



Anoka County Broadband Project

Cindy Kevern

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*When it comes to the Internet –
speed matters.*

*Communities must have ready access
to high speed connectivity in order to
remain competitive in the global
economy.*



Broadband Project Overview

1. Seek input related to existing service and demand for additional services;
2. Issue RFP to find potential Broadband Provider; and
3. Submit a grant proposal for federal stimulus funding for broadband services.



Tasks Related to Seeking Input on Services

- Completed a phone survey of residents;
- Received input from area businesses through a questionnaire;
- Held 3 Community Meetings in September and October;
- Met and surveyed local Cities, School Districts, Colleges, and other Interested Stakeholders; and
- Developed maps of current Broadband Service.



Phone Survey

- Conducted random phone survey of 800 Anoka County Residents
- Included Questions regarding Internet, TV and Phone Service
- "Would you buy high-speed Internet if the County were to facilitate an alternative solution that offered faster speeds, lower prices or both?"

Yes	84%
No	3%
Maybe	13%



Business Questionnaire

- Sent out Business Questionnaire through local Chamber of Commerce mailing lists to 1300 businesses
- Received input through survey on website
- Results are very positive
- *“Very good initiative for Anoka County to attract or improve climate for current businesses.”*

-Green Bay Packaging, Inc.
Coon Rapids



Community Meetings

- Held Community Meetings on:
 - September 29th at 7:00 p.m. at Spring Lake Park High School
 - October 1st at 7:00 p.m. at Anoka City Hall
 - October 8th at 7:00 p.m. at Ham Lake City Hall
- Heard from a cross section of individuals
- *“We have approximately 60 houses in our development that lack access to high-speed internet ...How can we help [the Broadband Project]?”*

-Nowthen Resident



Stakeholders

- Held several meetings with Cities, School Districts, and Community Colleges
- Received High Interest in collaboration from Stakeholders
- Received Resolutions from 18 Cities and 1 School District (others in process) providing support for our overall project
- In process of getting Letters of Support to document their intent to be part of our initial build out



Maps

- Used information on Qwest and Comcast Service
- Coverage shows current Broadband service
- Shows there are unserved areas in the County in the Northwest, Northeast and Southeast



Provider RFP

➤ Issued RFP to Seek Provider of Broadband Services

The goal of this project is to find a broadband partner that will implement broadband connectivity throughout Anoka County to improve connectivity services for government, institutions, residents and businesses. There are several options for this project. They include:

- Option 1.** Connect all institutional locations including County, City, School District and College buildings.
- Option 2.** Include option 1, plus key business locations.
- Option 3.** Include options 1 and 2, plus build out to unserved and underserved areas in the County.



Evaluation and Selection of RFP

- Received 5 Proposals
- Interviewed 2 Proposers
- Selected Zayo as the finalist
- Zayo owns and operates fiber networks (19,000 miles, and has a staff that would work on grant submission process (previously submitted a first round grant request for a project)



Proposed Solution

- Initial Fiber build-out to include:
 - Approximately 400 miles of Fiber build-out to all areas of the County
 - Institutional Network that includes fiber to government locations (eg. County, City buildings, School Districts and Colleges)
 - Would enable build-out to key business districts that are close to fiber backbone
 - Would also enable future build-out to the unserved and underserved areas



Project Benefits

- Local governments will have access to ultra high speed broadband, at a similar cost to current connectivity
- Anoka business community will have access to ultra high speed broadband
- There will be a potential for a 3rd party provider to provide high speed broadband to residents



Stimulus Proposal

- Submit proposal for Stimulus Funds by March 15
- Proposal will include:
 - Public / Private Partnership
 - Collaboration of local governments in Anoka County
 - Coordination with Public Computing Center Grant Applicants (and possibly Sustainable Broadband Adoption)
 - Connection to Ramsey County fiber project
 - Connection to Cambridge Campus (for Anoka Ramsey Community College)



Broadband Contact Information

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Questions?