



# MARATHON COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE **AMENDED** AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 6:00 pm**

Meeting Location: **Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403**

Committee Members: John Robinson, Chair; Alyson Leahy, Vice-Chair; Kurt Gibbs, Gayle Marshall, Kody Hart, Ann Lemmer, Yee Leng Xiong

**Marathon County Mission Statement:** Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)

**Committee Mission Statement:** Provide leadership for the implementation of the County Strategic Plan, monitor outcomes, review, and recommend to the County Board policies related to human resources initiatives, finance and property of the 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: 146 235 4571**

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

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)** (Any person who wishes to address the committee during the "Public Comment" portion of the meetings, must provide his or her name, address, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk, or chair of the committee, no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting. All comments must be germane to a topic within the jurisdiction of the committee.)
4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**
5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy**
  - A. Items for Discussion and Possible Action by HRFC
    1. **Approval of Temporary and Utility Easement for Aerial Utility Access at 201 River Drive Property**
  - B. Items for Discussion and Possible Action by HRFC to Forward to County Board
    1. Resolution Supporting Applications to PSC for Broadband Expansion
    2. **Establish Salaries for County Board Supervisors for 2024 and 2025**
6. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
7. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items**
  - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
  - B. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 3:00 pm
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 261.1500 or email [countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us) one business day before the meeting.

**SIGNED**       s/s John Robinson        
Presiding Officer or Designee

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and other Media Groups

EMAILED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE & TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE & TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

## RESOLUTION #R-63-23

### **AUTHORIZATION OF COUNTY SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) BROADBAND GRANTS**

**WHEREAS**, broadband access is essential for economic development, virtual and lifetime learning, rural prosperity, and telehealth health services in Marathon County; and

**WHEREAS**, Marathon County has recognized the importance of broadband access in ensuring the health, safety and economic prosperity for all residents; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant portion of the county is currently “unserved” and “underserved” in terms of access to reliable and adequate broadband services; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has recognized the need to play a role in enhancing broadband access to its residents based on the findings and work done in association with the 2009 Broadband Gap Analysis, the 2015 Broadband Connectivity Task Force Report, and the 2019 Broadband Assessment and Plan prepared by Design Nine; and

**WHEREAS**, based on meetings and discussions with Internet Service Providers and evaluating the recommendations of Design Nine the County Board created a Broadband Task Force and charged it with identifying strategies, partners and potential funding sources that will support the expansion of broadband services to underserved areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin has an existing opportunity to expand broadband services through the Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program administered by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC); and

**WHEREAS**, on November 1, 2023, to assist PSC grant applicants, the Marathon County Broadband Task Force recommended supporting applicants Frontier Communications and Charter Communications to this PSC grant cycle with statements of support and a commitment of allocating ARPA funds for reimbursement of expenses up to \$100 per crossing to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County, up to a total allocation not to exceed \$495,100.00, based upon proposed projects from Frontier covering 846 crossings and Charter covering 4105 crossings; and

**WHEREAS**, these reimbursement funds would be available to applicants through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as an allowable use of funds pursuant to ARPA expenditure categories 5.16 and 5.17 and Section 602(c)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act as amended; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 2, 2023, the Marathon County Infrastructure Committee and the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee voted to recommend supporting applicants Frontier Communications and Charter Communications in this PSC grant cycle with statements of support and a commitment of allocating ARPA funds for reimbursement of expenses up to \$100 per crossing to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County, up to a total allocation not to exceed \$495,100.00.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors authorizes appropriate county officials to act under this resolution to convey County support for and commit County resources to the broadband service expansion applications of Frontier Communications and Charter Communications. County officials are also authorized to work with and support these grant applicants

through suitable means they have determined to be most advantageous to the interests of Marathon County within the constraints of the Budget approved by the County Board.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors authorizes the allocation of ARPA funds for reimbursement of expenses for PSC grant applicants Frontier Communications and Charter Communications up to \$100 per crossing, up to a total allocation not to exceed \$495,100.00, based upon the proposed total crossings identified in these applicants' respective grant applications. These funds will be available only if the respective PSC grant applications are approved, and funds distributed, by PSC, and shall be used to reimburse associated costs up to \$100 per crossing. If the PSC grant applications of Charter Communications or Frontier Communications are not approved by the PSC during this Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program application period, the encumbrance associated with the denied application, up to the total encumbrance of \$495,100.00 if both projects are not approved, shall cease, and the funds unencumbered shall be available for reallocation by the Marathon County Board.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these amounts are committed through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as an allowable use of funds pursuant to ARPA expenditure categories 5.16 and 5.17 and Section 602(c)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act as amended.

**HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
**INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

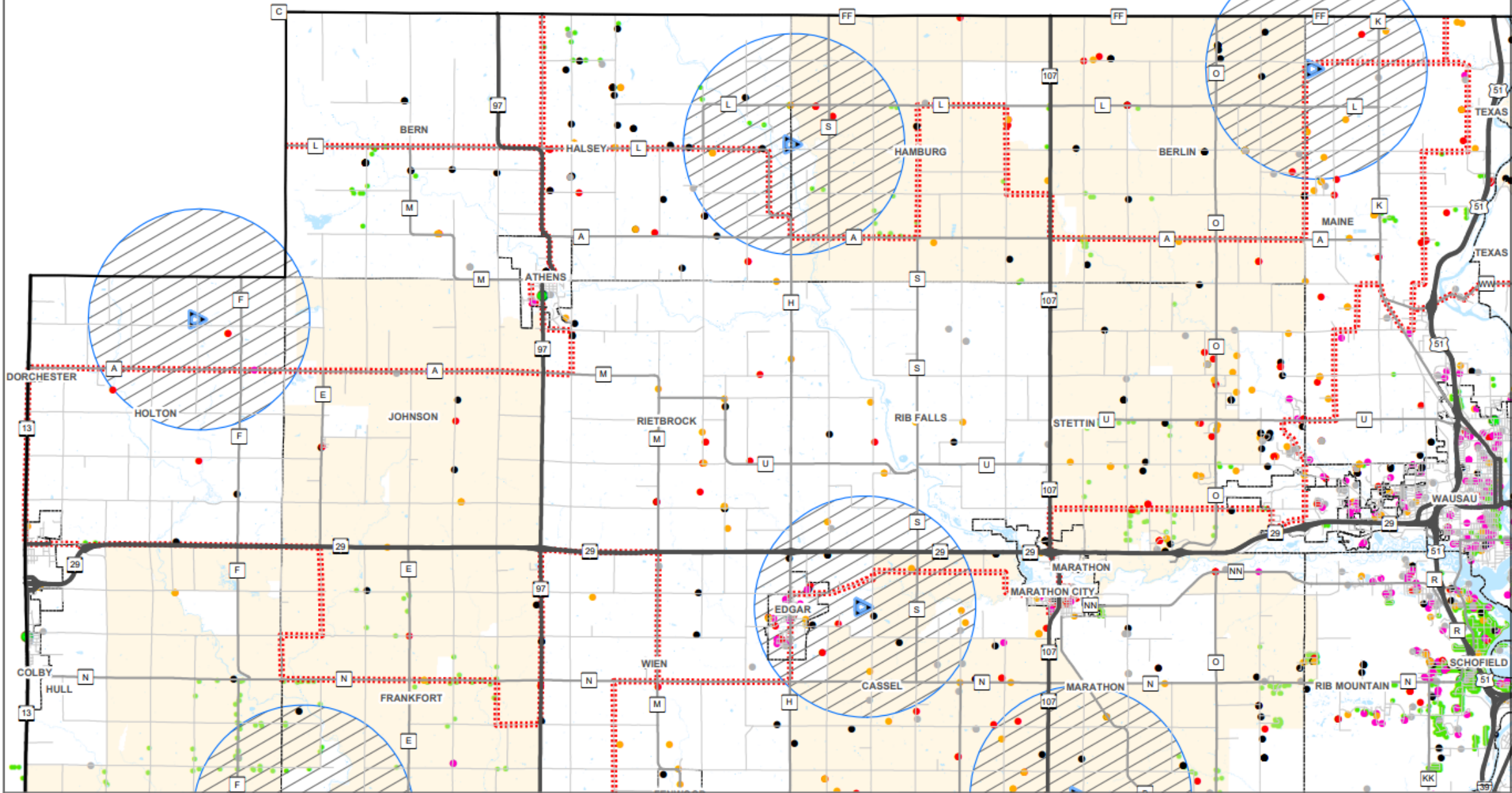
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Fiscal Impact: This resolution would encumber up to \$495,100.00.00 of ARPA funds to reimburse per-crossing expenses up to \$100 per crossing to successful applicants to the current PSC grant cycle.

