



**MARATHON COUNTY
BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING
AGENDA**

Date & Time of Meeting: **Monday, July 26, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.**

Meeting Location: **Employee Resources Conference Room C149, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

Task Force Members: Eric Budleski, Sandi Cihlar, Jon Euting, Sara Guild, Jacob Langenhahn, Milton Olson, John Robinson, and Kurt Schoenrock

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 #: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 146 159 7938

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 7, 2021 Broadband Task Force Meeting Minutes**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
 - A. **Update on Grant Applications For the Wisconsin PSC's American Rescue Act Broadband Access Grant**
 - B. **Potential Funding Sources For Broadband Expansion Including NTIA And PSC Grants**
5. **Policy Discussion And Possible Action:**
 - A. **Marathon County's Future Role As A Fiscal Partner For Broadband Expansion**
 1. **Define Role of County**
 2. **Commitments: Financial or other**
 3. **Expectations of Internet Service Providers/Partners**
 - B. **Review of Marathon County Broadband Survey and Distribution Plan**
 - C. **Development of a Request for Proposals for Broadband Services**
 - D. **Authorization to Support Broadband Grant Application for Charter Communications to NTIA**
 - E. **Authorization to Support Broadband Grant Application for Charter Communications to PSC**
6. **Next Meeting: Monday, August 23, 2021: Topics**
7. **Next Steps**
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 infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

SIGNED /s/ John Robinson
Presiding Officer or Designee

FAXED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE



**MARATHON COUNTY
BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.
Conference Room 5, 212 River Drive, Wausau, WI**

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair John Robinson	X	
Randy Fifrick	X	
Eric Budleski	X	
Sandi Cihlar	X	
Sara Guild	X	
Jacob Langenhahn	X	
Jon Euting	X	
Milton Olson	X	
Wade Carroll		X
Lance Leonhard	X	
Kurt Gibbs	X	
Gerry Klein	X	
Melinda Osterberg	X	
Jean Maszk	X	
Kurt Schoenrock	X	
Scott Nyman	X	
Valerie Carrillo	X	
Sarah Dowidat	X	
Scott Feldt	X	
Jonathan Fisher	X	
Chris Dickenson	X	
Bill Flood	X	
Jeremy Carolfi	X	
Scott Nyman	X	

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robinson at 4:03 pm. All participants were welcomed.

2. Public Comments (15 Minute limit)

No public comment

3. Approval of the June 21, 2021 Broadband Task Force Meeting Minutes

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LANGENHAHN; SECOND BY GUILD TO APPROVE THE JUNE 21, 2021 BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:

A. Kewaunee County Request for Broadband Services - Scott Feldt, Kewaunee County Administrator

Chair Robinson introduced Kewaunee County Administrator Scott Feldt and shared that the County had completed a Countywide RFP process for broadband expansion.

Scott Feldt shared information regarding Kewaunee County's approach to broadband expansion. The County partnered with an ISP on several grant applications of which only one small application was funded by the PSC. The County issued an RFP for broadband expansion, the County received nine proposals, interviewed four providers, and selected Bug Tussel to partner with. Two applications to the PSC partnering with Bug Tussel were awarded. Feldt shared that

Kewaunee County's match was in the form of a 12 year loan. Bug Tussel will pay any interest incurred by the County, plus .50%. Through this project Kewaunee County anticipates that 85% of the County will be covered at project completion. Feldt relayed that the work of Bug Tussel has encouraged other internet service providers to expand service within the County. Kewaunee County will continue to lend money to interested internet service providers, but will not grant funds. The project uses tower equipment with an 8-10 year life span and provides speeds of 12 Mbps for a monthly fee of \$50 a month.

B. Recognition of Melinda Osterberg for her Contributions toward Broadband Expansion

The Broadband Task Force thanked Melinda Osterberg for her support of broadband expansion in Marathon County.

C. Staff Support of the Broadband Task Force

Gerry Klein will be supporting the PSC grant application with support from Sarah Dowidat in Administration. Sara Guild relayed the EEECD Committee has been in discussion with UW-Madison Extension on what support educators can provide the Broadband Task Force, the Committee is also examining different project management structures.

6. Policy Discussion And Possible Action:

A. Review and rank potential internet service provider partnership proposals for 2021 WI PSC ARPA Broadband Expansion Grant program

Chair Robinson indicated that the PSC ARPA grant criteria are different from the annual PSC grant program and that there is a bias towards fiber projects. Marathon County has received four proposals to date and are included in the meeting packet.

