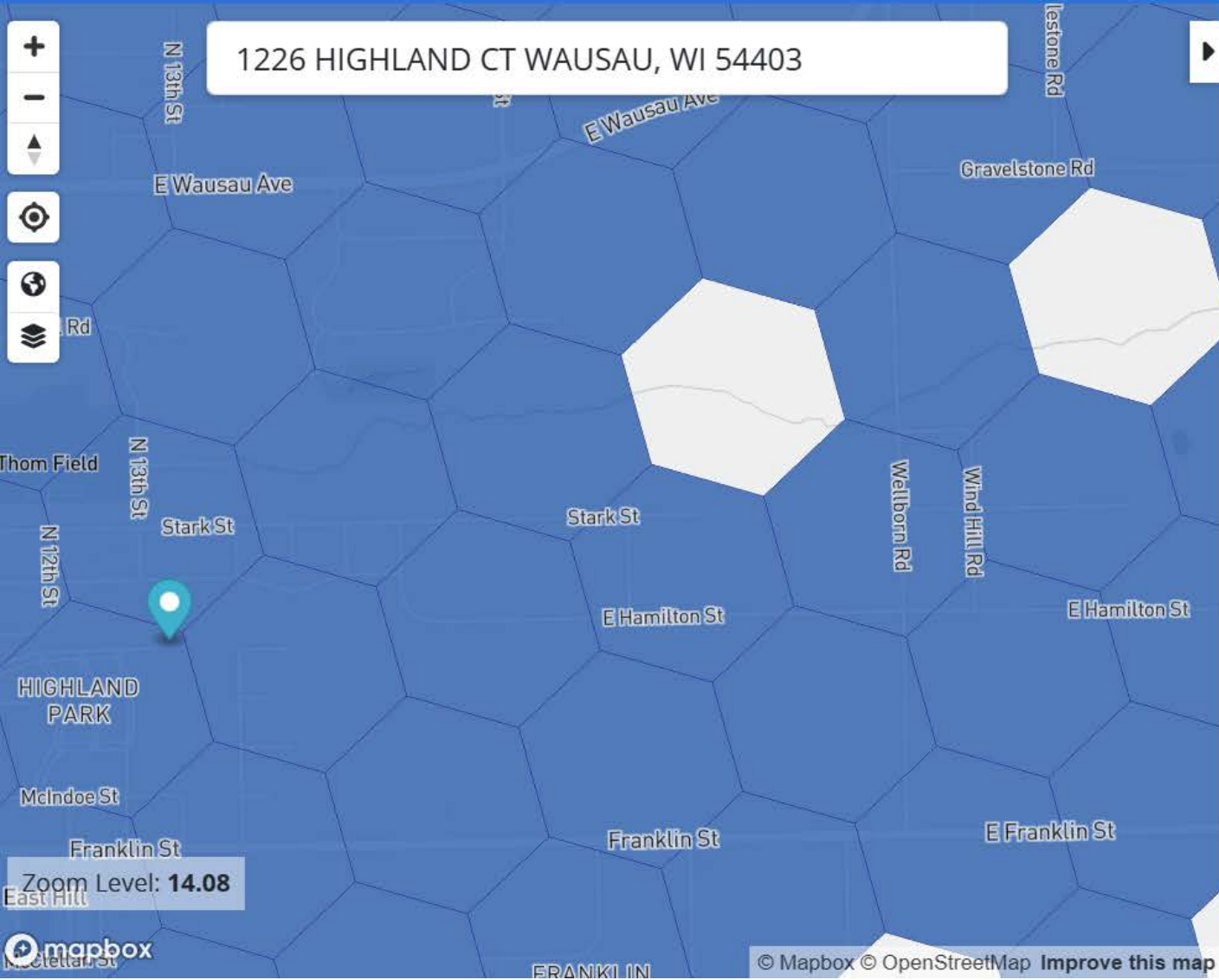
If you are a current Spectrum Internet customer call 1-833-660-0447 to save up to $30/mo. on your service.

3 STEP 3:
ENJOY FAST INTERNET

Surf and stream with your Spectrum high-speed Internet service and home WiFi. A temporary monthly credit will be applied to your account.