# 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



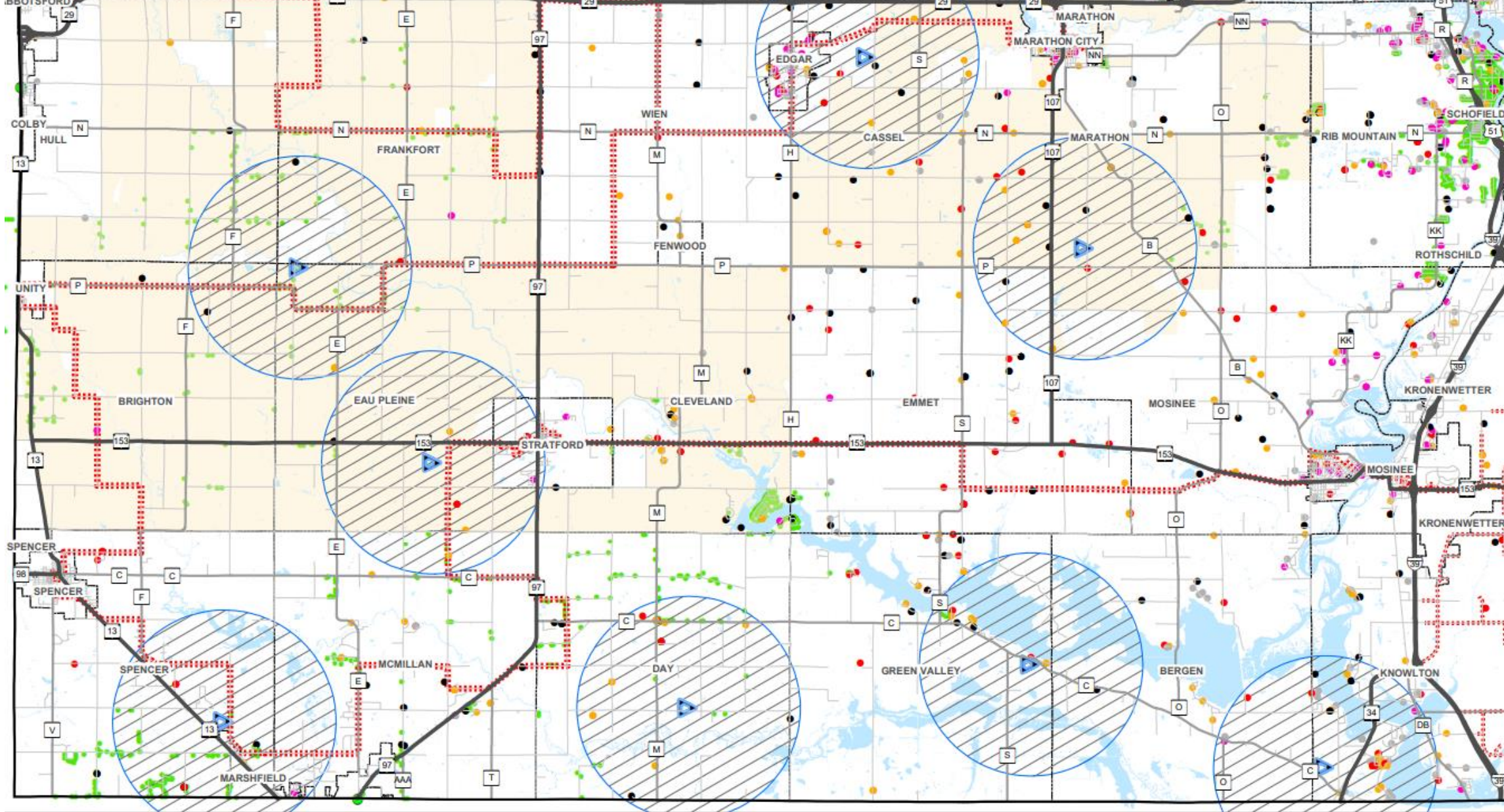
# Marathon County Broadband Planning NW Quadrant



Draft



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



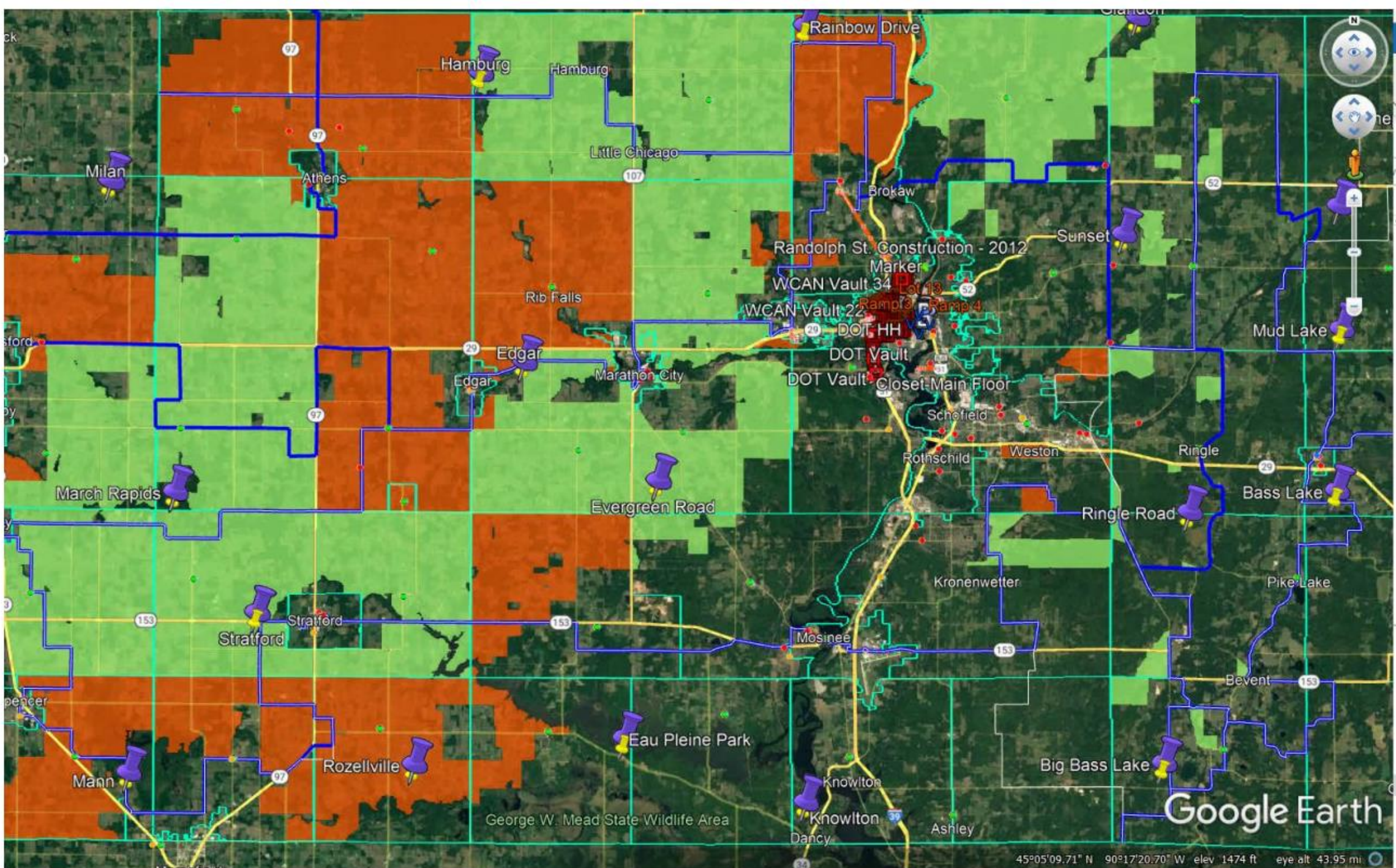
# Marathon County Broadband Planning SW Quadrant



