



**MARATHON COUNTY
BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING
AGENDA**

Date & Time of Meeting: **Monday, August 28, 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, 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.*

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 July 24, 2023 minutes**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
 - A. Update on Grant Funded/Assisted Broadband Projects
 1. Frontier
 2. Bug Tussel
 3. Charter
 - B. Broadband Support Position Update
 - C. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) State Funding and Planning
 1. Broadband Regional Workshops
 2. State Plan
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action:**
 - A. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
 1. Identification of Unserved and Underserved Areas
 - B. Process for determining priorities for future broadband expansion efforts
6. **Next Steps**
7. **Next Meeting Date – September 25, 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: Toshia Ranallo
DATE & TIME: 8/24/2023 at 2:15 p.m.

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE _____
BY: Toshia Ranallo
DATE & TIME: 8/24/2023 at 2:15 p.m.



**MARATHON COUNTY
BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING**

Minutes

Monday, July 24, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.

Webex/Assembly Room, 500 Forest St, Wausau WI

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair John Robinson	x	
Jacob Langenhahn	x	
Gary Gisselman	x	
Mike Ritter		x
Jennifer Aarrestad	x	
Tony Sherfinski	x	
Eric Budleski	x	
Milton Olson	x	
Wade Carroll		x
Kurt Schoenrock	x	
Jon Euting	x	

Also Present: Valerie Carrillo

VIA Web or Phone: Todd Kruse, Andy Faust, Celeste Flynn, Gaylene Rhoden, Christian Boulanger

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.
2. **Public Comments** (15 Minute limit) – none
3. **LANGENHAHN MAKE A MOTION; SECOND BY AARRESTAD TO APPROVE THE JUNE 26, 2023 BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
 - A. Update on Grant Funded/Assisted Broadband Projects - There was a request to update the task force when various places go live.
 1. Charter – Celeste Flynn – shared a map of what they have completed at this time, upcoming dates, and passings. The map will be forwarded to the task force.
 2. Frontier – Todd Kruse – gave an overview of updates coming for release. They will be starting construction on September 1, 2023 and have two years to complete it.
 3. Bug Tussel – Information update was provided in the packet.
 - B. Broadband Support Position Update – Gerry has worked with HR and hope to have it posted soon.
 - C. Fabric Map Challenges – Corp Counsel sent concerns regarding open records law. We continue to wait for a response.
 - D. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) State Funding and Planning – The state will be receiving funds for broadband expansion. The press release was sent out regarding the WISER survey with 158 responses from Marathon County.
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action:**
 - A. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
 1. Identification of Unserved and Underserved Areas – Discussion of map, what the codes mean, and how can we partner with ISPs to target the areas.
 2. Identification of Barriers – Discussion included meaningful participation, financial means, complacency, frustration of speed of results, poor customer service, topography, geography, terrain, and accuracy of current data. Additionally, notifications of the type of service coming and who the service providers are for each township.
 3. Identification of Opportunities – Discussion included use of the BEAD funds, press release with

positive movement information, presenting realistic timeframes, and a formal presentation to the board with comprehensive overview that can be placed on the website.

- B. Process for determining priorities for future broadband expansion efforts – pull the information and maps together as well as capturing the plans of the ISPs moving forward.

6. **Next Steps**

- 1. Mapping efforts
- 2. ISP future plans

7. **Next Meeting:** August 28, 2023

8. **Adjournment**

LANGENHAHN MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING, AARRESTAD SECOND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:31pm.

