THE MINNESOTA BROADBAND MODEL

Expanding Access to Broadband Statewide

REAL INVESTMENT. REAL PROGRESS.

More than 90% of Minnesota households now have access to broadband at speeds of 25 Mbps/3 Mbps (2022 state speed goal), up from 70% in 2011.

Nearly 75% of Minnesota households now have access to broadband at speeds of 100 Mbps/20 Mbps (2026 state speed goal), up from 39% in 2015.

25 Mbps/3 Mbps: 2015

2015 Broadband Service Inventory for the State of Minnesota

25 Mbps/3 Mbps: 2018

2018 Broadband Service Inventory for the State of Minnesota

$85.2M in state broadband investment.

$110.6M in matching local/private broadband investment.

34,000 households

5,200 businesses

300 community institutions (schools, hospitals, libraries, etc.)

Connected via funding from Minnesota’s Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program
1. Fund the Office of Broadband Development through the base budget at levels sufficient for it to meet its statutory mandates and create an OBD operating fund to advance and promote programs and projects to improve broadband adoption and use, and maintain the existing partnership with the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

2. Provide on-going biennial funding of the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program at $69.7 million per biennia until the state achieves its broadband speed goals.

3. Provide direct funding to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for broadband mapping.

4. Establish a legislative cybersecurity commission to enable information-sharing between policy-makers, state agencies, and private industry related to Minnesota’s cybersecurity infrastructure, cybersecurity workforce issues and emerging technology, whose scope of work includes: (a) developing legislation to support and strengthen Minnesota’s cybersecurity infrastructure, and (b) providing input or recommendations related to developing a multi-year strategic plan to secure Minnesota’s IT environments.

5. Continue to understand the advances in technology that will drive both the demand for better broadband access and that will enable the delivery of broadband access to its citizens.

6. Take action to promote and communicate dig once policies, including development and dissemination of best practices and model policies to state agencies and other stakeholders. Ensure that agencies with construction oversight, construction funding, and land stewardship responsibilities ensure that they lead by example in implementing “Dig Once” policies which encourage broadband competition and deployment, including planning, joint use, construction and notification.

7. Fully fund the Telecommunications Equity Aid (TEA) and Regional Library Telecommunications Aid (RLTA) to facilitate broadband in K-12 education and libraries.

8. Continue a Minnesota Broadband Task Force as a resource to the Governor and the Legislature on broadband policy with a broad representation of perspectives and experiences, including provider, community, business and labor interests.