Draft



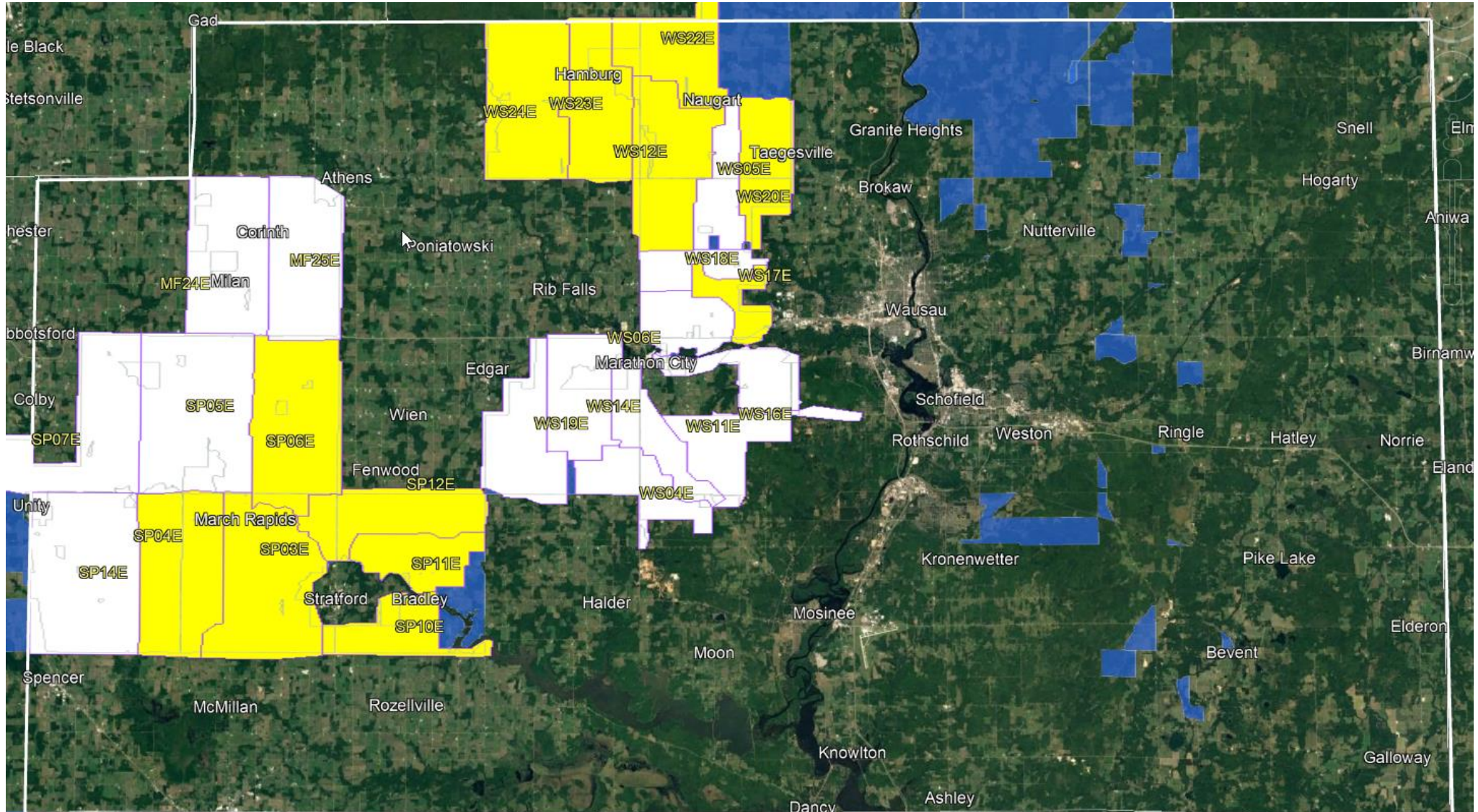
Source:  
Bug Tussel KML  
Frontier KML  
NCWRPC - Speed Test  
WTC/Cirinity KML

