

## **Summary of Public Comment on Minnesota's BEAD Final Proposal**

September 4, 2025

### **1. Collaboration and Data Refinement:**

Comcast appreciates the collaboration between the Office of Broadband Development (OBD) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). They emphasize the importance of refining data and validating locations to ensure effective deployment of BEAD funding.

### **2. Focus on Multi-Dwelling Units (MDUs):**

Education Superhighway recommends using remaining BEAD funds for future infrastructure investments, particularly targeting MDUs to address connectivity issues in affordable housing.

### **3. Urban Digital Inequities:**

A coalition of cities, counties, and community partners highlights the need to address digital inequities in urban areas. They suggest leveraging remaining funds to support community organizations and integrating local strategies like the "Connectivity Blueprint".

### **4. Cost Efficiency and Technology:**

SpaceX argues that their low-earth orbit satellite technology can provide services at a significantly lower cost than proposed, suggesting a review and potential recompute of locations to ensure efficient spending.

### **5. Technology-Neutral Approach:**

Vernonburg LLC commends Minnesota for its technology-neutral approach and urges the state to use remaining funds for broadband adoption efforts, addressing barriers such as cost and digital literacy.

### **6. Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) Priority:**

Christensen Communications advocates for prioritizing FTTP as the standard for broadband deployment, warning against relying on fixed wireless and satellite technologies.

### **7. Leadership and Proactive Initiatives:**

Red River Communications praises the leadership of the OBD in executing the BEAD program and expresses confidence in the state's ability to transform investments into meaningful connectivity.

### **8. Local Job Creation and Infrastructure Investment:**

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) opposes selecting SpaceX or Amazon for BEAD projects, citing concerns about their ability to meet broadband speed requirements and emphasizing the importance of local job creation.

**9. Digital Skills Training for Older Adults:**

AARP Minnesota advocates for further investments in digital skills training for older adults to ensure that broadband infrastructure translates into meaningful uses.

**10. Program Monitoring and Adjustments:**

Frontier Communications suggests edits to enhance the BEAD program agreement and align with anticipated expenditure patterns, proposing adjustments to the disbursement milestones.

**11. Provider Identification of Additional No-BEAD Locations**

Several providers identified additional no-BEAD locations during the public comment period.

**12. In-Person Public Listening Session Feedback:**

Public listening sessions raised concerns about project timelines/delays as experienced in other federally funded programs, funding distribution, and community needs, while emphasizing the importance of collaboration and sustainable broadband solutions for rural and urban areas.