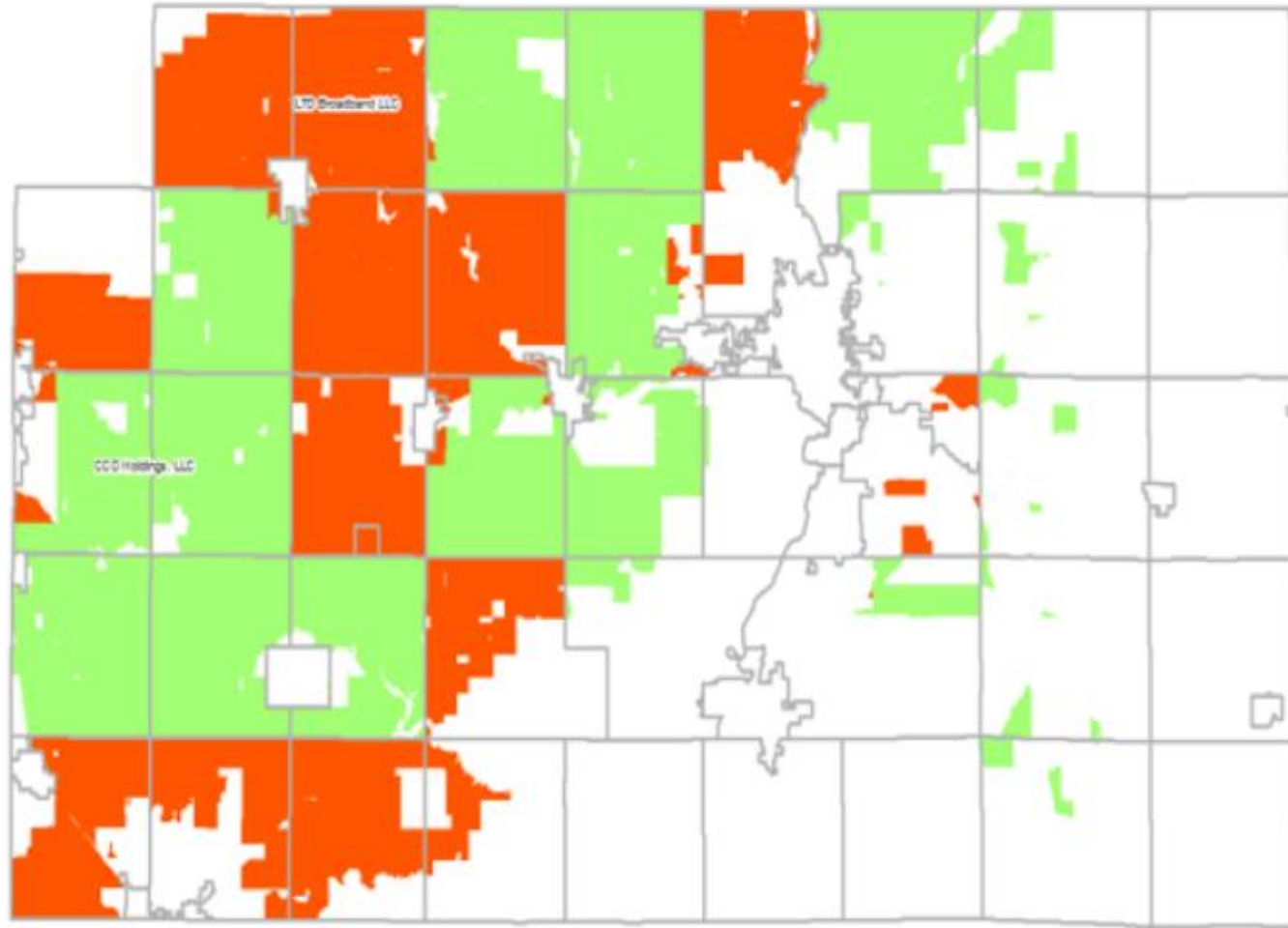
Respectfully Submitted by,

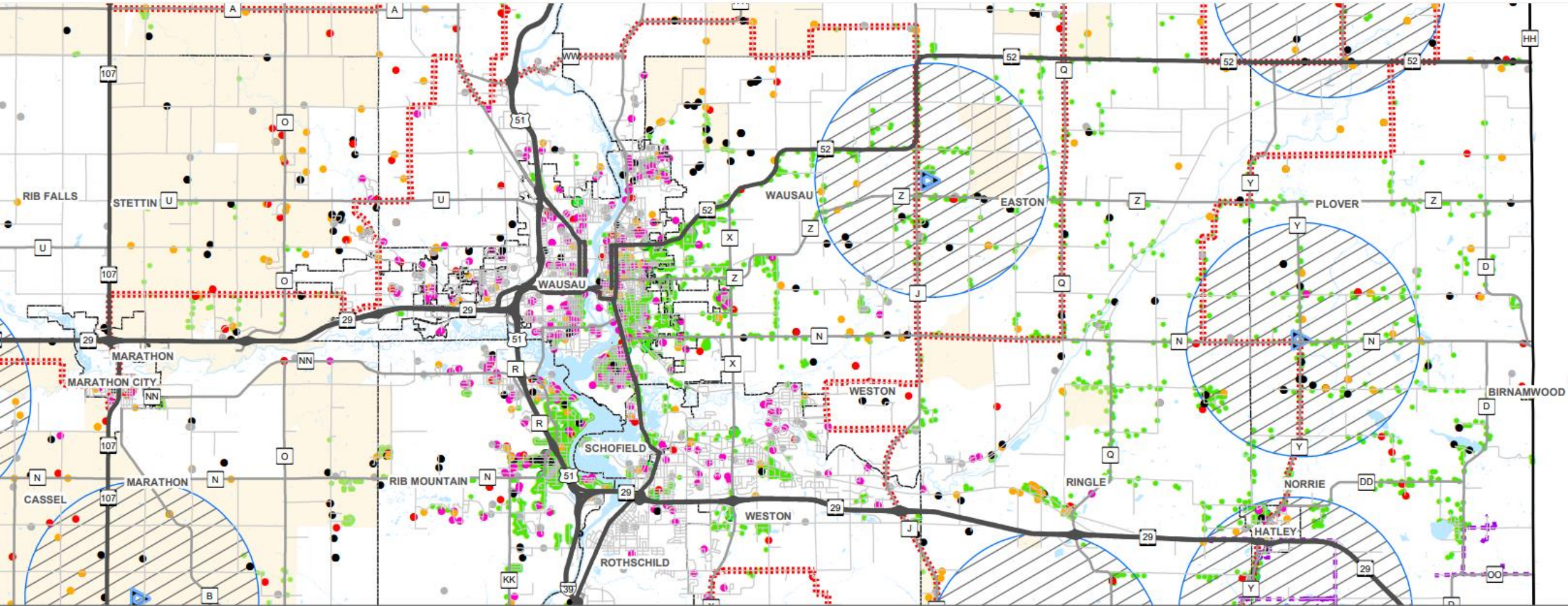
Kathy Johnson

Broadband Gaps

RDOF

- Layers
- Municipal Boundary