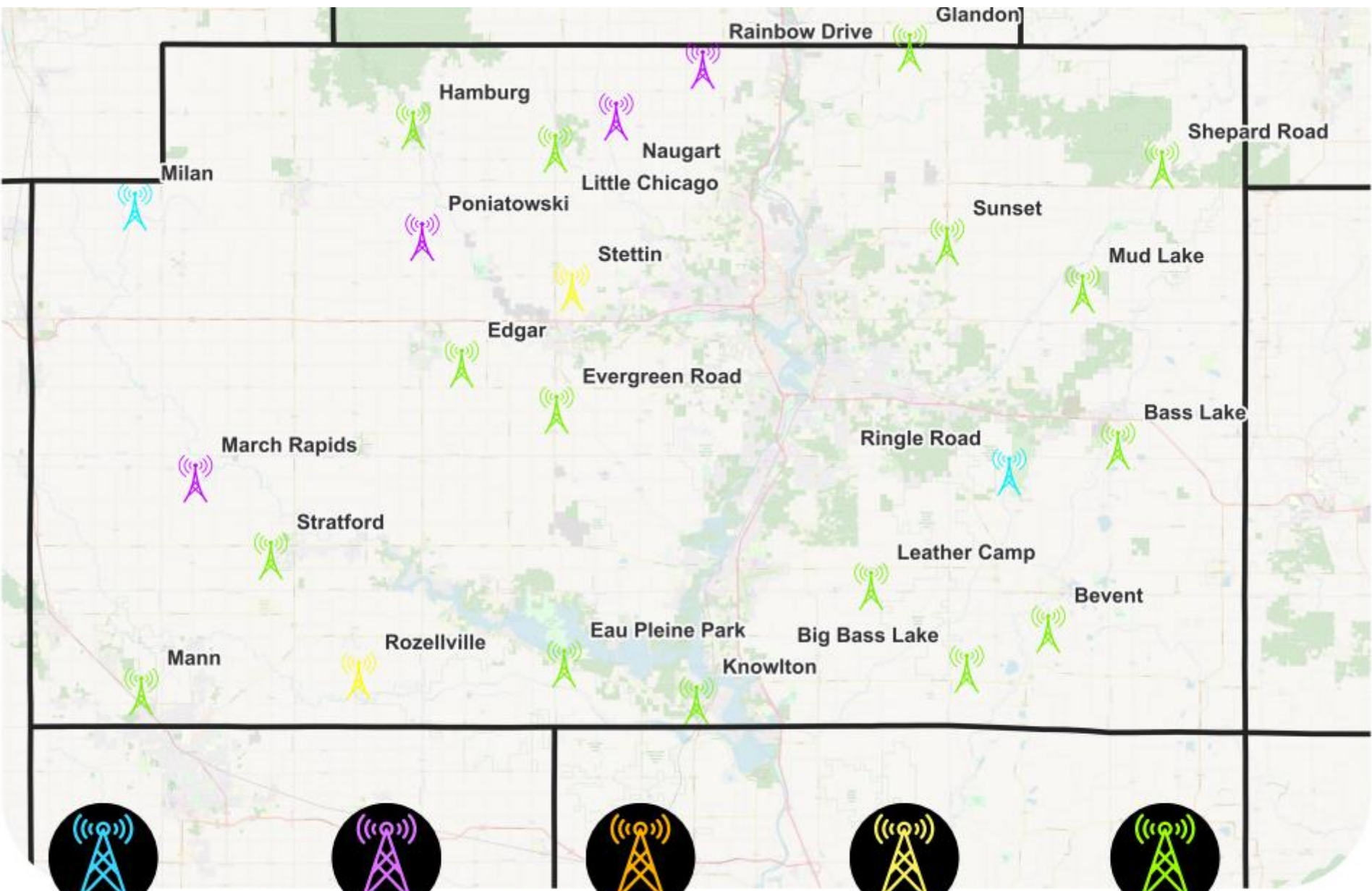




# Charter

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**

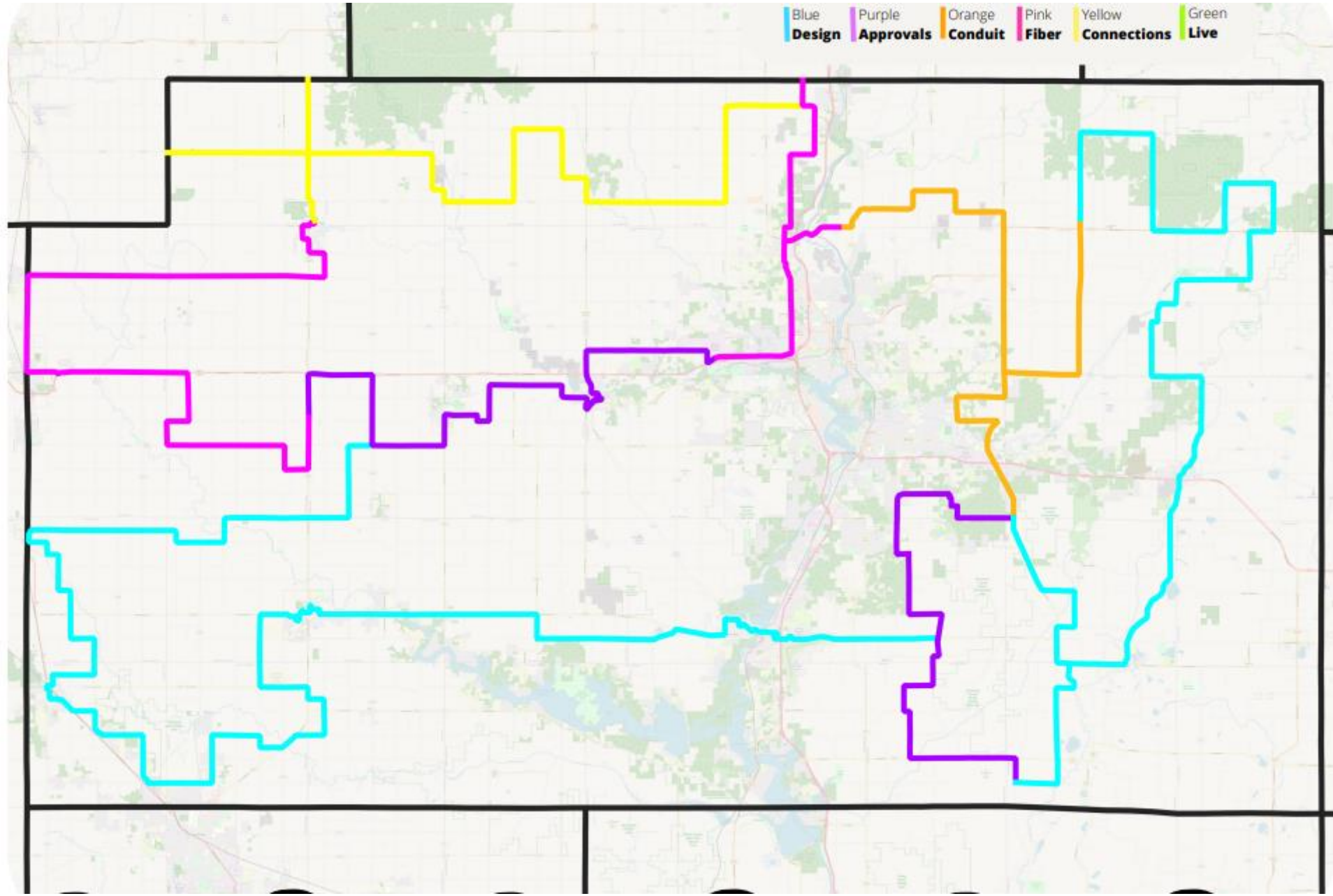
16 Sites Complete  
2 Sites In-Progress

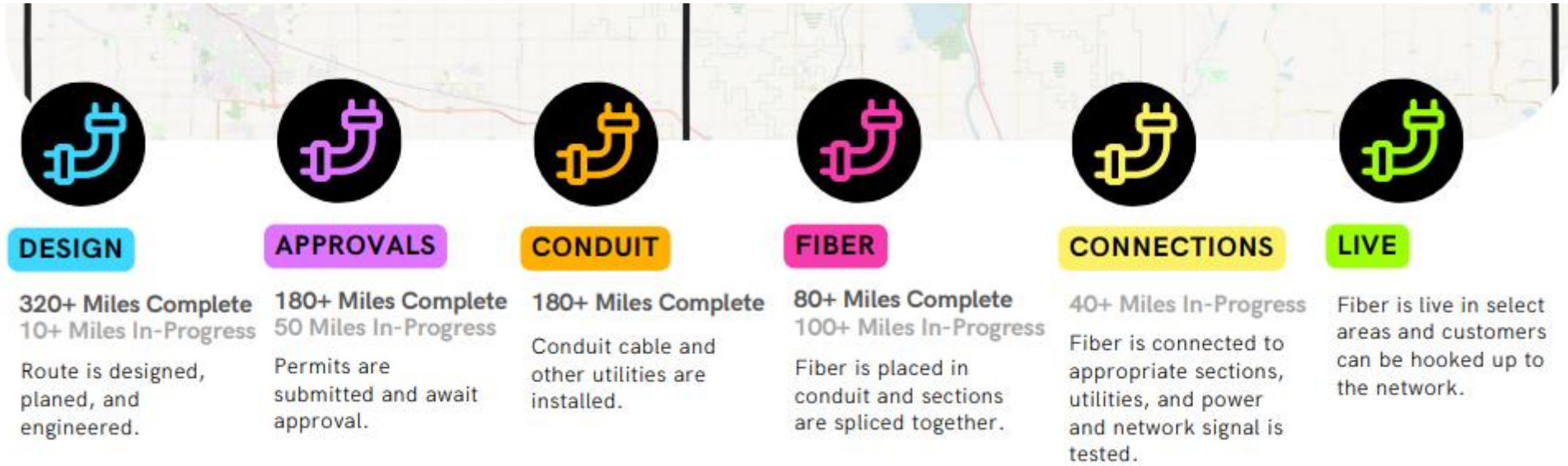


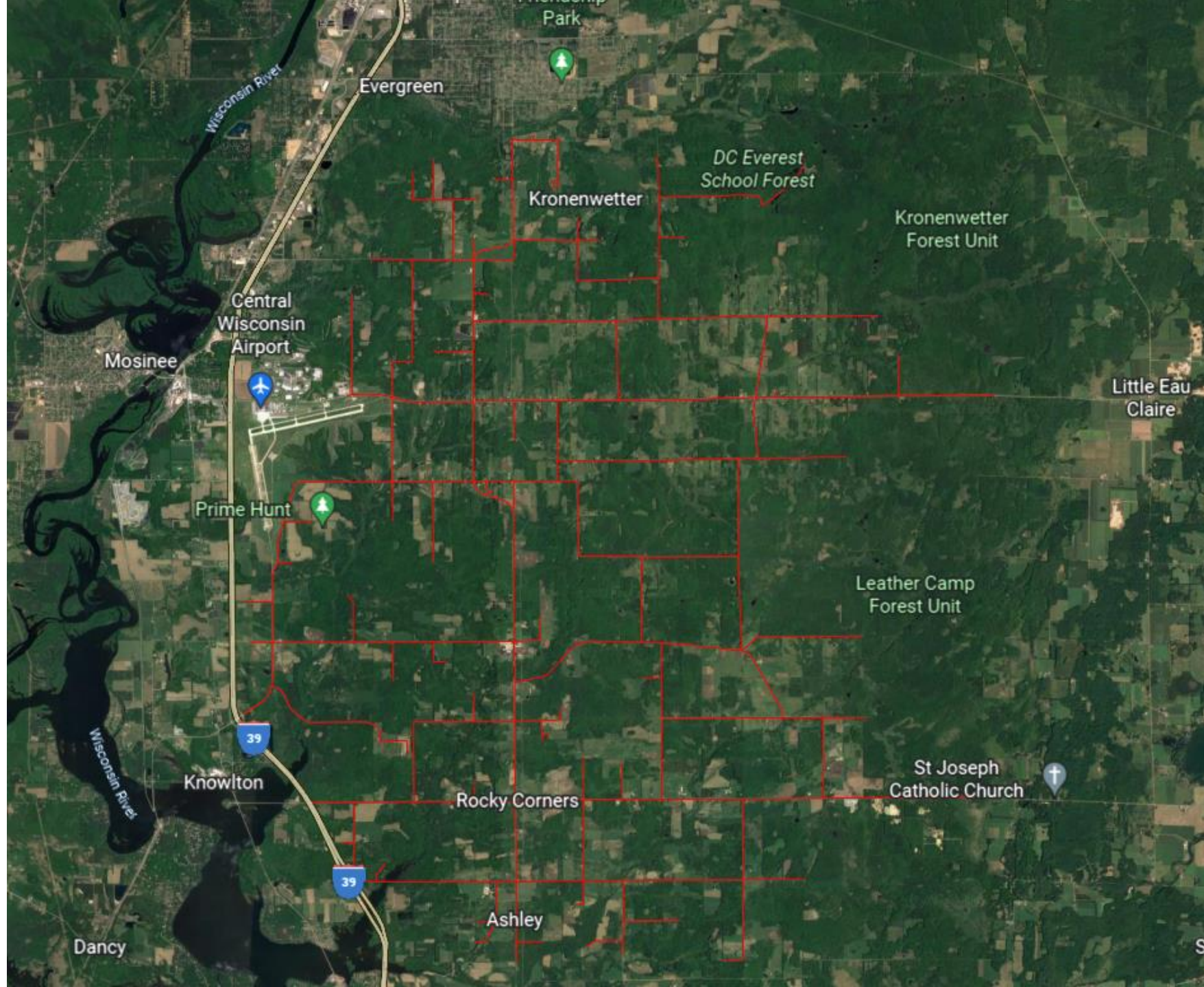