Spectrum▸

Federal Communications Commission

Home   Location Summary   Provider Detail   Area Summary   Data Download   About

1226 HIGHLAND CT WAUSAU, WI 54403

| Fixed Broadband | Mobile Broadband |

Selected Location

1226 HIGHLAND CT
WAUSAU, WI 54403

Location Challenge

Status: **Served** | Residential | Unit Count: 1

Broadband

Type	Residential
Technology	Any Technology
Speed	25/3 Mbps or greater
Data As Of	Jun 30, 2022 (Last Updated: 12/20/22)

Residential | Business

Availability Challenge

Provider	Technology	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)	Chall.
▶ Frontier Communications Corporation	Copper	10	1	
▶ Hughes Network Systems, LLC	GSO Satellite	25	3	
▶ Space Exploration Holdings	NGSO Satellite	100	10	

Zoom Level: **14.08**

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap **Improve this map**

January 13, 2023

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554
Phone: 877-232-7055

Marathon County Wisconsin is a large, mostly rural county with significant areas of the county that do not have high speed, reliable broadband. The new broadband map is an improvement of the previous mapping data but still has many errors.

We request an extension of the challenge process and a change to the process that allows local municipalities to challenge errors en masse. The reasons for this request are:

First, the short time frame, which was mostly in December – a traditionally busy time for everyone, made it impractical for the county to engage and educate rural citizens to challenge the data themselves.

Second, the map is unfriendly. The default view assumes that satellite service is acceptable broadband. It is not obvious to the average citizen to know how to use the filters to remove satellite service. In addition, unless the citizen understands that they must zoom down to the street level, the map shows coverage in areas that do not have coverage.

Third, we contacted the state PSC mid-December to ask how to challenge the map en masse and were told that we'd need to sign a license agreement with your technology partner that would take many weeks to get in place. Based on the January 13th due date we determined that we could not negotiate a license to use the data in time to make meaningful contributions of corrections.

And last, but not least, it is clear that some Wi-Fi providers grossly over-estimated their ability to provide high speed service. For us to correct that data without access to the aggregate data, we would need to manually zoom into each street address, evaluate if the data is accurate, then contact the resident and ask them to request the service. Then, when they are told that it is unavailable, we would need them to go through your challenge process. This is an unworkable method to correct inaccurate data.

We request an extension to the timeframe and a method for local municipalities to receive aggregate data from the providers and an easy way to challenge and correct inaccurate information being provided by the providers.

Kurt Gibbs
Marathon County Board Chairman

John Robinson
Marathon County Supervisor
Chair of the County Broadband Task Force

Marathon County Board of Supervisors – Courthouse, 500 Forest St., Wausau WI 54403 - P: 715-261-1500

INTERNET FOR ALL

THE BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM OVERVIEW
FUNDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

Where we are today... → ... and where we're going

Many Americans lack access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet

America runs on high-speed internet. A strong internet connection powers our economy and supports education. It fosters better public health. And, it connects loved ones and strengthens social ties. But not everyone is connected. Too many Americans are cut off from the opportunities that high-speed internet makes possible. That's why we're working to bring high-speed internet to all Americans.

The BEAD Program includes $42B for high-speed Internet access

Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, BEAD is a federal grant program that aims to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed internet. BEAD prioritizes unserved locations that have no internet access or that only have access under 25/3 Mbps and underserved locations only have access under 100/20 Mbps.

Select BEAD program details

Eligible entities
1. All 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
2. Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Example eligible uses of funds
1. Planning for the deployment of high-speed Internet, including conducting research, collecting data, outreach, and training
2. Deploying or upgrading Internet in unserved or underserved areas or improving service to community anchor organizations
3. Installing Internet and Wi-Fi in multi-unit residential buildings
4. Adoption and digital equity programs
5. Workforce development programs and vocational training

Ways to get Involved
Eligible entities must conduct coordination with local governments, Tribes, community orgs, and individuals within their jurisdiction. Members of the public are encouraged to contact U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and territories to learn about more ways to get involved.

Timeline

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

	NOFO live 5/13	Due 7/18	Due 270 days after planning funds received	Due 180 days after new DATA maps and notice of fundings amounts issued	Due 365 days after initial proposal approval	
	2022		2023	2024	2025	2026+

BEAD — LOI — 5-year plan — Initial proposal — Final proposal — 4-year implementation