



INGHAM COUNTY BROADBAND TASKFORCE
P.O. Box 319, Mason, Michigan 48854 ~ Phone (517) 676-7206 FAX (517) 676-7306



Commissioner Randy Maiville, Commissioner Irene Cahill, Gregg Todd,
Johannes Bauer, Deb Fett, Emma Bostwick, Justin Barnaby,
Sheryl Knox, Mike Lilly, Deborah Stuart, Christopher Mumby,
Patricia Jackson, C.G. Lantis, Gene Ulrey

**A MEETING OF THE
INGHAM COUNTY BROADBAND
TASKFORCE**

WILL BE HELD ON

Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

**Hybrid Meeting
Human Services Building
Conference Room B
5303 S. Cedar Street
Lansing, Michigan**

Zoom Link

<https://ingham.zoom.us/j/83589864389?pwd=enpOK0txODQrU1I4M0pmK05BaVdEdz09>

AGENDA

Call to Order
Approval of May 25, 2022 Minutes
Additions to the Agenda
Limited Public Comment

1. Frequently Asked Questions from Residents
2. Census Update/Fair Participation
3. Development of Ingham County's Portion of State's 5-Year Broadband Plan

Announcements
Public Comment
Adjournment

Next Meeting August 24, 2022

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DRAFT MINUTES

May 25, 2022

- Members Present: Randy Maiville, Gregg Todd, Deb Fett, Mike Lilly, Christopher Mumby, Pat Jackson, Sheryl Knox, Deb Stuart, Gene Ulrey
- Members Absent: Emma Bostwick (virtual), Irene Cahill, Johannes Bauer, C.G. Lantis, Justin Barnaby,
- Others Present: Michigan Moonshot Representative Alexis Schrubbe, Ingham County Controller Executive Secretary Rachel Prettenhofer, Lori Doughty, Mitchell Shapiro, Barbara Bidigare
- Call to Order: The Ingham County Broadband Task Force meeting was called to order by Gregg Todd at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 27, 2022 in 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan, Human Services Building, Conference Room B and virtually via Zoom.

Approval of the April 27, 2022 Minutes:

Mr. Todd approved the April 27, 2022 minutes as presented, without objection.

Additions to the Agenda: 4. Other

Limited Public Comment: None.

1. State/Federal Funding Update

Mr. Todd informed the Task Force that there are two pots of money: Michigan money (American Rescue Plan funds) and federal money (infrastructure & jobs act funds). He further stated that there will be communication coming out of the Michigan broadband office, but it is not yet staffed. For funding to be acquired, the areas funded must be “unserved” and counties and municipalities cannot apply, instead ISPs must apply. Mr. explained that he is not sure how much we’ll be able to go after that money but that we can work with ISP providers to figure out the best possible solutions. He further explained that federal funding is a source of a number of different pools of funding and that there is a county eligible portion. Mr. Todd then listed several funding sources the Task Force may want to consider: the State Planning Grant Program, which is identified to help develop a state plan; the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant, which helps states develop plans to use for hiring consultants; the Digital Equity Competitive, which counties, nonprofits, etc. can go after for education, implementation, etc.; the BEAD grants run through the state, and every state gets \$100,000,000 off the top to provide services to unserved and underserved constituents; and CAIs which are community anchor extensions. Leftover money will go toward states based on a formula for underserved constituents on the FCC maps, but, Mr. Todd informed, this is also a challenge period, which makes it important for our purposes. This survey will help us correct those maps. The Middle Mile Grant Program is also a potential source of funding that we are eligible for and should be available June 21 to expand the middle mile unserved/underserved areas. Mr. Todd further stated that it looks like BEAD grant funding is not available until the 2nd or 3rd quarter of 2023, so there is a lot of work left to be done. One thing we can talk about, Mr. Todd informed the committee, is how to hone in on different funding pots and figure out what our needs are.

2. Census Update

Ms. Schrubbe informed the Task Force that 1,820 responses have been received at this time. People have been taking the surveys twice, which is great, however, we need to up to 4,000 people taking the survey overall. She further stated that this is a problem that will take creative patchwork of solutions to solve. She then informed that Task Force that she has update from the print house: there is a national envelope shortage due to paper producers limiting the amount of stock to each printer. Merit tried shopping around for other options, but was unsuccessful. The print house, however, has promised that they will complete the work by Friday, and so mailings will begin this week. As a thank you for our patience, the print house offered to print 500 flyers at no charge. Ms. Schrubbe informed the Task Force that we will need to decide where exactly those 500 posters will go. They will be mailed to Mr. Todd and Ms. Prettenhofer. From there the Task Force should decide where to ship posters and where they will be placed: Storefronts, schools, etc. The posters will start appearing at the same time as surveys in mailboxes, so we need a discussion on when the survey closes out. Originally, we were thinking of closing the first week of June, but at this point we may be 3 or 4 weeks behind. She further informed the Task Force that Merit has put a hold on community partners emails due to this setback.

Mr. Todd stated that we should push the closing date to the end of June, which gives us more time and opportunity. He further stated that each member should take a section of the county and hit the storefronts, libraries, etc. and post the posters.

Ms. Schrubbe stated that it would be good to sketch out ideas and plans for the poster distribution. She stated that 500 sounds like a big number, but it can easily be divided.

Ms. Stuart stated that she would like to see a strategic plan based on the survey responses.

Ms. Schrubbe stated that some places with smaller populations may have hit their target despite not showing on the charts because they are smaller in comparison to other areas of the county.

Ms. Stuart stated that there are areas we want to make sure we get covered.