**LIVE**

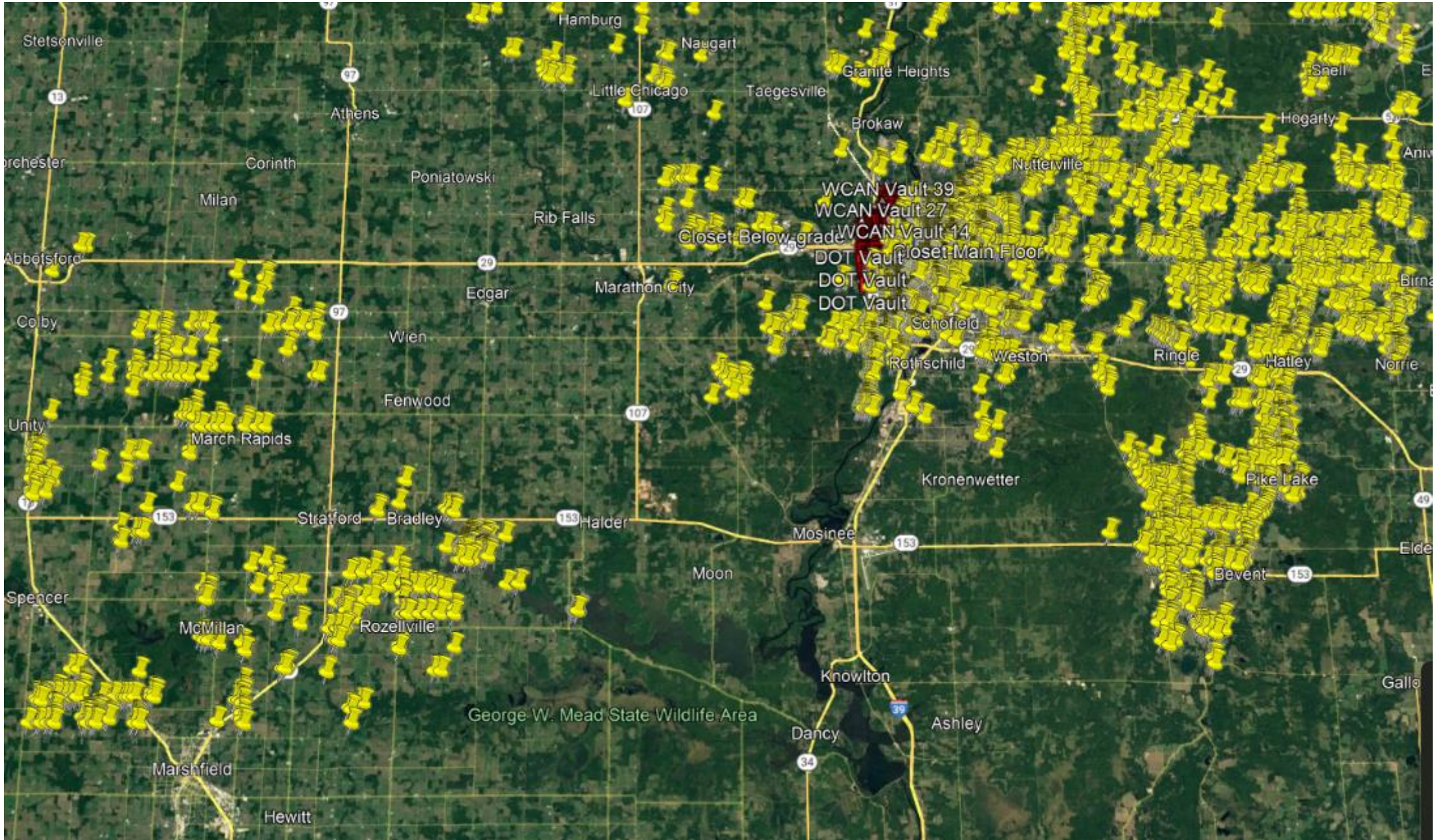
16 Sites Complete  
Towers are live and

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	
<b>Currently accepting applications</b>	Yes Application deadline: November 7, 2023 at 1:30 PM CT
<b>Matching funds required</b>	No, but it is a priority factor.

