



Legislative Update

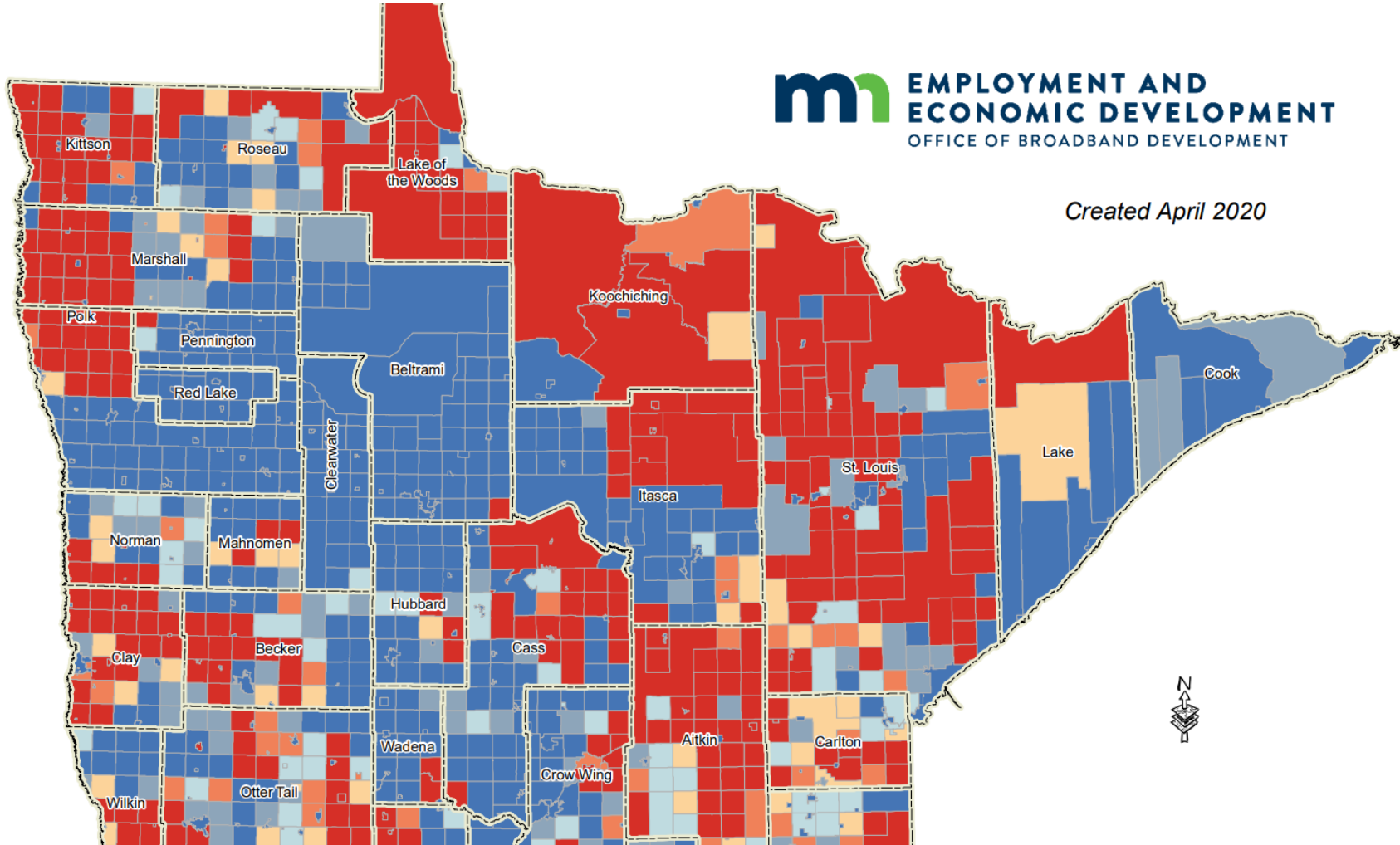
- \$40 million allocated for current state budget, \$20 million per year
- Session ends on May 18 without a broadband bill. What happened?
 - \$27 million from CARES Act: \$2 million telehealth, \$15 million education, \$10 million broadband
 - Governor and MMB determined Border-to-Border funds would not qualify for CARES Act funding because projects wouldn't be built until next year
 - Advice came on final day of session, no time to rewrite and pass a different bill
- June 12 First Special Session
 - Legislators drafted new supplemental broadband grant program
 - \$10 million for rapid-fire grant period early summer, projects constructed by year's end
 - Governor and MMB opposed using CARES Act funding for this purpose
- Future unclear—Depends on further federal funding
 - Movement on additional funding for broadband could happen in upcoming Special Sessions

