

RECONSTITUTING THE DANE COUNTY BROADBAND TASK FORCE

The Dane County Board created the Dane County Broadband Task Force via 2020 RES-415. The task force has been meeting monthly since its creation to hear presentations and discuss the various components of broadband, success stories, innovative ideas, funding options, and other counties' experiences. The task force has accomplished a great deal of work to date. The task force conducted a survey of broadband coverage across Dane County, held public hearings to hear concerns and suggestions from residents, published a report in 2022 with recommendations for further action, hired a broadband consultant to conduct an engineering assessment, published a report and engineering assessment from said broadband consultant, hired a broadband coordinator as permanent staff within the Planning and Development Department, and much more.

Though much progress has been made, it remains apparent that there is a continued need for the work of the task force to improve access, affordability, and adoption of broadband services in Dane County. Many recommendations for improved services have been made to date, much of them requiring continued work. Namely, the broadband consultant's report recommended a working group that will foster awareness and collaboration amongst county-wide stakeholders. Through refined membership, this task force will take on the role of the working group. This task force will serve as a key resource and body as Dane County enters the implementation phase of its broadband expansion journey.

By refining the task force's membership, it will also allow the group to enter its next phase and hone in on specific projects. Those projects will include work relating to the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. The BEAD Program will bring approximately \$1.055 billion dollars to Wisconsin to ensure that every Wisconsinite has access to reliable, affordable, high speed internet. Other projects could include examining and/or applying for funding sources such as the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Program or other state and federal broadband grant opportunities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors hereby continues the Dane County Broadband Task Force in an effort to address the following:

- Increase outreach and awareness of the importance of improving broadband access, affordability, and adoption in Dane County;
- Identify and foster partnerships necessary to improve broadband access, affordability, and adoption including those with economic development organizations, mission based organizations, and other entities engaged in digital inclusion and equity work.
- Encourage and support public private partnerships between municipalities and Dane County with internet service providers to address connectivity gaps and leverage state and/or federal funding sources such as the BEAD Program and RDOF Program.
- Implement the broadband engineering assessment findings;
- Continue research and innovation based on the recommendations from the Dane County Broadband Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following members will be appointed by the County Board Chair unless otherwise specified:

- 2 Dane County Board Supervisors – at least one Supervisor that represents a district with at least one Town in it

- 46 • 2 representatives from internet/broadband service providers
- 47 • 1 at-large member
- 48 • Dane County Executive or designee
- 49 • City of Madison Mayor or designee
- 50 • President of the Dane County Towns Association (DCTA), or their designee
- 51 • President of the Dane County Cities and Villages Association, or their designee

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Broadband Task Force will provide reports
53 and updates to the County Board as needed. The task force will also provide guidance to and
54 work collaboratively with the broadband coordinator.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the current Dane County Broadband Task Force as set forth
56 in 2022 RES-037 will sunset on April 30, 2024. The County Board thanks those members for
57 their work and dedication to the task force. The first meeting with newly composed task force
58 membership will take place as soon as reasonably possible following the appointment process.
59 The newly composed task force will sunset on December 31, 2026.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staff support will be provided by the Planning and
61 Development Department and the County Board Office as needed.

62 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors authorizes per diem
63 and mileage payments for all members of the Dane County Broadband Task Force on the same
64 basis and under the same policies as other Dane County bodies that receive per diems and
65 mileage.