

Washtenaw County Broadband Connectivity Journey

merit

FALL 2013

Western Washtenaw Broadband group convened by State Rep Gretchen Driscoll and Chelsea District Library

SUMMER 2017

Lyndon Township in Washtenaw County votes to approve Michigan's first township-wide municipal fiber network.

FALL 2018

Washtenaw County Broadband Subcommittee issues final report and recommendations

FALL 2019

Merit selected to perform Washtenaw County data collection

SUMMER 2020

Washtenaw County selects DCS Technology and CTC Energy and Technology to perform pre-engineering and public-private partnership formation

WINTER 2020

RDOF awards announced, leaving around 3,300 households not funded for service in Washtenaw County.

SUMMER 2021

Washtenaw County issues RFP for private partners to build infrastructure for remaining households. Received viable responses yielding \$14.6M plan.

SPRING 2014

Western Washtenaw Broadband survey (92% want alternative provider options)

Fall 2017

Washtenaw County Broadband Subcommittee formed

SPRING 2019

Washtenaw County Broadband Taskforce formed

SPRING 2020

Washtenaw County broadband survey shows over 61% more residents lack broadband access vs FCC data. Over 9,000 households are unserved.

FALL 2020

Washtenaw County shares data to incentivize Rural Digital Opportunity Fund submissions

SPRING 2021

Washtenaw County issues RFI for private partners to build infrastructure for remaining households

FALL 2021

Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approves ARPA and other funds to achieve 100% county-wide broadband infrastructure access.

"As Lyndon Township has just recently completed its broadband construction, I can attest to how much it improves the quality of life, for everyone. I am grateful for the commitment from each of the members of the Broadband Task Force, their work to gather the information our County Commissioners used to make this historic decision required immense commitment to finding a solution. Funding digital accessibility is the right thing to do as it will provide countless opportunities for those who have been denied access for far too long."

- Ben Fineman, Vice Chair of the Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force and Lyndon Township resident