Minnesota Speed Test Initiative

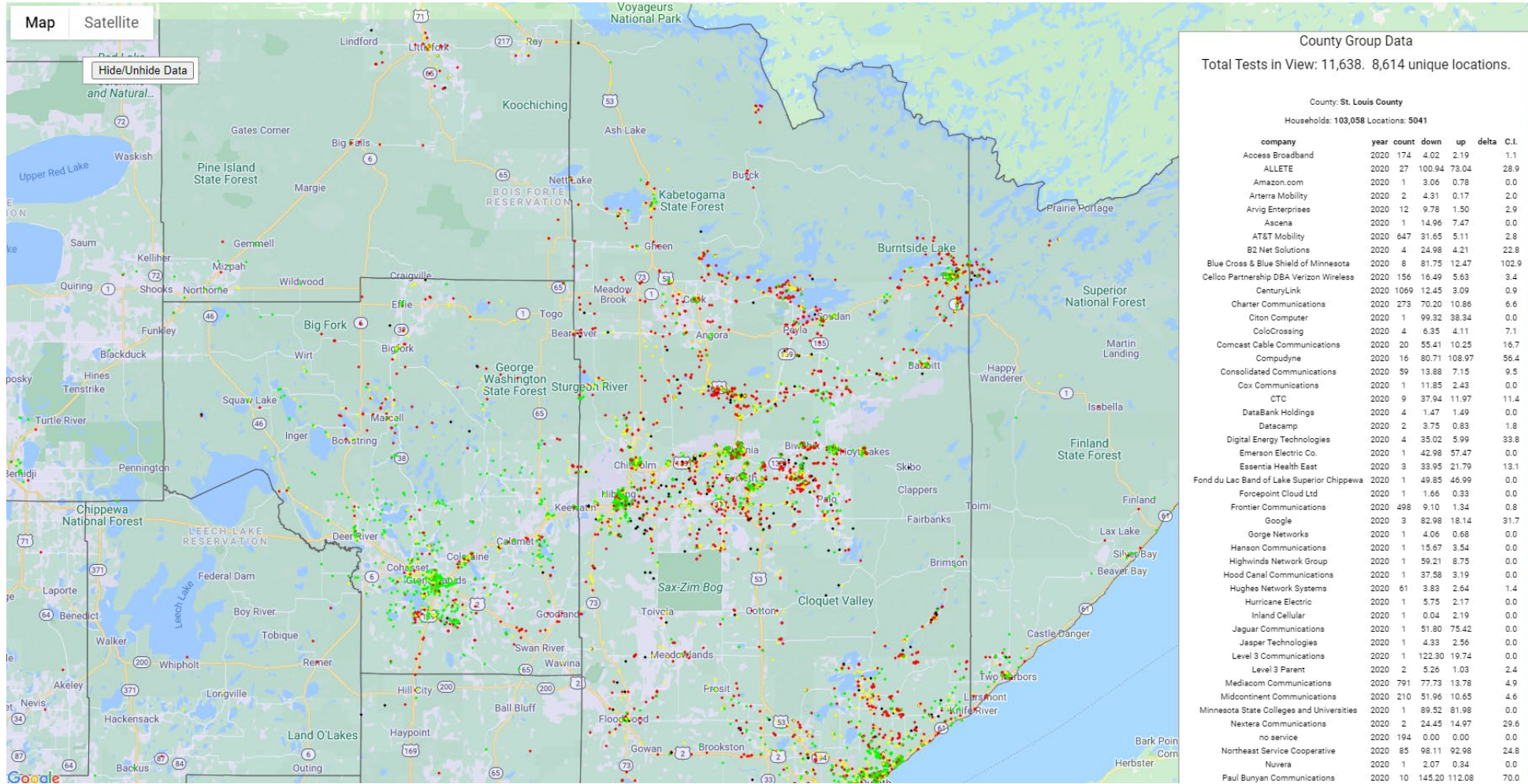


- Broadband mapping has made broadband infrastructure more difficult than it should be.
- Most broadband maps aren't more detailed than census block, township, or even county levels.
 - If one home in a census block is served, often the entire census block is considered served
- House-by-house data about broadband speeds gives better picture of what service looks like.

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Minnesota Speed Test Initiative



- RAMS and St. Louis County started a successful pilot project this spring.
 - Partnered with MN company GEO Partners, LLC to do mapping
- Expanded to Itasca and Koochiching Counties
- 7,000 speed tests taken during pilot project
- We partnered with the Association of Minnesota Counties and GEO Partners, LLC

Minnesota Speed Test Initiative



- Statewide Speed Test Initiative launched on August 3
- Currently 19,173 speed tests taken
- KSTP-TV featured the Minnesota Speed Test in a story, local and regional papers also picked up the story.
- **Goals:**
 - create the most accurate mapping in the nation and give community leaders the tools they need to expand broadband networks.
 - Prepare maps and data to present to Legislature during 2021 legislative session, when Legislature sets the next biennial budget.

Minnesota Speed Test Initiative



- Thank you to our sponsors
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Minnesota Speed Test Initiative



- What can you do to help?
 1. Share the link with your networks, friends, and families.
 - A crowdsourced project is not possible without participation
 - Whether you have good internet or bad internet, that information helps
 2. Host a presentation just like this for your organization
 3. Send out social media posts, blog posts, and newsletters with the information
 - We have resources for you—flyers, templates, talking points, etc.
 4. Take the test yourself!
 5. Contact me with outreach opportunities
 - nathan@zachariasgovrelations.com 715-222-2824

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- www.mnruralbroadbandcoalition.com/speedtest
- Takes less than 30 seconds to complete