Ms. Schrubbe stated that there is a monopoly pricing/adoption etc. that might be a challenge. The question is whether or not folks are subscribed to services. She indicated to the chart and stated that the backwards L on the chart will be receiving mailings. We want to note what our proportions are and she will send an email tomorrow, then Ms. Prettenhofer will begin spreadsheet to disseminate posters, including stakeholder groups, etc. to divert posters in a planned way.

Ms. Jackson stated that the plan after all the data collection is to pick up posters through Controller's Office.

Mr. Mumby stated that the Task Force should reach out to Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) as well.

3. Member Share: Efforts taken So Far for Census Actions

Mr. Mumby stated that he has spoken to ISD and the school district put the census information in print and emails. They have done a good job. He also informed the Task Force that he has done some work outside of box work for Lansing. He stated that he can still do more, and that if there is a slow news week, maybe he can talk the mayor into a press conference.

Ms. Stuart stated that she met with the superintendent, and they really talked about whether or not they were getting complaints with parents and kids at home. They also talked about explaining and talking

about the importance of broadband to parents. She further stated that a lot of people are interested in a competition and asked Ms. Schrubbe if we could be given the real numbers of unique households doing the census.

Mr. Lilly stated that he is working with the Ingham ISD and that he has put out ads across social media. He has talked about how internet impacts student grades and how it means a lot for how students perform. He also spoke to the superintendent at a round table to make them understand what the broadband census is and what it is about. He also spoke to directors and special education directors. The biggest difficulty is the timeline that we are running the survey because schools are closing. He is hoping the end of June will be a less impactful time.

4. Other

Mr. Todd stated that we have extended the end of the census to the end of June, we will pass on the June meeting.

Ms. Schrubbe stated that these are some of the fastest meetings she has intended. She stated that she wants to reiterate to members to please reach out to her. Ingham County is her top priority and she has a whole team of folks and resources. She also informed the committee that she will be in Ann Arbor June 6-June 10.

Ms. Stuart asked how we express that we are not meeting our goals. She asked if there is any way to share what other counties are doing or have done.

Ms. Schrubbe stated that the bare minimum is 5% per census block, a really great survey has 12-15% of each data point of proving the FCC wrong, and 20% is the number to beat.

Mr. Ulrey asked how we come up with a reportable level of broadband.

Ms. Schrubbe explained that all speed tests are aggregate. The distribution of speed tests are broken out township by township and Merit will give a number of returns for each population. She further explained that the data can be looked at multiple ways and that in the survey, we ask people what their speed is and what they pay for and then try to triangulate the data. They will then look at a cluster analysis that looks at where the speed and analysis drop off and compute into MAO to guess where the infrastructure is in the county. The county will get the GIS files and the county can then distribute the information as it wants.

Mr. Ulrey asked whether or not the fact that his area is 20% fiber would skew the numbers.

Ms. Schrubbe explained that it might, but that we would see that in the surveys. She stated that she would argue that 20% fiber in the area is not enough to ruin the rest of the picture, though. Merit will also run statistical tests to make sure the data is accurate.

Ms. Stuart stated that Mason just signed a franchise with Comcast. They made a big pitch in solving internet problems and that there is a lag of wanting to do internet in the area. Ms. Stuart expressed her concern that people may be assuming the issue with broadband is fixed with the emergence of this agreement.

Ms. Schrubbe stated that that has not been proven. She stated that a colleague in Saginaw Township that has been taking the speed test frequently in their area with a similar issue. The speeds jumped through roof and opened up bandwidth where it can be to made look better. Merit will investigate and run speed

tests again in this area to make sure we are getting accurate data. She further stated that we should ensure folks to understand that this empowers them

Discussion.

Ms. Schrubbe stated that providers are going to show and challenge the data. The data is the best option to show where people are and what is needed. She further informed the Task Force that she would appreciate a ping on email for anyone who says they got the survey in her email.

Ms. Jackson asked whether or not we will ever know what private companies have or what claims they are making.

Mr. Todd stated that that is what the FCC maps are supposed to show with regard to who is underserved and unserved.

Ms. Jackson asked whether or not the idea of underserved and high costs are equating to FCC has listed.

Mr. Todd stated that yes, it was, and that it gets back to equity. There are areas in Lansing that might have plenty of options infrastructure-wise but not funding-wise. He further stated that at some point we will need to build subcommittees and dig into what the needs are for the county.

Mr. Ulrey asked whether or not anyone has had a conversation or if anyone has a contact with the FCC to see how they are going to handle mapping.

Ms. Schrubbe stated that as of now it appears that the FCC is going to use a third party that looks at the available infrastructure and runs a regression on that to do predictive modeling for mapping in addition to older methods. She informed the committee that this is another way of tallying and looking at the data, and we will see in the coming months what the methodology will be. She does have a colleague did assess this methodology and if anyone would like to see it, she can find the paper and send it via email.

Ulrey asked if recently hired people by the FCC were a liaison for the county.

Mr. Todd stated that he does not know about the extra people, but the National Telecommunication and Information Administration that is managing all of this on the federal level will have individuals in each state, so that they will actually have boots on the ground in theory to work with the states. He further stated that that will be one of the resources we can go to to address our needs.

Ms. Knox asked whether or not there is a timeline for challenging the FCC maps.

Mr. Todd stated that in the 3rd quarter of 2022, the maps should be completed. Then the public input challenge process begins. He stated that that process will probably go through the 1st quarter of 2023.

Ms. Schrubbe stated that gathering this little data is a huge undertaking for an entire nation and that the county knows best what is needed. The little data points and denser we make our contribution, lets us lead the way. We can be an example when the challenge process comes around.

Announcements: Mr. Todd announced that the next Broadband Task Force meeting will be in July.

Public Comment: None.

The May 25, 2022 Broadband Task Force meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.