Scott Nyman, Wittenberg Telephone, introduced their proposal of a 6-mile fiber build connecting 101 homes and three businesses. Nyman indicated the proposed area was determined by PSC's ARPA map, as the area is depicted as underserved on PSC mapping.

Jeremy Carolfi, Country Wireless, stated that the two areas are within Country Wireless's service area and they are adjacent to existing fiber. The SW Marathon County Project is anticipated to be 28.94 miles of fiber serving 223 households and the Maryel Subdivision Projects will be 6.38 miles of fiber serving 113 households. Country Wireless is requesting \$500,000 in funding from Marathon County and 1.2 million from the PSC.

Bug Tussel is requesting Marathon County to underwrite a \$16,600,000 loan for broadband expansion. The project includes middle mile 215 miles of fiber and 13 broadband towers. Bug Tussel will also request \$1.5 million in PSC funding.

LTD Wireless is \$250,000 in funding from Marathon County for a \$1.184 million fiber broadband project. LTD wireless anticipates that 20,200 people will be served upon project completion.

The Task Force discussed speeds provided by the proposals, with Bug Tussel and Country Wireless providing phased proposals that may not immediately provides symmetrical 100 Mbps service. LTD and Wittenberg Telephone will provide symmetrical gig service.

The PSC ARPA criteria prioritizes fiber service and "last mile connection." The Task Force discussed supporting Cirrinity's proposal given the PSC ARPA grant requirements. The Task Force

discussed the ambiguity of Country Wireless a grant and loan combination.

County Board Chair Gibbs suggested that the Task Force determine a per household basis cost share for the Wittenberg/Cirrinity and Country Wireless proposals.

Chair Robinson suggested that the \$177,000 remaining County budgeted funds be divided on a per household basis for the Cirrinity and Country Wireless proposals with the providers providing certified numbers in anticipation of preparation of PSC grant materials.

Olson motioned to support the Cirrinity, Country Wireless and Bug Tussel proposals, including \$62,992 for Cirrinity with the balance of the capital improvement program broadband funding allocated to Country Wireless. Chilar seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The County Board will need to evaluate the funding for the Bug Tussel proposal.

Chair Robinson indicated that template letters of support will be available for Task Force members to circulate. Letters will need to be provided to the ISPs by July 21st.

Marathon County will be seeking input on use of APRA funds from the Marathon County Towns Association and other members of the general public at four different forums.

B. Review of Marathon County Broadband Survey and Distribution Plan

Discussion and action was tabled due to time constraints and will be on the July 26th meeting.

C. Development of a Request for Proposals for Broadband Service

Discussion and action was tabled due to time constraints and will be on the July 26th meeting.

6. Next Meeting Logistics And Topics

Chair Robinson stated the next regular meeting will be July 26, 2021.

7. Adjournment

**Chilar motioned to adjourn, seconded by Guild. Motion carried unanimously. MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 6:37 PM.**

Marathon County Broadband Access Survey

Broadband access in Marathon County, particularly outside of the incorporated cities, remains limited with service often unavailable or inconsistent. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for quality access to high speed internet.

Whatever your situation is related to broadband internet access, we know there are challenges and opportunities for improvement. Without reliable and affordable broadband internet, our communities will fall behind in attracting and retaining residents and providing quality jobs, and our kids will lack access to opportunities that other areas are building upon.

Marathon County Government and Marathon County-UW Madison Extension have been looking at options and potential solutions to our broadband challenges and are proactively moving forward on many fronts. To understand the needs, **we must have sound data about our situation as it exists now, and where we need improvements.**

The two main questions we need to address are what really exists in Marathon County for access to broadband internet and how is the quality of that resource. That information is essential to moving forward with better options and new solutions. Data collected will be valuable when we apply for **grants**, look for other **partners and financial resources**, and develop plans to **attract existing and new broadband internet service providers to Marathon County.**

To have the most useful information, we are requesting your complete address. We promise we will not share your address publicly but will use it as a way of mapping the internet services for the County. Survey results will be reviewed and reported in a way that **protects your individual anonymity**. If you have questions about the survey, please visit our website at <insert website> contact us by email at <insert email> or by phone at <insert phone number>.

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes. **Please complete the survey by August 1, 2021.** We appreciate your time and the information you are sharing. **You can help make this change!** *This survey was initially developed by Barry Hottmann, Iowa County Community Development Educator with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and modified by Melinda Osterberg, Marathon County Community Development Educator.*

Understanding Broadband Terminology: Broadband internet service is a form of high-speed internet access.