# Next Steps

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



# BIL NTIA Broadband Programs

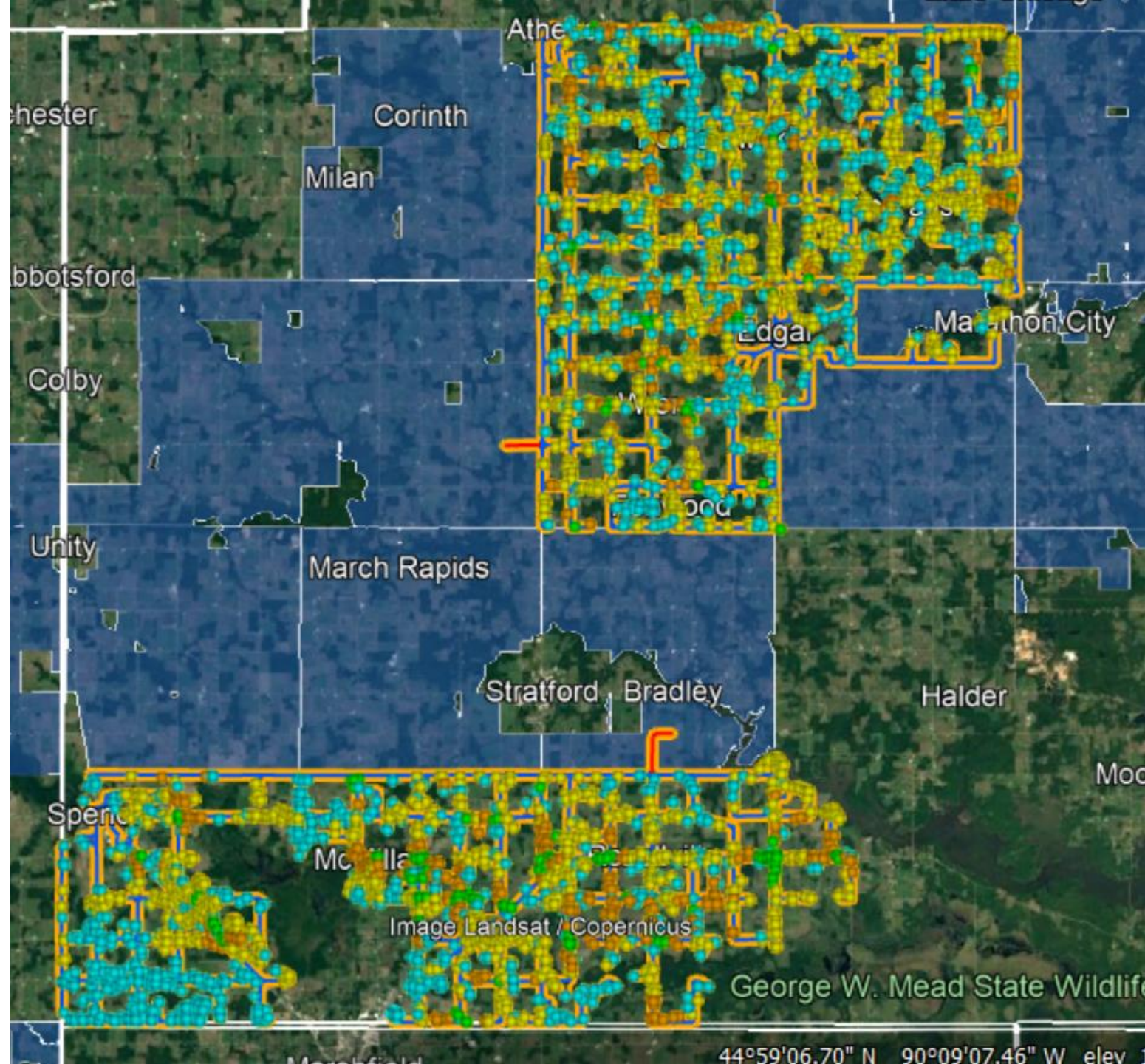
NTIA will administer ~\$48B through four programs that drive high-speed Internet access, affordability, and adoption.

