



MARATHON COUNTY BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 2:00 P.M.

Meeting Location: Employee Resource Conference Room, Marathon County Courthouse, 500 Forest St, Wausau, WI & WEBEX Option.

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.*

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:

Phone #: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 962 376 748

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 September 25, 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. Update on Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action:**
 - A. PSC Capital Projects Fund \$42 Million
 1. Potential projects and role of county
 - B. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
 1. Public comment on draft plan
 - C. Process and timelines for determining priorities for future broadband expansion efforts
 - D. Resolution Supporting Applications to PSC for Broadband Expansion
6. **Next Steps**
7. **Next Meeting Date – November 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: Toshia Ranallo
DATE & TIME: 10/31/2023 at 6:30 am

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE
BY: Toshia Ranallo
DATE & TIME: 10/31/2023 at 7:30 a.m.



MARATHON COUNTY

BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 25, 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
Jon Euting	x	

Also Present: Gerry Klein, Valerie Carrillo

VIA Web or Phone: Kevin O'Brien, Todd Kruse, Andy Faust, Randy Wolfgram, Teri Hatchell, Gaylene Rhoden, Preston Vande Voort, Scott Feldt

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.
2. **Public Comments** (15 Minute limit) – none
3. **GISSELMAN MAKE A MOTION; SECOND BY SHERFINSKI TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 28, 2023 BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
 - A. Update on Grant Funded/Assisted Broadband Projects
 1. Charter – Randy – Shared a map of their current status of completion and upcoming buildouts.
 2. Frontier – Todd – Completing two projects outside the county that has been priority for staff. They will have revised schedule in the 4th quarter. They will still be in the two year completion guidelines.
 3. Bug Tussel – Scott – They are working best they can to get the towers up and fiber in the ground. Inflation costs have been prohibitive. 16 towers have been lit with 4 more to go. No fiber is live yet but there is some in the ground. There is a request for a status update for the reasons they are behind in the project completion by the end of the week.
 - B. Broadband Support Position Update – There were two applications for the position. There will be phone screen interviews this week.
 - C. Update on Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) State Funding, Planning, and Timelines – Chairman Robinson reviewed the BEAD information provided in the packet.
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action:**
 - A. PSC Capital Projects Fund \$42 million – This is due November 7. There will be meeting in the future with the ISPs to determine who will be interested in the grant application.
 1. [PSC Opens Broadband Infrastructure Program Grant Round – WWIS Radio](#)
 2. Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Program (in packet)
 - B. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program – We are still waiting for the initial plan. Preston provided a map of housing points for the county to be used for data overlays to determine where the largest underserved and unserved areas are. Discussion of how to use the maps without violating privacy agreements. There will also be work with the area school districts.
 - C. Process for determining priorities for future broadband expansion efforts - the task force will look to use confidential information and the maps from CPZ to better determine unserved and underserved areas and anchor institutions.