Wireless Broadband Internet Service: is exactly what the name implies: it is high-speed internet access without cables or wires.

Wireless Broadband Network: A term you may recognize in association with wireless broadband internet service includes wireless broadband network. A wireless network is a single

broadband internet arrangement established for **your home or office**. It requires several pieces of equipment and requires you to subscribe (pay for) to the broadband services on a continual (usually monthly) basis. You cannot utilize your wireless broadband network and equipment without an ongoing broadband service. Together, the wireless devices and the broadband internet service make up your wireless broadband network.

Wireless Broadband Mobile: Wireless internet connectivity in cell phones is growing in popularity as well. Cell phones, and other devices featuring windows mobile applications, are now all being designed with advanced wireless technology. This allows them the ability to connect to a wireless broadband internet service within a broadband network, or to the internet via their own cellular phone network.

For the purposes of this survey, we want to know about your access/availability to a wired or wireless broadband internet service as part of a broadband network in your home. If you are utilizing a cell phone or other mobile broadband device (hotspots, etc.), we do NOT consider that to be subscribing (paying for every month) to broadband internet services. This survey is for property you may own in MARATHON COUNTY, Wisconsin. If you received more than one survey invitation in the mail, it means you own more than one improved tax parcel in Marathon County. If this is the case, feel free to fill out the survey for each tax parcel (to the best of your abilities) as it pertains to broadband internet accessibility at that address location.

Q2 Please list your complete street address of your Marathon County, Wisconsin property (accuracy of this information is important).

Q3 Please list the town, city or village where your Marathon County, Wisconsin property is located.

▼ Bergen (Town) (1) ... Other (62)

Display This Question:

If Please list the town, city or village where your Marathon County, Wisconsin property is located. = Other

Q44 Please enter the town, city of village where your Marathon County, Wisconsin property is located.

Q4 Please enter the zip code of where your Marathon County, Wisconsin property is located.

▼ Other (1) ... 54414 (77)

Display This Question:

If Please enter the zip code of where your Marathon County, Wisconsin property is located. = Other

Q43 Please enter the zip code of where your Marathon County, Wisconsin property is located.

ACCESS TO BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE

Q6 Which of these best describes your access to broadband internet at your home?

- I pay for a monthly subscription for internet services (this refers to a wired or fixed wireless solution). (1)
- I have access to broadband internet service at my house but choose to not pay for a subscription. (2)
- I do not have access to this type of service, but I do need internet access and I am able to have internet access as part of my cellular data plan using my phone or hotspot. (3)
- I do not have access to broadband internet service at my house OR a reliable, affordable option for access. (4)

Display This Question:

If Which of these best describes your access to broadband internet at your home? = I have access to broadband internet service at my house but choose to not pay for a subscription.

Or Which of these best describes your access to broadband internet at your home? = I do not have access to this type of service, but I do need internet access and I am able to have internet access as part of my cellular data plan using my phone or hotspot.

Or Which of these best describes your access to broadband internet at your home? = I do not have access to broadband internet service at my house OR a reliable, affordable option for access.

Q7 If **you do NOT subscribe** (pay for) or have **NO access** to broadband internet service, why not? (select all that apply)

- Service is not available where I live (1)
- Service is too slow (2)
- Concerned about online privacy (3)
- I have no need (4)
- Service is inconsistent or unreliable (5)
- I use the internet somewhere else (6)
- Service is too expensive (7)
- Not Applicable, I subscribe to broadband internet service (8)
- Other: (9) _____

Display This Question:

If Which of these best describes your access to broadband internet at your home? = I have access to broadband internet service at my house but choose to not pay for a subscription.

Or Which of these best describes your access to broadband internet at your home? = I do not have access to this type of service, but I do need internet access and I am able to have internet access as part of my cellular data plan using my phone or hotspot.

Or Which of these best describes your access to broadband internet at your home? = I do not have access to broadband internet service at my house OR a reliable, affordable option for access.

Q8 If **you do NOT subscribe** (pay for) to broadband internet service, what would it take for you to subscribe to broadband internet service? (more affordable, faster speeds, etc.)