**NTIA will administer ~\$48B of funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**

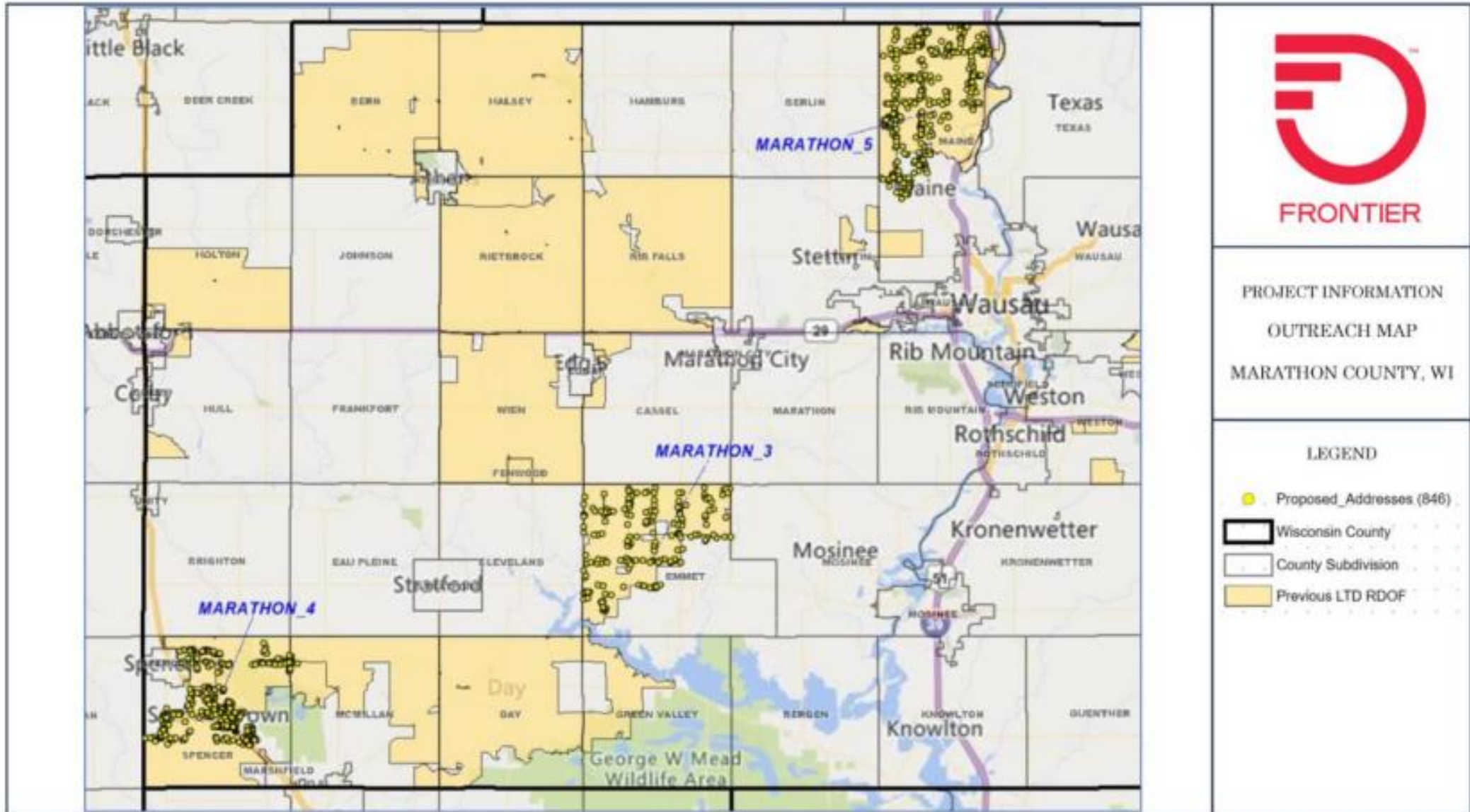
BEAD	DIGITAL EQUITY	TRIBAL	MIDDLE MILE	FCC to administer \$14.2B For Affordable Connectivity Program, which replaced the EBB program
<p><b>\$42.45B</b></p> <p><b>Broadband Equity, Access &amp; Deployment Program</b></p> <p>A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed Internet.</p>	<p><b>\$2.75B</b></p> <p><b>Digital Equity Act</b></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><b>\$2.00B</b></p> <p><b>Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments</b></p> <p>A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.</p>	<p><b>\$1.00B</b></p> <p><b>Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure</b></p> <p>A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.</p>	<p><b>USDA to administer</b> <b>\$2.0B</b> Via the Rural Utilities Service</p>
				<p><b>Private Activity Bonds</b> <b>\$0.6B</b></p> <p>Authorizes State and local governments to use private activity bonds for rural broadband</p>

# 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"><li>•Highest priority: unserved households and businesses lacking 25/3 Mbps.</li><li>•Eligible: underserved households and businesses lacking 100/20 Mbps.</li><li>•Also eligible: community anchor institutions lacking 1 Gbps, and other digital equity and adoption activities.</li></ul>
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# Frontier – Proposed Grant Area



**FRONTIER**

PROJECT INFORMATION  
 OUTREACH MAP  
 MARATHON COUNTY, WI

### LEGEND

- Proposed\_Addresses (846)
- Wisconsin County
- County Subdivision
- Previous LTD RDOF

# Charter

Project 1 (West of Wausau):

2,088 locations

Total build cost of \$14,696,900.

Charter is proposing to contribute \$7,642,388

We will be seeking a subsidy of \$7,054,512

Project 2 (SW Marathon):

2,604 locations

Total build cost of \$11,884,135

Charter is proposing to contribute \$6,179,750

We will be seeking a subsidy of \$5,704,385

# Updated Passings

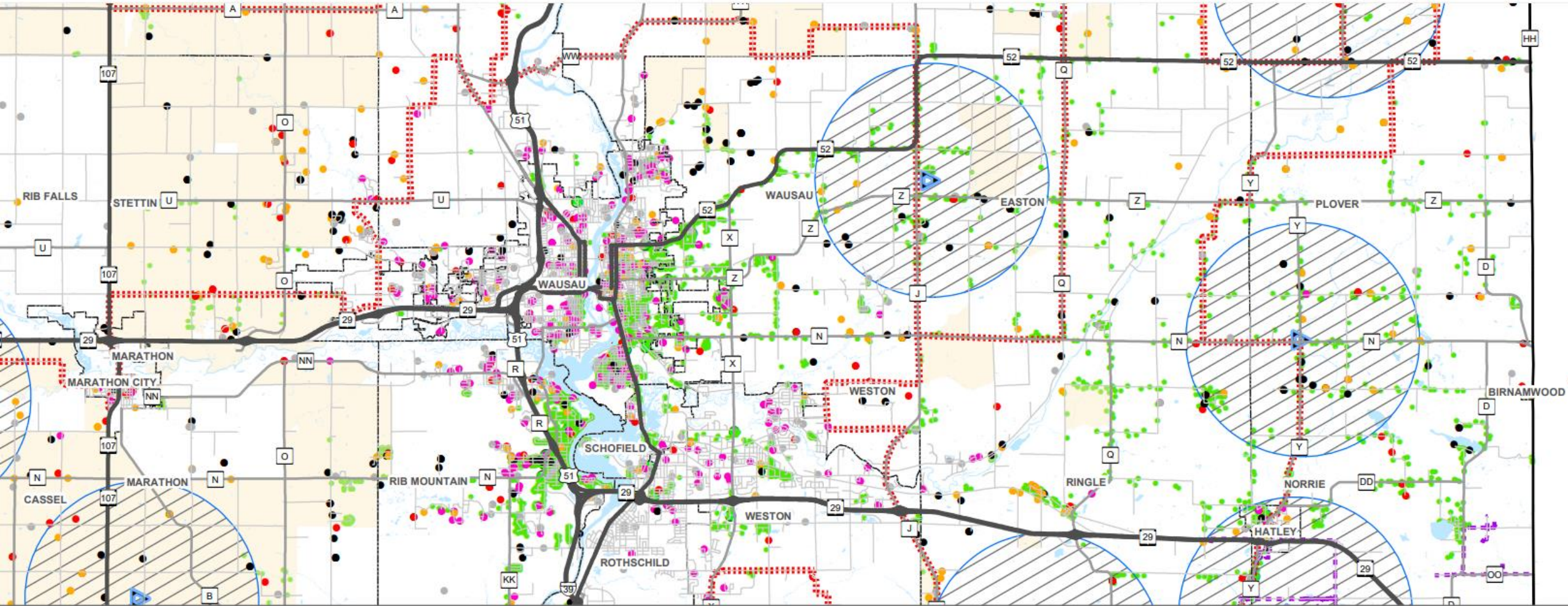
## **Charter**

- Project 1: 2,089 passings (Central Marathon)
- Project 2: 2,016 passings (SW Marathon)