- MarathonCity_Auction_904_Phase_1_Results
BDOER
 - CCO Holdings, LLC
 - LTD Broadband LLC





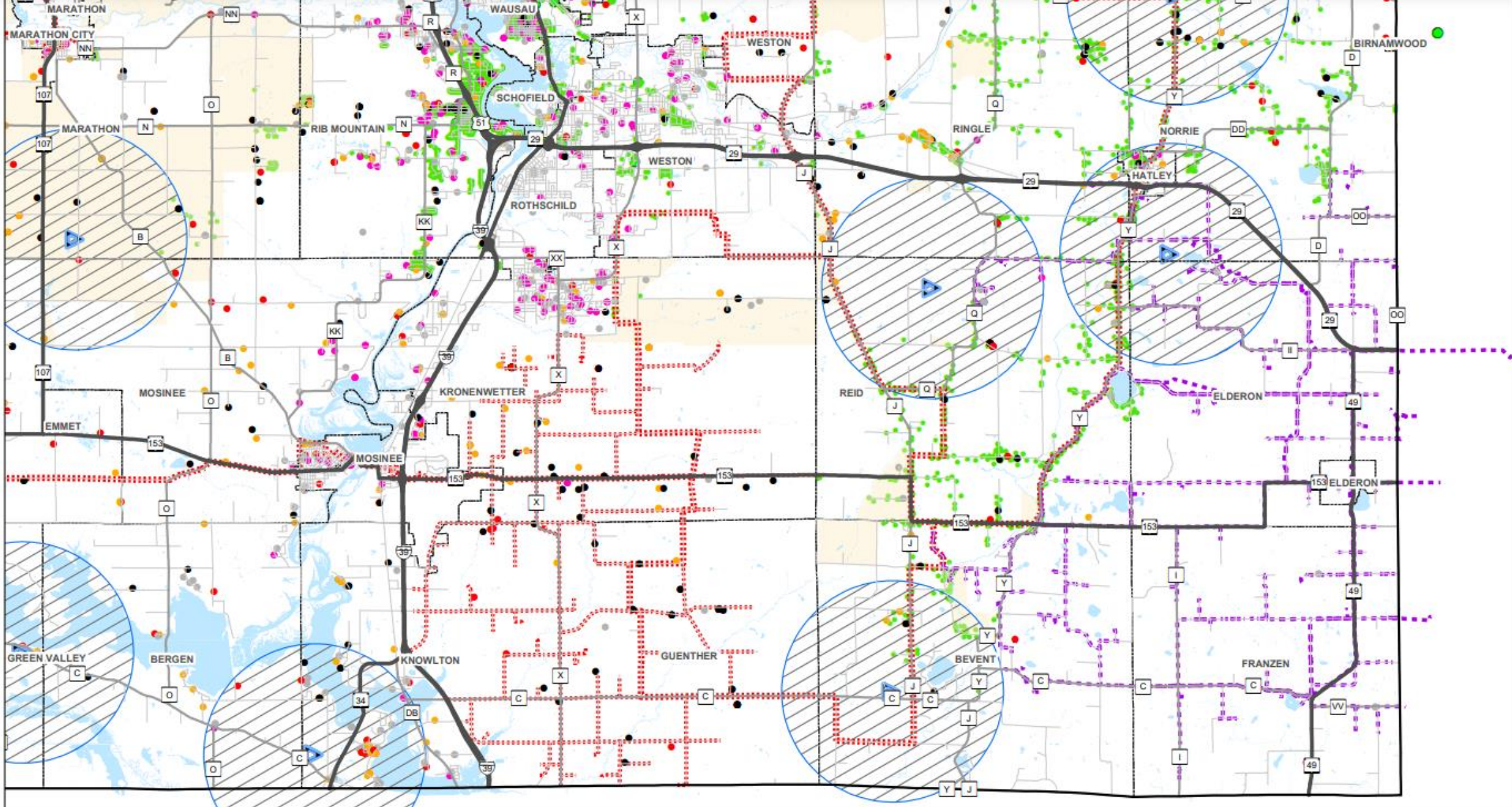
Marathon County Broadband Planning NE Quadrant

