



Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition

MN Rural Broadband Coalition - History

- Blandin Foundation – Broadband Conference
- Blandin Convened a meeting of Stakeholders for a common goal – one voice
- Representatives from various industries such as health care, education, economic development, providers, business, townships, counties, cities, utilities, agriculture.
- Bipartisan Representation

Our Vision Statement Final!

Everyone in Minnesota will be able to use convenient, affordable world-class broadband networks that enable us to survive and thrive in our communities and across the globe.





More than 70 Coalition Members

- -Arrowhead Regional Development Commission -Association of Minnesota Counties -Cloquet Valley Internet Initiative -Chisago County HRA/EDA -Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota -City of Winthrop -Cloquet Valley Internet Initiative -Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities -Community of Minnesota Resorts -Community Technology Advisors Corp -CTC -Cooperative Network -Cooperative Network Services -Development Services, Inc -East Central MN Educational Cable Cooperative -East Central Regional Development Commission -Economic Development Association of Minnesota -Essentia Health -Finley Engineering -Fond du Lac Tribal Communications -GPS 45:93 -Great River Energy -Greater Minnesota Partnership -Growth and Justice
- -Headwaters Regional Development Commission -Hiawatha Broadband Communications -IMPACT 20/20 -Institute for Local Self-Reliance -Iron Range Economic Alliance -ISD 317 Deer River -Kanabec County EDA -Kandiyohi County Economic Development -League of Minnesota Cities -Mid-Minnesota Development Commission -Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative -Leech Lake Tribal Telecommunications -Lincoln County EDC -Meeker County EDA -MN Association of Community Telecommunications and Administrators -high -Minnesota Association of Small Cities - Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers -Minnesota Association of Townships -Minnesota Farmers Union -Minnesota Library Association -Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association -Minnesota Public Broadband Alliance -Minnesota Rural Education Association -Minnesota Rural Electric Association -Minnesota Soybean Growers Association -MN River Valley Education District
- -MN Rural Counties Caucus -MVTV Wireless -National Joint Purchasing Alliance -Nemadji Research Corporation -Nobles County Economic Opportunity Network -North Region Health Alliance -North Star Township -Northland Foundation -Northwest Minnesota Foundation -NW Regional Development Commission -PCs for People -Project FINE -Range Association of Municipalities and Schools -Redwing Ignite -Region 5 Regional Development Commission -Region Nine Development Commission -Sherburne County EDA -Schools for Equity in Education -Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative -Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation -Southwest Initiative Foundation -Southwest Regional Development Commission -Turtle Island Communications -Treacy Information Services -Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission -West Central Initiative

MN Rural Broadband Coalition

2017 Legislative Session

- Legislators didn't hear from us
- Organizations had other priorities to attend to other than Broadband

2018 Legislative Session

- Hire a lobbyist to advocate for the Coalition Goal to the end of the session
- Not a budget year



Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition

Goal for 2018

Goal: The Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition and its supporters request the 2018 Legislature to fund the Border- to-Border Broadband Development Grant program with \$51.48 million in 2018 to achieve the state's 2026 broadband speed goal of 100 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 20 Mbps upload. Consistent and stable funding of the grant program is important to allow economic development agencies, local governments and others to be creative and collaborative in their approach to providing broadband services these areas.



MN Rural Broadband Coalition

Senate

Jobs and Economic Growth – Jobs Bill

Subd. 3. Broadband Development

2.4 \$15,000,000 in fiscal year 2019 is for deposit

2.5 in the border-to-border broadband fund 2.6 account in the special revenue fund established

2.7 under Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.396.

