



MARATHON COUNTY
BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING
AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: Monday, July 22, 2024 at 3:00 P.M.

Meeting Location: Assembly Room, Marathon County Courthouse, 500 Forest St, Wausau, WI

Task Force Members: Chair John Robinson, Michael Ritter, Brandon Jensen, Jasper Hartinger, Randy Radtke, Jordan Reynolds, Jon Euting, Eric Budleski, Milton Olson, Valerie Carrillo

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 June 24, 2024 minutes
4. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:
A. Update on Grant Funded/Assisted Broadband Projects
1. Ongoing Grants Report
2. Bug Tussel
3. Charter RDOF
B. Bug Tussel Financing Agreement Update
C. PSC Capital Projects, Digital Connectivity, and Navigator Program Update
5. Policy Discussion and Possible Action:
A. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
1. PSC Overview of BEAD process
2. Role of County in Addressing Challenges and Opportunities
3. Parameters for Determining Projects for County to Support
a. Decision Matrix
6. Next Steps and Timelines
7. Next Meeting Date – August 26, 2024
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:
DATE & TIME:

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE
BY:
DATE & TIME:



**MARATHON COUNTY
BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING**

Minutes

Monday, June 24, 2024 at 3:00 P.M.

Assembly Room, 500 Forest St, Wausau WI

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair John Robinson	x	
Mike Ritter	x	
Brandon Jensen	x	
Jasper Hartinger		x
Randy Radtke		x
Jordan Reynolds		x
Jon Euting	x	
Eric Budleski		x
Milton Olson	x	
Valerie Carrillo	x	

Also Present: Gerry Klein, Erin Andrews

VIA Web or Phone: Preston Vande Voort, Mark Leonard, Scott Feldt, Bill Flood, Kevin O’Brien, Joseph Muia, Todd Kruse, Kimm Weber, Chris Crawford, Aaron Salata

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.
2. **Public Comments** (15 Minute limit) – no public comment
3. **RITTER MAKE A MOTION; SECOND BY OLSON TO APPROVE THE MAY 28, 2024 BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
 - A. Update on Grant Funded/Assisted Broadband Projects
 1. Ongoing Grants Report – There is an ongoing report in the packet that Erin Andrews reviewed.
 2. Frontier – Todd Kruse reviewed their report in the packet.
 3. Bug Tussel – Scott Feldt reviewed their current status and information sent in the packet.
 4. Charter RDOF – Chris Crawford shared his screen with the current map completions and upcoming dates for completions.
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action:**
 - A. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
 1. BEAD Eligible Addresses – Erin reviewed the maps in the packet.
 - a. Impact of Frontier PSC/Charter RDOF changes – There are more homes that will need to be served. There will be upcoming meetings to see if other ISPs are willing to add them to their projects.
 2. County Role in working with ISP
 - a. Meetings with ISPs to explore areas of interest – A meeting was offered to all ISPs at the of April. Priority areas were discussed, and all providers stated they were waiting to hear back from the PSC regarding volume 2.
 - b. Parameters for determining projects for County to support – Discussion of suggestions included looking at cost (ROI), rock base, how many serviceable homes are in the project area, and municipality engagement.
 - c. Community Engagement – There are 12 points in the rubric for judging grants specifically for community engagement. Discussions about how to prioritize and include this piece. The county can only prioritize one ISP, no matter how many applications.

- B. Bug Tussel Financing Agreement
 - 1. 2022 PSC Grant Funding/Loan – Discussion and recap of the funding and loan.
 - 2. 2021 Supplemental Conduit Borrowing Request – County board approved moving forward with resolution. The vote will happen in August or September.
 - 3. Update on County Board process and concerns – Supervisor Robinson shared the process and concerns from the county board meeting.
- C. PSC Capital Projects Digital Connectivity and Navigator Program
 - 1. United Way of Marathon County/United Way of Wisconsin – United Way is looking for letters of support to strengthen their grant application.
 - 2. Request support from Marathon County – Supervisor Robinson is submitting a letter on behalf of the Broadband Task Force.
- 6. **Next Steps and Timelines**
 - A. Discuss Volume 2
 - B. Criteria and rank scoring for county role rubric
- 7. **Next Meeting:** July 22, 2024
- 8. **Adjournment: CARRILLO MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING, RITTER SECOND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:23pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kathy Johnson