Bug Tussel Towers	Fiber Optic line	Charter RDOF	Speed Test Survey	10.0 - 24.9
2.5 Mile Tower Buffer	WTC/Cirrinity (existing fiber)	Frontier Points	Download Speed	25.0 - 99.9
		Frontier Points	0 - 4.9	100 +
		Frontier Points	5.0 - 9.9	

Draft



Source:
Bug Tussel KML
Frontier KML
NCWRPC - Speed Test
WTC/Cirrinity KML



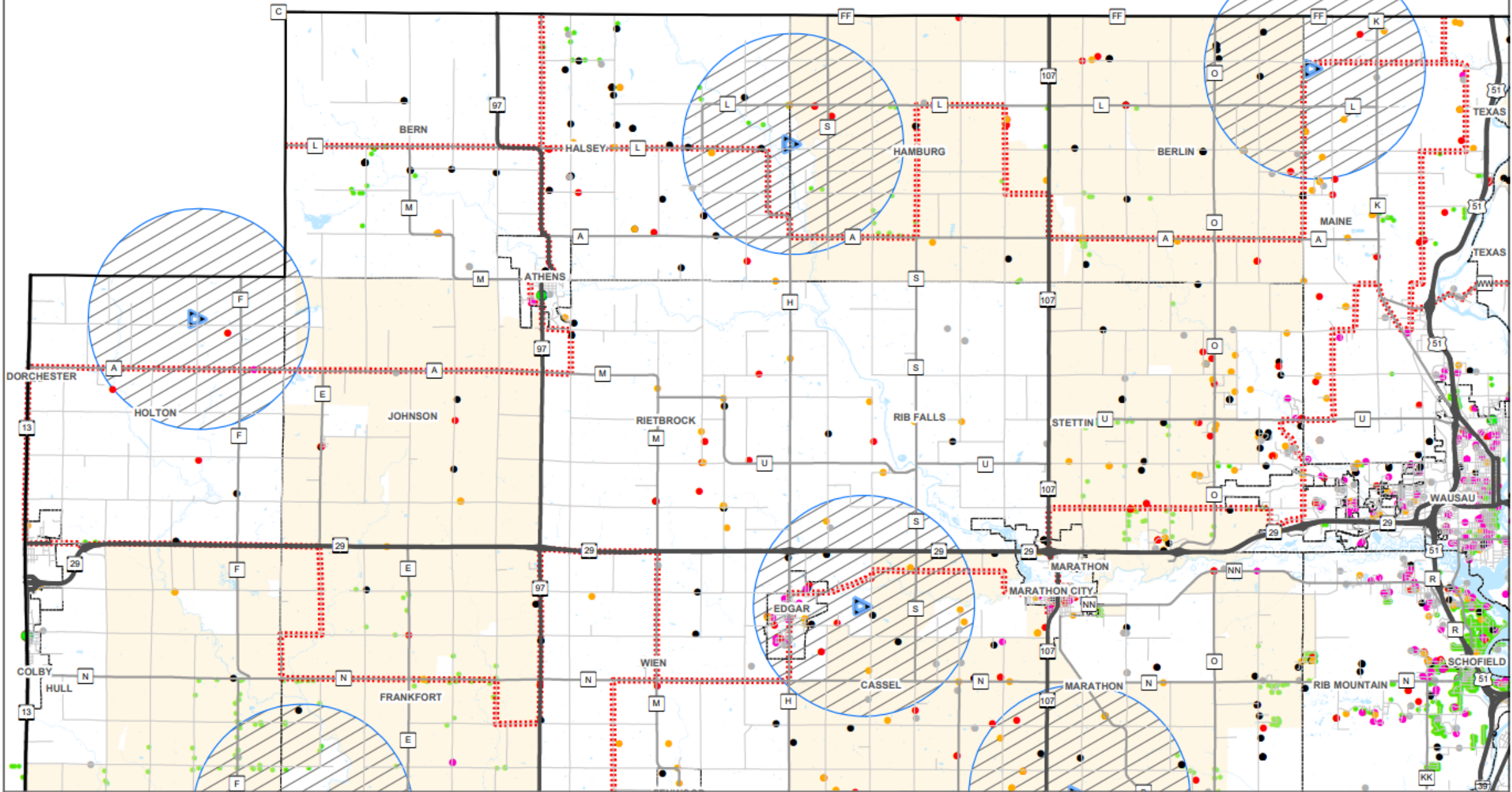
Marathon County Broadband Planning SE Quadrant



