

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Policy Committee



Association of
Minnesota Counties



Broadband Update

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How much money is available?

- **2021 Legislative session:**
 - \$70 million from state's ARPA Capital Projects Fund (CPF)
- **2022 Legislative session:**
 - \$50 million state general funds
 - \$60 million additional ARPA CPF
 - Up to \$30m for 75% state contribution pilot program
 - Up to \$15m for line extension pilot program
 - Up to \$15m for mapping
- \$100m coming from IIJA + estimated \$550m additional
- OBD estimates \$1.3 billion needed to connect rest of state



Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Update

- In 2021, the FCC began the RDOF program and awarded \$400 million to MN for rural broadband expansion.
- LTD Broadband won preliminary reverse auctions totaling \$311 million. Starlink won \$8 million.
- The areas “won” by LTD/Starlink were locked out of state funding opportunities until this summer.
- During the review of the applications, the FCC revoked LTD and Starlink funding, leaving a \$320m gap in funding.



IIJA Broadband Expansion, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program Update

- NTIA oversees the program.
- \$100m guaranteed; early estimate of additional \$550m.
- Funding will be deployed through OBD and our existing grant program.
- **NTIA announced this week funding will be delayed until mapping is complete.**
- Funding contingent on new maps in development by FCC.
- Counties can challenge first FCC maps (ISP provided info) with their own service maps.



How Can Counties Challenge FCC Maps?

- **Submit a challenge online if you have broadband service maps in your county (see document in your packets)**
- <https://help.bdc.fcc.gov/hc/en-us>
 - A location that meets the Commission's definition of a Broadband Serviceable Location is missing from the Fabric.
 - A location's broadband serviceability is incorrectly identified.
 - Information such as the address or unit count for the location is incorrect.
 - The location's placement – its geographic coordinates – is incorrect.



What's next?

- **Broadband funding should remain a priority for AMC.**
- **Nearly 25% of rural communities lack access to 100mbps/20mbps speeds.**
- **Monitor developments in FCC and NTIA programs and mapping.**
- **Watch for emerging issues like affordability.**



Questions?