Type and Cost of Broadband Internet Services

Q11 How do you access the internet at home? (choose all that apply)

- Cellular data plan using my phone or hotspot (Verizon, US Cellular, etc.) (1)
 - Fiber-optic (Spectrum Enterprise, TDS, etc.) (2)
 - Use my landline or digital subscriber line (DSL) (Frontier, etc.) (3)
 - Use my cable service or cable modem (Charter, Spectrum, etc.) (4)
 - Use an antenna/modem or fixed wireless (AirRunner, Net Pros, Country Wireless etc.) (5)
 - Satellite (Hughes Net, Viasat, etc.) (6)
 - Dial-up (7)
 - Unsure (8)
 - Other (9) _____
 - Not Applicable. I do not access the internet from home. (10)
 - Star Link (11)
-

Q12 Who is your current provider for how you receive broadband internet services (choose all that apply)?

Spectrum/Charter (1)

Frontier (2)

AirRunner (3)

Net Pros (4)

Hughes Net (5)

Viasat (6)

Verizon (7)

AT&T (8)

US Cellular (9)

TDS (10)

Cellcom (11)

Other (12) _____

Not Applicable. I do not subscribe to a monthly broadband internet service (13)

Star Link (14)

King Street Wireless (16)

Cirrinity (17)

Q13 Is your monthly broadband internet service billed as part of a bundle (TV, phone, internet, etc.)?

Yes (1)

No (2)

I do not know (3)

N/A (4)

Q14 What is your monthly cost (**not bundled cost**) for only your broadband internet service? If your monthly cost increases based on use, please estimate your AVERAGE monthly cost.

Less than \$40 (1)

\$40 - \$60 (2)

\$61 - \$80 (3)

\$81 - \$100 (4)

Over \$100 (5)

Not Applicable. I do not subscribe to a monthly broadband internet service. (8)

Q15 It is valuable to know the speed of your broadband services at your home or home-based business. If you are taking this survey on a computer at a location other than your home, not using your own broadband services, or completing this survey on your smartphone, please do NOT answer this question.

What is the speed of your broadband connection? If possible, we would like you to check your speed. Please go to your internet browser and type in www.speedtest.net. If you click on the hyperlink, please open the webpage in a new tab or previous survey answers will be lost. Then click on Begin Test. **Please note the download and upload speeds (the numbers will be followed by Mbps).** Place the appropriate number in the corresponding boxes below.

Download Speed (1) _____

Upload Speed (2) _____

Server (found under the speed information) (3)

Q16 If you currently subscribe to broadband internet services, how satisfied are you with the service?

- Extremely Satisfied (1)
- Moderately satisfied (2)
- Slightly satisfied (3)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (4)
- Slightly dissatisfied (5)
- Moderately dissatisfied (6)
- Extremely dissatisfied (7)
- Not Applicable. I do not subscribe to broadband internet service. (8)

Display This Question:

If If you currently subscribe to broadband internet services, how satisfied are you with the service? = Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Or If you currently subscribe to broadband internet services, how satisfied are you with the service? = Slightly dissatisfied

Or If you currently subscribe to broadband internet services, how satisfied are you with the service? = Moderately dissatisfied

Or If you currently subscribe to broadband internet services, how satisfied are you with the service? = Extremely dissatisfied

Q17 If you **are NOT satisfied (dissatisfied)** with your broadband internet services, why?
(select all that apply)

- Service is too expensive (1)
- Service is inconsistent (2)
- Service is too slow (3)
- Other: (4) _____
- Not applicable. I do not subscribe to broadband internet service. (5)

Use of Broadband Internet Services

Q20 Including yourself, **how many** people in your home use (or would use if service were available) your home broadband internet services daily?

- Children up to age 12 (1) _____
- Teens - Ages 13 to 18 (2) _____
- Adults - Ages 19 to 25 (3) _____
- Adults - Ages 26 to 45 (4) _____
- Adults - Ages 46 to 65 (5) _____
- Adults over 65 (6) _____

Q22 Please indicate how frequently you use (or would use if service were available) your home broadband internet services to engage in each of the following uses:

	Never (1)	Sometimes (2)	Frequently (3)
Job search, apply for, or advertise a job (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access resources for the management of my farm / business (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pay bills (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shop (Amazon, ebay, etc.) (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Looking for OR selling a home (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access medical information / services (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Telecommuting (work from home for your employer) (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home-based business (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gaming / video games / streaming movies and TV (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School / Education / Homework / Coursework (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stay connected to family and/or friends (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q23 Please identify the digital devices that you currently OR would like to access the internet with from your home broadband internet network or would access if service were available? (check all that apply)

- Streaming device (Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, etc.) (1)
 - Desktop or laptop computer (3)
 - Tablet / E-reader (Kindle, iPad, etc.) (4)
 - Smart TV (5)
 - Smartphone (6)
 - Gaming System (Xbox, Play Station, Nintendo, etc.) (7)
 - Household Security Devices (Nest, Ring, etc.) (8)
 - Other (9) _____
-

Value of Broadband Internet Service

Q25 How important is high-speed broadband internet service to your home?