6. **Next Steps**

- A. ISP Meeting
- B. Map Overlay
- C. Identify Anchor Institutions

7. **Next Meeting:** October 23, 2023

8. **Adjournment**

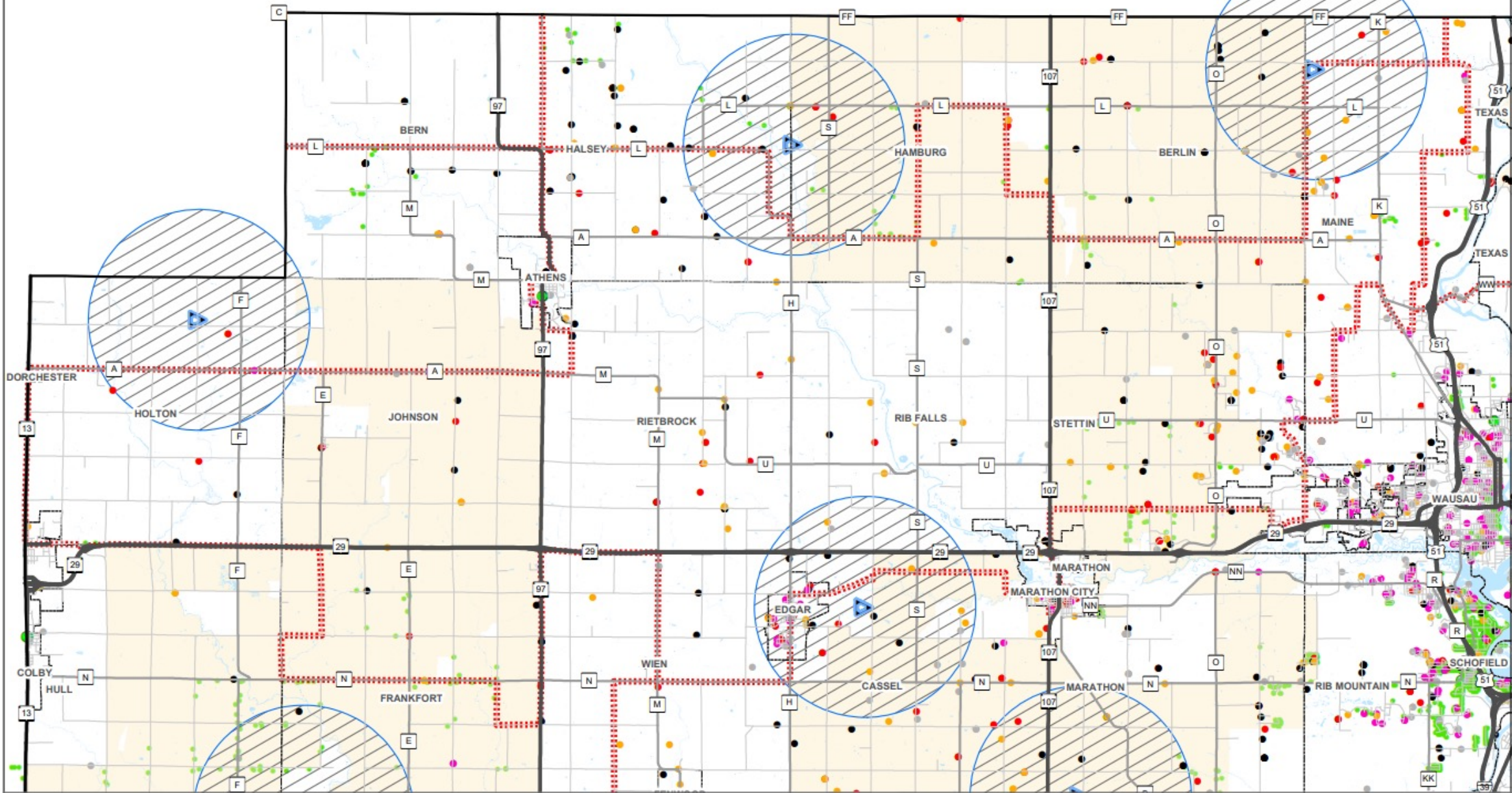
**RITTER MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING, SHERFINSKI SECOND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 4:05pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kathy Johnson