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Source:
Bug Tussel KML
Frontier KML
NCWRPC - Speed Test
WTC/Cirinity KML



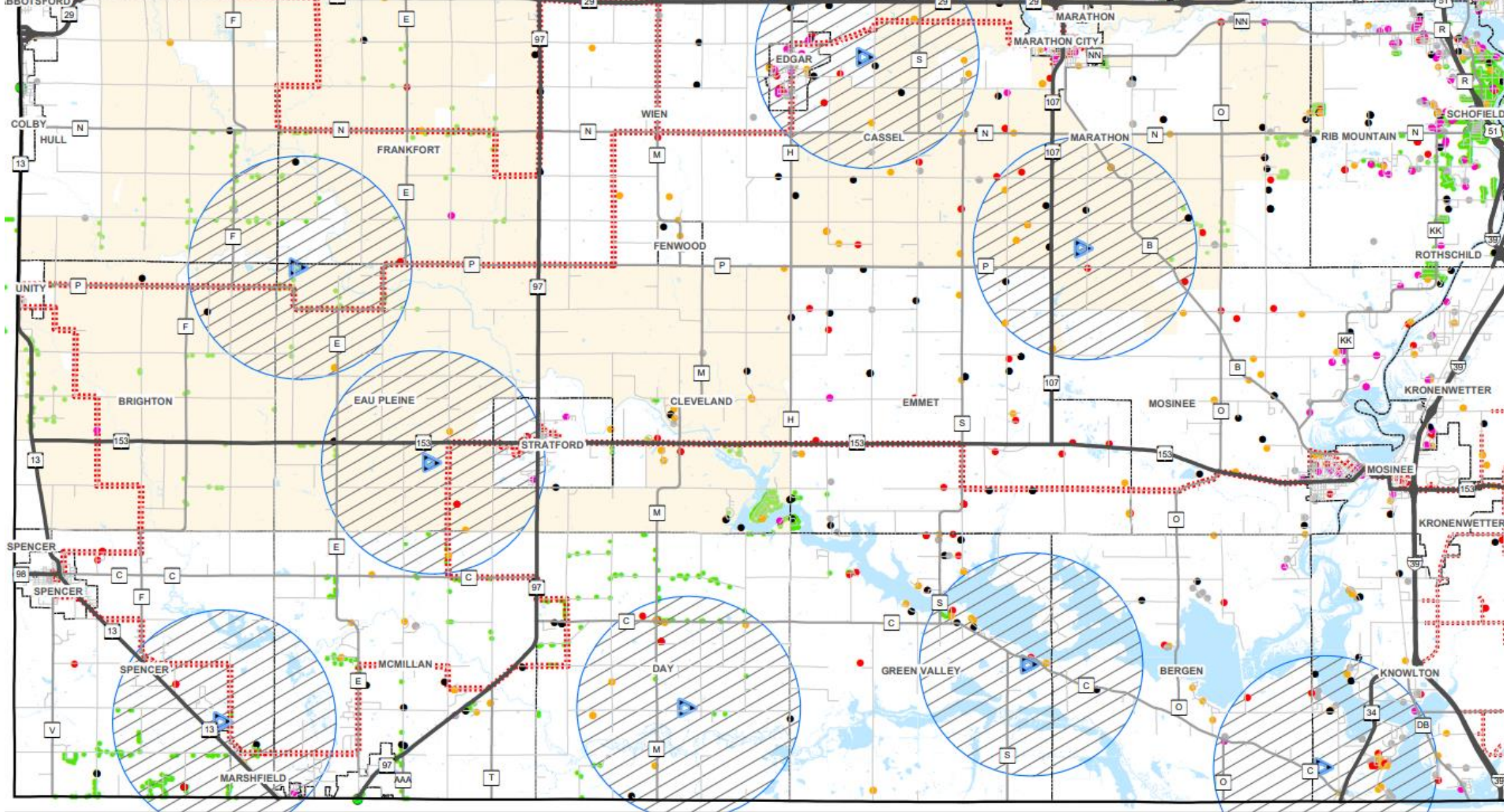
Marathon County
Broadband Planning
NW Quadrant