- Extremely important (1)
- Very important (2)
- Moderately important (3)
- Slightly important (4)
- Not at all important (5)

Q26 How much per month would you be willing to pay for more than adequate broadband internet service? As a point of reference, the Federal minimum speed standards for adequate broadband internet services is 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. **What would you pay for service better than the minimum speeds mentioned?**

- \$40 - \$60 (1)
- \$61 - \$80 (2)
- \$81 - \$100 (3)
- \$101 - \$125 (4)
- Over \$125 (5)
- I would not be willing to pay extra for increased broadband speed. (6)

Q27 Is there a minimum download/upload speed that you need to complete all your internet related tasks? Is there a download/upload speed that ideally you would want? (check all that apply)

NOTE: For any live TV streaming services like YouTube TV, Sling TV, Hulu, etc., a minimum of 10-25 Mbps download would be needed depending on how many devices are accessing high-definition content. If you were using multiple devices, 25-50 Mbps downloads or more would be potentially necessary. For streaming video services from Amazon Prime Video, Netflix, Disney +, etc., similar speeds would be necessary, and more if you want multiple devices using this same network for those services or others. It is important as well to consider the number of people in your household and all the devices which may be used in the house simultaneously.

	Need (1)	Want (2)
15 Mbps download / 3 Mbps upload (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25 Mbps download / 5 Mbps upload (2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
50 Mbps download / 10 Mbps upload (3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
75 Mbps download / 15 Mbps upload (4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
100 Mbps (symmetrical download/upload) (5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

250 Mbps (symmetrical download/upload) (6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
500 Mbps (symmetrical download/upload) (7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
>1,000 Mbps (symmetrical download/upload) (8)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q28 Would you be willing to pay an installation fee (one-time) to have high-speed broadband internet services at speeds? A **one-time installation fee**, for example, could pay for the cost to run a fiber optic line (high speed data transmission line) to your home from the street. Or, it could pay to install a utility pole with broadband internet equipment which would provide wireless high-speed broadband internet services to your rural location.

- Yes (1)
- Maybe - depends on cost, etc. (2)
- No (3)

Q29 How much would you be willing to pay for a one-time installation fee to have high-speed broadband internet services to your home?

- Up to \$100 (1)
- \$101 - \$250 (2)
- \$251 - \$500 (3)
- \$501 - \$750 (4)
- \$751 - \$1,000 (5)
- More than \$1,000 (6)
- I would not be willing to pay a one-time installation fee (7)

Q30 **Business and Telecommuting Use of Broadband Internet Services**

Q31 Please indicate if someone in your household telecommutes or has a home-based business:

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Current Home Based Business (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future Home Based Business (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Currently Telecommuting (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future Telecommuting (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q32 Would you be likely to start, move, or grow a business (including a home-based business) in Marathon County if you had access to adequate, reliable and affordable broadband internet services?

- Very Unlikely (1)
- Unlikely (2)
- Not Sure N/A (3)
- Likely (4)
- Very Likely (5)

Q33 If you are involved in Agriculture, how valuable is having broadband internet services for your agriculture business?

- Extremely Valuable (1)
- Very Valuable (2)
- Moderately Valuable (3)
- Not at all Valuable (4)
- N/A Not Involved in Agriculture (5)

Q34 If you are involved with Agriculture, please **check all the boxes below** that best describe how you use broadband internet services:

- Local Markets (1)
- Global Markets (2)
- Buying Products (3)
- Information (4)
- Agriculture New & Events (5)
- New Agriculture Technology (6)
- GPS and Precision Ag (7)
- Other (8) _____
- Not Involved in Agriculture (9)

Q35 How likely would you be to telecommute from your Marathon County address (if supported by your employer) if you had access to adequate, reliable, and affordable broadband internet services?