Broadband Gaps

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



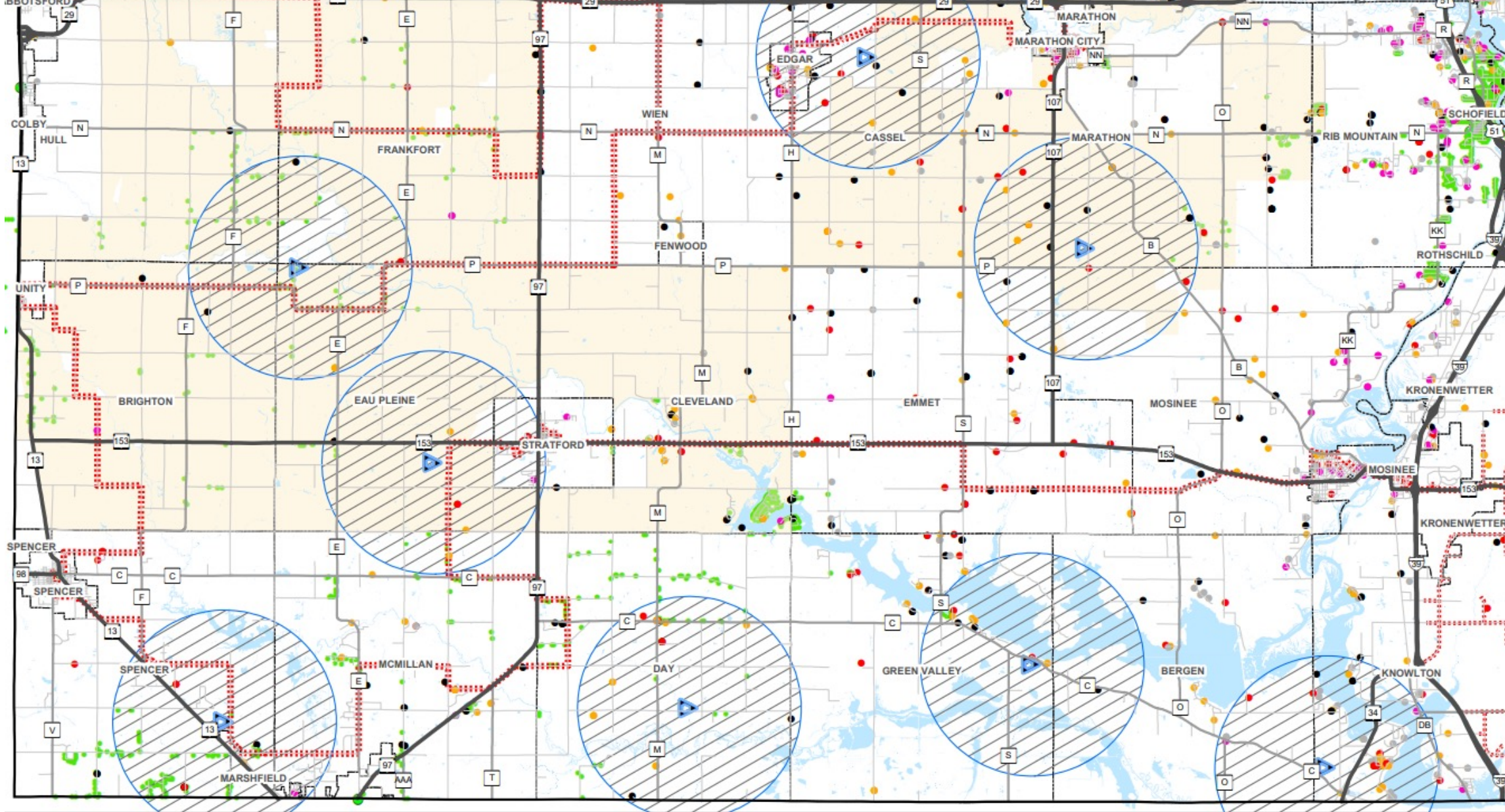
Marathon County
Broadband Planning
NW Quadrant



Draft



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



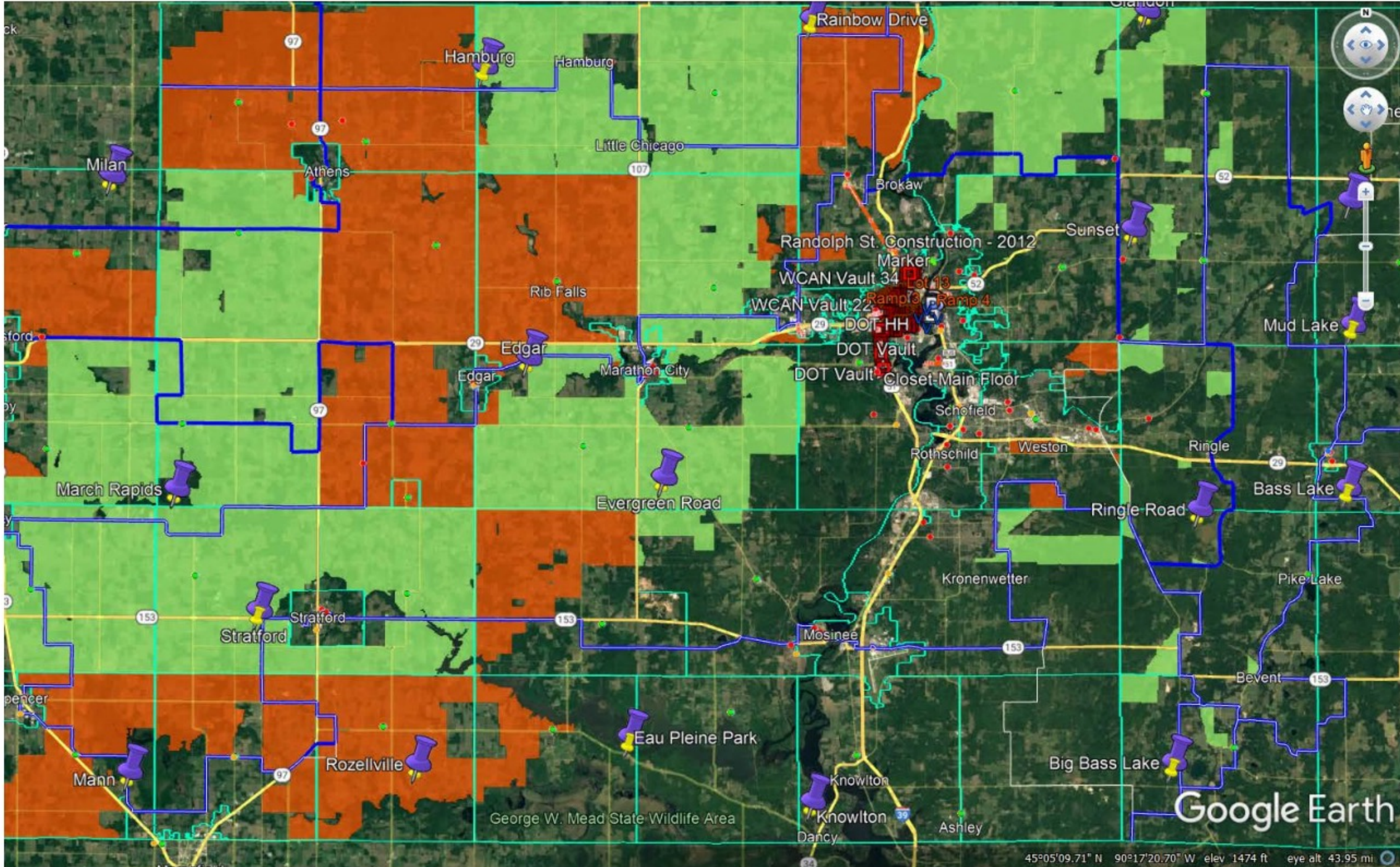
Marathon County
Broadband Planning
SW Quadrant