Draft



Source:
Bug Tussel KML
Frontier KML
NCWRPC - Speed Test
WTC/Cirinity KML



Marathon County
Broadband Planning
SW Quadrant



Draft



Source:
Bug Tussel KML
Frontier KML
NCWRPC - Speed Test
WTC/Cirinity KML

The numbers are constantly changing a little bit as things get refined and challenges resolved, but here's a summary table to make things easier for you from the May 30 refresh of the National Broadband Map. Note that these are BEAD definitions of service, which are 100/20+ by a wireline or licensed fixed wireless for **served**, 25/3 to 100/20 by wireline or licensed fixed wireless for **underserved**, and less than 25/3 by wireline or licensed fixed wireless or unlicensed fixed wireless of any speed for **unserved**. Sum no coverage and unserved for the actual total unserved amount. "BSL" is a [broadband serviceable location](#).

CountyName	BSLCount	BSLServedCount	BSLUnderservedCount	BSLUnservedCount	BSLNoCoverageCount
Adams	18361	11886	5405	1069	1
Lincoln	16800	8168	771	5778	2083
Marathon	55503	40060	8181	6889	373
Portage	28499	26196	1928	366	9
Wood	33291	26682	6596	9	4

Dear County Broadband Partner,

I am happy to announce that registration for our four regional broadband workshops is now open. **Maximize the Impact of BEAD Funding: Planning and Partnering Toward Internet for All** workshops are being organized by UW- Madison, Division of Extension's Community Development Institute in partnership with Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Broadband Office, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Wisconsin State Telecommunication Association and Northwood Technical College.

The goal of the 2-day workshops is to help counties best prepare to access BEAD funding through planning and partnering. Wisconsin Counties Association President and CEO Mark O'Connell will address the role of County Government in Broadband. Staff from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Wisconsin Broadband Office will explain timelines and next steps for BEAD and DE (Digital Equity) funding. Extension staff will provide resources on broadband economics, developing public private partnerships, planning tools and financing options for communities. Legal staff from WCA will discuss considerations counties should make when entering broadband partnerships and resources available through the association. We are working to secure Internet Service Providers for the second day of the workshops for county consultations. A copy of the 2-day agenda can be found at:

<https://economicdevelopment.extension.wisc.edu/2023/08/16/broadband-regional-workshops-agenda-and-registration/>

It is our hope that every county will participate in one of the 2-day workshops. It would be beneficial for counties to attend as a team so they can strategize on their local plans. Attending regional workshops is an allowable expense through your BEAD planning grant.

The four 2-day regional workshops will be held:

- September 6-7, Northwood Technical College in Rice Lake
- September 28-29, Cranberry Country Lodge in Tomah
- October 9-10, Radisson Hotel in Fond du Lac
- October 25-26, Nicolet College in Rhinelander

As part of the registration process your team will be asked which internet service providers you would be interested in having a conversation with. We will do our best to schedule meetings between providers and counties at the event. The earlier your team registers the better the opportunity we will be able to schedule the appointments you desire.

Please register at the following link: <https://economicdevelopment.extension.wisc.edu/2023/08/16/broadband-regional-workshops-agenda-and-registration/>

We hope you will consider joining us. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Extension Broadband Team.

Gail Huycke gail.huycke@wisc.edu

Christopher Stark christopher.stark@wisc.edu

Jessica Beckendorf jessica.beckendorf@wisc.edu