- Very Unlikely (1)
- Unlikely (2)
- Not Sure N/A (3)
- Likely (4)
- Very Likely (5)

Q36 If you do not use broadband internet services for your home/farm/business operation, why not? (check all that apply)

- Do not see any use for it (1)
- Service not available (2)
- Not a business owner (3)
- I do not need it for my business (4)
- Too expensive (5)
- No computer (6)
- Other: (7) _____

Additional Information As we look to find unique solutions to our broadband challenges in the rural landscape, we need your assistance. Please provide the following information so that we can develop an accurate summary of Marathon County's broadband environment.

Q40 Please rate the quality of other telecommunications infrastructure in your area.

	Poor (1)	Satisfactory (2)	Good (3)	Do Not Know (4)
Cellular Phone Service (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Landline Phone Service (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q41 How confident do you feel you could easily connect to and communicate with emergency service (911) from your property?

- Extremely confident (29)
- Somewhat confident (30)
- Neither confident nor unconfident (31)
- Somewhat unconfident (32)
- Extremely unconfident (33)

Q42 Do you believe that lack of telecommunication infrastructure (landline phone, cellular phone service, broadband access) poses a safety concern for your household or business?

- Definitely yes (9)
- Probably yes (10)
- Might or might not (11)
- Probably not (12)
- Definitely not (13)

Q39 Any additional comments?

Gerry,

As a follow-up to our conversation I am sending you information regarding Charter Communication's desire to partner with Marathon County to obtain a broadband grant from the state PSC to assist in funding the construction of broadband in Marathon County.

Under this grant application we will be proposing Fiber to the Home (FTTH) builds capable of delivering residential speeds of up to 1000/500 Mbps, as well as voice, Spectrum video app capability, and mobile products to 2,370 locations in the County. I am attaching a map for your reference (below). The total cost of the project is \$22,033,366. Charter is proposing to pay \$7,110,000 of the project cost. We will be seeking a state broadband grant of \$14,923,366 We are not requesting funding for this application from the County.

Charter will be responsible for filling out the application and I will be happy to share it with you to review once I have completed it. All we would ask from you as our partner is the following:

1. A **letter of support** from the County supporting our grant application.
2. If possible, **letters from residents and businesses** in the County supporting the expansion of broadband into the County.
3. Confirmation if the County is a "Broadband Forward" County.

We are excited to work with the County. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further. My contact information is listed below.

Sincerely,

Celeste Flynn

Proposed Project Area:

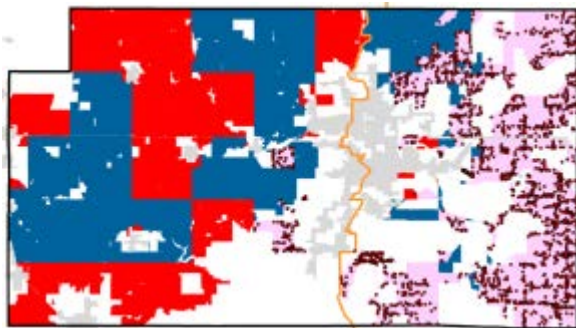
Legend:

Blue – Charter RDOF

Red – Other RDOF

Pink /Red dots – Porposed Project Area

Grey – Charter's service area



Celeste M. Flynn | Director, Government Affairs
1320 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. | Milwaukee, WI 53212
O: 414.277.4193 | C: 414.688.1694E: celeste.flynn@charter.com

RESOLUTION #R-49-50

AUTHORIZATION TO SUPPORT CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS' BROADBAND GRANT APPLICATION(S) TO PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC)

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

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

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

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;

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;

WHEREAS, the County has reviewed opportunities to expand broadband services through the \$100 million Broadband Expansion Grant Program administered by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC);

WHEREAS, applications for the grant are due by July 27, 2021, and the County is working with a number of providers to develop proposals that will serve the greatest number of residents and businesses in unserved or underserved areas in the County,

WHEREAS, upon being awarded an Expansion Grant from the PSC, Charter Communications would provide fiber to the premises (FTTP) along a 551.9-mile fiber route to 2,370 locations in Eastern Marathon County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors supports efforts to expand broadband access by entering into a partnership with Charter Communications and/or other partners in submitting grant application(s) to the Public Service Commission;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate county officials are authorized to convey to the PSC Marathon County's support for Charter Communications' grant application for broadband service expansion.

No Fiscal Impact:

Dated the 26th day of July, 2021.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Kurt Gibbs Chair

Craig McEwen Vice Chair

Matt Bootz

Tim Buttke

Randy Fifrick

Sara Guild

Jacob Langenhahn

Alyson Leahy

John Robinson