Draft

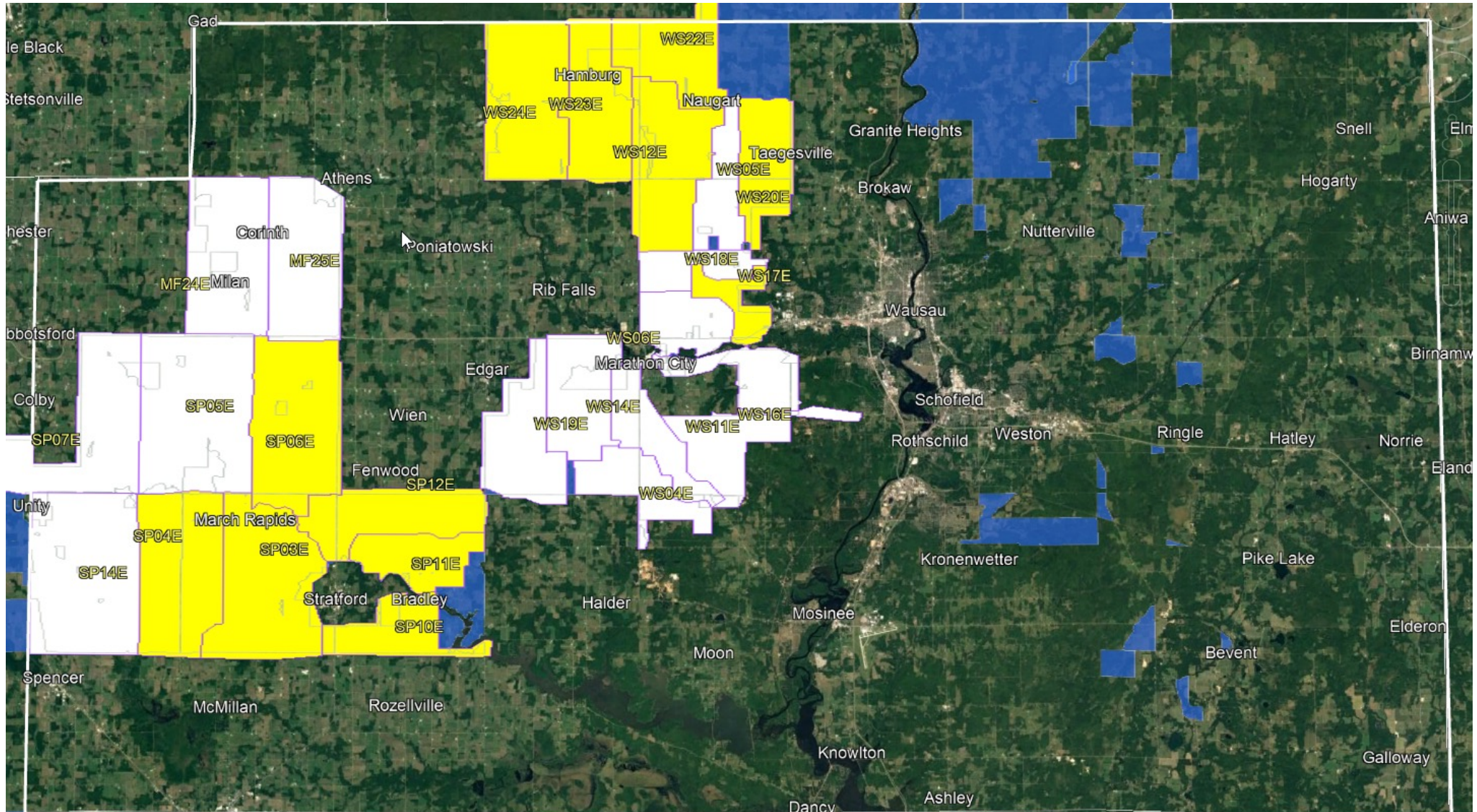


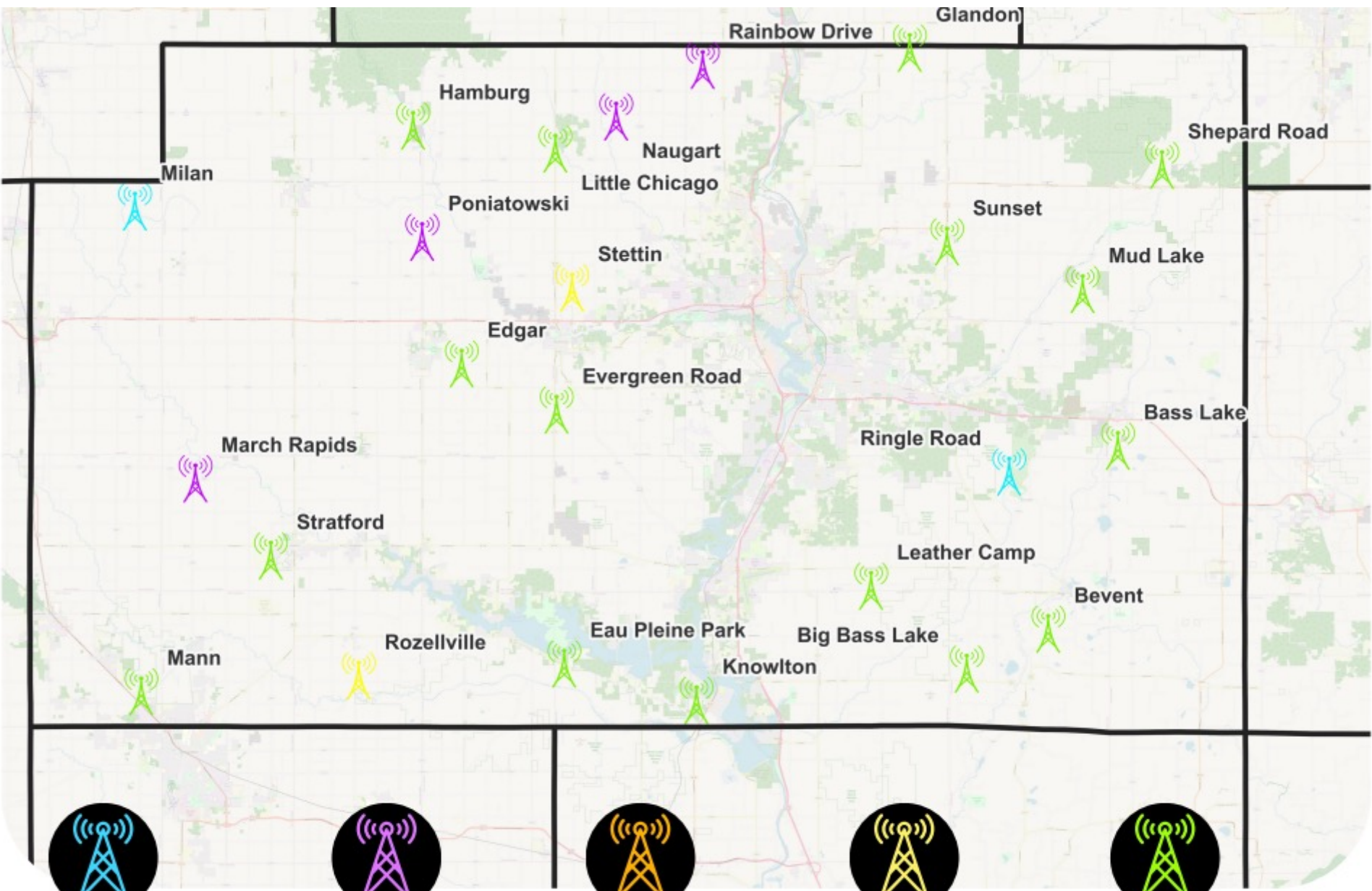
Source:
Bug Tussel KML
Frontier KML
NCWRPC - Speed Test
WTC/Cirinity KML



Charter

Updated map. White area is completed, yellow pending 2023 construction, blue are remaining CBG's to build.