ONGOING BROADBAND GRANTS IN MARATHON COUNTY

JULY 2024

RED = Canceled effective 6/2024

Orange = Grant altered

Yellow = Ongoing and Pending Funding Agreement

Green = Ongoing

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER (ISP)	Grant/Funding Program	Year Awarded	Goal of Completion	Approx # Served	Description	Status
Frontier	PSC Grant	2022	2024	10,000	Deploy fiber to the home network to 10,696 locations in 25 towns or Villages within Marathon County	Frontier revoked Grant request 6/6/2024. Approximately 1,600 un/underserved addresses will become BEAD eligible.
Charter/Spectrum	RDOF -Rural Opportunity Development Fund	2022	2026		Fiber to regions W, NW and E of Wausau (see map in packet)	Charter submitted intent to default on 156 addresses in the 2025 portion of RDOF project East/Southeast of Wausau
Bug Tussel	Conduit Loan	2021	2024	1,800	Fiber run to approximately 1800 homes(see map in packet)	Bug Tussel requests \$12 million conduit bond to complete middle mile fiber/towers and Leathercamp project.
Bug Tussel	PSC Grant	2022	2024	600+	"LeatherCamp" project to connect approx 600 premises South of Kronenwetter/East of I39 (see map)	Not completed - goal to complete by end of 2024; Bug Tussel requests \$12 million conduit bond to complete middle mile fiber/towers and Leathercamp project.
TDS	E- ACAM - Enhanced Alternative Connect American Cost Model		2027		Upgrade DSL to fiber for existing customers, primarily in Mosinee and south central Marathon County	25% done by end of 2024, 50% by end of 2025, 75% by end of 2026, 100% by end of 2028
Cirrinity	E- ACAM - Enhanced Alternative Connect American Cost Model		2027		Provide Fiber to the home in SE Marathon County	

From: [Scott Feldt](#)
To: [Erin Andrews](#); [John Robinson](#); [Gerard Klein](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] weekly update
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 7:34:48 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Crews: 6
 Workers:30

In Progress:

Fiber Blowing Crew is working in the CT-29 OLT. Transport fiber is up to Dorchester.
 Plow and Drill crews are working along North Rd. in the Leathercamp OLT.
 Setting crew is placing equipment along 16th Rd. in Leathercamp.

Completed:

Drilling and Setting is complete in the city of Athens, and along CR-A.
 WI-153 is 100% Drilled out in the Mosinee/Leathercamp Build.
 All of Leathercamp locates have been called in for the drill/plow crews.

OLT	Total Footage	Pipe in Progress	%	Pipe Complete	%	Fiber Installed	%
Leathercamp/ Mosinee East	587,516.00	113,589.50	19.33	151,016.40	25.70	0.00	0.00
Brokaw	154,161.40	14,405.10	9.34	84,838.50	55.03	8,768.90	5.69
Little Chicago	215,335.20	179,582.10	83.40	0.00	0.00	23,129.80	10.74
Hamburg	133,353.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Athens	83,314.80	0.00	0.00	83,182.50	99.84	0.00	0.00
WI-29	179,348.00	124.00	0.07	43,476.70	24.24	135,661.20	75.64
Sunset	283,366.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



Scott Feldt

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 m: 920.417.8902
 w: www.btussel.com



“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit.” Will Durant

From: Crawford, Chris R
To: Erin Andrews
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Report for Task Force
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 11:00:36 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