## **Frontier**

- 3 Projects: 846 passings

Questions



# Marathon County Broadband Planning NE Quadrant

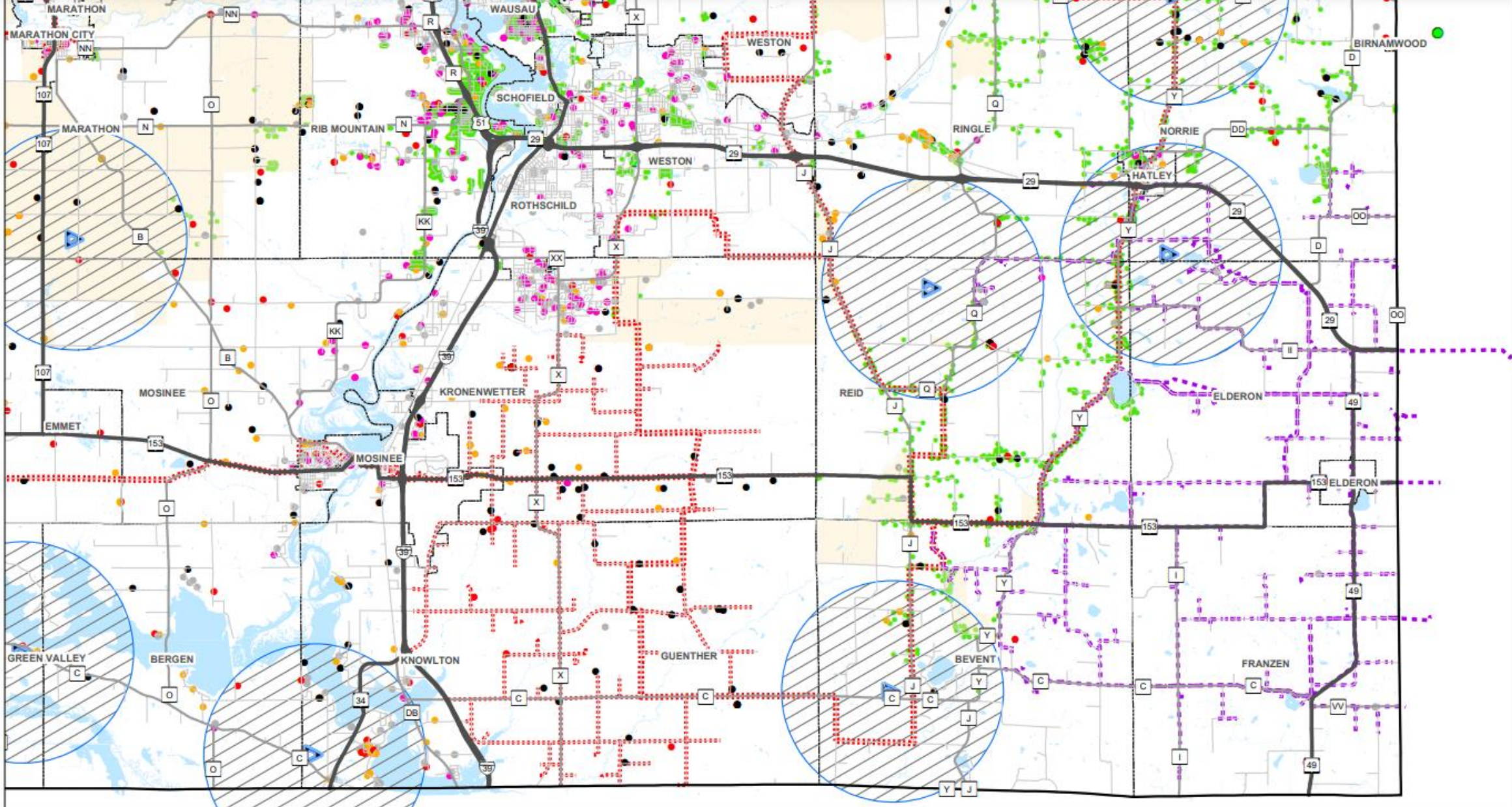
Bug Tussel Towers	Fiber Optic line	Charter RDOF	<b>Speed Test Survey</b>	10.0 - 24.9
2.5 Mile Tower Buffer	WTC/Cirrinity (existing fiber)	Frontier Points	<b>Download Speed</b>	25.0 - 99.9
		Frontier Points	0 - 4.9	100 +
		Frontier Points	5.0 - 9.9	

Draft



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





# Marathon County Broadband Planning SE Quadrant



Draft



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

**Resolution #R-64-23**  
**Establish Salaries for County Board Supervisors For 2024 And 2025**

**WHEREAS**, Rule 19 of the General Code for Marathon County provides that the County Board members shall vote at their Annual Meeting in November of odd-numbered years to fix the salary of the supervisors elected for the Board’s next two-year term. In like manner, the Board may allow additional salary for the chairperson. By rule, the initial resolution before the Board shall contain a 3% increase for supervisors and for the Board Chair. Any recommended modifications to this annual increase will be developed and proposed to the County Board by the Human Resource, Finance and Property Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 12, 2023, the Executive Committee reviewed the current salaries for County Board Supervisors and discussed whether modification of the initial resolution relative to salaries was appropriate, ultimately determining not to recommend the resolution be modified; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 8, 2023, the Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee reviewed the current salaries for County Board Chair and Supervisors and made the following recommendations:

- to increase County Board Supervisor salaries and the salary of the Board Chair and Vice-Chair by 3% effective April 19, 2024, and January 9, 2025;
- to increase the stipends for Standing Committee Chairs to \$1,200
- to increase the stipend for Standing Committee Vice-Chairs to \$400

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon does ordain to adjust County Board Salaries as follows:

County Board Supervisors Salaries:

**Effective 4/19/24**

Chair .....	\$32,782 (3% increase over 2023)
Vice Chair, Board Member Salary.....	\$9,825 (3% increase over 2023)
Board Member .....	\$5,656 (3% increase over 2023)
Chair of Standing Committee, Board Member Salary+ \$1,200 .....	\$7,201
Vice-Chair of Standing Committee, Board Member Salary+ \$400 .....	\$6,401

**Effective 1/9/25**

Chair .....	\$33,765 (3% increase over 2023)
Vice Chair, Board Member Salary.....	\$10,120 (3% increase over 2023)
Board Member .....	\$6,181 (3% increase over 2023)
Chair of Standing Committee, Board Member Salary+ 1,200.....	\$7,381
Vice-Chair of Standing Committee, Board Member Salary+ \$400 .....	\$6,581

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby authorizes and directs the Marathon County Clerk to issue checks pursuant to this resolution and the Marathon County Treasurer to honor same.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the proper officers of Marathon County are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to effectuate this resolution.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT** – Salary and Benefits:

Estimated Additional Cost for (2024)	\$9,510
Estimated Additional Cost for (2025) Compared to (2022)	\$7,325

**CORPORATION COUNSEL NOTE:** Pursuant to Wis. Stats. §59.10(3)(i), any change to salaries for county board supervisors to be next elected requires a two-thirds majority vote of current members entitled to a seat.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	

**HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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