ACQUISITION

22 Sites Complete
2 Sites In-Progress



APPROVALS

18 Sites Complete
4 Site In-Progress



CONSTRUCTION

18 Sites Complete
Site is prepared



CONNECTIONS

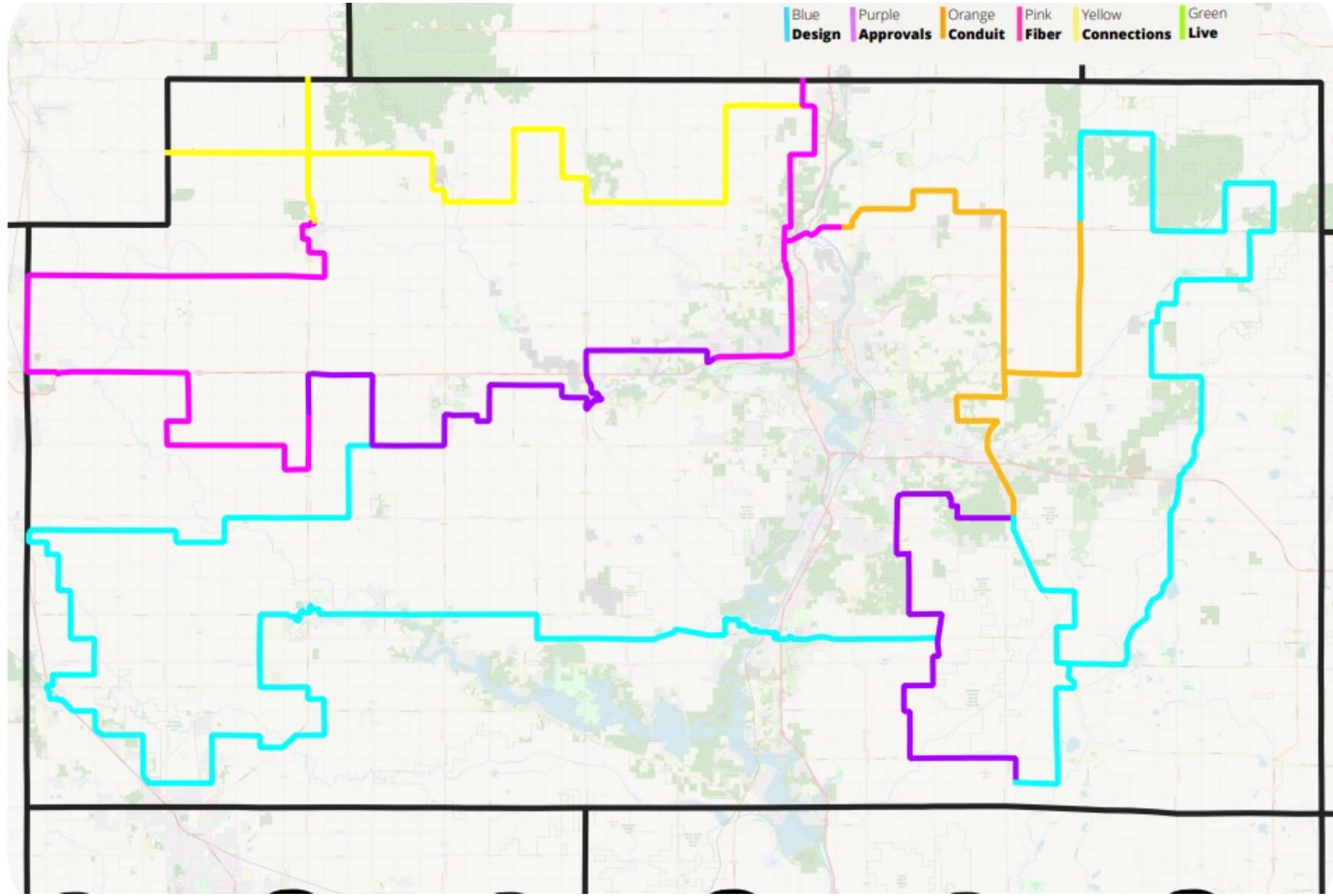
16 Sites Complete
2 Sites In-Progress

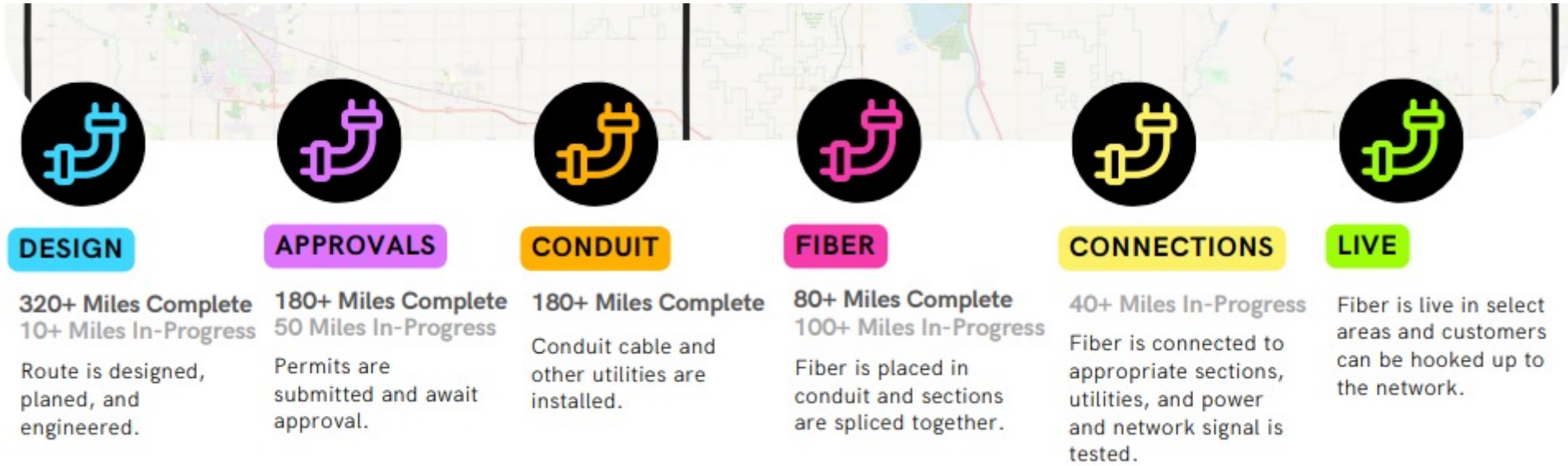


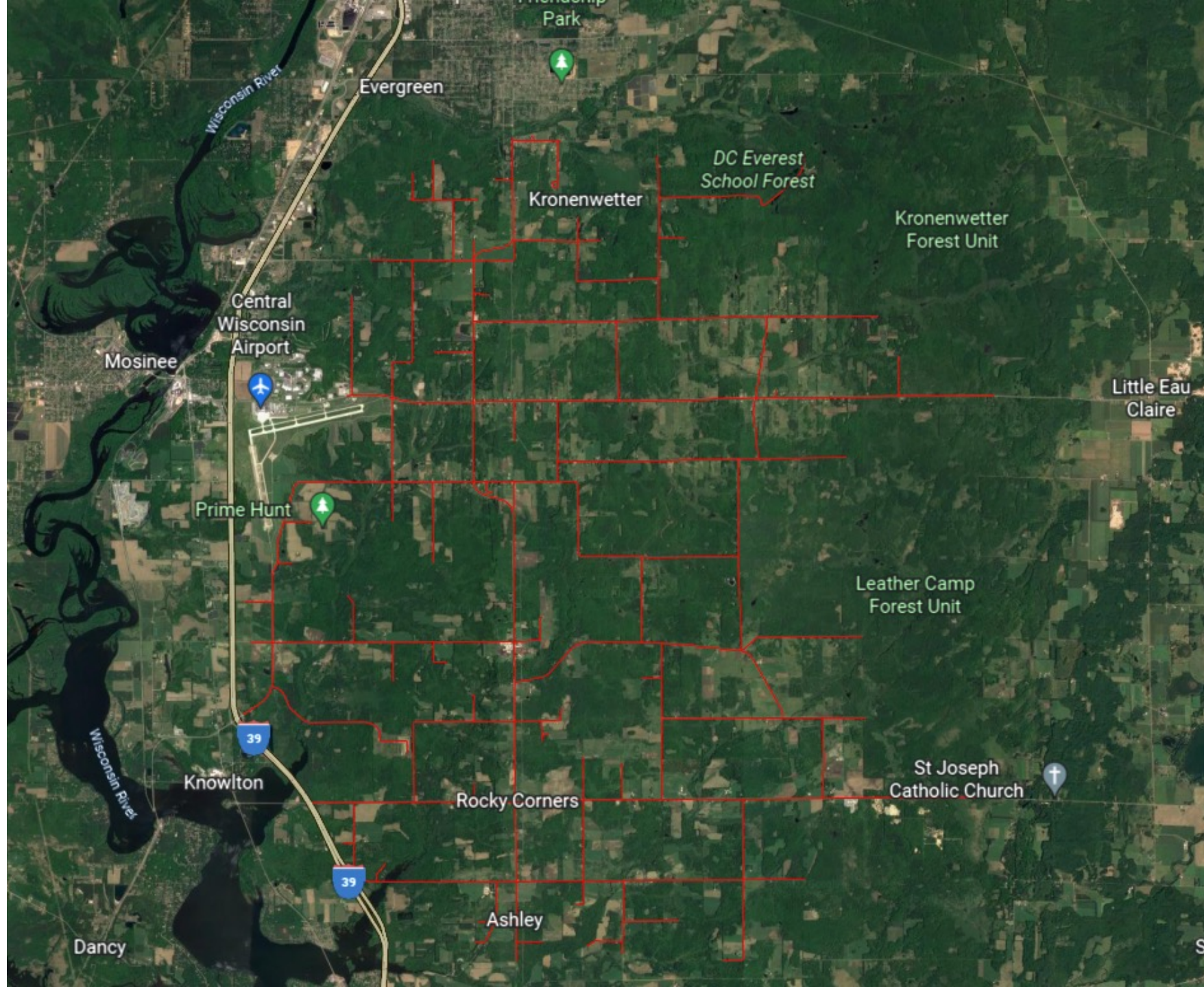
LIVE

16 Sites Complete
Towers are live and

Blue Design Purple Approvals Orange Conduit Pink Fiber Yellow Connections Green Live







Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure

Broadband Expansion

[Broadband Grant Programs](#)

[State Broadband Expansion](#)

[ARPA Broadband Access](#)

Capital Projects Broadband Infrastructure

[Internet for All Grant Programs](#)

[Return to Broadband Homepage](#)

Overview

At the discretion of the Governor, the Commission administers limited federal funds for the purpose of expanding broadband access, adoption, and affordability. In fiscal year 2023, the Commission awarded funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 under the Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program.

Jump to Section

- [Who is Eligible to Apply](#)
- [PSC Grants System](#)
- [Application Materials](#)
- [Resources for Current Grant Recipients](#)

Who is Eligible to Apply

For-profit internet service providers, telecommunications utilities, co-operatives, local governments, and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for grants.