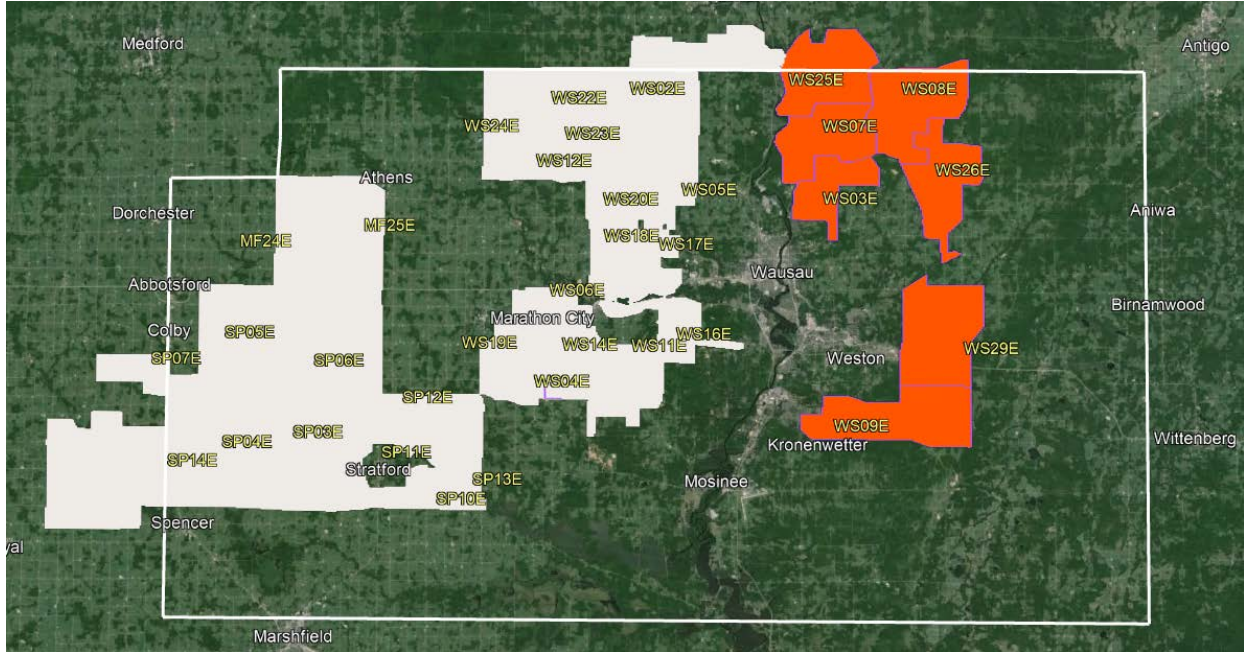
Hi Erin,

WSO3E is where our crews are now starting. Current complete date is late October/November of this year.

WS07E, WS25E, WS08E, and WS26E are currently scheduled to be completed by year end. These dates could change though.

I do not have the final list of location address givebacks yet. I checked again today and there is still some data being cross checked.

Thank You



Chris Crawford | Senior Manager, State Government Affairs
O: 715.301.4074 | C: 715.216.4266
853 McIntosh St | Wausau, WI 54403
E: chris.crawford@charter.com

From: Erin Andrews <Erin.Andrews@co.marathon.wi.us>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 12:29 PM
To: Crawford, Chris R <Chris.Crawford@charter.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Report for Task Force

CAUTION: The e-mail below is from an external source. Please exercise caution before opening attachments, clicking links, or following guidance.

Hi Chris,
Can you please provide a written RDOF update for the Task Force? The last one you submitted is several months old.

I see that the default addresses are reflected on the PSC map. As part of the report, we request a list of the addresses in Marathon County that are impacted by the default.

I need the report by Wednesday, 7/17 to get it in the packet.

Thank you,
Erin Andrews
Broadband Coordinator
City-County Information Technology Commission
715-261-6511



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BEAD – Broadband Equity and Deployment

BEAD PROCESS	DATE
PSC Volume 1 submitted to NTIA	12/1/ 2023
PSC Volume 2 submitted to NTIA	12/27/2023
FCC Fabric Challenges	Ongoing
Vol 1 Approved by NTIA	April 11, 2024
PSC Vol 2 Approval	Pending - Funds must be committed within 365 days of Vol 2 approval
Meeting with Marathon County ISPs to identify priority areas	April 22, 2024
PSC Challenge Period to confirm locations eligible for BEAD	April 29-May 29, 2024
PSC Challenge Rebuttal Period	June 20-July 20, 2024
PSC Final Determinations of Challenges	July 20-August 20, 2024
BEAD LOIs (Letters of Intent) and Review	TBA (Estimated September-October)
BEAD Applications Due	TBA – (Estimated November -December)
BEAD Awards Announced	TBA - Estimated Round 1:Jan/Feb Round 2:Mar/April Round 3:May/June Round 4 – July-August 2025
BEAD Grant Projects Completed	2030

Definitions:

BEAD – Broadband Equity and Deployment

PSC Submitted to NTIA:

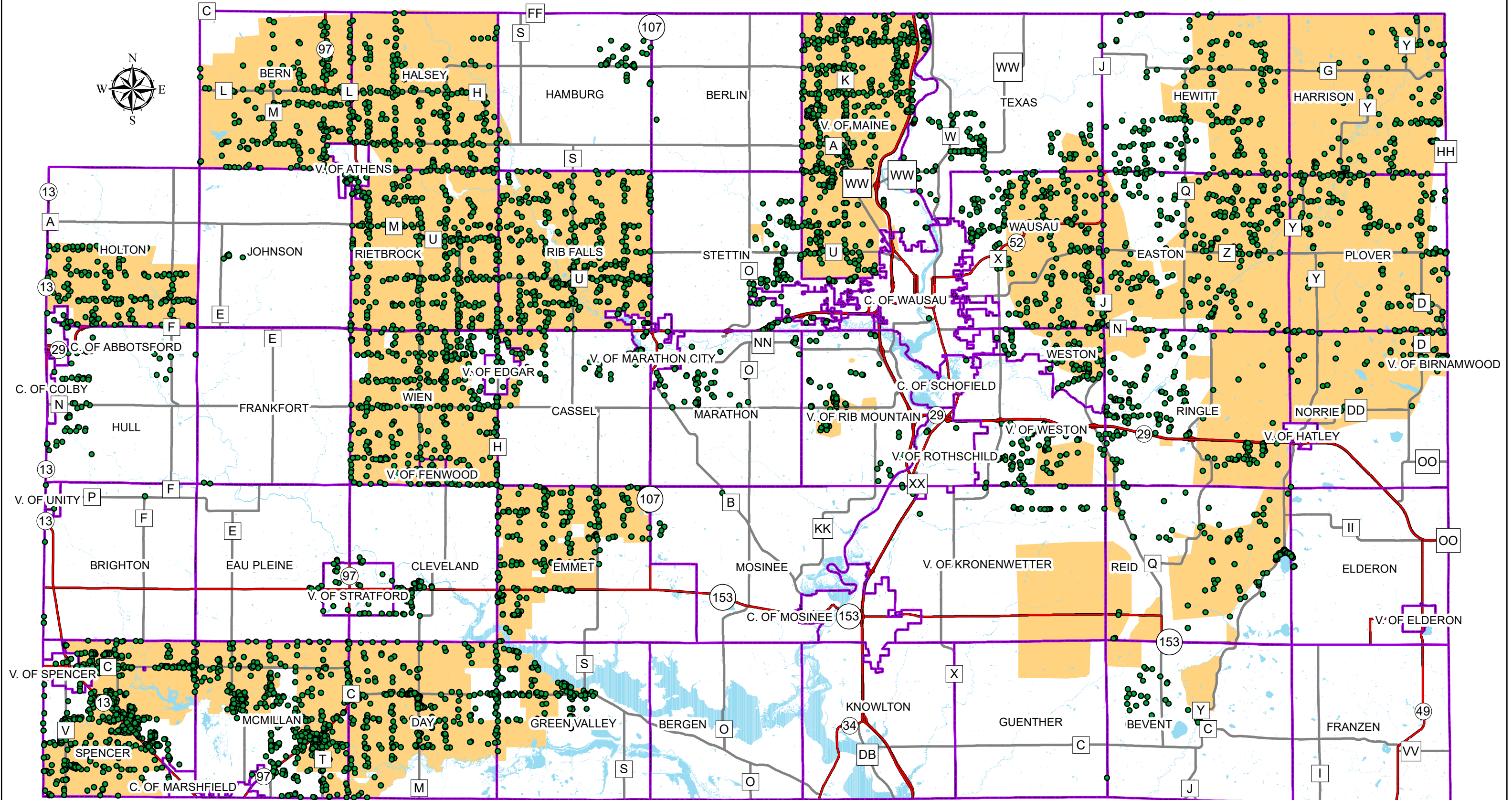
Volume 1: Establishes the locations and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) eligible for BEAD funding and outlines the challenge process.

Volume 2: Details remaining requirement for initial proposals, including Letters of Intent (LOIs)

LOIs – Letters of Intent will be submitted by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) defining scope of project, including:

- Estimated number of locations applied for, the geographical area and proposed technology.
- Commitment to providing low-cost service option.
- Documentation of financial, managerial & operational capacity
- Documentation of other funding received or being pursued.

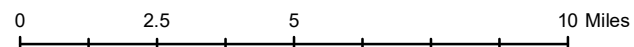
BEAD ELIGIBLE BSLs in Marathon County as of JULY 2024



Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Planning Areas

- BEAD Eligible (PSC Data)
- Proposed BEAD Areas
- Municipal Boundary
- State & US Highways
- County Roads

Map Date: 6/21/2024



Map data is prior to the DEFAULT of Charter and Frontier Grants.
This information is tentative and subject to change.

SAMPLE DECISION MATRIX -DRAFT

Criteria	Weighted Rating	ISP #1		ISP #2		ISP #3	
		Rating	Weighted Rating x Rating	Rating	Weighted Rating x Rating	Rating	Weighted Rating x Rating
Timeline of Project Completion	2	3	6	2	4	2	4
Private Investment % of Project Costs	5	3	15	3	15	5	25
Request for County/Municipal Support							
Proven Record of Successful Projects	3	4	12	3	9	5	15
Population Density AND/OR Most difficult to serve areas/highest number of un/underserved	1	3	3	3	3	5	5
Efforts in Community Engagement							
Support of Municipalities							
OTHER?							
Total Value		13	36	11	31	17	49

Rating Scale	1-Doesn't Meet Criteria	2-Somewhat Meets Criteria		3-Meets Criteria		4-Exceeds Criteria	5-Significantly Exceeds Criteria
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