2.8 This is a onetime appropriation and is 2.9 available until spent.

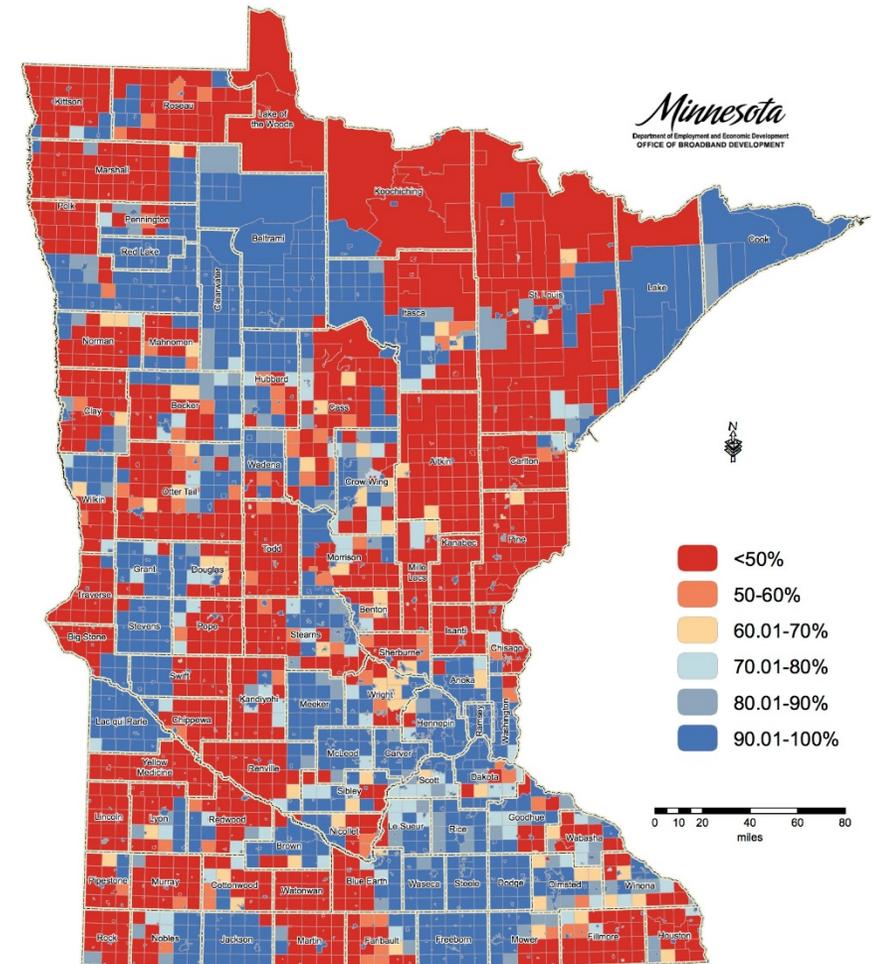
Author: Senator Koran – Chisago County

2016 Broadband Availability in the State of Minnesota

Percentage of Households Served by Fixed, Non-Mobile Broadband Service by City/Township

At Least 25 Mbps Download/3 Mbps Upload Speeds
(2022 State Broadband Goal)

Statewide Availability: 90.15%, Rural: 78.04%



This map was prepared by Connected Nation under contract with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. The map represents areas of broadband service availability based on provider data submitted to and analyzed by Connected Nation and modified based on validation tools. The data is current as of December 31, 2015.

Additional maps and data are available at <http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/maps>
Upon request, this information can be made available in alternate formats for people with disabilities by contacting the DEED Office of Broadband Development at 651-259-7610.

Submit questions or recommended changes to:
DEED.broadband@state.mn.us

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MN Rural Broadband Coalition



Broadband Day on the Hill



House – Job Growth and Energy Affordability and Finance Taxes



MN Rural Broadband Coalition

- We all know what happened next:
- \$15 Million included for Broadband in the Omnibus Supplemental Budget of \$46 Million
- Multiple Versions of letters to the Governor
 - Republican and Democrat views
 - Ultimately – neutral with a request for the Coalition’s Goal
- Vetoed



Recommendations to the Gov's BB Task Force

- 1. Continue the Task Force Review of Membership and Purpose
 - Service providers representatives have outsized consumers including business and agriculture
- 2. Fund the Border to Border Broadband Fund
 - Still many areas of the state unserved
 - Unfunded in 2019
 - Requests far exceed the amounts available
 - 2017 - 70 Applications over \$50 million
 - \$20 Million Expended
 - Short application period



Recommendations to the Gov's BB Taskforce

- 3. Provide Multi-Year Funding for the Grant Program
 - Time needed for a competitive application is not conducive to large projects
 - Gives confidence to providers and communities alike to continue to plan and build partnerships.
- 4. Continue to support the Office of Broadband Development.
 - Nonpartisan
 - Link between communities and providers
 - Maintain the office into the future and enhance the office to promote the adoption and use of broadband
 - The State OBD is recognized nationally



Recommendations to the Gov's BB Taskforce

- 5. Commitment to State Speed Goals Using Scalable Technology

- Aim for the State's 2026 speed goals of 100mbps down/20 mbps up
- Continue to meet the scalability requirements to meet the goals
 - otherwise kicking the problem down the road.

- 6. Review Mapping

- Include advancing technologies like Wireless to account for unserved and underserved areas.
- Insure adequate measurement of meeting the goals so communities do not slip through the cracks.



Recommendations to the Gov's BB Taskforce

- 7. Modify the Challenge Process
 - Overprotective of the incumbent provider
 - Discourages the non-incumbent providers
 - Challenging incumbents should also provide 2026 goal infrastructure
- 8. Remove or Increase the Cap on Projects
 - The cap limits projects covering larger areas
 - Larger projects may be more cost efficient
- 9. Evaluate New Broadband Solutions
 - Encourage the Task Force to review and highlight creative opportunities



MN Rural Broadband Coalition

- The Coalition will be meeting 7/19/18 to work on a strategy for the 2019 Session



On Behalf of the MN Rural
Broadband Coalition
Thank you.