Additional Grant Details	
Currently accepting applications	Yes Application deadline: November 7, 2023 at 1:30 PM CT
Matching funds required	No, but it is a priority factor.

Next Steps

- Letters of Support
- Financial Commitment ARPA
- Utility Accommodation Policy

BIL NTIA Broadband Programs

NTIA will administer ~\$48B through four programs that drive high-speed Internet access, affordability, and adoption.

NTIA will administer ~\$48B of funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law									
BEAD	DIGITAL EQUITY	TRIBAL	MIDDLE MILE						
\$42.45B	\$2.75B	\$2.00B	\$1.00B						
Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program	Digital Equity Act	Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments	Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure						
<p>A program 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.</p>	<p>Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.</p>	<p>A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.</p>	<p>A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.</p>						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"> FCC to administer \$14.2B </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"> For Affordable Connectivity Program, which replaced the EBB program </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"> USDA to administer \$2.0B </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"> Via the Rural Utilities Service </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"> Private Activity Bonds \$0.6B </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"> Authorizes State and local governments to use private activity bonds for rural broadband </td> </tr> </table>				FCC to administer \$14.2B	For Affordable Connectivity Program, which replaced the EBB program	USDA to administer \$2.0B	Via the Rural Utilities Service	Private Activity Bonds \$0.6B	Authorizes State and local governments to use private activity bonds for rural broadband
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Authorizes State and local governments to use private activity bonds for rural broadband									

Broadband Equity Access Deployment Program

<p>\$1,055,823,573.71</p>	<p>Every Wisconsinite has access to reliable, affordable, high speed internet.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Highest priority: unserved households and businesses lacking 25/3 Mbps.•Eligible: underserved households and businesses lacking 100/20 Mbps.•Also eligible: community anchor institutions lacking 1 Gbps, and other digital equity and adoption activities.
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Questions

Proposed Charter Grant Area

